

# Gazette

September 2008

Volume 32 Number 9

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**Civic Club Meeting**  
Tuesday, September 2nd, 7 PM, Garden Oaks Elementary



## 2008 Garden Oaks Wine Walk

*Good wine, tasty food and a leisurely walk*

by Shelley Rogers, Chair

**Date:** Saturday, October 18 (rain date Saturday, October 25)

**Location:** Gazebo Park at Sue Barnett/Lamonte/W. 42nd triangle intersection

**Hours:** 6-8 p.m.

**Theme:** Wines of the World for \$20 or less

**Admission donation:** \$15 per person, which includes a souvenir wine glass, tasting at least seven different wines, sampling delicious munchies from Rainbow Lodge Restaurant, and more! Thanks to Terry Jeanes for underwriting the cost of the glasses.

**Advance reservations:** Reserve your tickets by using the form on the back of the *Gazette* or download a copy from [www.gardenoaks.org](http://www.gardenoaks.org). Because of the size

of the park, we will limit participants to 100. We will sell tickets at the event but cannot guarantee availability.

**Rules of the walk:** (1) No one under 21. (2) No pets.

**Walk the walk:** Please bike or walk if at all possible. If you drive, please do not park along the streets that border the park and be respectful of neighbors near the park, as you always are.

**Table host details:** Wine hosts will supply: table and chairs for themselves; at least one case of wine; a spit bucket; water for rinsing glasses; cocktail napkins; signage or other info identifying themselves, their wines and their sponsors/underwriters/donors; and table decorations. Hors d'oeuvres and/or palate cleansers such as bread or crackers are optional. We recommend adding candles or discrete portable lighting. We will supply the venue, security, your tasters, twinkle lights in the shrubbery, and fun.

The first ten tables to commit will get two souvenir tasting glasses free, entitling two members of the host group to free admission. To host a table or for more information, contact one of our committee members or you can download a form at [www.gardenoaks.org](http://www.gardenoaks.org).

**Other sponsorship opportunities:** If you do not wish to host a wine-tasting table but want to support the event, sponsorship opportunities start at \$100 including: security (constable deputies); food items

(at your table or at the wine tables); cocktail napkins; portable restroom with hand-washing station, and raffle prizes for the table hosts. We will recognize our sponsors on an easel displayed near the gazebo where all participants will visit to pay admission and/or pick up their souvenir glasses. Contact a committee member if you want to be a sponsor.

**Commitment deadline:** We will reveal our table hosts, their wine selections, and other sponsors in the October *Gazette*. We ask for table hosts to commit by September 15. We would like other sponsors to commit by that date, so we can thank you in the October *Gazette*.

**Use of proceeds:** Our committee voted to recommend to the civic club that the net proceeds be used to help fund the civic club constable neighborhood patrol (different from the GOMO-funded patrol).

**2008 Wine Walk Committee:**

Shelley Rogers 713.880.0503 [rogers@sswpc.com](mailto:rogers@sswpc.com)  
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## Constable Program

*How Can You Help Make The Neighborhood Even Safer?*

by Terry Jeanes and Susan Love-Saranie

First. Your financial support is needed now. The 2008 Civic Club donation-supported patrol is short of their 2008 contract commitment. Please send in your dues for 2009 and any donation you can spare for the remainder of 2008. The program is working as evidenced by the report of crime statistics being down again in the community. So let's keep all three deputies on our streets.

Second. Volunteer to help with a mail out. We will have a mail out soon and volunteers can help by folding insert envelopes and labeling envelopes. All supplies are provided. Contact Terry Jeanes at [terry@terryjeanes.com](mailto:terry@terryjeanes.com) if you can help.

Third. Your watchful eyes can make the difference. If it looks odd, call and let our officers check out the situation. Your call could be a deterrent to theft. Program dispatch number 713-755-7628 in your phone now!

Fourth. Organize a Neighbors Night Out Party. On Tuesday, October 7, join your neighbors, get to know one another and exchange numbers. If planning a block party contact Terry Jeanes at [terry@terryjeanes.com](mailto:terry@terryjeanes.com) or Carl Waters at [cwatersjr@aol.com](mailto:cwatersjr@aol.com).

Constable Program benefits include:

- 40 hours of a designated Harris County constable
- Vacation watch by Harris County constable. Forms available at: [www.gardenoaks.org/Resources/VacationWatch.pdf](http://www.gardenoaks.org/Resources/VacationWatch.pdf)
- Security checks for insurance discounts
- Alarm contact/response by Harris County constable

These benefits are all for a low cost of \$180 per year (which is less than 50 cents per day). Two payment options are available: a \$180 annual check or a bank draft option of \$15 per month. Contribute today by filling out the form inserted in the *Gazette* or download the form at: [www.gardenoaks.org/Resources/ContributorForm.pdf](http://www.gardenoaks.org/Resources/ContributorForm.pdf)

Welcome to our newest deputy, Daryl Coleman! Meet him at the September 2 Civic Club meeting. Deputy Daryl will be featured in the October *Gazette*.

Keep your eyes and ears open...no matter the time of day. Your call can make the difference.

### May 2008 Statistics

Miles Patrolled	3396
Court Citations	27
Alarm Responses	4
Written Warnings	0
Vacations Watches	13
Suspicious Vehicles	8
Park checks	79
Criminal Offenses	3
Arrests	1

## Gazette Block Captain of the Month

by Dian Austin

Congratulations to Johnnie Gonzales as September's Block Captain of the Month. Johnnie and his 11-year-old granddaughter, Danielle Rena, deliver *Gazettes* in the 1000 block of LaMonte.

Johnnie has lived in the 900 block of LaMonte since 1965 and has been delivering *Gazettes* for as long as he can remember. He may be the longest continuing *Gazette* block captain that we have!

Ed and Brenda de Alba nominated Johnnie for his long time service. Not only has Johnnie dependably delivered his regular route, but he has also volunteered numerous times to fill in for other block captains when they are out of town. In addition, Johnnie has shared a number of candlestick plants (*Cassia alata*) with other Garden Oaks neighbors (including those in the Triangle Park) through the years.

For his continued and dedicated service, Johnnie received a \$25 gift certificate to Tony's Mexican Restaurant on Ella Blvd. Thanks, Johnnie and Danielle for all your help!

If you would like to recognize a block captain for their service, please email Dian at [FallingwaterT@yahoo.com](mailto:FallingwaterT@yahoo.com)



## Garden Oaks Gazette

The Garden Oaks *Gazette* is the official publication of the Garden Oaks Civic Club and is published on a monthly basis. Submission deadline is the 15th of each month for publication the next month unless otherwise noted. **No exceptions.** Publication of any article does not imply endorsement by the Garden Oaks Civic Club and is solely the opinion of the author.

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# GOMO Notes

by Ed de Alba

## Annual Meeting to be held October 15th at 7:00 PM in the Garden Oaks Elementary School Cafeteria.

On Wednesday, October 15th, GOMO will hold its annual meeting in the Garden Oaks Elementary School Cafeteria. The meeting will begin at 7:00 PM. The business to be transacted includes the election of several directors and the voting on the spending of surplus funds.

### Director Positions Open

#### Section 1

The term of the position currently held by Sean Jez ends October 31st. The term for this position runs through October of 2011.

#### Section 2

The term of the position currently held by Jason Mercer ends October 31st. The term for this position runs through October of 2011.

#### Section 3

All 3 director positions are open in Section 3. The terms for the seats held by Mike Dishberger, Rich Stark, and Lynn Sievers end October 31st. The terms for these 3 positions will be staggered with one to run through October 2009, one to run through October 2010, and the other through October 2011. If you are interested in running for one of these seats you will need to specify which term you are running for.

#### Section 5

Two director positions are open in Section 5. The term for the seats held by Tim Weltin and Malcolm Taylor ends October 31st. The terms for these positions will be staggered with one to run through October 2010, and the other through October 2011. If you are interested in running for one of these seats you will need to specify which term you are running for.

If you are interested in running for any of the positions available in Sections 1, 2, 3, or 5 please contact any of the GOMO Directors listed in the *Gazette*.

#### The Requirements of the Positions Are:

- Must be 18 years or older
- Must own property and live within the Garden Oaks Section for the Director's position that you are volunteering to stand election for
- If no Member residing in the Section stands for election, then a Member who is an owner in that Section, but lives in another Section, may stand

for election as a "Non-Section Director", whose term is 1 year

- All property owned in Garden Oaks must be in compliance with the Garden Oaks Deed Restrictions, excluding violations that existed before your ownership of the property
- Must sign a statement attesting to the above

### Surplus Funds

GOMO has surplus funds available for disbursement this next fiscal year.

GOMO currently supports 2 Constable Patrols in Garden Oaks, spending on neighborhood greenspaces, and neighborhood infrastructure.

Funds not spent or not committed to be spent within the fiscal year beginning November 1, 2008, will be returned to the general fund.

### Audits for 2006 & 2007 Completed

The audits for the 2006 and 2007 fiscal years were completed recently. GOMO is in good standing and in a solid financial position. All members will receive a copy shortly. The audit results are also available on the GOMO website.

### An Open Invitation to our Meetings

We would like to personally invite all GOMO Members to all of our meetings. Democracy works best in an open environment and that is as true at the neighborhood level as it is at the Federal and State levels. There is no better way for the people of our community to see for themselves how we evaluate the building plans brought to us and how we reach consensus.

It is also the best way to get your questions answered. The GOMO Board is made up of 12 people and the Board doesn't have an "opinion" about a topic unless a majority of a quorum forms a consensus view. So no one Board Member is able to tell you what GOMO "thinks" about an issue or idea until we have an opportunity to deliberate and form a collective opinion. The formation of GOMO policy and opinion takes place at 7:00 PM, on every third Wednesday of the month at our business meeting held at the GOMO Office, Garden Oaks Professional Building, 4001 N. Shepherd, Suite 216. You are very welcome to attend, make suggestions, propose ideas, ask questions, clarify rumors, or simply observe the process.

## GOMO Board of Directors

### Section 1:

#### Graham Gips (2010)

Home: 713-824-9204

408 W. 31st

[graham.gips@gmail.com](mailto:graham.gips@gmail.com)

#### Kathy Horner (2009)

Cell: 713-385-2050

527 W. 33rd

[kathy@associatedcounsel.com](mailto:kathy@associatedcounsel.com)

#### Sean Jez (2008)

Cell: 713-305-4481

825 W. 31st

[sean-jez@fleming-law.com](mailto:sean-jez@fleming-law.com)

### Section 2:

#### Ed de Alba (2010)

President

Cell: 713-628-7008

744 W. 43rd

[ferrocem@yahoo.com](mailto:ferrocem@yahoo.com)

#### Lori Kennedy (2009)

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750 Sue Barnett Dr.

[lorikgomo@bluefunk.com](mailto:lorikgomo@bluefunk.com)

#### Jason Mercer (2008)

Home: 281-433-3150

726 W. 41st

[jason\\_f\\_mercer@hotmail.com](mailto:jason_f_mercer@hotmail.com)

### Section 3:

#### Mike Dishberger (2008)

Home: 713-695-7916

862 W. 42nd

[dishberger@aol.com](mailto:dishberger@aol.com)

#### Lynn Sievers (2008)

Home: 713-691-4789

851 Lamonte Lane

[sieverslynn@hotmail.com](mailto:sieverslynn@hotmail.com)

#### Richard Stark (2008)

Home: 713-691-1067

1335 Sue Barnett Drive

[rstark@lucasgroup.com](mailto:rstark@lucasgroup.com)

### Section 5:

#### Malcolm Taylor (2008)

Home: 713-956-8872

1030 W. 41st

[malcolmtaylor@chevrontexaco.com](mailto:malcolmtaylor@chevrontexaco.com)

#### Tim Weltin (2008)

Home: 713-540-5315

1567 Sue Barnett Drive

[timweltin@mycase.info](mailto:timweltin@mycase.info)

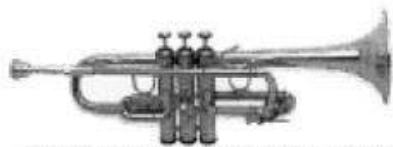
#### John Ciccarelli (2009)

Home: 713-688-8285

4310 Apollo Street

[ciccarelli@intergate.com](mailto:ciccarelli@intergate.com)

Terms expire at end of October of the Year in parenthesis.



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| 516 W. 30th St.   | 823 W. 43rd St.  |
| 531 W. 32nd St.   | 1026 Althea      |
| 524 W. 34th St.   | 1030 Althea      |
| 527 W. 34th St.   | 815 Azalea       |
| 729 W. 39th St.   | 975 Gardenia     |
| 721 W. 41st St.   | 1043 Gardenia    |
| 750 W. 41st St.   | 839 Lamonte      |
| 818 W. 41st St.   | 3205 Lawrence    |
| 858 W. 41st St.   | 1325 Sue Barnett |
| 862 W. 41st St.   | 1458 Sue Barnett |
| 970 W. 41st St.   | 1506 Sue Barnett |
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## Garden Oaks Elementary School Recognized Exemplary

by Lindsey Pollock, New School Principal

I am delighted to be joining Garden Oaks Elementary and look forward to a wonderful year ahead! I am coming to Garden Oaks after spending the last four years at Park Place Elementary in HISD where I worked as an Assistant Principal. While there, I led the choir, the Boy Scout Troop and Cub Scout Pack and coached the students in Theater Arts and Debate competitions. I also tutored students in Math, Reading and Science. I was instrumental in developing our school garden. I was active in the area civic clubs and the East End Chamber of Commerce.

My 24 years of experience in education include serving as a private school principal, a classroom teacher, a social worker for students with emotional disturbances and traveled as a national consultant.

My husband is also a principal in HISD and we share a passion for serving the HISD students and families to ensure equity and excellence in education.

We have a blended family and together we share five grown children ages 29, 27, 25, 22, and 21. Jessica (the oldest) and her husband Steve gave us our first grandbaby on Sept 1, 2007. Ian is a delight to us!

Our only "kids" at home are our dogs, Jack and Coby, both rescue animals!

In my "free" time (every Monday night from 6 – 10 p.m.), I sing with the Houston Choral Showcase. It is Houston's longest running show choir. In my younger days, I sang and traveled with Up With People and sang with the Norwegian National Opera Company.

## Farewell

Thank you Mrs. Emily Thomas for being a great principal for the past three years at Garden Oaks Elementary! We wish you the best with your retirement. You will be missed.

## Fourth Montessori Classroom Added at GOES

by Shana Tatum

The Montessori program at Garden Oaks Elementary, now serving pre-K through 6th grade, opened 14 years ago. In response to the success of and demand for this program, we've opened a fourth Children's House classroom and welcome Marie Pousson as its new teacher.

A Montessori teacher for over 12 years, Mrs. Pousson has been a long-time instructor at the Houston Montessori Center performing the evaluations for the FOM classrooms during that time. Mrs. Pousson also serves on the Friends of Montessori executive board as Vice President of Programs for the last 2 years. In 2009, the program will open its third Lower Elementary Classroom and hopes for a middle school in the future.

Our public and private sponsors ensure that FOM can continue to provide wider access to this proven learning methodology, while offering additional opportunities to disadvantaged children and families seeking an alternative to private schools.

We all want students with a strong self-image, good communication skills, creative problem-solving capabilities and a lifelong enthusiasm for learning. Through awareness, advocacy, funding, and volunteer efforts, Friends of Montessori strives to achieve that goal for our children and our community.

Visit us at [fomhouston.org](http://fomhouston.org)

Upcoming Elementary School Events:

- September 6 - Beautification Work Day from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- September 6 - Friends of Montessori Ice Cream Social from 1 – 3 p.m.
- September 8 - Grandparents Day
- September 9 - First PTA Meeting beginning 7 p.m.
- September 19 - Fundraiser begins (Cherry dale), 1:30 p.m.



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## Eco-Friendly Tote Bags Now on Sale through GOES

by Diane Pittman

The Garden Oaks Elementary Montessori Program is offering the community a great way to reduce, reuse, and recycle with the sale of grocery tote bags.

Made from non-woven recyclable polypropylene, the sturdy, reusable grocery bags last several years and help reduce the production and landfill disposal of plastic bags. Measuring 12.5 x 13.5 inches with an 8.5-inch gusset and card insert bottom, the totes are deep brown with green artwork.

"This is a great way to help our environment and support the educational opportunities provided by the Montessori program at Garden Oaks Elementary School (GOES)," said Shana Tatum, Friends of Montessori Garden Oaks Chapter president. "Each set we sell will help to enrich the lives of our young learners by providing the resources to equip them with an outstanding education."

Each tote bag set includes one insulated and four standard tote bags for \$20. To order, visit [friendsofmontessori@yahoo.com](mailto:friendsofmontessori@yahoo.com) or call (713) 320-7294 and press \* then enter the password: 1212.

Friends of Montessori (FOM) was established in 1994 by a group of parents, teachers, and community members dedicated to creating a unique learning alternative within the Houston public school system. A nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, FOM has grown to include four Houston ISD schools serving nearly 600 students annually: Garden Oaks Elementary, Woodrow Wilson Montessori, Whidby Elementary, and Los Niños Early Childhood Center.

Montessori students at all four schools regularly outscore their peers on standardized tests and the program itself has proven to provide enhanced cultural diversity within the classroom, exceptional education for all students, and hours of increased parent volunteer participation.

## GO Kids News

by Tonya Knauth

GO Kids was started by a group of parents who want to build a family-friendly neighborhood where children and parents know each other and grow together -- all Garden Oaks families are welcome! Aren't on the GO Kids list serve? Want more information about GO Kids? Contact Tonya Knauth at (713) 628-8243 or [tknauth@comcast.net](mailto:tknauth@comcast.net).

Moms' Night Out for September will be Thursday, September 4, 7 p.m., Collina's on W. 19th. BYOB!

The September Family Potluck will be hosted by the Pina family, 705 W. 41st, September 20, 4 - 7 p.m. Bring the kids and a dish; drinks will be provided.

Our neighborhood seems to abound with joyful new additions these days! We know how overwhelming a new baby can be, so we provide several meals during those stressful first weeks. If you are expecting or know a neighbor who is, please let us know!

Thanks to the following businesses who have donated to help with the cost of the GO Slow T-shirts connected with the Maltbie family fundraiser:

AMS Remodeling, Bone Voyage Pet Sitting Services, Burciaga Johnston Advertising, Cherry Wolfarth with Prudential Gary Greene, Deanna Zugheri with Keller Williams Realty, Facundo Home Builder, Janna Alsobrook with MetLife, Murata Bunge Family, Stan-Co Home Improvements, Team Texan/Prudential Gary Greene, Terry Jeanes with Re/Max Metro and Will Zugheri with First Houston Mortgage.

Special thanks to Lomonte's Italian Restaurant for providing the fundraiser dinner.

## Farewell to Summer!

Garden Oaks Sisterhood

The September 18th GO Sisterhood meeting will celebrate the end of summer as we move into autumn. Meeting will be held at the home of Anna Fornaris and Kathy Silver, 826 Lamonte Lane, 7:30 - 10:00 p.m. As always, please bring a beverage (wine seems to be a favorite) or a snack to share.

Many thanks to Sally McDaniel for being the July meeting hostess.

The Garden Oaks Sisterhood meets on the third Thursday of the month and all Garden Oaks women are welcome. Questions? Contact Dea Larson at [dealarson@aol.com](mailto:dealarson@aol.com) or 281-920-0325.

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## The Plant Swap

By Chris Lindsay, GO Garden Club President

Having taken the months of July and August off to tend to our gardens, the Garden Oaks Garden Club will start back onto its monthly meeting schedule starting in September. Our meeting in September will be our annual PLANT SWAP meeting. It will take place on Thursday, September 11th at 7:00 p.m. at the Gazebo Park – the triangle shaped park where Sue Barnett, 42nd, and Lamonte intersect. Everyone is invited to come for a free plant and enjoy the evening. We will have a drawing for a door prize for guests. The annual Garden Oaks Garden Club Plant Swap is an informal event for gardeners new and experienced alike. It's a chance to trade extras from your garden for goodies that others want to share. Above all, it's the perfect way to obtain free plants in exchange for some of your garden excess. If you don't have any plants to swap, that's not a problem, we will have more than enough to share with those who don't have any.

If you plan on trading, bring anything that you think another gardener might want. This includes mature plants, divisions, or seedlings of perennials, annuals, vegetables or herbs; rooted and un-rooted cuttings, bulbs and such, shrubs and trees, seeds, and houseplants. You can bring several of the same plant or several different items or even just one item. Don't overlook any garden tools, pots, books, and so on that you no longer want. Just be sure that your plants are labeled clearly with at least the common name, color of bloom, and light requirements. Be sure to bring an extra box or flat for taking home your new treasures. Please, don't bring anything to sell.

This will be a "buffet-style" swap. You will be asked to sort your goodies according to category (flowers for shade, flowers for sun, shrubs and trees, vegetables and herbs, houseplants, etc.). After a brief description of what is available, the swap will begin. During each round, we will help ourselves to one plant each until everything is gone. This is not a money event. Nothing costs anything. It's about having a little too much of this and not enough of that. It's not scientific, although every once in a while we get someone who is 100 percent certain about the botanical name of a plant (we like that!). It's just an informal way to exchange information, seeds and stories. It's a great way to come across old-fashioned plants we can't find in catalogues or plant stores.

Garden Club meetings are open to all residents and friends of Garden Oaks. You do not have to be a member to attend this event or our meetings. Just come by and try us out. Then, if you want to become a member of the Garden Club, annual dues are only \$25.00. For more information about the Garden Oak's Garden Club you may call club President Chris Lindsay at (713) 819-8412 or any of the other Garden Club officers listed in the *Gazette*.

We meet the 2nd Thursday of every month at 7:00 pm. Most meetings take place in the Community Meeting Room, Mezzanine Level at the Kroger's store on W. 43rd Street.

## Benefit Scheduled September 28 for the Maltbie Family

*Neighbors coming together to help with medical bills*

Emma Maltbie, 3 ½ year old Garden Oaks resident, was diagnosed with an ependymoma brain tumor, which was removed June 27 during a nine-hour surgery. Emma is now undergoing daily rehabilitation and radiation treatments to fight the 1% of the cancer that could not be removed. Even with the best health insurance the cost of these treatments can be daunting. At this difficult time Emma's parents, Mike and Jayne, need to focus their energy on getting Emma well.

Neighbors from Garden Oak and the Heights are coming together to pitch in and help the family. A benefit dinner, auction and raffle will be held at St. Rose of Lima on September 28 at 4:00 p.m. Come for a night of delicious Italian fare, catered by Lomonte's Italian Restaurant. Drinks are generously being provided by Community Coffee. There will be a wine/beer booth, dessert table and music provided by Dune Tex. In addition t-shirts to promote safety in our neighborhood will be available for purchase. All proceeds will benefit the Maltbie family to help defray medical expenses. Please join us for an uplifting and fun evening to help out a special little girl.

We need help securing donations for our Silent Auction. Think big and feel free to work in teams with your neighbors! Get your block to purchase and donate 12 restaurant gift cards that can be called "A Year of Dates." Do you or someone you know own a vacation home? A weekend at the lake or beach is a fantastic item to donate. In addition to auction and raffle items we need volunteers. Call Amber Berend at 832-338-0171 or email her at [amber.berend@yahoo.com](mailto:amber.berend@yahoo.com) to volunteer. Everyone please lend a hand to make this event a success. Remember, it's for a brave little girl and her wonderful family!

Pre-sale tickets are on sale now. See the flyer inserted in the *Gazette* for more details or contact Amy Shaughnessy at [ames975@comcast.net](mailto:ames975@comcast.net) to purchase tickets. If you are unable to join us, please consider making a donation toward this worthy cause. Your generosity is greatly appreciated and makes Garden Oaks such wonderful place to call home.

To learn more about Emma, go to her blog at: <http://emkmaltbie.blogspot.com/>

## Increase Those Recycling Efforts

by Dian Austin

The City of Houston speaker at our July civic club meeting said the city will be checking actual curbside recycling participation rates sometime between now and the end of the year. City employees will simply drive by and count the number of green recycling bins that are curbside awaiting pick-up on a scheduled recycling day. Those communities with less than 10% participation rate will most likely be dropped from the curbside recycling program. So, the lesson learned is: put your green bin out at every recycling date, regardless of whether it is full or not.

The September recycling dates are Wednesday September 3rd (on a Wednesday, due to the Labor Day holiday that week); Tuesday September 16th and Tuesday September 30th.

If you still need a green recycling bin, order one by calling 3-1-1. If you want to email me ([FallingwaterT@yahoo.com](mailto:FallingwaterT@yahoo.com)), I will bring you one when I get my next supply.

There is some concern that our participation rates will be negatively influenced by the geography

called "Garden Oaks Area", which is not Garden Oaks per se. I have written Councilmember Toni Lawrence for clarification and will report back.

Current acceptable recycling items are:

- Paper (junk mail, newspapers, phone books, and flattened corrugated cardboard)
- Plastics (all those labeled #1-5 and #7)
- Aluminum and tin cans

There are several area opportunities to recycle beyond curbside pickup, and it helps to keep our landfills less full:

### Heightsmontrosefreecycle.org

This is a yahoo group that you can join and includes the Garden Oaks geography. Items must be given away free, but you can find good homes for things you want to get rid of. I've found second homes for shelving units, leftover paint, an old Coleman lantern, luggage and even some blank cassette tapes. The lucky recipients will even travel to your home to pick up the freebies.

### Houston SPCA

900 Portway (off I-10/Westcott)

Why buy a dog when you can get a recycled one? There are hundreds of other shelters, rescue groups,

etc. who provide loving furry companions of all persuasions. Google "Houston and animal adoption" and you'll find 10,000 choices.

### MANNA (Ministry Assistance of the Near Northwest Alliance)

1810 W. 43rd @ Rosslyn (next to Family Dollar)

This is a thrift store run by a group of area churches. They accept donations (tax deductible) and sell the items cheaply to those in need. They use the money to run a vision center, a food pantry and to help people with rent and utilities. You can donate used clothing, books, housewares, furniture, etc. I generally make a trip a week there.

### Dress for Success

3915 Dacoma, Suite A, 713-957-3779

They accept new and gently used women's clothing, including suits, business attire and accessories. They provide clothing to disadvantaged women and help them dress for their job searches. They are open 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday -Friday and one Saturday a month (call for dates).

If you know of other area establishments that offer recycling opportunities, please email me at [FallingwaterT@yahoo.com](mailto:FallingwaterT@yahoo.com), so I can share them with others.

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## Citizens Patrol Program

by Carl Waters, Jr.

Boy, I'm sure glad National Night Out was re-scheduled for Tuesday, October 7. Tropical Storm Eduard would have been an unwelcome guest in August. Please let me know if you are planning an activity so I can get an officer from HPD or the Constable's Office to stop for a visit.

### Crime Statistics (11)

#### Burglary (4)

300 block of W. 32nd, Thursday, June 5, 9:00 a.m. (residence)

300 block of W. 32nd, Thursday, June 5, 1:40 p.m. (garage)

3000 block of N. Durham, Saturday, June 14, 4:38 a.m. (restaurant)

3100 block of Lawrence, Friday, June 20, 8:15 a.m. (residence)

#### Burglary Motor Vehicle (5)

2900 block of N. Shepherd, Sunday, June 1, 5:40 p.m. (strip center parking lot)

1000 block of Althea, Saturday, June 14, midnight (driveway)

3200 block of N. Shepherd, Monday, June 16, 8:00 a.m. (parking lot)

800 block of Azalea, Wednesday, June 18, 11:55 a.m. (street)

3200 block of N. Shepherd, Friday, June 20, 8:15 a.m. (other parking lot)

#### Driving While Intoxicated (2)

2900 block of N. Shepherd, Thursday, June 5, 1:55 a.m. (street)

3000 block of N. Shepherd, Sunday, June 15, 1:22 a.m. (street)

Inquires about joining the Citizens Patrol Program or other community safety issues can be directed to me via neighborhood website GardenOaks.org or to the COP email account at [GOCOP77018@aol.com](mailto:GOCOP77018@aol.com) or by phone at 713-864-1992.

### Emergency Reference Numbers

**Emergency Services 911**

**HPD Non Emergency Services 713-884-3131**

**All other City Services 311**

**Constable Dispatch 713-755-7628**

## Hurricane Emergency Planning

Get a Kit:

- [Water](#), one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation
- [Food](#), at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries for both
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- [First aid kit](#)
- Whistle to signal for help
- [Dust mask](#), to help filter contaminated air and plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- Can opener for food (if kit contains canned food)
- Local maps

For additional information for a recommended Emergency Kit go to:

<http://www.ready.gov/america/getakit/index.html>

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But be prepared in  
case of a stumble.**



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# Heard Under the Oak Tree

by Terry Jeanes

## Welcome New Neighbors

963 Lamonte 930 West 42nd 733 West 41st  
 1035 Lamonte 503 W 33rd 424 West 34th  
 903 West 41st 1559 Sue Barnett 311 West 33rd  
 531 West 32nd 807 Azalea

## August Birthdays and Celebrations

Janice Walden - 4th  
 John Beddow - 22nd  
 Mark Swick - 26th  
 Charlie Alsobrook - 26th

## Belated Birthday Wishes

Jones Phoenix Bowman turned 3 on August 6th  
 Nathaniel "Nater Tater" Berend turned 1 on August 14th

## Happy Anniversary

Craig & Clair Bell - 14 years

## Out and About

Maxwell Fisher, son of Cheryl Brown & Jeanine Fisher, was a representative from Trinity University at the Democratic National Convention in Denver.

The McLean Clan enjoyed 3 weeks in Florida with the family who are visiting from Scotland!

A friendship of 35 yrs. was celebrated by Caroline Stender and Janna Alsobrook on a trip to Chicago enjoying architectural tours, blues music, great shopping on Michigan Avenue, Chicago pizza and Chicago beer and much more!

Martha and Jerry Kennedy had a long August vacation at their second home in Lunenburg, Nova Scotia.

Mel Johnson and daughter Elizabeth just returned from Oregon, where they vacationed on the beach and met up with husband/father Ken (who was already there on an educational field trip).

Carey and Adrian Berry (along with canines Milo and Sadie) just returned from a visit with family in Utah and Wyoming.

Tina Sabuco had a great vacation in her hometown of Escanaba, Michigan in the Upper Peninsula.

## Pet Tidbits

Welcome to the Listers household 1-year old Schnoodle named Sammy.

Congratulations to Tux Irvin, who recently received the Canine Good Citizenship Award

Tux the dog, was born wild and wouldn't let anyone near him a year ago. Passing all the tests including voice and hand commands and he had to sit/stay letting a stranger pet him and manipulate his teeth and ears like in dog shows. Owner Al Irvin is extra proud!

To highlight an event, celebration, or other tidbit, contact Terry Jeanes at 713-812-9154 or [terry@terryjeanes.com](mailto:terry@terryjeanes.com).

## September Yard of the Month

407 West 33rd  
 The Ballance Family

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## Letter to the Editor

*Can't we all get along?*

I had the strangest thing happen to me this last Tuesday, August 12th. After first consulting with a landscape expert and bonded tree trimming company, I embarked on some tree trimming around my yard. First, I wanted the company to remove several dead, unsightly branches on a large pine tree that adorns my front yard. I also dutifully secured the permission of my next door neighbor so that I could have removed a total of three huge branches from two pine trees that sit just on my neighbor's side of the property but whose branches hang completely over my side. My issue with these particular branches was two-fold; first, the pine needles drop directly into my backyard pool and second, they heavily shade six smaller trees that I have planted in my backyard. The landscaper and experienced tree-trimmer assured me that removal of the branches would not only help the six less mature trees grow straight and tall, but would improve the aesthetics of the two 25-plus foot tall pines that had never been pruned. So bright and early on Tuesday morning, the trimmers arrived and started to work.

After an hour or so, I came out to the front to check on their progress. While chatting with the crew, I heard repeated high-pitched yelling emanating from across the street but couldn't make out any intelligible words. I looked around but with no one

in sight, I assumed this could not be directed at me and carried on speaking with the tree trimmers. A few minutes later however, one of my across-the-street neighbors screeched out of his driveway, glared at me over the rolled-down window and shouted "There are no trees in the suburbs!" As his tires squealed down the street, my brain pieced together that this was the same phrase that had been yelled at me earlier but that I had failed to interpret.

I was stunned. What to make of this? Was this a new advertising slogan my neighbor had heard for a subdivision in Katy? Was it a Rain Man-esq chant and I just didn't hear that it was time for Wapner? Such vitriol and anger from someone with whom I have had almost zero contact (I don't count the time he had my pool installation company give him a truckload of dirt excavated from my yard but failed to thank me or even acknowledge it). I concluded that he must have perceived my tree-trimming exercise as the Great Arbor Day Massacre of 2008. Sadly, no television cameras or reporters came to record the carnage. The tree trimmers finished that afternoon as promised and carted off the less than one truckload full of cut branches. The violated trees are all still standing and life on this planet and in Garden Oaks continues on.

The point of this ridiculous but true episode is that we live in a great, diverse neighborhood where brand new 4,000+ square foot custom homes stand side-by-side with one-story bungalows from the 1940s. Each of us have different reasons for living in

Garden Oaks but one of the universal appeals is that we do not have a homeowner's association that dictates every aspect of what we can and cannot do with our properties. Within reason, we are pretty much free to do what we want – for instance, you may not like what the color of paint your neighbor uses for his or her siding, but it is their right to paint as they wish. By the same token, if I want to cut down every tree on my lot, it is my right to do so. If you have some concerns, please come chat about it – just don't spew hate from your car as you speed past.

Sincerely,  
Steve Jernigan  
Resident on West 33rd in Section 1

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## Critter Corner

by Casey and Mau Mau Farris

Are you one of those people that often lose your keys? When you lose your keys why do people ask where did you put them? This month we talk about how to train your dog to find them for you. Our Pet of the Month loves to fetch things but does he bring them back?

**Pet of the Month:** "Mr. September" is an eight year old red Chow / Lab mix named Charlie Brown Bray. He lives in Section IV with his daddy Kent. Kent found Charlie in a field near his office when Charlie was just eight weeks old. Charlie is a perfect balance between Chow and Lab – one ear is up like a Chow and one ear is down like a Lab. Like most Labs he loves to swim and his favorite toy is a duck but like a Chow he is a little reserved and cautious until he gets to know you. Charlie enjoys two walks a day and laying around the house. Sometimes Charlie and Kent go to the country where Charlie likes to play with the cows and an occasional deer. Kent says Charlie is real good at fetching but not so good at bringing the item back. The famous Peanuts character and namesake is called "wishy washy" by his friends and is a worrier. Although this lovable Charlie Brown may be a bit "Chowsy Labsy" he definitely has no worries.

### Critters 101: Find The Keys Fido!

"Find It!" is a game that almost every dog loves. They love using their noses, and because it requires concentration, it is a great exercise for an overactive dog. You can teach your dog to find almost anything but it is usually easiest to start with a treat, something the dog really likes. Have your dog sit and stay. If he doesn't know these commands yet, you can have someone gently hold him in position. Show him the treat, and then let him watch you put it behind a door or a chair, or under a towel laid on the floor. Then tell him to "Find It!" When he does, give him lots of praise and the treat.

After a couple of easy finds, make it harder for him by hiding the treat in another room. As he gets better and better, make the game even more difficult by putting the treat in unusual places like the bathroom sink. Don't worry if it takes him a long time to find it – let him do it – you are doing this to give the dog some work to do. Just don't make it so hard that he becomes frustrated and gives up. If that happens, go back to the beginner's level and slowly work back up.

Once your dog can locate hidden treats successfully, you can teach him to find specific objects. Start first with his favorite toy. Always start out with the beginner's method described above and gradually make the game harder and harder until he can find the toy. You can play this game in and out of doors.

By substituting various objects for the toy and using the object's name in the command: "Find the ball,"

"Find the shoe," "Find the keys," etc., you can teach your dog to tell one object from another and find almost anything.

This game is fun for you and fun for Fido, but the best part is now when you lose your keys you will have the most able and willing helper to locate them.

*Casey Farris is owner/operator of Bone Voyage Pet Sitting Services and Go Dog USA, Home of the Go Dog Social Club and Go Dog Academy @ Urban Tails. Mau Mau is owner/operator of Casey. Please forward your questions and pet news to [Casey@GoDogUSA.com](mailto:Casey@GoDogUSA.com) or call 713-688-6363.*

## Explore Houston's Historic Downtown Waterfront Tour

*Explore Houston's birthplace and examine Buffalo Bayou's pivotal role in the city's development during GHPA's (Greater Houston Preservation Alliance) 90-minute guided walking tour of the historic downtown waterfront.*

Tour participants will hear stories about early Houston, including the history of the city's first port, the Confederate prison compound on the site of the present University of Houston-Downtown campus and the development of Houston's first sewer system, the centerpiece of which is now the Good Brick Award-winning adaptive re-use of the Willow Street Pump Station.

Admission is \$10 for adults (\$7 for GHPA members and students with valid ID). Children 11 years old and younger are admitted free of charge. Tickets are on sale at Allen's Landing Park, 1001 Commerce. Reservations are not required.

Parking is free on downtown streets on Sundays. Paid parking is available in nearby lots. Allen's Landing Park is within walking distance of either the Preston or UH-Downtown [MetroRail](#) stations. There are no public restrooms along the tour route.

Interested in running an ad in the  
Gazette? Info available at  
[www.gardenoaks.org](http://www.gardenoaks.org)

## Junk Waste and Tree Waste Recycling

Beginning in October of 2008, the City's Solid Waste Department will alternate the pick-up of Tree waste and Junk Waste each month.

"Tree Waste" is defined as "clean wood waste", which consists of tree limbs, branches and stumps. Lumber, furniture or treated wood will not be accepted on the day designated for tree waste. "Junk Waste" is defined as items such as furniture, appliances, and other bulky material. Collections will occur on your regularly scheduled heavy trash day, unless you are notified otherwise.

The change follows the successful completion of a Tree Waste Recycling Pilot Program last year. During the pilot that ran from October 1, 2007, to June 30, 2008, the city saved over \$185,632 from collections of just 47,000 homes, while diverting 5801 tons recyclable tree waste from expensive landfill space.

Please see below for the new Junk Waste and Tree Waste Schedule:

MONTH	COLLECTION
October	Junk Waste
November	Tree Waste
December	Junk Waste
January	Tree Waste
February	Junk Waste
March	Tree Waste
April	Junk Waste
May	Tree Waste
June	Junk Waste
July	Tree Waste
August	Junk Waste
September	Tree Waste

# September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 - Labor Day	2 - Civic Club Meeting, 7 PM, GO Elementary (GOMO Plan Review Follows)	3 - Recycling	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 - Gazette Submission Deadline	16 - Recycling	17 - GOMO Meeting, 7 PM, GOMO Offices	18 - FOM Chapter Meeting	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 - Maltbie Benefit Dinner/ Auction, 4 PM, St. Rose of Lima	29	30 - Recycling	"Well, if crime fighters fight crime and fire fighters fight fire, what do freedom fighters fight? They never mention that part to us, do they?" George Carlin (1937 - 2008)			

## Garden Oaks Wine Walk      Gazebo Park      October 18, 2008, 6-8 PM

Tickets are \$15 each and entitle you to admission to the Wine Walk and a limited edition souvenir Inaugural Garden Oaks Wine Walk wine glass!

Because our venue is small, we must limit ticket sales to the first 100 to respond.

**Yes**, I would like to reserve \_\_\_\_\_ tickets @ \$15.00 ea. for a total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**No**, I cannot attend, but enclosed is a donation to the Garden Oaks Civic Club of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please mail this completed form along with your check payable to:**

Garden Oaks Civic Club, P.O. Box 10273, Houston, TX 77206.

**Pick up your souvenir glasses at the gazebo when you arrive.**

*Thank you!*