

# Gazette

December 2008

Volume 32 Number 12

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## Reminder

Civic Club Meeting and Holiday Potluck Dinner set for Tuesday, Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7pm, at 701 Garden Oaks Blvd



## Civic Club Meeting & Holiday Potluck Dinner

This year the December Garden Oaks Civic Club meeting and holiday celebration will be held at the Garden Oaks home of Brian O'Leary and George Appling; 701 Garden Oaks Blvd. Following a short business meeting which includes the election of the 2009 Civic Club officers the food and festivities will begin.

Entertainment will be provided by Garden Oak's own Georgia Lister. Georgia is a Garden Oaks neighbor of 12 years and will be performing with Cowjazz, a local rock/blues/funk band. Cowjazz is donating their time to this event so please come out and support them at the meeting/party and at one of their many shows around town!!

In support of the Precinct One Constable's Holiday Toy Drive we are asking that you bring a new, unwrapped toy to donate.

The Civic Club will provide the meat and non-alcoholic beverages (BYOB if you wish), but ask that you bring the following according to your last name:

A – H    Appetizer or bread  
I – Q    Side dish  
R – Z    Dessert

**Come join your friends and neighbors as we ring in the holiday season! Tuesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7pm.**

## Slate of 2009 Civic Club Candidates

*by Terry Jeanes, Nominating Committee*

As appointed by President James Flowers at the September Civic Club meeting, the members of the nominating committee, Terry Jeanes, Jerry Butler, Carl Waters, Jay Tatum and Lori Kennedy presented the office slate at the November meeting as required by the by-laws. The election of officers will take place at the December meeting, following any nominations taken from the floor.

The following names were presented as the slate of officers for 2009:

President – Scott Easterly  
Vice President – Ivan Mayers  
Secretary – Cindy Bartos  
Treasurer – Phil Ramirez

## Announcements

Chuck Donnels from Right Place Properties will give an update on Garden Oaks Condominiums (formerly Carters Grove apartments) at the Civic Club meeting on Tuesday, January 6, 2009.

## Citizens Patrol Program

by Carl Waters, Jr.

Hurricane Ike caused a lot of mayhem in September but thanks to HPD and our Constables the damage to the neighborhood was mostly storm related. According to the HPD Website there were only two, yes two, crimes reported in the neighborhood for the month of September. For the year this means there have been 55 crimes reported in the neighborhood compared to 81 for the time frame last year. So when you see an HPD Officer or one of our Constables driving in the neighborhood shout out a big thank you and if you haven't already done so, send a check to the Civic Club to keep the Constable Program running.

Here are a few crime prevention tips to keep your holiday season safe:

- Keep the outside of your home well lit.
- Lock your doors and keep the curtains drawn.
- If you display gifts beneath the Christmas tree, do so in a manner where they are not visible from outside.
- Cut up gift boxes and put them in nontransparent trash bags to avoid advertising all those wonderful presents you received.

- Make sure to keep fresh cut trees well watered to reduce the possibility of fire in your home.

September Crime Statistics (2)  
 Driving While Intoxicated (2)  
 3200 Block of N. Shepherd Dr. on Sunday, September 7th at 12:16 am (street).  
 3300 Block of N. Shepherd Dr. on Friday, September 26th at 4:24 am (street).

Inquires about joining the Citizens Patrol Program or about other community safety issues can be directed to me via neighborhood website GardenOaks.org or to the COP email account at GOCOP77018@AOL.com or by phone at 713.864.1992.

### HAPPY HOLIDAYS EVERYONE!

## Emergency Numbers

Emergency Services 911  
 HPD Non-Emergency Services 713.884.3131  
 Constable Dispatch 713.755.7628  
 All Other City Services 311

## 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 15<sup>th</sup> of each month for publication the next month unless otherwise noted. **No exceptions.**

Publication of any article not related to the Civic Club does not imply endorsement by the Garden Oaks Civic Club and is solely the opinion of the author.



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## Civic Club Officers

### James Flowers—President

223 W. 31st 713.205.1493  
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### Ivan Mayers—Vice President

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### Jerry Butler—Treasurer

871 W. 41st 713.822.3175  
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### Cindy Bartos—Secretary

831 Azalea 713.694.6697  
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## Standing Committee Chairs

### Brenda de Alba—Beautification

744 W. 43rd 713.694.5934  
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### Carl Waters Jr.—Citizen Patrol

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858 Azalea 713.695.7347

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### Terry Jeanes—Constable Program

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## Garden Oaks Civic Club Meeting Minutes

by Cindy Bartos, Secretary

### Welcome:

President James Flowers called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm. A motion was made and seconded to accept the September minutes as they appeared in the *Gazette*.

### Treasurer's Report:

Jerry Butler presented the 2009 Garden Oaks Civic Club budget. A motion was made, seconded and carried to accept the 2009 budget. Jerry also presented a current income and expense report for the Civic Club and had detailed copies available at the meeting. He encouraged those that haven't yet paid their membership for the Constable Program to pay their 2009 dues.

### Standing Committee Reports:

**Beautification:** Brenda DeAlba asked residents to support the GOMO proposal to provide funds for maintenance and landscaping of neighborhood green spaces. The proposal will be voted on at the November 12, 2008 annual GOMO meeting.

**Constable Program:** Terry Jeanes announced the Constables' contracts for 2009 have an increase in pay of 3%. The membership mail-out is about half way completed.

Officer CJ Mangano and Lieutenant Kovar discussed reports by residents of being approached by a young man for either work or handouts. They encouraged residents to report any suspicious activity. Recognition and thanks were given to the officers present and to the other Precinct One officers for their help and support during the days following Hurricane Ike.

**Gazette:** Jessica Jarvis had no report. Recognition with applause was given to Jessica to show the appreciation for the work she has done since taking over as Editor.

**Garden Oaks Citizen's Patrol:** Carl Waters reported that the neighborhood had 2 DWI's arrests for the month of September.

**Garden Oaks.org website:** Joe Muscara had no report

**Membership:** Brenda DeAlba won the raffle, receiving a \$25 gift certificate for Lowes. There was no call for an inquiry, even though her husband, Ed, pulled the winning ticket.

President Flowers called on Terry Jeanes to announce the 2009 slate of officers selected by the Nominating Committee.

The slate of Civic Club officers includes:  
President: Scott Easterly  
Vice President: Ivan Mayers  
Secretary: Cindy Bartos  
Treasurer: Phil Ramirez

President Flowers asked for nominations from the floor and none were made. Nominations will also be accepted at the December meeting when the election will be held for the 2009 Garden Oaks Civic Club Officers.

**Garden Oaks GardenClub:** The November 13<sup>th</sup> meeting will take place at 938 LaMonte.

**Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization (GOMO):** Ed DeAlba announced the annual meeting will take place on November 12<sup>th</sup> at the Garden Oaks Elementary School.

**Old Business:** none

**New Business:** Former Garden Oaks Elementary student Daniel Norton presented (former student) Steven Roberts' Eagle Scout Project. The project involves creating a labyrinth at the back of the school next to the dry creek and bridge Daniel Norton recently completed as his Eagle Scout Project. Steven needs approximately \$500 to complete the project. A motion was made and carried for the Civic Club to donate \$250 toward the project. Oscar Ochoa of OD's Printing matched the Civic Club's donation by also donating \$250.

Meeting adjourned: 7:45 pm  
Attendance: 23

November 5, 2008

## Top Ten Reasons for Civic Club Involvement

by Dian Austin, Membership Chairman

By now you should have received your personal invitation to support both the Garden Oaks Civic Club and the Constable Program for 2009. Why not make it your New Year's resolution to participate and lend your support?

The Garden Oaks Civic Club exists for the purpose of providing a forum for residents to learn more about local initiatives, problem-solve and become more cohesive as a neighborhood. Membership is open to anyone who lives in the neighborhood regardless of whether they own or rent their home. For 2008, we had just 324 paid civic club memberships out of some 1400+ homes, a support rate of about 23%. A far smaller percentage of residents attend the monthly meetings and while this has been the norm for the past several years, we need to get more people involved!

The meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at Garden Oaks Elementary School and generally last about an hour. During 2008, we provided the forum to learn more about:

- The Garden Oaks Condominiums (formerly Carters Grove apartments).
- Plans for the empty Conn's building in Sect. 1.
- The City of Houston's 3-1-1 line.

- Many local candidates who were running in the recent November elections.
- Recycling.
- Our new constables and what's happening on the streets of GO.
- The gardening program at GOES, including the "Sponsor a Tree" Program.
- The April Home Tour.
- Contributions from area Eagle Scouts to our neighborhood.
- The Civic Club Holiday potluck celebration.

Ideas for topics or speakers for future meetings are encouraged. Please send them to me at [FallingwaterT@yahoo.com](mailto:FallingwaterT@yahoo.com) and I will certainly pass them along to our newly elected 2009 Civic Club President.

Thanks to all of you who already support the civic club. We look forward to seeing you again, and some new faces, in 2009!

*Membership forms are available in the Gazette and online at [www.gardenoaks.org](http://www.gardenoaks.org). You can also donate by Paypal on the website (thanks to Joe Muscara!).*

*Please note that the invitation to contribute to the Garden Oaks Garden Club was inadvertently left off of the mailer. (It has been corrected on the membership form included herein.) The Garden Club maintains Friendship Garden (Section 1) and also provides a monthly forum for learning more about gardening topics relevant to our climate. If you do want to contribute monies to the Garden Club, just note it under "other" on the membership form.*

## Top Ten Reasons to Be an Active Member

10. Give back to your community.
9. Meet a really fun group of neighbors.
8. Help support our green spaces and parks, Citizens Patrol, the Home Tour and seasonal activities.
7. Win a door prize!
6. Find out what's happening in the 'hood.'
5. Learn about opportunities to volunteer.
4. Contribute your new ideas.
3. Take your place in the 60+ years of Garden Oaks history.
2. Protect your investment by getting involved in the future of our neighborhood.

And finally.....

1. It's the right thing to do!



## GOMO Board of Directors

### Section 1:

#### Sheila Briones (2011)

Home: 713.861.8091  
Cell: 281.685.8133  
412 W. 34th  
sbriones@hotmail.com



#### Graham Gips (2010)

Secretary  
Home: 713.824.9204  
408 W. 31st  
graham.gips@gmail.com

#### Kathy Horner (2009)

Treasurer  
Cell: 713.385.2050  
527 W. 33rd  
kathy@associatedcounsel.com

### Section 2:

#### Adrian Berry (2011)

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737 W. 42nd  
Adrian.berry@yahoo.com



#### Ed de Alba (2010)

President  
Cell: 713.628.7008  
744 W. 43rd  
ferrocem@yahoo.com

#### Lori Kennedy (2009)

Home: 713.691.6833  
750 Sue Barnett Dr.  
lorikgomo@blue-funk.com

### Section 3:

#### Jerry Butler (2011)

Home: 713.822.3175  
871 W. 41st  
j1982b@comcast.net



#### Kelly Mathews (2010)

Home: 713.640.5225  
855 Lamonte Lane  
rkmathews1@gmail.com



#### Ivan Mayers (2009)

Home: 713.202.7113  
802 Lamonte Lane  
ilmayers@comcast.net



### Section 5:

#### Tim Weltin (2011)

Home: 713.540.5315  
1567 Sue Barnett Drive  
timweltin@mycase.info

#### Mitchell Katine (2010)

Cell: 832.444.8274  
1015 W. 41st  
mkatine@lawkn.com



#### John Ciccarelli (2009)

Home: 713.688.8285  
4310 Apollo  
ciccarelli@intergate.com

Terms expire October of year in parentheses.

## GOMO Notes

by Ed de Alba

### Annual Meeting Held November 12th.

The GOMO annual meeting was held Wednesday, Nov 12<sup>th</sup>. The business transacted included the election of several directors and the voting on the spending of surplus funds.

### New Directors Elected

The directors for Sections 1, 2 and 3 were elected by acclamation. Sheila Briones is the new director for Section 1, her term runs through October of 2011. Adrian Berry was elected to represent Section 2 and his term also runs through October of 2011. In Section 3 all three directors are newly elected: Ivan Mayers to a one-year term, Kelly Mathews to a two-year term and Jerry Butler to a three-year term, with terms running through the ends of October 2009, 2010 and 2011 respectively.

In Section 5, we had the unusual situation where five individuals from the Section ran for two open positions. Tim Weltin was elected to the three-year term with 49 votes. Reagan Cracknell and Mitch Katine tied with 15 votes each so a coin toss decided the contest for the two-year term. Mitch called heads and won the election. Many thanks to Tom and Trish Mehrkam, who also participated in the election.

### Surplus Funds Voted

All three funding measures passed. The first measure, the funding of one evening and one daytime Constable, and the second measure, funding for the maintenance of our greenspaces, passed 184 to 8. The third measure, refurbishment of the Graham Park tennis court and building of a practice back board also passed, 164 to 18.

### Many Thanks to Retiring Directors

I want to thank the directors who recently completed their terms and chose to retire from the board. Mike Dishberger, Rich Stark and Malcolm Taylor all served several terms, some of them from the beginning of GOMO to the present, and Lynn Sievers, Jason Mercer and Sean Jez have completed their terms and are moving on. Many many people in the neighborhood have no idea of the efforts you have performed on their behalf and I give thanks to all of you for your service, your insight into some tough situations and for just being there.

### 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 7pm, 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.

## Gazette Block Captain of the Month

by Dian Austin

Kudos to the entire Roberts family for being December's Block Captains of the Month! Jane Ann and Marc Roberts moved to Section 1 in Garden Oaks in 1988 and have been *Gazette* block captains for the 400 and 500 blocks of W. 34<sup>th</sup> for some 20 years. *Gazette* delivery has been a family affair, with sons Chris and Steven, and daughter Emily helping to deliver the newsletters as soon as each was old enough.

Jane Ann and Marc were instrumental in getting the Montessori program started at Garden Oaks Elementary School. Their oldest son, Chris who is now away at college, installed the fruit orchard at GOES as his Eagle Scout Project. Steven built the labyrinth at GOES just last month as his Eagle Scout project and Emily currently attends GOES.

Jane Ann and Marc have been civic club members and avid constable program supporters for many years. Marc is also scoutmaster for Boy Scout Troop 20 and Jane Ann is co-leader of Emily's scout troop.

Neighbor Sheila Briones nominated the entire family for their faithful delivery of the *Gazette* all these 20 years.

The Roberts family wins a \$25 gift certificate to Tony's Mexican Restaurant on Ella Blvd., compliments of OD's Printing (Oscar Ochoa). Thanks, Jane Ann, Marc, Chris, Steven and Emily for all your help. You set a great example!

If anyone else wants to join the Great *Gazette* Delivery Team, please call Dian at 713.691.6505. If you'd like to nominate your Block Captain for the monthly prize, call or email me at fallingwatert@yahoo.com. (And if you never ever get your *Gazette* on time, please let me know too!)

## Recycling Opportunity

by Dian Austin

Thanks to all the neighbors who came by and picked up green recycling bins from my porch. That entire stash is now gone. I have talked with my contact in the Solid Waste Dept. and there are more green bins on backorder. I have asked for 20 more bins to be delivered to me, and will post an announcement on the listserv and in the *Gazette* when those bins arrive.

Meanwhile, our December recycling dates are Tuesday, December 9<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>.

On the subject of recycling, consider one of these options for your old cell phones: Both the Houston Area Women's Center and any Verizon Wireless storefront accept no-longer

used wireless phones, batteries and accessories in any condition from any wireless service provider. Phones that can be refurbished are sold for reuse and those without value are disposed of in an environmentally sound way. Proceeds from the HopeLine program are used to provide wireless phones and cash grants to local shelters and non-profit organizations that focus on domestic violence prevention and awareness.

The Cell Phones For Soldiers Program collects similar no-longer-used wireless phones, batteries and accessories and turns those items into pre-paid phone cards for US soldiers (of all military branches) serving overseas. You can print off a free postage-paid mailing label by going to: [www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com](http://www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com). Then simply package the donated materials for mailing and drop it off at the post office.

While neither program says it's mandatory, I generally delete all my personal info and contact lists from any phone that I donate.

If you have other recycling ideas to share, please email me at [FallingwaterT@yahoo.com](mailto:FallingwaterT@yahoo.com).

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## The Green Market + Friends of Montessori = Fun!

by Shana Tatum

Discovery Green is Houston's new 12 acre urban park in the heart of downtown. It is the result of a unique public-private partnership between the non-profit Discovery Green Conservancy and the City of Houston; the work of many talented architects, designers (including Lauren Griffith Associates who designed our original Spark Park and the Re-SPARK of our park here in Garden Oaks) artists and contractors. Each week Discovery Green hosts many activities that promote peace and activity for its visitors. The Green Market is one example.

Green Market is a project of Central City Co-Op, bringing Central City's produce and products to downtown Houston. Farmers use all organic practices and come within a 200 mile radius of Houston. In addition to shares, they have an open market featuring seasonal, organic vegetables and fruit. Prepared food vendors use a mix of organic and conventional ingredients and all are made in Houston. The craft and service vendors showcase unique product offerings of recycled materials, earth-friendly practices and local labor.

You can visit the Green Market each Thursday afternoon at Discovery Green and see vendors with an interest in Community. Recently, a new Community outreach project began to highlight Houston Non-Profit groups. Friends of Montessori was invited to be the "Non-Profit of the Week" featured at the Green Market on Thursday, November 6<sup>th</sup> and share the message of Public Montessori education in the Houston Independent School District. Friends of Montessori, which began in Garden Oaks, now makes an impact on almost 800 children ages 3 years to 7<sup>th</sup> grade.

If you have never visited the Green Market, please do so soon. You can pick up fresh, local produce, do some holiday shopping and enjoy some good local music in the park all 15 minutes away from home.

## 1st Annual Garden Oaks Holiday Bazaar

by Caroline McLean

On Sunday November 9<sup>th</sup>, the first ever Garden Oaks Holiday Bazaar took place. The event consisted of ten talented and creative Garden Oaks women who behind the closed doors of Garden Oaks are hard at work creating masterpieces!

Items on sale included funky handbags, jewelry, hand embroidered towels/christening gowns and children's furniture covered in tulle. The friends and neighbors who stopped by were often heard saying, "I didn't know you did this!" Donations of children's toys and non-perishable food were collected for charity.

We are hoping to do this again next year and if you are interested in participating, please contact Amber Berend at [amber.berend@yahoo.com](mailto:amber.berend@yahoo.com). We would love for this to become an annual showcase of the works of Garden Oak's residents. Watch for future *Gazette* notices!

Visit all the Great Farmer's Markets in our city:

### Green Market

<http://www.discoverygreen.com/>  
Thursdays: 4pm to 7:30pm

### Central City Co-op

[www.centralcityco-op.org](http://www.centralcityco-op.org)  
**Wednesday Market:** 9am-6pm  
**2115 Taft Street.** 2 blocks north of Fairview, just east of Montrose.

### Houston Farmers Market

[www.houstonfarmersmarket.org/](http://www.houstonfarmersmarket.org/)  
**Saturday Market:** 8am to Noon:  
Located behind Onion Creek Coffee House  
3106 White Oak (between Studewood and Heights Blvd.)

**Tuesday Market:** 4pm to 7pm:  
south side of Rice Stadium, entrance #9,  
off of University Blvd  
[www.rice.edu/maps/maps.html](http://www.rice.edu/maps/maps.html)

### Bayou City Farmers Market

**Saturday Market:** 8am-Noon  
Located just north of the intersection of Richmond and Eastside, behind office building. (Eastside has a stoplight and it's in between Kirby and Buffalo Speedway)  
<http://www.urbanharvest.org/>

### Midtown Farmers Market

**Saturdays:** 8am until Noon  
Located at Monica Pope's t'afia, 3701 Travis Street  
[www.tafia.com/mfm.html](http://www.tafia.com/mfm.html)



Pictured are Bazaar participants: Amber Berend, Mandy Giles, Lissa Hutchison, Cindy Jorgensen, CeCe Krumholz, Sandra O'Guynn, Lacey Marek, Jessica Modad, Caroline McLean and Jennifer Towery.



## Critter Corner

by Casey and Mau Mau Farris

HAPPY HOLIDAYS! Yep, we are full swing into the holidays and many people find this season very stressful. Did you know that it could also be a stressful time for your pets? Mau Mau and I have some tips for you to keep the stress down for your pets.

### Critters 101: Holiday Stress

Although they needn't fret about finding the perfect gift for someone, pets – like people – may experience stress this holiday season. Routines are very important for a lot of our pets, especially cats and nothing disrupts routine more than the holiday season. Visitors in the home, busy schedules, re-arranged furniture or lack of attention may cause pets to engage in strange behaviors such as pacing, whining, clinging, excessive licking or hiding. Many pets exhibit stress with a loss of appetite and will stop eating. Pet owners should be on guard for these signs and take appropriate steps to prevent them.

Although it is difficult, your pets' routines should be maintained as much as possible during the holiday season. Feed your pets at their usual time, check the water bowl frequently, let your dogs out regularly and provide a comfortable, quiet place of refuge for your pets to retreat to if they need to escape the hustle and bustle around them.

Remember that poinsettias, holly berries and mistletoe are all toxic if ingested by your pets and that preservatives added to your Christmas tree's water can also be toxic if consumed. Tinsel, holiday ornaments and wrappings look like toys to your pet but can be hazardous. Kittens like to climb trees so be sure your Christmas tree is well anchored. Rich holiday foods, laden with sugar and fat

can give your pets severe gastrointestinal complaints and goodies like chocolate, raisins and sugar-free gum are toxic and can even be fatal for your pets.

The holidays may be hectic, but make sure you spend quality time with your pets. Just by simply being together, you and your pet can reduce each other's stress, improve your moods and enhance each other's well being. Now, what could be a better holiday gift than that?

### Pet of the Month:

"Mr. December" is a 1 ½ year old Schnauzer named Carson. He lives in Section 1A with his mother Susan Smallwood and his cat sister, Riley (platinum/white Tabby) with whom he has grown very close. Carson has baby-soft white hair and is a little taller than most Schnauzers; must be those Texas genes. He loves to play ball, chew on his toys and is rocket fast and likes to be chased. Neighbor dog, Max, is more than accommodating and the two have the run of both yards. Carson has a couple of costumes and is so agreeable that he doesn't mind wearing them. Susan says Carson has been such a good boy so Santa is definitely expected at their house this Christmas Eve.

### Dear Mau Mau: How about that Christmas tree?

The tree is the absolute best thing about the holidays. When I was young I loved to climb it and play underneath in all the wonderful crinkly paper, ribbons, bows, bags and tape. Now I have a heating pad on the sofa close to the tree where I lie next to Mama and we watch the lights, breathe in the wonderful smell of the tree and listen to Christmas music. Ahhh, Christmas is the most wonderful time of the year!

Mau Mau



# Oak Forest Veterinary Clinic

**Monday - Friday: 7:00 AM - 6:00 PM**

By appointment only

**Saturday: 7:30 - 11:30 AM**

Walk-in's welcome

**2120 West 34th Street**

(Between T.C. Jester & Ella)

**(713) 682 - 6351**

[www.oakforestvetclinic.com](http://www.oakforestvetclinic.com)

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## Heard Under the Oak Christmas Tree

by Terry Jeanes

### Welcome New Neighbors

Congratulations on joining us.  
We hope to see you at a civic club meeting soon.

1027 West 42<sup>nd</sup> 1083 W 41<sup>st</sup> 1410 Sue Barnett 423 W 32<sup>nd</sup>

### December Birthdays

Ron Williams – 1<sup>st</sup>

Margaret Rudd – 6<sup>th</sup>

Terry Jeanes – 11<sup>th</sup>

Brian O'Leary – 17<sup>th</sup>

Claudia Kolbinger – 18<sup>th</sup>

Gale Roanoake – 19<sup>th</sup>

Gary Hickman – 21<sup>st</sup>

Sandy Altman – 24<sup>th</sup>

Susan Gavin – 25<sup>th</sup>

*Belated birthday wishes to new resident **Chuck Fleming**, 10/31 and also to **Jeff Webb** who celebrated his birthday with a big Halloween bash.*

### Celebrations

Happy Anniversary **Woody and Lucille Mehrkam** - Dec 14<sup>th</sup>

*Congratulations to **Chuck Arnold** on a great season as Jeff Davis High School football coach.*

### Out and About

Sheila Briones got to spend a few extra days in London following a courier trip.

### Special Features

Garden Oaks Resident and Artist **Lisa Qualls** will be featured at the Art League of Houston show thru December 27<sup>th</sup>. In addition, she has shows lined up in 2009 at Koelsch Gallery, Lonestar College-Kingwood, College of the Mainland, Project Row Houses and O'Kane Gallery.

*To highlight an event, celebration, or other tidbit, contact Terry Jeanes at 713.812.9154 or*

*terry@terryjeanes.com.*

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**Photo of the Month**

Submitted by Alisha Cunningham



Emma Maltbie entranced by one of the live music acts at the benefit in her name Saturday, November 1<sup>st</sup>. She had fun playing with friends listening to music and dancing.

Thanks to everyone who supported our cause which raised considerable funds for her treatment. Emma is doing great and we look forward to her bright future.



*Share a photo that captures what we as residents of Garden Oaks see or experience in our neighborhood; children playing, a neighborhood gathering, the rich nature found in GO, anything that provides insight into the things we enjoy about our lives in this neighborhood.*

*Send your photo submission to [gazette@gardenoaks.org](mailto:gazette@gardenoaks.org). Include your name and a brief description of the image for consideration as photo of the month and we'll do our best to work with whatever you send us!*

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**Constable Program**

*Return Your Constable Support Form and Keep Your Eyes Open this Holiday Season*

by Terry Jeanes & Susan Love-Saranie

By now you should have received your constable support form with the civic club membership mailer. Please return it promptly with your contribution as your support is critical in order to keep our daytime deputy on the streets. Many thanks to those who helped to make the mailer possible : Sandra O. Guynn, Dian Austin, Sandy Altman, Trish Merkhams, Kingslea Thomas, Julie Gomez, Ann Hamilton, Alaina Metz, Katie Swick, Liz Terrill and Terry Jeanes.

Contribute today by filling out the form inserted in the *Gazette* or online at <http://www.gardenoaks.org/Resources/ContributorForm.pdf>. Payment may be made by check or online using Paypal by going to: <http://www.gardenoaks.org/involvement/civicclub-consta.html>

**Constable Program benefits include:**

40 hours of a designated Harris County Constable (in addition to the GOMO contract of 80 hrs per week) A total of 120 hrs per week!!!!

- Vacation watch by Harris County Constable. Forms available at: <http://gardenoaks.org/Resources/VacationWatch.pdf>
- Security Checks for insurance discounts.
- Alarm contact/ response by Harris County Constable
- Value for prospective new neighbors considering buying in Garden Oaks because the neighbors work collectively to make the neighborhood safer.
- Low Cost. The annual fee is \$180 per year (Jan-Dec) which is less than 50 cents per day. There are two payment options. An annual check of \$180 or a bank draft option of \$15 per month.

**Holiday Reminder**

As a precaution this holiday season remove all packages from your car and park your car up in the driveway off the streets if possible to remove those opportunities for uninvited break-ins.

Remember you are an additional set of eyes and ears! Your call could make the difference. If you see anything out of the ordinary, no matter the time of day, contact Constable Dispatch at 713.755.7628. Program the Constable Dispatch Number into your cell phone or home phone now!

Contact Terry Jeanes at 713.812.9154 or [terry@terryjeanes.com](mailto:terry@terryjeanes.com) with any questions.

**2008 October Statistics**

Miles Patrolled	3681
Court Citations	27
Alarm Responses	5
Written Warnings	2
Vacation Watches	1
Suspicious Vehicles	14
Park Checks	184
Criminal Offenses	4
Arrests	3

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## Garden Oaks Sisterhood

by Dea Larson

Join your neighbors for the December holiday gathering of the Garden Oaks Sisterhood. This month we will meet on Thursday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm (note this is a change from our usual 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday meeting time).

We will celebrate the holidays at the home of Carrie Shamblen located at 4210 Alba Road.

Since last year's white elephant gift exchange was such fun, we have decided to bring it back for 2008. Bring a wrapped present to the meeting along with a beverage or Christmas goodie to share. As always, all Garden Oaks women are welcome.

Questions? Feel free to contact Dea Larson at dealarson@aol.com or 713.695.3634. Happy Holidays to all our neighbors in Garden Oaks!!!

## G.O. Kids News

by Tonya Knauth

Moms' Night Out for December will be Thursday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 7pm, at Collina's on 19th St. BYOB!

Fa la la! For the second year, December's Family Potluck will be dinner and caroling with the Lister/Bowman family at 927 Gardenia. Dinner will be at 5:30 followed by caroling at 6:30. A food signup will be circulated on the listserve.

Welcome to those of you with new additions! We know how overwhelming a new baby can be to a family, so we provide several meals for the family during those first weeks. If you are expecting or know a neighbor who is, please let us know!

Please join us for our standing playgroups on Mondays and Fridays at 10:00 am at Candlelight Park.

*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 listserve or want information about GO Kids? Contact Tonya Knauth at 713.628.8243, or tknauth@comcast.net.*



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# December 2008



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	Civic Club Meeting & Holiday Potluck 7 PM @ 701 Garden Oaks Blvd	3	4	5	6
7	8 G.O. Elementary Open House Week 8th—12th.	9 	10	11 G.O. Sisterhood 4210 Alba Rd.	12	13
14	15	16 <u>Santa at Gazebo Park</u>	17	18	19 G.O. Elementary Early Dismissal for Holiday Break.	20
21	22	23 	24	25 Merry Christmas!	26	27
28	29	30	31	<p><b>Happy Holidays!</b></p> <p><i>Wishing you and yours a season full of love, joy, peace and blessings!</i></p>		
		G.O. Elementary Classes Resume Jan 6th.				

## Just Sold

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