Gazette

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Sheldon State Park to be Featured at February 3rd Civic Club Meeting

by Stacy Gross

Join us at the February Civic Club meeting to learn about Houston's only state park, Sheldon Lake State Park & Environmental Learning Center. Often referred to as "a hidden gem," Garden Oaks resident Stacy Gross and Tom Olson will share about this 2,800-acre outdoor education and recreation facility located in northeast Harris County – just 25 minutes from Garden Oaks.

During WWII the reservoir was built as an alternative water supply for the Houston area, although it was never used for this purpose. Later a fish hatchery was built to provide fish for the reservoir and make it into a public fishing attraction. When the hatchery closed, the area became a Wildlife Management Area and some drains were left open and ponds were left to naturalize into forests and swamps. With the reservoir, historically restored wetlands, prairie and forest pockets, the diversity in wildlife are abundant.

Some park feature and attractions include: Birding. Possible in all of the park's habitats including the lake marsh, restored prairie, Environmental Learning Center and the open waters of the lake.

Each year a "Christmas Bird Count" (CBC) is conducted. This year, they counted 89 different species! Sheldon Lake's 29+ spoil islands host Texas' largest inland water bird colony.

Self-guided nature trail. An easy 1/2 mile loop wends around 28 naturalized fishery ponds. Look for alligators, ducks, frogs, warblers and wildflowers. The area is a good example of bottomland habitat. Binoculars are useful. Fishing.

Sheldon Lake is known for its fishing and is open everyday to public fishing with a fishing license. "Free Family Fishing" is permitted Saturdays and Sundays, for children accompanied by adults, in the two fishing ponds

Environmental Learning Center (ELC). open Monday - Friday, 8am - 5pm; Saturday - Sunday, 8am - 7pm. Activities include family learning, group programming & activities. If you have a group looking for a weekend activity or a project call the park office at 281.456.2800.

To learn more, join us on February 3rd, 7pm at Garden Oaks Elementary School or visit http://www.foslsp.org.

Announcements

Save the Date Garden Oaks Old Fashioned Picnic Sunday May 17th, 2009 1pm Bring your own picnic Garden Oaks Spark Park Traditional Picnic Games and Desert Provided for more details contact Terry Jeanes.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Did You Know?

Seniors age 70 and older can ride METRO for free. You need to get a METRO photo ID from the METRO Ride Store located at 1900 Main Street. The office is open 7:30am to 5:30pm Monday through Friday. Call METRO at 713.635.4000 for information.

Free consumer legal advice is available at Texas Consumer Complaint Center from the University of Houston law students. Contact them at 877.839.8422 or online at www.texasccc.com.

Citizens Patrol Program

by Carl Waters, Jr.

One of our neighbors had the unpleasant experience of being reported to the Constable's Office as a suspicious person for walking through the neighborhood as part of her morning exercise routine. While it is important to report suspicious persons, it equally or even more important to get out of your home and learn who your neighbors are. Knowing who lives in the neighborhood helps in identifying those who actually do not.

The news on the crime front continues to be good. Even though there was a slight increase in November, the percentage of crime reported through November remains down about 30% for the year.

Crime Statistics (7)

Burglary (2)

800 block of W. 43rd St. on Thursday, November 20th at 1:00pm (residence)

300 block of W. 30th St. on Monday, November 24th at 9:30am (residence)

Burglary of Motor Vehicle (4)

3200 block of N. Shepherd Dr. on Tuesday, November 4th at 7:45am (church parking lot)

3200 block of Lawrence on Thursday, November 6th at 6:30pm (street)

500 block of W. 32nd St. on Wednesday, November 26th at 5:30pm (residence)

700 block of Garden Oaks Blvd. on Saturday, November 29th at 1:00pm (other)

Driving While Intoxicated (1)

2900 block of N. Durham Dr. on Sunday, November 15th at 2:22am (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.

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.

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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.

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Garden Oaks Civic Club Meeting Minutes

by Cindy Bartos, Secretary

for January 6, 2009

Welcome:

President Scott Easterly called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm. Scott welcomed attendees and introduced the officers: Ivan Mayers, Vice President; Phil Ramirez, Treasurer and Cindy Bartos, Secretary. President Easterly encouraged all present to join committees and to get involved with the Civic Club.

Garden Oaks Elementary Principal, Lindsey Pollock and Assistant Principal, Moses Diaz were introduced.

Garden Oaks Elementary:

Ms Pollock provided a handout with an overview of upcoming events at the school. She encouraged residents to visit the school, but asked they sign in at the office. She announced the addition of a tuition based, traditional Pre-K program that will begin in the fall of 2009. She also pointed out the extra security measures that were being put into place around the campus. Tanya Knauth, President of the Garden Oaks Friends of Montessori briefly described the Montessori program, announcing Friday January 9th as the deadline to submit applications for the 2009 -2010 school year. She also encouraged attendance to the 15th annual Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, February 7th from 8:00am to 10:30am. Admission is free, but donations will be accepted at the door. They are looking for donations for the Silent Auction and would also accept any volunteer help offered.

Treasurer's Report:

Phil Ramirez presented the current income and expense report for the Civic Club and had detailed copies available at the meeting. He reminded those in attendance that it was time to pay your annual Civic Club dues.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the December minutes as they appeared in the *Gazette*.

Standing Committee Reports:

Constable Program: Terry Jeanes reported on the increase of the number of house break-ins in recent weeks. She also addressed the issue of Constables stopping Garden Oaks residents based on phone calls made to the dispatch reporting a "suspicious person or activity". Officer CJ Mangano reported on 3 house break-ins and added he would use caution in approaching residents, or those he think may be residents when responding to calls.

Beautification:

Brenda de Alba announced the first work day of the year at the Rose Garden (34th and Lawrence) February 14th at 9am.

Gazette:

Jessica Jarvis encouraged members to send articles, photographs and ideas to her. She also announced our new ad manager Tim Merritt and thanked him for his willingness to take on the role.

Garden Oaks Citizen's Patrol Program:

Carl Waters described the program and encouraged members to volunteer. He reported that the neighborhood had 7 crimes reported in the month of November. Overall the year 2008 had 28 fewer crimes reported than the previous year.

Garden Oaks.org website: No report.

Membership: Dian Austin described the contents of the Welcome Packets given to new residents. She requested if anyone knew of additional business or service information to include in the packet, to see her. In 2008 the Civic Club had a total of 324 members/homes out of approximately 1400. To date in 2009 there are 182 household/members. Oscar Ochoa won the raffle, a Honey Baked ham.

Garden Oaks Garden Club:

Chris Lindsay reminded members that the Garden Club meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at the Kroger's Community Room at 7pm. The yearly dues are \$25 and she encouraged all to attend.

Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization (GOMO):

Ed de Alba announced the monthly meeting would take place immediately following the Civic Club meeting. Carl Waters mentioned the Garden Oaks sign at Ashland and the Loop is in need of repair. Ed said they were aware.

President Scott Easterly asked new attendees to stand and he welcomed them. He announced the suggested programs for the future Civic Club meetings and asked for suggestions. Tina Nieto suggested a program on Pet Responsibility.

Old Business:

Wine Walk: the committee will meet next week and will consider having the event take place at a private venue in October. Those that have already purchased tickets, sponsorship, etc. will be notified of their options when a decision is made.

Jerry Butler reported on his efforts without success to contact Right Place Properties, the current owner of the former Carter's Grove Apartments.

New Business:

Home Tour: We are looking for a Chair and other positions for the 2010 Home Tour. If interested please see one of the officers.

Babysitter: We are looking for someone, perhaps a teenager, to attend the Civic Club meetings for the purpose of babysitting the children accompanying their parents. The Civic Club will pay \$10 for each meeting and the parents would pay the sitter \$1.00 per child.

Due in part to the recently purchased tables and chairs the Civic Club storage unit was upgraded to a larger unit.

President Easterly recognized Dian Austin for her long time work and dedication to Garden Oaks and to the Civic Club and presented her with a potted flower.

Terry Jeanes announced and described the upcoming "Spring Fling"- an old fashioned picnic scheduled for May 17th in the SPARK Park. Participants will provide their own picnic food while Terry will provide a picnic type dessert and will coordinate games. Terry is also putting together a report for the *Gazette* with updates on the new commercial buildings in the area.

W.G. Eickenhorst described a problem with recurring flooding on his street since the arrival of Hurricane Ike. He has contacted the city and the Harris County Flood Control and has not received a solution to the problem. Chris Lindsay offered to talk with him after the meeting to discuss what further steps to take and how she may assist.



GOMO Board of Directors

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Terms expire October of year in parentheses.

Critter Corner

by Casey and Mau Mau Farris

February is here and while it is the shortest month it can feel like the longest, but it does get us one step closer to spring. At the request of multiple neighbors, Mau and I need to talk to you about pets and neighborhood nuisances. Are you and your animals a nuisance? Here is bare bones advice on pet complaints between neighbors.

Critters 101: My Neighbor's Pet is a Nuisance and I am Reaching my Boiling Point!

We all deserve and have the right to the enjoyment of our property. Neighborhood nuisances come in all forms but three of the most common issues involve our pets and fall under our responsibilities as pet owners.

The Problems:

- 1. Excessive barking. Continual or excessive barking is disruptive, nerve-wracking and clearly a sign that something is wrong with your dog, his environment or his routine. Is your dog healthy? Is he bored? Is he stressed or frightened? Chronic violators can face fines up to \$500. If you can't figure out the problem, maybe I can help, call me. Critters 101 article: "Barking Dogs"
- 2. Doggie poop. Effective December 2003 the City passed an ordinance making it mandatory for pet owners to scoop their pets' poop. If caught not picking up poop the fine ranges from \$75 \$300. See Critters 101 article: "Here's the Poop"
- 3. Non altered outside cats. Effective December 2007 the City passed an ordinance making it mandatory for persons feeding outside cats to have them spayed/neutered. Critters 101 article: "Mandatory to Sterilize Stray Cats"

Each article listed can be found in past issues of the *Gazette* on the GardenOaks.org website.

Course of Action:

1. Talk to your neighbor. There is a good chance that the pet owner doesn't know a problem exists. Don't wait until the problem is 6 months old and you are boiling. Resolving the problem could take a little patience so start communicating while you have some. Before you talk however, determine, if you can, what the problem is or when it occurs. For example, does the dog bark excessively when yardmen are around? The key to the solution depends on the

problem – work together on this. Remember that the pet has a problem and he is trying to let someone know. If you are the pet owner, please be understanding towards your neighbor; they are not the ones with the problem and if one person is complaining, there are probably others that have the same issue. The person letting you know is trying to help solve the problem. You need to figure out what your pet's problem is so you can make it better for him, yourself and all those around you.

2. Write a letter to your neighbor.
Perhaps you are more comfortable

Perhaps you are more comfortable writing than talking in person or communications have broken down with your neighbor, then we suggest you write your neighbor a letter explaining what is going on from your perspective. If you are a pet owner that gets one of these letters please bear in mind that your neighbor is trying to communicate a problem to you the best way he knows how. Again, your pet probably has a problem that you need to address.

3. File a complaint. If you have done the above steps and feel like the pet owner is not trying to improve the situation or has indicated that he has no intention of working to resolve issues, then you can file a complaint with the local police department at 713,222,3131. The police will first try talking with all parties to determine if the complaint is legitimate and encourage resolution of the issue. If you as the pet owner do not resolve the problem then the police will probably file a complaint with the prosecutor, you will receive a citation and you will end up at the courthouse with your neighbors called as witnesses; this is where fines and court costs could come into play. Working through the issue with your neighbor by talking or writing concerning the issue is much easier and cheaper and less likely to have bad feelings attached.

Casey Farris is owner/operator of Bone Voyage Pet Sitting Services and Go Dog USA. Mau Mau is owner/operator of Casey. Please forward your questions and pet news to Casey@GoDogUSA.com or call 713.688.6363.

What's Happening With...?

by Terry Jeanes

West 34th and N. Shepherd Area

Carter's Grove Apartment Redevelopment

As limited activity has been noted on the project, Right Place properties has posted the following on their website: Due to the extremely difficult financing environment and unprecedented declines in the real estate market, we have suspended all sales and marketing activities. We are still in business, but we are focusing our limited resources on transitioning properties that were previously offered for sale into rentals so that we can direct the rental income to our investors and lenders as quickly and efficiently as possible.

Washington Mutual

Per the developer/owner of the new parcel housing Washington Mutual, Chase has informed them that Chase will no longer need this location.

Garden Oaks Plaza

Plans have been drawn up to update and refurbish the building's façade and signage. Although no date has been given to start on the project.

Strip Center (formerly Binswanger)

New owners will be doing some redevelopment of this site. In the near future the old exterior signage will be removed and cleaned up. An extension to the front façade for height elevation will be added.

West 43rd and Ella

The Shops at Oak Forest

Starbucks, Wachovia, Massage Envy and Texas Nail Spa are up and running. New tenants Dr Matthew Naftis, Dentist and Plonk Beer and Wine Bistro have executed leases and are working on build out.





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

Come meet our new doctors

Hallie Ray Moore, DVM Jessica Nantz, DVM

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Heard Under the Oak Tree

by Terry Jeanes

Welcome New Neighbors

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

902 West 42nd

1043 West 42nd

1025 Lamonte

Welcome new arrival

Shelby Mercer born December 13th weighing in at 6lbs 10oz and 19 1/2 inches. **Susan**, **Jason** & Big Brother **Jack** (19 months) are proud of their newest family member.

February Birthdays

Luke Burciaga - 2nd
Tonya Knauth - 9th
Howard England - 11th
(mom and daughter)
Alisha Cunningham &
Lela Cunningham - 12th
Eddie Battenfield Jr.,
Brenda de Alba -17th
Shannon King - 28th

Celebrations

Happy Anniversary Erica & Darin Duncan - 3rd The Carles - 8th Dave & Vanessa Groves -13th Will & Deanna Zugheri - 23rd

Congratulations

To **Shana Tatum** on her new position with Friends of Montessori as President over 4 chapter schools.

Media sightings

Tina Sabuco and Georgia Lister appeared in a Nia exercise segment on Great Day Houston (January 5th.) Also Patty Walters appeared on Jan 13th in a career interviews wardrobe segment. Megan Salch did an interview segment with Kevin Price on CNN radio. Any autographs, girls?

Out and About

Rebecca Stark was in Las Vegas for an annual trade show.

To highlight an event, celebration, or other tidbit, contact Terry Jeanes at 713.812.9154 or terry@terryjeanes.com.

Opportunities for Gifted and Talented Children at Garden Oaks Elementary

by Lindsey Pollock, Garden Oaks Elementary

Believe it or not, February is a key time for parents who are planning for the upcoming school year. Thinking ahead provides parents with time to explore the many program options available! Some of the most frequently asked questions involve children who qualify for Gifted and Talented (G/T) services. Garden Oaks Elementary provides educational opportunities for gifted and talented students through the Neighborhood Vanguard Program. This model of serving students who qualify as gifted and talented allows students and families to enjoy the convenience and sense of community at their neighborhood school while serving the academic needs of the child.

FAQs:

How does a child qualify as gifted and talented?

Students are given the opportunity to be assessed for G/T identification once a year. Students must qualify for G/T services according to the G/T Identification Matrix, which includes the following criteria: grades, teacher recommendation, non-verbal ability test scores, achievement test scores and applicable obstacles.

Who decides if my child qualifies?

A campus admission committee conducts the review of students' data and makes the determination.

Who makes the referral for testing?

Teachers and/or parents may request an assessment at any grade, and qualified students may enter the Vanguard program on the campus as early as kindergarten.

My child is in a non-traditional program (such as Bilingual or Montessori). Can they still receive Vanguard program services?

Yes, all classroom teachers at Garden Oaks serving Gifted and Talented children are certified to provide Vanguard curriculum in all programs. In fact, in many cases, children receive an even more enriched program.

How is the Vanguard curriculum different from the regular program?

All Vanguard programs provide services that are comprehensive, structured, sequenced and appropriately challenging. The HISD curriculum is differentiated by modifying the depth, complexity and pacing of the general school program, utilizing higher-level thinking skills and developing independent research skills focusing on advanced-level products.

What are examples of the concepts my child will learn in the Vanguard Program at Garden Oaks Elementary?

In grades Kindergarten to 2nd Grade, children will explore patterns and relationships between the four core content areas. Change and community are also emphasized. Grades 3 – 5 will focus on the concepts of conflict, exploration, power and systems as well as the interdependence of systems among and within the four content areas (Reading, Math, Social Studies and Science).

How can I ensure that my child is enrolled for the 2009-2010 school year?

With such forward thinking in mind, Garden Oaks Elementary is currently taking appointments for campus tours. Please call 731.696.2930 to schedule your tour between the hours of 9am and 1pm. We look forward to meeting you!

Community Spirit in Action Again

by Boy Scouts of America Troop 20

Through the dedicated work of Boy Scouts Daniel Norton and Steven Roberts of Troop 20, a dry creek, a bridge and a labyrinth have been completed as Eagle Scout Service Projects at Garden Oaks Elementary School (GOES).

Daniel and Steven have taken community service to heart. Reaching Eagle Scout rank is an honor few in Scouting realize. Recently, with the support from many people, both young men completed their Eagle Scout Service Projects. As part of the campus-wide improvement project, Saturday, October 18th; Daniel's group of volunteers dug a dry creek, built a bridge, and landscaped the area. On Sunday, November 16th, Steven's group leveled a low area, planted a live oak, and built a stone labyrinth. Volunteers for these projects came not only from

fellow Scouts of Troop 20 but from other Troops as well. Combined, Steven and Daniel had over 70 volunteers, including the Scouts, parents, students, family, friends, neighbors, Garden Oaks Civic Club and community businesses. A huge thank you goes out to these individuals for donating their time, money, and labor to these projects.

What was once a seed of an idea, creating an outdoor classroom for the elementary school students has now come to fruition. These projects were part of a larger

ongoing improvement process that the Garden Oaks Elementary has been working on for 7 years. As a result, every child on campus is able to walk through arbors leading to an orchard of 14 different fruit bearing trees, into the school's National Wildlife Federation Schoolyard Habitat, across a pond viewing

area, past a large butterfly garden, through another arbor into an outdoor classroom, across a bridge, over a dry creek to the labyrinth. Beyond the labyrinth are the school's Urban Harvest vegetable gardens. The habitat and gardens provide a low-cost living laboratory that gives children an understanding and appreciation of local Texas plants, animals habits, stages of a butterfly, vegetable types and growth, and the growth of



different kinds of fruit all while providing a safe haven for local wildlife. These hands-on opportunities on campus have contributed to the dramatic rise in academic achievement in

Science and have enhanced the Neighborhood Vanguard program at GOES.

Daniel's dry creek and bridge have solved what was formerly a recurring drainage concern on the property. It has also shown students properties of water flow and a dry creek's unique plant growth. Soil dug up from that

project was used to build Steven's 33' diameter labyrinth that is anchored by a live oak in the center and surrounded by 37 Indian Hawthorn bushes. Labyrinths have been scientifically proven to help children "center" themselves by helping them slow down, resulting in increased concentration and productivity.

As the plants grow and mature on campus, so will the young minds of GOES students. According to GOES beautification chair and designer, Vena Golt, "Without our Boy Scouts our school would not be able to provide such an enriched and diversified learning experience for our children. It is amazing how community work can achieve the non achievable for the benefit of so many." As Steven Roberts and Daniel Norton so generously demonstrated with their leadership and Eagle Scout Service Projects, they have upheld the Scout oath to... "On my honor I will do my best...To help other people at all times..." Boy Scouts of America Troop 20 is chartered by St. Matthew's United Methodist Church.

Terry Jeanes



SAVE THE DATE

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S.C.M

Construction Services Inc.

Chris Schmidt

State License No. 10635

Garden Oaks Resident

713. 443. 1701 Fax 713. 802. 9282

Garden Oaks Sisterhood

by Dea Larson

February is all about friendship so join us for this month's meeting of the GO Sisterhood on Thursday, February 19th. We will be meeting at the home of Beverly Jernigan, 512 West 33rd Street, from 7:30 to 10:00pm. Please bring a snack or beverage to share.

The Garden Oaks Sisterhood meets the third Thursday of every month at various homes in our neighborhood. There are always newcomers as well as regular attendees so join the fun and meet new friends. Questions? Please contact Dea Larson at 713-695-3634 or dealarson@aol.com.

Constable Program

Be on the Watch, Call, Support & Welcome Deputy Munoz

by Terry Jeanes & Susan Love-Saranie

Our crime stats are down again from this time last year, however during the holidays we noted a few more auto break-ins during the late night hours and over a four week period there were more home break-ins. Recently it was noted to be on the watch for two black males on bicycles, with one carrying a red bag pack in the vicinity of recent break-in locations and also fits the description related to some occurrences over six months ago. Call Constable Dispatch immediately if you see anything suspicious.

New Deputy

Welcome to Deputy Aaron Munoz who recently joined the other patrol officers protecting Garden Oaks. Aaron, a native Houstonian and graduate of Sam Houston High School, has four years experience with HPD in the Houston Jail, and also a year as a police service officer. Aaron and his wife have three children, ages 3, 8, and 10. His hobbies revolve around activities with his family and he looks forward to being with the children so they can ride the bikes they each got for Christmas.

Make the Call

Program the Constable Dispatch Number into your cell phone or home phone and make the call. Your calls head off many problems so even if you aren't sure if something looks suspicious let the Deputy make that determination not matter what time of day. It is not a waste of time for them and may prevent a theft or other illegal activity. If you are stopped mistakenly please remember that everyone is on the watch to help keep our community safe.

Support Needed

Please join with others listed in this issue by sending in your supporter dues of \$180 per year. We need you!



Deputy Mangano



Deputy Munoz



PRECINCT ONE CONSTABLE DISPATCH 713.755.7628

Tudman

Vacation Watch Form http://gardenoaks.org/Resources/VacationWatch.pdf

Help Us Get a Train Quiet Zone in Our Area

by Garden Oaks Quiet Zone Coalition, concerned residents of Oak Forest, Garden Oaks, Shepherd Forest, Shady Acres and Oak Grove

The City of Houston is currently reviewing proposals for train Quiet Zones. We need to act now to get a Quiet Zone in our area!

What is a Quiet Zone?

A Quiet Zone is an area within a community where train operators can not sound the train horn unless there is an emergency or imminent safety risk. Additional safety measures are installed at the train crossings within the Quiet Zone to offset any potential safety risk that might result from silencing the train horn. The Quiet Zone will improve quality of life, improve safety at rail-road crossings and increase property values for several neighborhoods including Garden Oaks, Oak Forest and Shepherd Forest. Several other communities such as West U, Bellaire and River Oaks have already established Quiet Zones. There are 12 or so pending applications for Quiet Zones and the city budget is limited so we must campaign hard to get a Quiet Zone for our area. You can learn more at: http://www.gardenoaksquietzone.com

What can I do?

Call, email or write the Mayor and Council Member Toni Lawrence and tell them you want the Garden Oaks Quiet Zone approved for implementation. The City of Houston is deciding on the Quiet Zone applications now.



Mayor Bill White

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Council Member Toni Lawrence

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_			Section	One —			
Dreiss	Theaker	Salch	Faulkner	Stanfield	Morris	Lewis	Lutz
Villman	Christian	Blount	Waters/Ryan	Charlton	Falschlener	King Gomez/H	endrickson
Winford	Dimmitt	Spinks	Lee	Hamilton	Gips	Holter	Glenn
Strange	Rausch	Smith/Evans	Perez	Neathery Meyer	M. Hamilton	Starustka	Oriot
A. Smith	Capfer/Peters	Elmore	Saranie	Forbes	Debien	Briones	Caudill
Lightfoot	Edwards	Alexander	Deaton/Sarlay	Dilley	Jez	Engelhardt	Amalfi
Lewis	Ball	Hayes	Runge	Graham	Murray	Munden/Holcomb	Lange/Piske
Winston	Williams	Jevremovic	Anderson-Wood	Duggin	Seale	Elizalde	L. Neff
Jobe/Schwartz	Lilly	Thomas	Evans	Porter	Van Zeelst	Weber/Brockman	DePaul
Robinson	Mullins	Perkins	McQuade/Reno	M. Neff	Hutson	Flore/Dansby	Wilson
Bresnahan	Adkins						
_			Section	Two —			
Sonnier	Duncan	Altman/Austin	Puff	Knauth	Blassingame	Boyd	de Alba
Janssen	Ayers	Roanoake/Kolbinge	er Rennie	Garcia	Martinez	McMillian	Cotterman
Thomas	Morgan	Ho/Bang	Synott Gorman	Pina	Berry	Tatum	Marquez
Sanborn	Doherty/Gonzales	Klein	Easterly/Holden	Nondorf	Heiland/Russell	Eickenhorst	ArmstrongG.
Smith	Cribbin	Johnson	·				
_			Section 2	Three ———			
Dyer/Kelly	Mayers/Mueller	Ream	Richards/Talley	Gibb/Reid	Thomas/Larson	Bartos	Sledge
McKeown	Arnett	Butler	Lozano	Hartman	Newlin	Veselka	Reichle
Gavin	Crownover/Langdo	on Free	Armstrong	Sabuco/Arnold	Matthews	Neal Chang	/Gordon
Taylor	Stark	Horowitz	Dupre	Gray	Brown/Fisher	Comstock	Tinkey
Clemence/Bos	Lyn/Campbell	Nasir	Burciaga	Gurrola			
_			Section	Four ———			-
Amsden	Araiza	Johnson	Stender	McCormick	Funk	Theriot Chisholm	/Callahan
Larson	Gardiner/Carmelo	Motzel	Tacker/Fleming	Curran/Jennings	Corbett/Hrdlicka	Trantham	McKinney
Schultz	Testerman	D. Smith	Broughton/Anastas	sia Jeanes	Lindsey	Cunningham	Williams
Ochoa	Bergen	Gaige	Shaver/Earl	Ramirez/Pecorino	Spear	Warhol	Van Dyke
<u> </u>			Section	Five —			
Shepperd	Terrell	Heath	McKay	R. Smith	Hansen/Rodriguez		Pruitt
Willburn	Gloriod	Sellis	Munoz	JorgensenI. Smith		Bishop	Naff
Owen	P. Smith	Bayol	Antinoff/Stovall	Blanton/Broglio	Padilla	T. Mehrkam	J. Evans
Pfeiffer-Traum	Martin/Harbert	Daly	Torres	W. Mehrkam			

Garden Club Officers

President

Chris Lindsay 713.819.8412

1st Vice President

Janet Cones 713.822.2532

2nd Vice President

Trish Merkham 713.688.4008

Treasurer

Robert DeVeau 832.659.7797

Co-Secretaries

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GO Garden Club-Let's Re-Green Garden Oaks!

by Chris Lindsay, GOGC President

For many people winter may not seem like the time to be thinking of gardening, but it is. It is an especially good time of year to plant trees. After the toll Hurricane lke took upon our trees in Garden Oaks, now is a good time to plant new trees to replace the ones lost.

Choosing the right tree can be a daunting experience. But, Trees for Houston can help you with your decision. At their website, TreesForHouston.org, under the Plant tab, they provide information on all types of trees suited to our area. Do you want a large tree, small tree, shade tree, or ornamental? A fruit tree, deciduous tree or evergreen? The website is very helpful in narrowing down your choices as well as instructions on how to plant and where (as far away from power lines as possible!). January 17th was the official Arbor Day, but it is not too late to plant a tree and get it established before our hot weather sets in. Once you choose your tree come to our February meeting to learn about the care and pruning of trees.

Listed below is the schedule of programs for the GO Garden Club for 2009. Please join us for the programs that are of interest to you.

February 12 - Trees: Care and Pruning

Time: 7:00 pm Place: Kroger's @ 43rd St.; Community Meeting Room, Mezzanine

March 8 (22nd as a rain date) -Workday at Friendship Garden & Plant Swap Time: 10:00 am to 1:30 pm Place: Friendship Garden (30th & Lawrence)

April 19 - Bromeliads

Time: 7:00 pm Place: Kroger's

May 17 - Garden Walk - Tour of Garden Club members gardens followed by GO Civic Club Picnic at the Garden Oaks Elementary School Spark Park

Time: 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

June 11 - Organically Control Garden Pests & Diseases

Time: 7:00 pm Place: Kroger's

July 9 - Social Event - The Red Balloon Café- Overlooks Historic Grove of

Trees Time: 7:00 pm Place: 4410 Westway Park Blvd., Houston, 77041

August 13 - Palms & Cycads Time: 7:00 pm Place: Kroger's

September 10 - Craft Event - Making Garden Stepping Stones & Bricks Time: 7:00 pm Place: 938 Lamonte

·

October 8 - Herbs Time: 7:00 pm Place: Kroger's

October 10 - Workday at Friendship Garden

Time: 9:00 am - 12 noon Place: Friendship Garden

November 12 – Garden Club Members Share Tips on favorite Garden Tools/ Books

Time: 7:00 pm Place: 971 Gardenia

December -

A Sunday to be determined -Christmas Party - Eggnog & Gingerbread Contest and Election of Garden Club Officers

Time: 4:00 - 8:00 pm Place: 1082 Gardenia

Garden Club meetings are open to all residents and friends of Garden Oaks. You do not have to be a member to attend 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.

Dues go toward the upkeep of Friendship Garden. 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^d 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. We welcome you to join us.



Unsung Heroes

by Dian Austin

The monthly *Gazette* is made possible by the efforts of a large group of volunteers, including the editor, layout designer, ad manager and numerous contributors. Key to getting the *Gazette* in your hands each month is a cadre of neighbors who routinely walk door-to-door and deliver the newsletter. I'd like to recognize and thank each of them for their help:

Section 1:	Route Delivered		Route Delivered
The Roberts Family	400-500 blocks of W. 34th	Craig Lee	200-300 blocks of W. 34 th
Al Jasso	400-500 blocks of W. 33rd	Mark & Susan Saranie	200-300 blocks of W. 33 rd
Lisa Peters & Jim Capfer	400-500 blocks of W. 32 nd	Bob Bewley	200-300 blocks of W. 32 nd
Mary Martinez	400-500 blocks of W. 31 st	James Flowers	200-300 blocks of W. 31 st
Jennie Edwards	400, 500, 600 blocks of W. 30 th	Gale Gorman	200-300 blocks of W. 30 th
Laurie Reno	3000 block N. Shepherd, 3100-330	0 block of Lawrence	

Section 1A:

Carl Waters, Jr. 3000-3200 blocks Randall, 700-800 blocks W. 34th

Mary Lyn Porter 700-800 blocks W. 32nd Craig & Peggy Kramer 700-800 blocks W. 30th and W. 31st

Section 2:

Todd, Conner, & Garrett Prince 700 block W. 43rd Austin/Altman 700 block W. 42nd

Joe & Martha Rhea 700 block W. 41st, 1000 block Sue Barnett Jonathan & Laura Morgan 700 block Garden Oaks Blvd.. GOES

The Hall Family 700 block W. 39th Susan & George Taylor 700 block W. 38th

J. Muscara & Lori Kennedy 700 block Sue Barnett

Section 3:

The Zamora Family
Neil Ferguson
David Tinkey

1300 block Sue Barnett
800 block W. 43rd
Eliz Whitsett
Lewis Goodkouski

Cindy Bartos
4300 block Alba, 800 block Azalea
800 block Lamonte
800 block W. 41st
800 block W. 41st

Section 4:

Joyce Evans 1400 block Sue Barnett 900 block W. 43rd Joan Tracy Bill & Amy Shaughnessy Julie Fox 900 block Lamonte 900 block Gardenia 900 block W. 42nd Oscar Ochoa Paula & Bryan Motzel 900 block Althea 900 block W. 41st Ray Trantham Johnnie Gonzales 4200 block Alba

Section 5:

Johnny Murphy 1500 block Sue Barnett, 4300 block Apollo

Lucy Gillmore 1000 block W. 43rd Johnnie Gonzales 1000 block Lamonte
The Zugheri Family 1000 block Gardenia Caroline, Lucy, & Josh McLean 1000 block W. 42nd
Clare Bell 1000 Althea Ken Tomchesson 1000 block W. 41st

Tiffani Adams 4100 and 4200 blocks Apollo

Also, thanks to Marlene Caldwell, Sally McDaniel, and Allison Kirby who have helped out on various routes as needed and remain part of our on-call volunteer list. Additional thanks go to Sue Schmidt, Sandy Altman and Lexie the *Gazette* Delivery Dog for their continuous help in getting the bundled Gazettes to the block captains each month. And a big thanks to Oscar Ochoa (OD's Printing) for timely printing and for delivering the already-bundled newsletters for each block.

The efforts of these volunteers help save the civic club a lot of money in postage each month. Be sure to thank them in person when you see them. If you want to join our team, please email me at FallingwaterT@yahoo.com.

Gazette Block Captains of the Month

by Dian Austin

Congratulations to Mark and Susan Saranie for being named February's Block Captains of the Month! Mark and Susan live in the 200 block of W. 33rd with their dog, Sophie, and their cat, Lucy. They deliver *Gazettes* to the 200 and 300 blocks of W. 33rd and have delivered that route for some 10-12 years. (Actually Susan says that Mark generally is Chief Deliverer, and she helps some.)

Mark and Susan have lived in Garden Oaks for 15+ years and have been long-time civic club and constable supporters and routinely volunteer during the Home Tour. In recognition of their service, Mark and Susan receive a \$25 gift card to Home Depot, courtesy of OD's Printing (Oscar Ochoa).

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!)



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"Ready, Set, Grow" Theme of Garden Oaks Elem. 15th Annual Pancake Breakfast & Silent Auction Fundraiser

by Diane Pittman

In what has become a highly anticipated neighborhood tradition, Garden Oaks Friends of Montessori once again issues its community-wide invitation to breakfast on Saturday, February 7th from 8:00am until 10:30am.

Serving thousands of free golden hot pancakes with sausage and Katz's coffee to the public has proven to be a "win-win" for the community and the unique Montessori program at Garden Oaks Elementary School, said Tonya Knauth, chapter president and event co-chair.

"Our partnership with HISD and the community has been a real educational accomplishment, especially for those economically and learning disadvantaged children who rely on the Montessori Method as the foundation of their academic career," said Knauth.

"This year's theme, 'Ready, Set, Grow!' is all about growth – the growth of our children, our programs, and our community," said Knauth. "The Pancake Breakfast helps keep the Montessori classrooms thriving at Garden Oaks Elementary, which have doubled in size since inception.

"In the last three years Friends of Montessori has successfully opened two new classrooms for ages 3-5, and we are looking forward to adding another classroom next year. But, without this fundraiser and our generous underwriters, this public school Montessori program would cease to exist," said Knauth.

While HISD provides limited funding to support the program, private revenue raised by volunteer parents and community partners makes up the bulk of the program's annual budget. First developed in the early 1900s by Italian educator Maria Montessori for the mentally challenged, the teaching method has proven extremely successful for children of all socioeconomic, learning, and ethnic backgrounds.

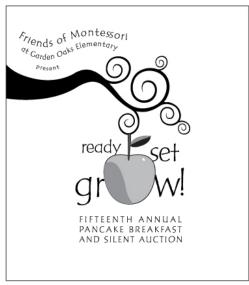
Today, students at all four HISD Montessori campuses regularly outscore their peers on standardized tests, and the program has drawn scores of parents back to the public school system who might otherwise choose private school for their children.



In addition to warm, fresh pancakes, this year's event features student artwork and hand-made crafts for sale through the Silent Auction as well as hundreds of quality products and services donated by area businesses and individuals. Tours of the Montessori classrooms led by the teachers, as well as a Montessori Parent Orientation will begin at 9:30am.

Garden Oaks Elementary School is located at 901 Sue Barnett, Houston, Texas 77018. For more information, call 713.696.2930 or visit www.fomhouston.org





SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2009, FROM 8 TO 10:30 A.M.

Photo of the Month

Submitted by Boy Scouts of America Troop 20



Boy Scouts Give Back

A home school program graduate, Daniel Norton, 17, is now attending Houston Community College with an undeclared major. He plans to be a firefighter some day. Daniel grew up in Section2 of Garden Oaks, attended GOES and Seton Middle School before his parents decided on home schooling. He has been a Boy Scout since middle school and is also a Sea Scout. During his spare time he likes to read or play paintball. He continues to give by being active in the community and church projects.

Steven Roberts, also 17, is a junior at Waltrip High School, where he is captain of the Robotics team and a member of the National Honor Society. He hopes to attend Texas A&M studying aeronautical engineering. For Steven, one of the original students in the acclaimed GOES Montessori Program, participating in community service and the benefits of giving to others has been a way of life. A lifelong resident of Garden Oaks Section 1, Steven attended GOES and Hamilton Middle School. For most of his life he has been a Scout, delivering *Gazettes*, and helping with school, community and church projects. He is also a Sea Scout, enjoys playing video games and joining Daniel with paintball.



Boy Scouts Daniel Norton and Steven Roberts of Troop 20, build a dry creek, a bridge and a labyrinth as part of their Eagle Scout Service Projects at GO Elementary.

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. 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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EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE

Go Green to Save Green

Recycling Facts by Sheila Briones

If you're going to ask people to change their lifestyle and create new habits of "going green," then you better be willing back up the reasons with solid facts. If we could all go just a little beyond the green recycling bin, by reducing and re-using, it could make an enormous difference on the planet's waste.

The following is a short list of astonishing recycling facts that I got off the GoGreenLife-style.com website. It can't be stressed enough how even the smallest efforts can make a huge difference. You'll see with some of the examples below.

METAL:

- If it takes you 45 seconds to read this recycling fact, then by the time you are done, there will have been over a quarter of a million aluminum cans produced before you were done.
- If you drink a can of beer after work and then tossed it in the recycling bin, that one (aluminum) can saves enough energy to watch television for 3 hours after dinner!
- There are over 80 billion soda cans used each year. Yes, that's billion.
- The good thing about recycling aluminum is that it can be recycled an unlimited amount
 of times, and a recycled can, even 200 years from now, can still be a can.

PAPER:

- If everyone read just their Sunday paper online from now on and there were no paper versions, 500,000 trees would be saved per week!
- If every single newspaper was recycled after we read them, we would be able to save 25 million trees per year!
- If you were to add up the amount of separate pieces of paper trash that each American throws away per year, it would be approximately 13,000 pieces of paper. A large percentage of this is packaging and junk mail.
- If we were to save all the wood and paper that we toss into the trash each year, the combined amount would be enough to heat 50 million homes for up to 20 years.
- If we were to lay out all the paper that American businesses generate in just one day, that paper would be enough to circle the Earth about 20 times.

PLASTIC AND STYROFOAM:

- The soda cans mentioned above were a pretty high number, right? Well, just in the USA alone, over 25 million beverage bottles made of plastic are thrown away every hour!
- Styrofoam coffee cups are being thrown away at an unbelievable amount of 25 billion per year. That number is the statistic for USA only.
- Plastic material being dumped into the ocean is responsible for killing up to a million sea creatures yearly.

GLASS:

- Using a similar example as the single aluminum can above, did you know that recycling
 just one glass bottle can run one of your 100 watt light bulbs for 3-4 hours?
- When a glass bottle is recycled, it is considerably cutting back on the air and water pollution that happens when creating the bottle from raw materials.
- If we were to wait for a glass bottle to decompose after throwing it away today, we would have to wait approximately 4,000 years.
- There are approximately 41 billion glass containers manufactured every year.
- Like aluminum, glass can be reused an unlimited amount of times.

These recycling facts give you a quick overview of the wasted materials and how much difference can be made just by recycling and trying to reduce what we use and what we throw away.

G.O. Kids News

by Tonya Knauth

Moms' Night Out for February will be Thursday, February 5th, 7pm, at Tecate Mexican Restaurant on Ella.

February's Family Potluck will be held on February 21st at the Pina residence, 705 W. 41st St, from 4-7pm. Bring the kids and a dish! Drinks will be provided.

Our neighborhood abounds with joyful new additions these days! We know how overwhelming a new baby can be, so we provide several meals for the family during those stressful 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 10am at Candlelight Park.

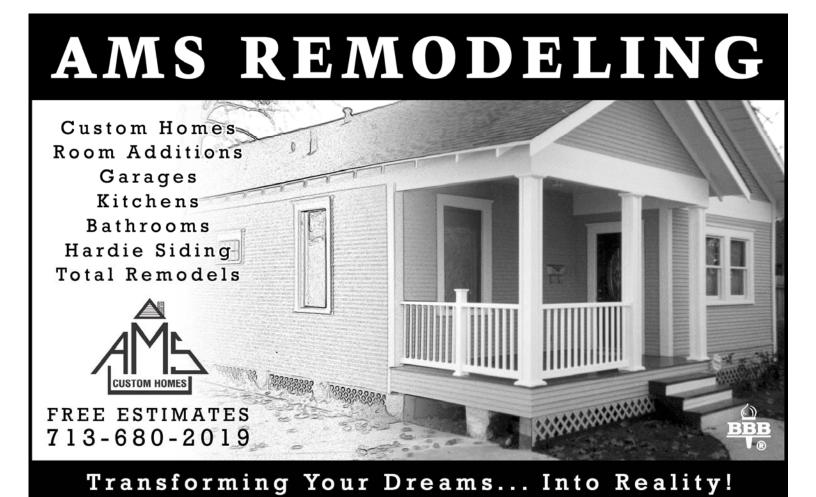
GO Kids was started by a group of parents who want to build a family-friendly neighborhood where children and parents know each other and grow together -- all Garden Oaks families are welcome! Aren't on the GO Kids list serve? Want more information about GO Kids? Contact Tonya Knauth at (713) 628-8243,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



Do Your Part to Be Green

Recycling Bins

If you need a green recycling bin, there's a new supply available at 733 West 42nd (on the porch). Just come by and grab one.



Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2	Civic Club Meeting 7 pm @ Garden Oaks Elem.	4	5 Mom's Night Out @ Tecate Mexican Restaurant 7:00 pm	6	7
9		11	12 Garden Club Meeting Kroger Conference Room 7:00 pm	13	14 Beautification Workday @ Rose Garden 9:00 am
16	17	18 GOMO Meeting 7:00 pm	19 GO Sisterhood 512 W. 33rd 7:00 pm	20	21
23	24	25	26	27	28
	9 16	2 3 Civic Club Meeting 7 pm @ Garden Oaks Elem. 9 16 17	2 3 Civic Club Meeting 7 pm @ Garden Oaks Elem. 9 11 16 17 18 GOMO Meeting 7:00 pm	2 3 Civic Club Meeting 7 pm @ Garden Oaks Elem. 2 11 12 Garden Club Meeting Kroger Conference Room 7:00 pm 16 17 18 GOMO Meeting 7:00 pm 18 GOMO Meeting 7:00 pm 19 GO Sisterhood 512 W. 33rd 7:00 pm	2 3 Civic Club Meeting 7 pm @ Garden Oaks Elem. 4 5 Mom's Night Out @ Tecate Mexican Restaurant 7:00 pm 11 12 Garden Club Meeting Kroger Conference Room 7:00 pm 16 17 18 GOMO Meeting 7:00 pm 19 GO Sisterhood 512 W. 33rd 7:00 pm 19 CO pm



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