

Gazette

March 2009

Volume 33 Number 3

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Crime Prevention to be Featured at March Civic Club Meeting

by Carl Waters, Jr.

March is Crime Awareness month in Houston. Our guest speaker this month is Officer Chuck Bertels, a 26-year veteran of the Houston Police Department. He has worked in the North Patrol Division for 23 years and currently is assigned to the Crime Prevention Unit. Officer Bertels serves as the coordinator for the North Division Positive Interaction Program, organizes community events and makes crime prevention presentations to local schools, businesses, and civic groups.

Please join us on Tuesday, March 3, 2009, as Officer Bertels presents information on burglary prevention and personal safety.



Good Neighbor Award Nominations Sought

by Megan Salch and Terry Jeanes

Back by request, the quarterly Garden Oaks Good Neighbor Award needs to find a home. Following all the great stories and support during Ike it seems time to say thank you to neighbors and remind those here what Garden Oaks is truly about ... *the great neighbors!* Nominate your neighbor, the one who goes out of his or her way to do those special things that make a difference not only to you but also to the community. Recipients will be acknowledged quarterly in the *Gazette* and will receive gift certificates.

Contact award sponsor Terry Jeanes (REMax Metro) 713.812.9154 terry@terryjeanes.com or Megan Salch (Tell Your Tale) megan@tellyourtale.com with your nominations or for questions.

Announcements

Civic Club Meeting Tues, March 3, at 7pm: Crime Prevention with Officer Chuck Bertels

Upcoming meeting Tues, April 7: HCAD presents "How to protest your property values."
Meetings are held at Garden Oaks Elementary. Please Come Join Us!

Save the Date

Sunday May 17, 1pm:

Old Fashioned Picnic

Bring your own picnic to Garden Oaks Spark Park

Traditional Picnic Games and Dessert Provided

More details – Terry Jeanes terry@terryjeanes.com

THE WINE WALK (cancelled due to Hurricane Ike) is now scheduled for Saturday, October 10, and will be a fundraiser for the constable program. Details to follow next month.

Citizens Patrol Program

by Carl Waters, Jr.

Several neighbors expressed concern at last month's Civic Club meeting about the rising rate burglaries at the end of last year. Please come to this month's Civic Club meeting where Officer Chuck Bertels, a 26 year veteran of the Houston Police Department, will give a presentation on what we can do to prevent burglaries. He will also have some information regarding increasing our personal safety.

The December crime statistics include 13 crimes reported as compared to nine crimes reported in December 2007. For 2008, 78 crimes were recorded on the HPD website for the neighborhood, down from 102 reported in 2007.

December Crime Statistics (13)

Burglary (5)

3100 Block of N. Shepherd, Sat, Dec. 6th at 6:15 am (restaurant)
 1000 Block of Althea, Tues., Dec. 16th at 10:00 am (garage)
 400 Block of W 34th Wed., Dec. 17th at 10:00 am (residence)
 900 Block of W. 43rd, Fri. Dec. 26th at 9:00 am (vacant residence)
 500 Block of W. 34th, Mon., Dec. 29th at Noon (residence)

Burglary of a Motor Vehicle (5)

800 Block of W. 42nd, Fri., Dec 5th at Midnight (driveway)
 1000 Block of W. 42nd, Sat., Dec. 6th at 10:39 pm (driveway)
 200 Block of W. 30th, Thurs., Dec. 11th at 8:00 pm (driveway)
 800 Block of Azalea, Tues., Dec. 16th at 9:00 pm (driveway)
 800 Block of W. 43rd, Sun., Dec. 28th at 11:00 pm (driveway)

Driving While Intoxicated (2)

3000 Block of N. Shepherd, Sat., Dec. 20th at 3:15 am (street)
 3000 Block of N. Shepherd, Mon., Dec. 22nd at 12:52 am (street)

Narcotics (1)

700 Block of W. 32nd, Mon., Dec. 22nd at 2:40 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.

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 15th 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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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.

1078 West 42nd 934 Lamonte
 958 West 43rd 1079 West 41st
 1034 Lamonte 955 Althea
 403 West 32nd

March Birthdays

Sydney Grace Null 3^d
 Lori Kennedy 5th
 Ralph Hayes 7th
 Taylor Langdon - Crownover 8th
 Dodie Davis 11th
 George Appling 13th
 Kenneth Santos 14th
 Curtis Hall 15th
 Marshall Heath 4 on the 18th
 Happy 40th Will Zugheri on the 30th

Celebrations

Happy Anniversary:

Mark & Susan Saranie – 24th and **Sean & Caroline McLean**, their tenth on the 27th.

Surprise, surprise, surprise:

Brian O'Leary threw a fabulous surprise 40th birthday party for **George Appling** one whole month in advance. Now that was a surprise!

Congratulations

Anna Fornaris on obtaining her masters degree!

Out and About

The Heath Family just returned from a trip to Milton, West Virginia to visit former GO residents the **Reed Family**.

The Kuchars enjoyed skiing in Utah.

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

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a classified listing

Looking for a responsible, pet loving, Jr. High or High School aged student to let our two dogs out on weekdays after school. No feeding or walking necessary. Will pay \$20/week. Please email megwalk@yahoo.com if interested.

Classified Ads are \$20 per run for residents, and are for personal services only (help wanted, items for sale, infant care needed, etc.). Contact the Gazette Advertising Director for more information.

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Terms expire October of year in parentheses.

Houston's Homeless Hurt by Crunch on Wall Street

by Cynthia Brannon, Director of Compass in Houston

The news is full of how the current economic crisis is playing on "Main Street." We're concerned about how to pay the mortgage, how to save for college. Everyone I know is worried. I'm worried about another street, too.

It's a street made of concrete, some weeds; with or without a sidewalk. It has empty bottles strewn along the side, and some large pieces of cardboard. A bed-roll is stashed under a bush nearby. Tonight, if it's cold enough, there will be a fire burning in a large metal barrel, with a dilapidated grocery cart or two in the vicinity. You may see a few people huddled around the fire. This street isn't a metaphor. It's real, and so are the people who live there. By most accounts, tonight there will be about 10,000 people in Houston who are homeless. Too many of them are literally living and sleeping on concrete. Men, women, and yes, children. They include the mentally ill, those struggling with substance abuse, run-away teens, and the hardworking guy who hit a bump in the road and watched everything unravel when he got laid off. No pay-check, no rent money and an eviction notice will put you *outside*. This is Main Street for far too many fellow Houstonians.

Houston has a non-profit social service community full of "unsung heroes," working with the homeless. I am speaking of all the little agencies you've never heard of. One might run a soup kitchen, another an employment program. Bus fare, haircuts, work-boots, and the cost of a new ID are among the varied assistance offered by these special places. I am thrilled to be able to tell you that people really do exit homelessness. They get jobs, rent rooms, and open bank accounts. *Let me assure you they don't do it alone.* A homeless man's success has much to do with the new set of clothes he received, the hot meal he was offered, the spiritual guidance he found, the ID he got, and the bus fare and good information he received, so that he could even *get* to these places.

A bus ride costs \$1.25. How many rides would a person need to find a job? Fifty, maybe? COMPASS conducts about

7000 client visits in a year, and one of our goals is to keep our clients mobile – on the bus- so they can get the clothes, the ID, the haircuts, and eventually, a job. Long-time Garden Oaks resident, Lori Stokey, began volunteering for COMPASS 6 years ago. "I was unaware of how useful I could be in assisting someone at their job search, or teaching someone the idea of a schedule for a multitude of doctor appointments," said Lori, who has now been a full-time employee of COMPASS for 4 years. "I will never again underestimate the value of how my time and professional skills can contribute to someone else's independence."



The Wall Street crunch has naturally hit Houston's charitable foundations. This year, social service agencies and their clients will suffer, *and so will our inner city neighborhoods.* Is there a solution? Yes, there is, and it is you. Step outside of your own worries. Find a small homeless organization whose work you admire. And then get out your check-book and a pen, and send them a donation you can afford. Give from the heart. I promise it doesn't have to hurt. Individual gifts are the bread and butter of our funding. It can even be a family affair. Our most memorable gift was from an 8 year old boy who invited his pals to a birthday party, but asked them to skip the gifts and make a donation to us instead. Inspired Houstonians can do much to help others in small, but profound ways. I urge you to look for your inspiration - and your checkbook.

COMPASS is a 27 year old non-profit agency that focuses on giving clients direction, information, and transportation, among other things, so that they can ultimately get a job. For more information, visit www.houstoncompass.org.

Houston Civic Symphony

Talented Neighbors Contribute to Provide Free, Quality Entertainment

by Al Thomas

In 1967, local business executives, students, teachers and homemakers met to organize a volunteer orchestra simply because they loved playing classical music. No one would have guessed that 42 years later the Houston Civic Symphony would still be a staple on Houston's music scene.

Community orchestras are amateur, unpaid organizations consisting of musicians from all walks of life. "Houston Civic Symphony is a robust symphony orchestra with about 70 musicians on stage for our concerts," says Al Thomas, President of the Symphony and Garden Oaks resident. "Civic's success is even more remarkable when you consider that nearly every performance is free."

Al's wife, Dea Larson, is a good example of Civic's membership. After graduating from Houston's HSPVA in 1973, Dea left for college planning to

become a professional violinist. As often happens however, marriage, children, law school and a career followed in quick succession leaving little time for music. "I was a single mom juggling children, school and work. When my son left for college, I decided it was time to dust off my violin. Houston Civic Symphony has been a wonderful place to play the music I love."

Houston Civic Symphony plays five concerts per season spanning September through May. Members rehearse for 2 ½ hours on Tuesday evenings. "No one is paid, but everyone shows up. The dedication and level of professionalism is exceptional," says Thomas.

Two concerts remain in the 2008-09 season. On Thursday, March 12, the Young Artist Competition winners will perform with the orchestra. The season will conclude on Friday, May 1, with a performance of Beethoven's 9th Symphony which includes the Houston Baptist University combined choirs.

All concerts are held at the Morris Cultural Arts Center on the Houston Baptist University campus, and are free to the public. More information can be found on the Symphony's website, www.civicsymphony.org, or by calling 281.586.2100.

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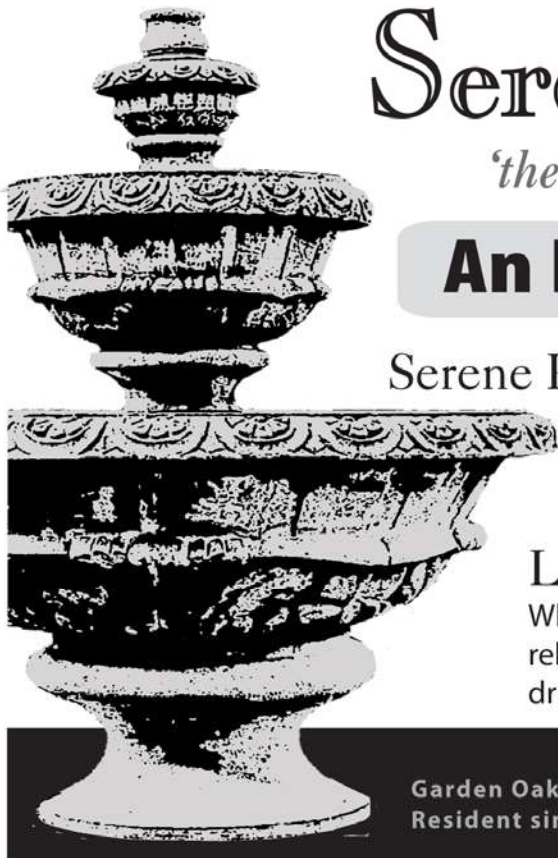
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Garden Oaks Civic Club Meeting Minutes

for February 3, 2009

by Cindy Bartos, Secretary

Location: Garden Oaks Elementary School cafeteria

Welcome:

President Scott Easterly called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm Scott welcomed new attendees. A motion was made and seconded to accept the January minutes as they appeared in the *Gazette*.

Treasurer's Report:

Phil Ramirez presented the current income and expense report for the Civic Club and had detailed copies available at the meeting.

Program:

Secretary, Cindy Bartos introduced the program speakers: Tom Olson and Stacy Gross, representing Sheldon Lake State Park & Environmental Learning Center. Tom presented the history, current environmental facilities, future plans, and showed beautiful slides of the park. More information can be found at www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/findadest/parks/sheldon_lake/

Standing Committee Reports:

Constable Program: Terry Jeanes introduced the officers present. Deputy C.J. Mangano reported on crimes that occurred in the last month. If residents are interested in having a constable visit their home to do a review of the security of the house and landscaping call the Precinct One Dispatch or Annex.

Beautification: Ed de Alba announced the upcoming work day at the Rose Garden (34th and Lawrence) February 14 at 9:00 am.

Gazette: Jessica Jarvis requested members to send articles, photographs, and ideas to her.

Garden Oaks Citizen's Patrol Program: Carl Waters described the program and encouraged members to volunteer. He reported that the neighborhood had 13 crimes reported in the month of December – up four from last year. Overall for the year 2008, 78 crimes were reported, down 24 from 2007.

Garden Oaks.org website: No report

Membership: In the absence of Dian Austin, Sandy Altman reported that to date in 2009 the Civic Club has 278 household/members. Connie Bergen won the raffle, a \$25 Starbucks gift card. Sandy also announced the re-scheduled date of Wine Walk as October 10, 2009.

Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization (GOMO):

Ed de Alba expressed concerns over the behavior of some of the construction company's employees in the neighborhood. The monthly GOMO meeting took place immediately following the civic club meeting.

Old Business:

President Scott Easterly reminded attendees of the Friends of Montessori Pancake Breakfast on February 7, 2009.

A motion was made, seconded and carried to create a committee to act as in interface between the Civic Club and Harris County Flood Control and the City of Houston. W. G Eickenhorst will chair the committee. If interested in serving on the committee, contact Mr. Eickenhorst.

Child Care: Child care will become available beginning with the March 3rd meeting. Parents will need to pay the sitter \$1.00 per child.

New Business:

Quiet Zone: Scott Easterly has information on contacting Houston's City Council to encourage raising Garden Oaks' status of consideration for a Quiet Zone. More information can also be found at www.gardenoaksquietzone.com

Publication of the *Gazette*: Phil Ramirez proposed a committee be established to explore the possibility of the *Gazette* changing over to an online publication only. A motion to create a committee was made, seconded, and carried. Phil Ramirez will chair the committee. Contact Phil if interested in serving on the committee.

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

Representatives from Pat Foley Funeral Home announced a joint food/clothing drive with students from Lutheran High North. The items will be collected at the funeral home on March 8, 2009, from 2:00 to 4:00 pm and donated to the MANNA program at Temple Oaks Baptist Church.

Terry Jeanes announced that she is restoring the Good Neighbor Award. Let Terry know of any nominations, along with a brief summary of reason for nomination. Those nominated will stay in consideration until selected for the quarterly award.

Meeting adjourned: 8:17 pm
Attendance: 44

Child Care Now Available at Civic Club Meetings

Parents are encouraged to join us for our monthly civic club meetings as you now have the opportunity to attend the meeting without leaving your children at home. Beginning with the March meeting we will offer fun and quality child care during the meetings. The cost is only \$1.00 per child for care from 7:00-8:15, what a bargain! Care will be provided by Hannah Elle Stanchi.

Hannah, 17, is a junior at the High School for the Performing and Visual Arts. She has lived in Garden Oaks for her entire life. Hannah has worked as a teaching assistant at children's camps with Main Street Theatre's Kids On Stage (KOS) program. KOS is an award-winning program that combines a love of theatre with music and movement games.

Hannah is excited to play with your children while you attend the civic club meeting. Please have your children fed and diapers changed so they can fully participate in the fun!



Yard of the Month

The Kuchar
Household
1003 Althea

Beautification Update

by Brenda & Ed de Alba

As 2009 begins, our primary objective with Beautification is to continue the maintenance of our neighborhood parks. Garden Oaks is unique in the number and style of green spaces existing in our neighborhood and keeping them in good shape enhances property values for all of us.

Beautification will still schedule workdays but we are also procuring bids for more assistance with maintenance beyond just mowing in all of our parks. We are being forced to change our maintenance process because the number of volunteers at our workdays has seen a significant decrease for the last 2-3 years and the same small group of people who consistently show up are getting burned out. If you are unable to volunteer or simply don't like doing this type of work, **PLEASE** consider making a monetary donation by sending a check made out to Garden Oaks Civic Club with a note earmarking your donation for Beautification.

When you meet or see one of the people listed below, **PLEASE** thank them for their continued commitment to keeping our parks beautiful.

Rose Garden Captain (W. 34th and Lawrence):
Sheila Briones (713.861.8091)

Gazebo Park Captain (Sue Barnett and W. 42nd):
Open- We need help! See below.

Triangle Park Captain (Alba and Azalea):
Tina Nieto (713.956.4822)

GO Blvd. Esplanade Captain (Garden Oaks Blvd. and Sue Barnett):
Shana Tatum (713.699.4166)

Randall Berm Captain (Randall and W. 30th):
Matt Roesler (713.861.5568)

Art Park Captain (W. 43rd and Sue Barnett):
Ed de Alba (713.694.5934)

Garden Oaks Community Garden Captain (Located on Alba, north of W 43rd St. just past Sue Barnett):
Beth Galiano (713.682.0920).

If you have an interest in growing food organically we have a community garden in the neighborhood. Virtually all of the produce goes to local food banks, the rest to the volunteers who grow it. Three years ago more than 2000 pounds of tomatoes and hundreds of pounds of other produce were donated.

We need a captain for the Gazebo Park. The duties are not too onerous. You act as our main eyes and ears for this park, help us schedule workdays and assist on the workdays. If you are interested in helping out please contact us at 713.694.5934.

On Valentines Day, Saturday February 14, we held a workday at the Rose Garden. Headed by Sheila Briones, a small group of volunteers including Brenda de Alba, Charlotte Hayes, Wayne Forster, and Graham and Kristiann Gips trimmed roses, weeded, and added perennials to the beds. Thank you all for helping out and making our neighborhood a nicer place.



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Mary Lynn Porter

Plant Swap and other Gardening Info.

by Chris Lindsay, GOGC President

This year the Garden Oaks Garden Club will hold its annual Plant Swap on Sunday, March 8, from 12 noon to 1 pm at Friendship Garden (30th and Lawrence). In case of rain, we will hold it on March 22. The Plant Swap is an ideal opportunity for gardeners to get some FREE plants. Ideally, you bring a plant from your garden, a cutting or seeds that you want to exchange or swap for other people's plants. This swap program allows a gardener to try something new in their garden to see how it fares without having to spend any money. If you are interested in trying our some different plants for your garden to see if they will grow BEFORE you spend a lot of money on them, come to our Plant Swap, which is open to any GO resident.

Earlier that day from (9:00 am to 12 Noon) Garden Club members will be holding a work day in Friendship Garden to get things spruced up for the spring and summer. If you happen to have an hour or two to lend a hand, we would welcome the help!

I need to make a correction for the date of our meeting in April, it will be held on April 9, not the 19th as printed last month, at 7 pm in the Community at Kroger's on 43rd Street. Our topic will Be Bromeliads.

If you still haven't made up your mind about the type of tree you want to plant to replace the one (or two) you lost during Ike, it is still not too late to get one in the ground and pretty well established before our hot weather sets in. I have listed below some recommendations we received at our February Garden Club meeting from two Urban Foresters who were our guest speakers. Mr. Brad Hendricks and Mr. Dan Temple work at the City of Houston Parks Department in the Urban Forestry Division.

Small trees for the Houston area that can be planted near or under power lines include: **Eastern Redbud** (for average soils); **Texas Redbud** (for hotter, drier sites); **Texas Persimmon** has an attractive slate gray bark (get the male species if you do not want to deal with the messy, but delicious, black fruit from the female trees); **Mexican Plum** has white spring blooms; **Hawthorns** – the Mayhaw & Parsley varieties like moist, acid soils while the Green, Littlehip & Texas varieties prefer drier sites. Hawthorns

have spring flowers, attractive peeling bark and are a good source of food for wildlife.

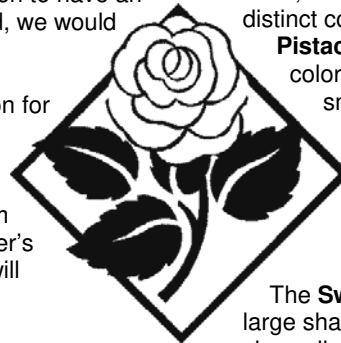
Our tried and true **Crape myrtles** are still a good choice for a summer flowering tree, interesting peeling bark and good fall color. The **Vitex** is another summer flowering multi-trunk tree or a huge shrub with bright purple flowers and aromatic foliage. The **Southern Waxmyrtle** is an evergreen and tolerates wet soils, it can be trimmed and kept as a large shrub or let it grow into a small tree. The **Cherry Laurel** and **Yaupon** are two more evergreen trees suitable for Houston's climate and provide habitat for wildlife.

Large trees which are considered almost bullet-proof for our climate by the Houston Urban Foresters, but should not be planted near of under power lines are: **Cedar Elm** has good fall color and is drought tolerant; **Bald Cypress** good fall color, long-lived, tall tree (80 feet) with a distinct conical form. The **Chinese Pistache** has good yellow to red fall color and the Texas Pistachio is a small tree with purple fall color.

It is well adapted to alkaline soils. The **Bur Oak** has heavy spreading limbs, is tolerant of alkaline soils and urban stress.

The **Swamp Chestnut Oak** is a large shade tree which tolerates heavy clay soils. **Mexican Oaks** – three popular species for Houston are: the Monterrey Oak, Loquat-leaved Oak and the Canby Oak. They grow at higher elevations in Mexico and are ideal for the Houston area, many are small in stature and most are evergreen. The **Nuttall Oak** is particularly adapted to our heavy clay soils, has glossy foliage and red fall color.

The **Live Oak** is our most popular oak because it tolerates a wide range of local soil conditions, it has broad spreading limbs and evergreen leaves, but, it is becoming too dominate in our landscapes. When you get too many of a particular species in an area, it becomes more susceptible to being wiped out by a single disease or pest (i.e. American Elm trees and Dutch Elm disease). If possible, plant other varieties of oak instead. Oak trees to avoid planting are: Water Oak and Willow Oak—while they are fast growers they have been over-planted in Houston and are susceptible to iron chlorosis and other problems.



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St. Mathew's Garden Club Visits Garden Oaks Garden

by Beth Galiano

St. Matthew's United Methodist Church Garden Club visited the garden located on Alba and 43rd and Chamboard for a January Field Trip.

The garden is a joint project of Garden Oaks and Shepherd Park Plaza. Fresh vegetables are supplied, at no cost, to local food pantries and distributed to needy families.

Former Garden Oaks resident Jan Koenig started the garden with Dr. Bob Randall of Urban Harvest in the late 1980s. The property, owned by the City of Houston, was once part of a local water district.

The water storage facility was removed and the property turned over to Garden Oaks for a civic project. The community garden has, for more than 20 years, supplied fresh vegetables to needy families, free of charge, through local food pantries. Ed de Alba (Garden Oaks), and Beth Galiano (Shepherd Park Plaza) donate operating expenses for the garden.

When Jan Koenig moved from the area, Beth Galiano, Harris County Master Gardener, took over the duties of managing the garden, with the Help of Bob Gabrych (Candlelight Estates.) Galiano is currently being assisted by Lisa Qualls and Caroline



Shown in photo, left to right: Front row – Sue Montgomery, Eileen Leedy, Mary Gebhart, Dorothy Bisby, Jody Fudge – Garden Club VP, and Shepherd Park Plaza's Beth Galiano (Master Gardener, holding cabbage.) Second row – Jerry Jackson, Dorris Fox, Florrie Gaddis and Adele Collins.

Stender (Garden Oaks), Franz Van der Henst (Candlelight), Chuck and Jeanette Blesener, Janis Ford, and Susan Web (all of Shepherd Park Plaza).

Winter crops are: lettuce, greens, peas, carrots, cauliflower, cabbage and broccoli. Spring crops are: corn, tomatoes, beans, squash, and melons.

Folks who work in the garden meet on Tuesday mornings. For more information contact: Jody Fudge, St. Matthews Methodist Church.

Garden Oaks Sisterhood


by Dea Larson

With Spring just around the corner, the March Sisterhood meeting will focus on the colors of the season. Whether your favorite colors for 2009 are for your garden, the new paint in your dining room or kitchen, or your new wardrobe, come share your thoughts and join the fun!

Our meeting will be held Thursday, March 19, at 7:30 pm at the home of Joan Harmon, 827 Lamonte Lane. Please bring a beverage or snack to share -- the more colorful, the better.

The Garden Oaks Sisterhood meets the 3rd Thursday of the month at various homes in our neighborhood. For more information, contact Dea Larson at 713.695.3634 or dealarson@aol.com.

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Garden Oaks Pancake Breakfast Breaks Fundraising Record

by Joseph Crownover and Steve Pittman

Thanks to the generosity of local underwriters, auction item donors, and countless volunteer hours, the 15th Annual Garden Oaks Elementary Pancake Breakfast and Silent Auction on February 7, grossed more than \$22,000.

The primary fundraising event for the Montessori program at Garden Oaks Elementary School, this year's breakfast generated the most revenue ever, according to Tanya Knauth, Friends of Montessori chapter president and event co-chair.

"Funds raised through this event and others go directly to the program, paying for the purchase of updated classroom materials, needs-based scholarships, teacher assistant salaries, and professional development for teachers and their assistants," said Knauth. "I think this event demonstrates the strength of our partnership with the community and HISD to provide real educational opportunities in the public schools, especially for those economically and learning disadvantaged children who rely on the Montessori Method as the foundation of their academic career."

In addition to the friendly faces and delicious food, the breakfast featured performances by the Hogg Middle School drum line, GO resident Tina Sabuco and *Arts Alive!*, Zoe Ann's School of Dance, Shorty's Hydraulics and Fiesta Taxi, and an appearance by the fire fighters from Station 31. Dignitaries included Houston City Council Member Toni Lawrence, candidate Brenda Stardig, and Montessori program founding families the Roberts, the Harmons, the Holmes, and Katherine Arbiter.

"The Pancake Breakfast and Silent Auction exceeded my wildest dreams," said Lindsey Pollock, the school's new principal who enjoyed her first pancake breakfast. "The event was flawless; everyone seemed to be having a wonderful time, and the pancakes were delicious."

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.

One such parent, Mary Sharon Komarek, mother of a first-year Children's House student, said last year's breakfast funded the classroom her son is now attending. "I was amazed at the time, effort, and love that went into the event," she said.

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.



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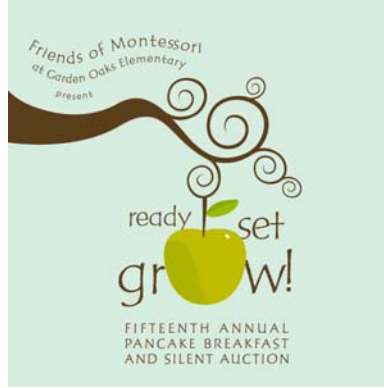
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Doyle's Restaurant

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Eastern Chinese Restaurant

Epicure Café in River Oaks

Garden Oaks Garden Club

Glazed Over Ceramic Studios

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Half Price Books

HEB Grocery

Helle Johnson

Hemline

Hickory Hollow

Houston Aeros Charities

Houston Arboretum & Nature

Center

Houston Swim Club

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James Coney Island

Jana Charlton

Jay & Shana Tatum

Jazzercise with Jane Luco

Jeffrey & Amber Mollhagen

Katherine Arbiter

Kats Chow

Kenneth & Helle Johnson

Kroger- 43rd Street

La Madeleine French Bakery &

Cafe

La Madeleine French Bakery &

Café (Rice Village)

Laurenzo's El Tiempo Cantina

Lou Ann Taylor

Jacques & Donna Christoffel

Jaime Ramos

James & Laurel Sommers

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Jane Casey

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Spaghetti Western

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Suzanne Tyrell

Sweet Tomatoes

Taste of Texas

Terry Jeanes

The Children's Museum of

Houston

The Mad Potter

The Rainbow Lodge

Theatre Suburbia, Inc.

Torrence & Amy Earle

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RE/MAX Metro, Terry Jeanes

Thank you for helping to fulfill the vision of Montessori public schools in the Houston Independent School District. www.fomhouston.org

Constable Program—Your Actions Make a Difference

by Terry Jeans and Susan Love-Saranie

Your action and support make a difference. How? Your action via your calls and your written checks all contribute to making a neighborhood a safer place. As reported by Carl Waters of Citizens Patrol, the number of crime incidents were down from 102 reported in 2007 to 78 in 2008 - a **24 % decrease!**

Thanks to everyone for their financial support and for having their eyes and ears open. If you have not joined as a contributor please join now, we still need more dollars to keep our daytime deputy on the streets.

Last month, a neighbor walking down the middle of the street just after sunset prompted a call by another neighbor. Most calls for what seems unusual or suspicious are of merit, however, occasionally the deputies check into the call and find it to be a neighbor, someone who belongs here and poses no concern. This turned out to be true in this case. Can you imagine if this party had been a potential theft, or someone just lost and needing help?

This does and has happened. I suggest whenever possible that you have your I.D. just in case you are stopped and for your safety, carry your cell phone with the constable dispatch number programmed into the phone. You just might see something that will prevent an incident.

Your Support

An updated list of supporters can be found in this issue. Please note updates include draftees who were inadvertently left off and could not be caught before we went to press. Please remember that we need your updated supporter information each year.

Please send in your supporter dues of \$180 per year. We need you! Remember you can now pay via the website and pay pal at www.gardenoaks.org/involvement/civicclub-consta.html. Don't forget to submit your vacation watch request by using the form available at www.gardenoaks.org/Resources/VacationWatch.pdf.

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JANUARY 2009 Statistics

Miles Patrolled...3131	Court Citations.....24
Alarm Responses....1	Written Warnings.....3
Vacations Watches.....8	Suspicious Vehicles.....16
Park checks...151	Criminal Offenses...0
	Arrests.....2

Photo of the Month

submitted by Carol Smith



Another famous neighbor, Drew Emborsky

Drew Emborsky, who lives in Section 1, is known also as The Crochet Dude.

Drew has been featured in national and international magazines and newspapers and on television shows. Visit his website at www.drewemborsky.com and his blog at <http://blog.thecrochetdude.com> to see his crochet designs.

In the fall he published his second book, *The Crochet Dude's Designs for Guys: 30 Projects Men Will Love*. This photo shows Drew signing his book at Yartopia, a yarn shop in Katy, Texas.



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!

2009 Constable Supporter Households (as of 2/9/09)

please note list includes draftees who had been inadvertently left off, new profiles of supporters are needed each year

Section One							
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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
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DePaul	Robinson	Mullins	Perkins	McQuade/Reno	M. Neff	Hutson	Flores/Dansby
Wilson	Bresnahan	Adkins	B. Morris	O'Guynn	Rogers/Buron	Fruge/Adams	Bewley
C. Smith	Kirshner	McClard/Segotta	Barr/King	Lengyel	Matthews	Fletcher	Rosier/Ammon
Kasischke	Cheney	Marquis	Winter	Kopecky			
Section Two							
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Janssen	Ayers	Roanoake/Kolbinger	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
Armstrong	G. Smith	Cribbin	Johnson	Muscara/Kennedy	O'Leary/Appling	Hines	Clark
Gallagher/Kasperek							
Section Three							
Dyer/Kelly	Mayers/Mueller	Ream	Richards/Talley	Gibb/Reid	Thomas/Larson	Bartos	Sledge
McKeown	Arnett	Butler	Lozano	Hartman	Newlin	Veselka	Reichle
Gavin	Crownover/Langdon	Free	Armstrong	Sabuco/Arnold	Matthews	Neal	Chang/Gordon
Taylor	Stark	Horowitz	Dupre	Gray	Brown/Fisher	Comstock	Tinkey
Clemence/Bos	Lyn/Campbell	Nasir	Burciaga	Gurrola	Morrison	Bell	Guglielmi
Sultanik	Sievers	Tate	Longshore/McKay	Syzdek			
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/Anastasia	Jeanes	Lindsey	Cunningham	Williams
Ochoa	Bergen	Gaige	Shaver/Earl	Ramirez/Pecorino	Spear	Warhol	Van Dyke
Feit/Zindler	Cody	Stein	Swick	Lindsay			
Section Five							
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Willburn	Gloriod	Sellis	Munoz	Jorgensen	I. Smith	Hester	Bishop
Naff	Owen	P. Smith	Bayol	Antinoff/Stovall	Blanton/Broglio	Padilla	T. Mehrkam
J. Evans	Pfeiffer-Traum	Martin/Harbert	Daly	Torres	W. Mehrkam	Staffa	Terrett
Gilmore	Rude	Carlin	Keegan	Kelly	Restrepo		

Electronics Recycling

by Dian Austin

Technology advances give us the opportunities to upgrade to better, faster and/or more energy-efficient electronic equipment. As we replace these items, we should first consider if the old ones can be reused, refurbished, resold, or repaired. If the answer is "no", then hopefully each of us will be responsible and will consider recycling them. Recycling will keep our old electronics out of the landfills and will ensure that hazardous materials are disposed of properly. Recyclers recover more than 100 million pounds of materials from electronics each year.

Electronics consist of valuable resources, such as precious metals, copper and engineered plastics, all of which require considerable energy to process and manufacture. Recycling electronics recovers valuable materials, conserves virgin resources and results in lower environmental emissions (including greenhouse gases) than making products from virgin materials.

For example: Recycling 1 million desktop computers prevents the release of greenhouse gases equivalent to the annual emissions of over 17,000 passenger cars.

Recycling 1 million cell phones saves enough energy to power more than 19,000 US households with electricity for an entire year.

While there are several corporate and manufacturer efforts in place to help us dispose of some consumer electronics, one of the easiest avenues is to utilize the City of Houston's Westpark Consumer Recycling Center. It's located at 5900 Westpark, between Chimney Rock and Fountainview, on the north side of the street. It is open Monday thru Saturday, from 8am to 5pm, and is a very user-friendly operation. You just drive into the facility, and helping hands unload all your recyclables. You don't even have to get out of your car.



At this location, they take most consumer electronics, including televisions, computers, monitors, microwaves, etc. But you're limited to dropping off 5 (five) electronic components per month per customer.

The center also accepts #1 - 5 and #7 plastics (not toys, packing materials, flower pots, styrofoam, plastic bags or plastic furniture), aluminum and tin cans, latex paint, paper, cardboard, used motor oil, used tires, and glass.

These items are sold to private companies for recycling, and the revenues from the sale are deposited into the city's general fund. Please consider responsible recycling.

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Transforming Your Dreams... Into Reality!

Go Green to Save Green

by Sheila Briones

Here's some great information on recycling your kid's old crayons from the National CRAYON RECYCLE PROGRAM at www.crazycrayons.com.

The CRAYON RECYCLE PROGRAM takes old, rejected, broken crayons to a better place, where they'll be recycled into fresh, new crayons and does not add or take away anything from the original crayon. All CRAZY CRAYON purchases benefit the CRAYON RECYCLE PROGRAM.

The CRAYON RECYCLE PROGRAM is an educational tool, a "doing your part for the Earth" project, and a community service. Crayons are a petroleum product and they takes years to biodegrade. A crayon drive can be organized by kids and brought to a community level.

Crayon Prep

You don't have to do anything to the crayons! Just collect, box, and ship them as they are. **LEAVE THE WRAPPERS ON THE CRAYONS!** It makes each much easier to sort and makes it easier for you to send!

Shipping Tips

When ready to ship used crayons, consider these shipping tips to keep costs down:

- One large box is less costly than several small boxes
- Use sturdy boxes that closely fit the amount of contents (to avoid crushing or breakage)
- Small packages (less than 5 pounds) will cost less shipping via the US mail
COD's and service centers such as The UPS Store cost extra
- UPS basic ground service to a business has a lower rate. UPS toll free #: 1-800-742-5877

Ship crayons to:
CRAYON RECYCLING PROGRAM
LAF Lines, Ltd., 721 Village Road
Pelican Lake, WI 54463



Ideas for Collecting Recycled Crayons

At many restaurants, they offer crayons with a kids' menu. If kids use them, take them home. Some restaurant chains that give crayons include: Denny's™, Applebee's™, T.G.I. Fridays™, Chili's™, California Pizza Kitchen™ and many more.

CRAZY CRAYONS are packaged in a recycled cardboard box, each set comes with a tree-free paper doodle pad and highlighted with a straw grass bow. Some crayons are packaged in cellophane, which looks like clear plastic but is a product made from tree gum that is biodegradable and burnable. They also offer the packaging choice of reusable, resealable poly-baggies. They make wonderful gifts for children, however all CRAZY CRAYONS have a caution on the label stating: "This product is not suitable for children under 3 years old."

Questions? Comments?

Email: CrazyCrayonLady@hotmail.com or call: 1.800.561.0922

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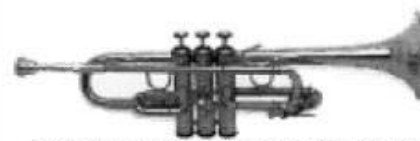
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524 W. 34th St.	1030 Althea
527 W. 34th St.	815 Azalea
729 W. 39th St.	975 Gardenia
721 W. 41st St.	1043 Gardenia
750 W. 41st St.	839 Lamonte
818 W. 41st St.	3205 Lawrence
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EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE



Gazette Block Captains of the Month

by Dian Austin

Congratulations to Ken Tomchesson for being selected as *Gazette* Block Captain of the Month for March!

Ken lives in the 1000 block of W. 41st with his wife, Terry, and family canine, Boomer (Golden mix). Ken grew up in Garden Oaks, and his parents were original owners of the house he now lives in.

Ken has delivered *Gazettes* to his block for about 2-3 years. (Terry said she helps some, but not usually.) Ken and Terry are both civic club members and constable supporters.

In recognition of his service, Ken receives a \$25 gift card to Lowe's, courtesy of OD's Printing (Oscar Ochoa). Thanks Ken (and Terry) for your help!

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!)

New Business Provides Important Child Care Evaluation Services

by Bryan Mitchell

L&T Enterprises® recently unveiled their new website, www.kidcareyears.com, ushering in a new era in evaluating and selecting licensed child-care centers in Houston.

Using KidCareWatch®, this site updates its members of vital information by monitoring all state daycare safety inspections and all violations found during the inspections. In addition, as anyone has attempted to gather information from daycares via telephone or the web, you will certainly know that information such as rates are rarely conveyed without a physical visit to the child care facility. "We've compiled a tremendous amount of information on daycares – the scale of which is unprecedented as far as I can tell – and use that information to rate daycares that our clients would potentially patronize," said Holly Mitchell, Kid Care Years President. "Simply visiting daycares for 15 minutes does not tell the parent whether this daycare is safe enough for their little one. Some of our highest rated daycares based on visits alone, ended up with some of the

lowest ratings overall due to severe violations found during State inspections."

Holly and Bryan live in the Heights and their children attend St. Rose of Lima Early Childhood Center in Garden Oaks. "In fact, it was my relationship with St. Rose ECC that ultimately led to my idea to launch KidCareYears.com," said Holly.

They searched for daycares in the area and went on several tours before eventually selecting St. Rose. "Since then, I was personally surprised to find several exceptional day cares in the Garden Oaks area that I wasn't aware of when I was searching for childcare nearly four years ago."

Holly Mitchell and L & T Enterprises are Houston based and Holly can be reached at 713.880.5920 or hmitchell@kidcareyears.com.

G.O. Kids News

by Tonya Knauth

Moms' Night Out for March will be Thursday, March 5, 7 pm, at Berryhill on 11th Street. Look for new, fun places we will meet each month, as Maricela Pina starts to coordinate this event!

There will be no Family Potluck in March - enjoy Spring Break!

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 10 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 list serve? Want more information about GO Kids? Contact Tonya Knauth at 713.628.8243, or tknauth@comcast.net.

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Encourage Academic Growth Over Spring Break

by Lindsey Pollock, Principal, Garden Oaks Elementary

Hopefully, for most of you, Hurricane Ike is a vague memory. But the interruption of our school year was significant. Now that everyone is settled into our regular routines, we want to be sure we continue to support our children's academic growth. While Spring Break is meant to be a time for rest and relaxation, there are many everyday ways to help your child(ren) practice their academic skills while having fun so they will be ready to return to school without missing a beat!

Here are a few ideas:

- Encourage your child to create a newsletter about their Spring Break to send to family and friends as a way to strengthen reading and writing skills.
- Allow your child to design their own greeting cards (Birthday, Congratulations and other special occasions) and create the messages. Thank you cards are another great way to encourage creativity and writing skills.
- Ask your children to read the mail to you out loud as a way to increase reading fluency.
- Have children read and measure ingredients from family recipes while you bake together. This is a great way for them to practice reading and the math concept of measurement.
- Find time for your child to showcase their reading skills to relatives. Have a book ready that they have mastered for Grandparents to listen to and enjoy.
- Include your child in grocery shopping by having them make a shopping list to take along of items they will look for. Have them carry a copy of your list and check items off as you go. Comparison shopping with older children is a great way to teach math skills and the value of a dollar!
- Visit the local library and obtain a PowerCard. Check books out for yourself and your child(ren).
- Find books that will spark an interest your child has. If your child loves airplanes, find a book about a pilot or careers in aerospace that will help them realize that they too can reach for the stars!
- Engage in lots and lots of conversation with your children. Language skills continue to develop when children have an opportunity to express their ideas and share with others. Share story telling time by having each person say one or two sentences and build the story taking turns as you go along.
- Play alphabet games. A-Z The first person starts by saying a word that begins with "a," the next person says a word that begins with "b" and continue until you reach the end of the alphabet. Challenges for older children include words that end with the letter or saying a word that does NOT contain the letter! Great for long car rides!
- Our favorite family game was practicing the letters of the alphabet in reverse! This helps children with the skill of alphabetizing by recognizing the place the letter has in the order of the alphabet. We would race to see who could say it the fastest in reverse! Now a family tradition.



Whatever you do or wherever you go, **enjoy** the time you have together!

Join Us for the Graham Park Court Celebration

by Megan Salch

The court at Graham Park in section 1 has been fully renovated, thanks to the Friends of Graham Park and GOMO. All neighbors are invited to the **Court Celebration on Saturday, March 7 at 10am**. Brunch will be provided, so bring the family and enjoy a morning at the park. Sport your tennis garb and play a match or two with old and new friends. Neighbors will also appreciate the addition of more trash cans around the playground to keep the area clean, and a shaded bench near the playground is also in the works. All neighbors are encouraged to come, even those who don't play tennis. This will be a fun event for all.

For questions on joining the Friends of Graham Park, please contact Megan F. Salch at megan_salch@hotmail.com.

Critter Corner

Cat Catchers combats breeding cats in Garden Oaks

by Casey and Mau Mau Farris

Spring will be here soon and so will kitten season. Cats breed from January through August so kittens are born March through November. One November, twenty years ago Mau Mau was born in a garage in the Heights.

Critters 101: Who Dat With The Cat?!

Cat Catchers is a neighborhood task force which started in August of 2003. Our mission is to help neighbors trap-neuter-release stray cats in order to keep the cat population under control. You see, two cats left to breed, can have 2-3 litters a year. Cats begin breeding at 4-6 months of age and have 3-4 kittens in each litter which then start breeding at 4-6 months of age. In a very short time you can have a big problem.

The stray cat problem in the Heights is out of control and we, Cat Catchers, are helping to keep Garden Oaks from suffering this same fate. Since 2003, Cat Catchers has paid the costs of 65 spay/neuters and found homes for many of these cats that

were tame enough to be pets. We have also helped neighbors with countless other spay/neuters where we provided traps, advice and encouragement. One older but gorgeous fellow, named Blue, was befriended by neighbor, Maria Lawson. She found him a home and he even had his own website.

The cost of a spay is \$60 and the cost of a neuter is \$50. Included in these costs is a mandatory rabies shot. All monies donated to Cat Catchers are used specifically for stabilizing and maintaining cat colonies in Garden Oaks.

We are making a difference for you, for Garden Oaks and for the animals. Please spay/neuter your animals and see page 19 to make a donation today. Donations may be sent to Cat Catchers, c/o Bone Voyage Pet Sitting, P.O. Box 925613, Houston, TX 77292.

Pet of the Month:

The spotlight is on the Pat Streeter household in Section IV. Pat has been a faithful contributor to Cat Catchers as well as the best cat mom in the whole world. She has three orange/white cats; Charley is 10 and was adopted from a

friend, Pippin is seven and was a Garden Oaks stray and O'Reilly is one year old this month and he was adopted from the SPCA. The Streeter boys have an enclosed porch, and a kitty climber which is like a tree house outside where they can climb high and look down at the yard or up in the trees. Big brother Charley is the philosopher and the napper of the three. Pippin is the snuggle bunny and helps mom put out the bird seed. O'Reilly is a juvenile delinquent and starts most of the trouble. He once left a live lizard stashed in mom's shoe and another time he brought in a baby opossum and planted it in the bathroom drawer. Now at bedtime, mom frisks him, searches his luggage, and puts him through an animal detector before he comes inside. The boys have their own Pawpal account at Three Dog Bakery. They like the "We Pity The Kitty" salmon treats. Three cheers for Pat and the back Streeter boys!

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 or call 713.688.6363.



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Cat Catchers

Garden Oaks Feral Cat (Trap-Neuter-Release) Program

Feline overpopulation is a costly and wide-spread problem. Feral cats are the wild offspring of domestic cats and are primarily the result of pet owners' abandonment or failure to spay and neuter their animals, allowing them to breed uncontrolled. A pair of breeding cats, which can have two or more litters per year, can exponentially produce 420,000 offspring over a seven-year period.

Trap-Neuter-Release (TNR) is the single most successful method of stabilizing and maintaining healthy feral cat colonies with the least possible cost while providing the best life for the animals themselves. Spaying/neutering homeless cats:

- * Stabilizes the population at manageable levels
- * Eliminates annoying behaviors associated with mating
- * Is humane to the animals and fosters compassion
- * Is more effective and less costly than repeated attempts at extermination - vacated areas are soon filled by other cats who start the breeding process over again.

Please spay/neuter your pets and return this form with your donation to **Cat Catchers**., a non-profit Garden Oaks task force. All donations are used for stabilizing and maintaining cat colonies in Garden Oaks. **Mail to Cat Catchers, c/o Bone Voyage Pet Sitting, P. O. Box 925613, Houston, Tx 77292**, or call Casey Farris, 713-688-6363 or casey@godogusa.com.

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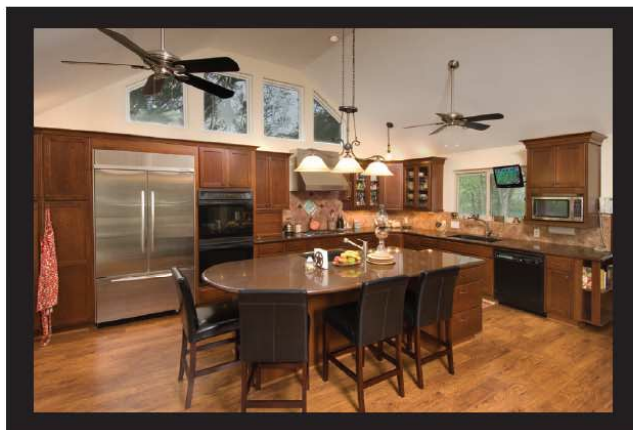
we can make a difference - one cat at a time



March 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 Civic Club meeting, 7 pm 	4	5 Mom's Night Out at Berryhill, 7 pm	6	7 Graham Park Court Celebration, 10 am
8 Garden Club workday at Friendship Garden and plant swap, 10-1 pm	9	10	11	12 Houston Civic Club Symphony at Houston Baptist University	13	14
15	16	17 	18 GOMO meeting, 7:30 pm	19 GO Sisterhood 827 Lamonte Ln, 7:30 pm	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31 	<i>Please support our advertisers who in turn support our neighborhood. Tell them you saw their ad in the Gazette!</i>			

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