

Gazette

April 2009

Volume 33 Number 4

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Save the Date

Sunday May 17, 2009 1 pm
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 and Dessert Provided
More details – Terry Jeanes

Garden Oaks Wine Walk Is Back!

Constable program fundraiser to be held in October
 by Dian Austin

Hurricane Ike may have caused us to postpone the Garden Oaks Wine Walk, but our inaugural event is shaping up to be bigger and better than before! The Wine Walk has now been rescheduled for Saturday evening, October 10, 2009, from 6-8 pm. (Rain date will be the following weekend.)

Ed and Brenda de Alba have generously offered their spacious backyard at 744 W. 43rd for the gathering. This will be a much more private venue than the originally scheduled Gazebo Park location. Their yard features not only fabulous landscaping and numerous wandering pathways, but also a huge koi pond. This will provide the perfect setting for sipping, tasting, strolling, and mingling!

Pre-Ike we had numerous committed table hosts. If you still desire to host a table, please email me at FallingwaterT@yahoo.com. We will now have room for additional table hosts, so come out and join the fun as we raise money for our constable program! Table hosts are providing their own tables for set-up, a case of wine to be sampled, and any optional taste treats and table decorations.

The event was sold out at 125 people but several tickets have been made available as some purchasers couldn't make the rescheduled date. We have a waiting list for those tickets. (Garden Oaks apparently has lots of oenophiles and constable supporters! Ticket purchasers who cannot use their tickets can get a full refund; just email me.) If you want to be placed on the official ticket waiting list, please send your name and number of tickets desired to me at the above email address (do not send money yet!). Tickets will be reserved in the order received; you will be notified if tickets are available for you. As we go to press, we have about 20 tickets still available.

Sponsors for the event include Ed and Brenda de Alba, Linda Sparks, and Oak Forest Veterinary Clinic. Also, Terry Jeanes is underwriting the cost of the commemorative wine glasses. We appreciate all their support for our Constable Program!

We are also lining up food vendors for the evening. If you are interested in providing a food station, please email me at the above address. We'll update you monthly as we get closer to the final date!

Upcoming Civic Club Meetings

April 7, 2009 Civic Club Meeting

Roland Altinger, Director of the Information and Assistance Division of HCAD, will be the featured speaker at the April civic club meeting. Come and learn about HCAD's appraisal process, deadlines for filing your market value protest, and what information HCAD's website offers in putting together a more successful protest. Mr. Altinger has volunteered to have an extended Q/A session if needed.

May 5, 2009 Civic Club Meeting

Tired of being so grown-up all the time? Kick-off the summer this Cinco de Mayo by getting some great ideas on how to entertain your inner child with or without little ones afoot. Megan Salch, author of 100+ Activities for Houston Kids, will present "Activities for Houston Kids and The Kid in YOU". Books will be available for purchase for \$16.18 (including tax) so get ready to have some fun!

Meetings are held at Garden Oaks Elementary on the first Tuesday of the month at 7pm.

Please Join Us!

Citizens Patrol Program

by Carl Waters, Jr.

Thanks to Officer Chuck Bertels of the Houston Police Department for being our guest speaker at the March civic club meeting. He provided good information on securing homes from burglars. Some of the things he suggested were: making sure the screws holding strike plates to exterior door frames are at least two inches long so that they are set deep into the studs framing the door, installing additional locks to windows, using pins set in the floor to keep doors from opening and using double dead bolt locks so if someone gets into your home they don't have an easy way back out. Outside the home, shrubbery should be neatly trimmed and kept low so burglars don't have a place to hide when entering or leaving your home.

January Crime Statistics: 5

as reported by the Houston Police Department website

Burglary: 1

400 block of W. 34 St. on Thursday, Jan. 15 at 12:30 pm (residence)

Burglary of a Motor Vehicle: 2

1400 block of Sue Barnett Dr. on Thursday, Jan. 22 at 7:00 pm (street)
3100 block of N. Shepherd Dr. on Wednesday, Jan. 16 at noon (restaurant parking lot)

Auto Theft: 1

3100 block of N. Shepherd Dr. on Sunday Jan. 4 at 2:30 am (restaurant parking lot)

Driving While Intoxicated: 1

800 block of W. 34 St., Saturday, Jan. 31 at 10:09 pm (street)

In addition to these crimes I received calls from a Section 1 neighbor who reported her yard had been burglarized twice. In the first burglary yard lamps were taken; in the second, more lamps were taken and the person dug up and cut out a three-foot section of gas line leading to a lamp in her yard. At the civic club meeting it was reported that a Section 1 neighbor had her sprinkler system dug up for the copper tubing.

Please stay alert and report any suspicious activity to the constable's office or the Houston Police Department.

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.

Gazette Contacts

Jessica Jarvis—Editor

1551 Sue Barnett 713.446.6440
gazette@gardenoaks.org

James Burciaga—Layout Design

830 W. 43rd 713.868.4447
james@burciaga-inc.com

Dian Austin—Delivery Coordinator

733 W. 42nd 713.691.6505
gazettedelivery@gardenoaks.org

Tim Merritt—Advertising Director

814 W. 43rd 832.474.0770
gazetteads@gardenoaks.org

Proofreaders

Carol Smith, John Tyler and Dian Austin



Civic Club Officers

Scott Easterly—President

761 W. 42nd 713.691.3087
president@gardenoaks.org

Ivan Mayers—Vice President

802 Lamonte 713.202.7113
vicepresident@gardenoaks.org

Phil Ramirez—Treasurer

975 Lamonte 832.794.1221
treasurer@gardenoaks.org

Cindy Bartos—Secretary

831 Azalea 713.694.6697
secretary@gardenoaks.org

Standing Committee Chairs

Brenda de Alba—Beautification

744 W. 43rd 713.694.5934
beautification@gardenoaks.org

Carl Waters Jr.—Citizen Patrol

821 W. 31st 713.864.1992
gocop@gardenoaks.org

Joe Muscara—GardenOaks.org

750 Sue Barnett 713.691.6833
webmaster@gardenoaks.org

Josh Hamilton—GardenOaks.org Co-chair

858 Azalea 713.695.7347

Dian Austin—Membership

733 W. 42nd 713.691.6505
membership@gardenoaks.org

Terry Jeanes—Constable Program

922 W. 41st 713.812.9154
constable@gardenoaks.org

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.

939 Althea 235 West 34th
 818 West 43rd 1435 Sue Barnett
 1015 Lamonte 842 West 42nd
 512 West 34th 846 Lamonte

April Birthdays

John Tyler 9th
 Craig Lee and Keith Kostelecky 9th
 Melissa Neiser 10th
 Linden D'Amico 11th
 Lily Claire Bowman 18th
 Orvil Sims 22nd
 Robert Deveau

Celebrations

Happy Anniversary: Tina Sabuco and Shelly Arnold, anniversary 13 on April 6.

Added Celebrations: A large Celebration of Life event was held March 28 at Rich and Rebecca Stark's Star K Ranch in Brenham celebrating Joshua's first birthday. Maryellen (Joshua's grandmother) and Bill (Joshua's uncle) joined for the celebration.

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

Welcome Home

Pete, Tori and Casey Vonderhaar who just recently moved back into their home following extensive repairs necessary as a result of Hurricane Ike. We're glad to have you back in the neighborhood!

Out and About

Cameron Carlin could be seen at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo and participated with Bluebonnet Hills Alpacas during the Llama and Alpaca show. Fellow Garden Oaks neighbor, Terry Jeanes, spotted the Carlins in the crowd at the arena while attending auctions with her committee, Breeders Greeters.

The McLeans had a very enjoyable four days skiing in Durango, Colorado, with Lucy and Josh both enjoying their first time on skis.

Condolences

To the LaFave Family. Helen LaFave passed February 12, 2009 after a long and courageous battle with multiple sclerosis. Our thoughts go out to her husband, Terence La Fave and son, Christian.

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

Graham Gips (2010)

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

Kathy Horner (2009)

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

Section 2:**Adrian Berry (2011)**

Home: 713.692.0408
 737 W. 42nd
 adrian.berry@yahoo.com

Ed de Alba (2010)

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

Lori Kennedy (2009)

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

Section 3:**Jerry Butler (2011)**

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

Kelly Mathews (2010)

Treasurer
 Home: 713.640.5225
 855 Lamonte Lane
 rkmathews1@gmail.com

Ivan Mayers (2009)

Home: 713.202.7113
 802 Lamonte Lane
 ilmayers@comcast.net

Section 5:**Tim Weltin (2011)**

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

John Ciccarelli (2009)

Home: 713.688.8285
 4310 Apollo
 ciccarelli@intergate.com

Terms expire October of year in parentheses.

**Relay for Life Greater Heights**

Presents Bras and Boxers Fundraising Event

Bras and Boxers scheduled for Saturday, May 2, 2009 is aimed at increasing awareness about cancer and raising money for the American Cancer Society by stretching donated bras and boxers along 19th Street in the heart of Houston Heights. Individuals who donate bras or boxers are also asked to donate \$5.00 per item. Collection of bras and boxers will run from March 2 through April 12 at locations throughout the Greater Heights area. Psychological Software Solutions, Inc. has agreed to match each bra/boxer collected with \$1 up to a total \$1,000.

Bras and Boxers will kick-off the Relay for Life Greater Heights on May 15 and 16, 2009 at Delmar-Dyer Sports Complex starting at 6:00 p.m. The donated bras and boxers will be used at the Relay as part of the evening's activities. Following the Relay, some will be donated to a local non-profit.

At a similar fundraiser held in Vicksburg, MS in November, 2008, called "Bras for Breast Cancer," 3,174 bras were strung across the 1.6-mile span of the U.S. 80 bridge over the Mississippi River. In a related article in The Vicksburg Press, Ginny Tzotzolas, marketing director of Riverwalk Casino, the sponsor of the event, stated that the Casino was so impressed by the public support that it is hoping to string bras across the bridge annually to raise money for the American Cancer Society. The Bras for Breast Cancer event was spearheaded by radio conglomerate Clear Channel Communications.

The American Cancer Society Relay for Life consists of teams of people including local businesses, friends, families, hospitals, religious organizations, and clubs, who take turns walking laps overnight for 12 hours. Relay for Life is a life-changing event that every year brings together more than 3.5 million people nationwide to celebrate the lives who have battled cancer, remember loved ones lost, and empower individuals and communities to fight back against a disease that takes so much.

For additional information on Bras and Boxers please contact Barbara Dickens, 2009 Chair of the Greater Heights Relay Committee at 281.630.5120 or event@rflgh.org.

**Relay for Life Garden Oaks
Donation Drop Offs****Curves....Garden Oaks**

1225 W. 43rd St.
 Houston, TX 77018
 713.957.2003

Bally- North Shepherd

3936 N. Shepherd
 Houston, TX 77018
 713.695.5824

**Gazette Block Captain of
the Month**

by Dian Austin

Congratulations to Craig Lee for being selected as *Gazette* Block Captain of the Month for April! Craig lives in the 200 block of W. 34th with his son, Chris. He has delivered *Gazettes* to the 200 and 300 blocks of W. 34th for about 10+ years.

Craig has lived in Garden Oaks for 17 years, and is a civic club member (a past president), a constable supporter, and a supporter of the Garden Oaks Quiet Zone efforts. Craig is also a native Houstonian and an avid tennis player.

In recognition of his service, Craig receives a \$25 gift card to Starbucks, courtesy of OD's Printing (Oscar Ochoa). Thanks Craig 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 fallingwater@yahoo.com. (And if you never ever get your *Gazette* on time, please let me know too!)

On Bunnies, Eggs, and Tradition: Easter Trivia

by Eric Jarvis

Most everyone understands the basics about both Easter and eggs. We're also pretty clear on bunnies, for that matter. What one might find interesting is what all of these (and more) have to do with Easter. So, for this spring, here's a chance to test your knowledge of some interesting Easter trivia, including the origin of the holiday and its name, and the relevance of the various symbology we've come to associate with it over time.

1. What is the origin of the word "Easter?"

- A) Recognition that the sun rises in the "East" for a new beginning
- B) The House of Esterhazy, the Russian Imperial Family
- C) The Old French meaning a change in the air, "est-ce l'aire"
- D) "Esturiam", a wildflower widely found in Holland, Belgium and France
- E) "Eostre", the ancient Anglo-Saxon goddess of the dawn

2. Easter is actually a combination of religious and pagan rituals. Religiously, it celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ. What is its pagan significance?

- A) The celebration of the vernal equinox
- B) To celebrate the season's first harvest
- C) The celebration of Spring
- D) To honor Ostra, the Scandinavian goddess of fertility
- E) To honor Llumen Oeuster, the Teutonic god of light

3. At Easter, rabbits (bunnies) are used to symbolize what?

- A) Spring
- B) Speed (how quickly the seasons change)
- C) Jesus Christ (an innocent slaughtered)
- D) Fertility
- E) All mankind

4. Why was Easter Island named "Easter Island?"

- A) The first European to discover it was Capt. Jacob Easter
- B) It is one of a pair of islands, and is the "easter" one (the other one is "Wester Island")
- C) Europeans first discovered it on Easter Sunday, 1722
- D) It was named by Pope Pius VI (1775-1799)

5. What is the connection between Easter and Passover?

- A) Passover in Hebrew is "Pesach"; in Europe Easter is also called "Pesach"
 - B) Passover and Easter are celebrated for the same number of days
 - C) Both celebrate the freeing of the soul from oppression
 - D) Both have the same pagan origin
 - E) Both are celebrated with a ritual meal (seder and Communion)
- (Answers on page 11)

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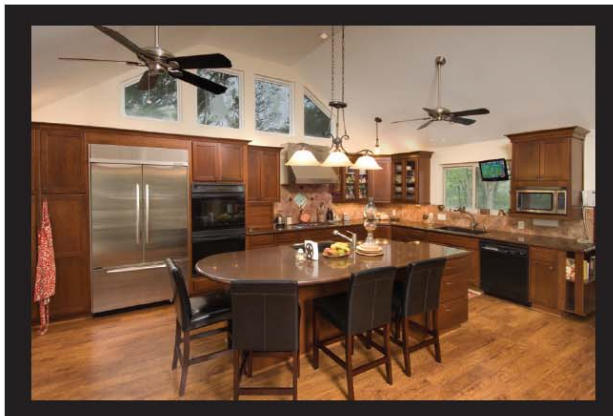
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Garden Oaks Civic Club Meeting Minutes

by Cindy Bartos, Secretary

March 3, 2009

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531 W. 32nd St.	1026 Althea
524 W. 34th St.	1030 Althea
527 W. 34th St.	815 Azalea
729 W. 39th St.	975 Gardenia
721 W. 41st St.	1043 Gardenia
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Welcome:

President Scott Easterly called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Scott introduced Hannah Stanchi, the new child care provider who will be available for future civic club meetings. Scott welcomed new attendee Chuck Fleming and as such, awarded him a copy of the Garden Oaks 25th Anniversary Cookbook. A motion was made and seconded to accept the February 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:

Carl Waters introduced the speaker for the program "March on Crime," Houston Police Officer Chuck Bertels. Officer Bertels gave suggestions on how to avoid being a target, to lessen the criminals' desire to commit a crime, and to deter the opportunity for the crime to be committed.

Standing Committee Reports:

Constable Program: Terry Jeanes was not present but sent a reminder to use the forms in the *Gazette* to join the constable program. Deputy C.J. Mangano reported on crimes involving theft of copper in the neighborhood.

Beautification: Brenda de Alba was not present.

Gazette: No report.

Garden Oaks Citizen's Patrol Program: Carl Waters reported the neighborhood had five crimes reported in the month of January, which is up from three in January 2008.

Garden Oaks.org website: No report.

Membership: Dian Austin reported that to date the civic club has 300 household/members. Mac Hitz won the raffle, a \$25 gift card for Tony's Restaurant.

Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization (GOMO):

The monthly meeting was held immediately following the civic club meeting.

Garden Club:

The next meeting will be April 9, 2009, at Kroger in the Community Room.

Old Business:

President Scott Easterly reminded attendees of the food drive sponsored by Pat Foley Funeral Home and Lutheran High North on Sunday, March 8.

Good Neighbor Award: Pass on nominations to Terry Jeanes.

Old Fashioned Picnic: Sunday, May 17, 2009; Spark Park.

Wine Walk: Saturday, October 10, 2009. Currently sold out, but contact Dian Austin to get on the waiting list. Proceeds will go to the constable program.

W. G. Eickenhorst reported on a meeting with representatives from the Harris County Flood Control District and was promised the ditches near Sue Barnett and N. Shepherd would be cleaned out within a week.

Quiet Zone: Scott Easterly has information on contacting Houston's City Council to encourage raising Garden Oaks' status of consideration for a Quiet Zone.

New Business: Next month's civic club meeting's program will be information and suggestions on how to protest a homeowner's market value with HCAD.

Meeting adjourned: 8:02 p.m.
Attendance: 32

Garden Oaks Quiet Zone

Representatives of the Quiet Zone met with Council Member Lawrence's Chief of Staff and two representatives from Public Works & Engineering on March 2, 2009 to discuss the Garden Oaks Quiet Zone. The outcome from the meeting was essentially that the Garden Oaks Quiet Zone was more expensive and therefore was ranked lower. There were 16 proposed city-funded Quiet Zones and the Garden Oaks Quiet Zone was ranked #9. Only Quiet Zones ranked #1-6 will be funded at this time.

Please email, call or write Mayor White and Council Member Lawrence requesting additional funding for the Garden Oaks Quiet Zone. For the most current and up-to-date information concerning the Garden Oaks Quiet Zone please visit www.gardenoaksquietzone.com.

Bromeliads – April Topic for Garden Club

by Chris Lindsay, GOGC President

The Garden Oaks Garden Club planted a citrus tree in Friendship Garden, a Meyer lemon tree that blooms in the spring and will bear fruit by the fall. The fruit color when ripe will be between a yellow and yellow-orange color. We invite you to pick a lemon when they are ripe!

Our next meeting is April 9 at 7:00 p.m., mezzanine level at Kroger's on W. 43rd. The topic will be bromeliads. Bromeliads are members of a plant family known as Bromeliaceae (bro-meh-lee-AH-say-eye) that contains more than 3000 described species in approximately 56 genera. The most well-known bromeliad is the pineapple. The family contains a wide range of plants including some very un-pineapple like members such as Spanish Moss (which is neither Spanish nor a moss). Other members resemble aloes or yuccas while still others look like green, leafy grasses.

In general they are inexpensive, easy to grow, require very little care, and reward the grower with brilliant, long lasting blooms and ornamental foliage. They come in a wide range of sizes from tiny miniatures to giants. They can be grown indoors in cooler climates and can also be used outdoors where temperatures stay above freezing.

Within the last hundred years, bromeliads have become more widely used as ornamental plants. Originally only found in royal botanical gardens or the private greenhouses of wealthy Europeans, their popularity has spread to the masses. Today bromeliads are more available to the enthusiast than ever before. New species are still being discovered and plant breeders are developing ever more stunning hybrids to choose from.

Residents of Garden Oaks are welcome to attend our meetings and join. Dues are \$25 for one year. Meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. with a short social time with refreshments. Our guest speaker will begin at 7:15 and at 8:00 p.m. we conduct club business.



Garden Club Officers

President

Chris Lindsay 713.819.8412

1st Vice President

Janet Cones 713.822.2532

2nd Vice President

Trish Merxham 713.688.4008

Treasurer

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May Engelhardt	Nathan & Debbie Kvinge		

Section 2

Sandy Altman & Dian Austin	Dennis & Becky Duncan	L Kennedy/J Muscara	William & Pamela Puff
Will & Keelan Armstrong	W.G. Eickenhorst	Pete & Lois Kozak	Joe & Martha Rhea
Tammy Ayers	Claudia Garia	Eduardo & Cece Krumholz	G. Roanoake/C. Kolbinger
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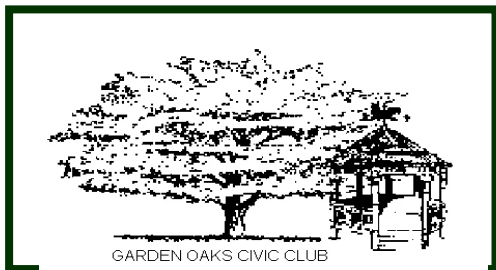
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Edward & Jerrie Akin	Emma Dyer	Tera Lyn & Wayne Campbell	Lauren Serper/Peter Seferian
Lowell Todd & Kathleen Armstrong	Scott Easterly/Bill Holden	Kelly & Kelly Mathews	Don & Lynn Sievers
John & Barbara Arnett	Neil Ferguson	Ivan Mayers/J. Mueller	Ronald & Ann Sledge
John & Cindy Bartos	Lance Free	John & Lynn McKemie	Rich & Rebecca Stark
Gail & David Bell	Sherry & Tom Freeman	Jay & Heather McKeown	Don & Lori Stokay
Jeff Benjamin/Tim Merritt	Douglas & Susan Gavin	William E. Montgomery	Dinah & Michael Sultanik
John Bos & Wende Clemence	Melissa & Jeffery Gibb	Jerry & Robbie Morrison	Gwen Syzdek
Cheryl Brown & Jeanine Fisher	Jade & Peter Gillen	Nazih & Kathleen Nasir	Howard & Toni Tate
James Burciaga	Linda & Gene Guglielmi	Larry & Kirsten Patterson	Jim & Lou Ann Taylor
Jerry Butler	Kenneth & Marva Gurrola	Lee Ream	Alvin Thomas/Dea Larson
Peter & Kathy Chang	Rita Hartman	Russell & Linda Reichle	Diana Tiberia
Andrea & James Chvatal	Tom & Carol Hazel	James and Susan Richard	David & Peggy Tinkey
The Comstock Family	Grant & Julie Holt	Tina Sabuco & Shellye Arnold	David & Deborah Veselka
Marianne Cribbin	Douglas Johnson	Dahlia Salazar	Norman L. Weindorff
Joe Crownover & J. Langdon	Cathey & Millard Land	Steve & Emily Schwarzbach	Liz & John Whitsitt
	Albert & Heidi Lozano		

Section 4

Bryan & Ellen Amsden	Chris & Brenda Funk	Patty McDaniel	Paul & Vicki Singer
Connie Bergen	Jeremy Gaige	Dale & Karen McKinney	Daniel & Vanessa Smith
Don & Jerie Bevis	Ian Gardiner	Bruce & Kathleen Meyer	Linda Sparks
Daniel & Phyllis Brockmeyer	Michael & Kimberly Hess	Bryan & Paula Motzel	Shawn & Bill Spear
Larry Broughton/R. Anastasia	Verda Holiday	Tina Nieto	Kristin Stavinoha
Marlene Caldwell	Terry Jeanes	Oscar Ochoa	Caroline Stender
Tom Chisholm/Patrick Callahan	Cindy Jennings & Dave Curran	Tom Price	Pat Streeter
Jim Corbett/Georgie Hrdlicka	Melissa Lane	Phil Ramirez	Susan Tacker & Chuck Fleming
Jason & Alisha Cunningham	Suk Larsen	Stephen & Linda Sawyer	Jason & Cat Theriot
Betty Turner Davis	Diana & Erik Larson	Lisa & Charles Schultz	John & Joan Tracy
Victor & Suzanne D'Souza	Arthur & Chris Lindsay	Amy, Bill, & Clare Shaughnessy	Thomas A. Van Dyke
Mark & Debra Ferguson	Daniel & Rosemary Lindsey	Renee Shaver/Tami Earl	Jason Feit/Marisa Zindler
Mr. and Mrs. A.T. Froehlich	Nestor Londono/J. Chamberlain		

Please join your neighbors in supporting Garden Oaks!



ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES STATEMENT GARDEN OAKS CIVIC CLUB

January - December 2009

Membership is open to all residents whether you own or rent. Please choose the level you feel most comfortable supporting. **While all memberships are voluntary, you must contribute a minimum of \$25 (or \$5 for Seniors 65 years+) in order to be eligible to vote on civic club matters.** Membership dues are for the calendar year.

Fill in Amount

\$ _____ CREPE MYRTLE: \$25.00 (\$5.00 for Seniors) Basic Household Membership

\$ _____ THE MAGNOLIA: \$50.00 (\$10.00 for Seniors) Intermediate Level – Household Membership

\$ _____ THE GOLDEN OAK: \$75.00 (\$15.00 for Seniors) Patron Level – Household Membership

\$ _____ BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP: \$50.00 (non-voting membership)

\$ _____ CONTRIBUTION TO BEAUTIFICATION (area green spaces)

\$ _____ CONTRIBUTION TO GARDEN CLUB

\$ _____ CONTRIBUTION TO THE SPARK PARK

\$ _____ TOTAL

Membership dues support all Garden Oaks Civic Club Activities: Beautification, Citizens on Patrol, The *Gazette*, Home Tour, Membership Committee, and Website. Forms are available online and payment can also be made online via paypal by going to www.gardenoaks.org/involvement/civicclub-member.html

**Please mail this completed form along with your check payable to:
Garden Oaks Civic Club, P.O. Box 10273, Houston, TX 77206. THANK YOU!**

Name(s) _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Section 5

Gisela Ables
Natalie Antinoff
Mrs. W.E. Barton
Christine Bayol
Exa Lee & Bill Bishop
Carlos Blanton & Kristine Broglio
James & Becky Brown
Debra Rene Carver
Thomas Cronin/Helen Sestak
Laurie Cunningham
Robin & Don Daly
Justin Dudley
Joyce and Jon Evans
Lucille Gilmore
Paul & Mary Gloriod
Perry & Lynda Gunter
John Hampton & Julia Rowland
Denise Hansen/J. Rodriguez
Mary and Rick Hecksel

Dick Hester
Janet & Lawrence Hitz
Jessica & Eric Jarvis
Pat Jones
Wayne & Betty Kelley
Reagan Kittell
Eleanor Larato
Tracey Martin & Alan Harbert
Sean & Caroline McLean
Woodrow B. Mehrkam
Trish & Tom Mehrkam
Juan & Laurie Munoz
Philip & Kathleen Naff
David Owen
Anthony & Maria Padilla
Marte Parham
Ron & Sheree Peoples
Deborah & Alan Pfeiffer-Traum

Tommy Phillips
Laverne Plaster
Pedro & Ilda Restrepo
Sonia Salazar
Dean Sauberli
Anne & Bill Sellis
Kenneth & Sandra Seyffert
Glen Shepperd
Ralph & Barbara Smith
Peggy Smith
Iona Nelle Smith
Claudia Staffa
Elizabeth Terrell
Terry & Ken Tomchesson
Theresa Trozzi
Jim & Mary Ellen Willburn
Business
Pat Foley Funeral Directors

Section 1A

Susan & Gary Adkins
Craig & M'lissa Dilley
Gilda & Jerry Evans
Aimee Flood
Stephen Gould
Sean & Beth Jez
Gaye Knigge
Janis Knight & Kenan Branam
Robert & Traci Koehl
Craig & Peggy Kramer
Joe & Alice Perez
Mary Lynn Porter
Sami & Laura Rahman
Carl Waters/Leslie Ryan
Ms. Floyd Weeks
Lucy Whitlow

GO Kids News

by Tonya Knauth

Moms' Night Out for April will be Thursday, April 2 at 7 pm, at Cedar Creek on W. 20th St (west of Durham).

The location of the April Family Potluck is yet to be determined - watch the listserve!

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 10:00 am at Candlelight Park.

GO Kids was started by a group of parents who want to build a family-friendly neighborhood where children and parents know each other and grow together -- all Garden Oaks families are welcome!

Not yet on the GO Kids list serve? Want more information about GO Kids? Contact Tonya Knauth at 713.628.8243, or tknauth@comcast.net.

Adding a Little Razzamatazz to Garden Oaks

Garden Oaks resident Kathryn Noser is a kid at heart. It's been said that she and her 5-year old niece, Megan, are twins separated by nearly 30 years. So when Kathryn looked into starting her own business, she took 12 years of event planning experience, her background in theater and her love of children, threw them all together to develop her business plan.

Noser says, "Megan amazes me. She looks at the world with wonder and sees boundless opportunities. When we are together, we can play dress up for hours and I am reminded of the joy in the little things. I want to bring that magic to the work I do." And thus, Razzamatazz was born.

Razzamatazz Children's Parties creates a memorable experience for kids and their parents. This full-service children's party planning company promises to reduce a parent's stress and to create a party to remember for the child and their guests -- all for little to no more than you'd spend putting the party on yourself and often less.

Parents and kids have the opportunity to visit with a consultant and choose from one of 25 themes or create a custom theme. However, Razzamatazz parties have a little something extra.

Beyond the invitations, decorations, snacks, drinks, cake and ice cream of traditional parties, each Razzamatazz party includes a host for two hours to attend to the details while you enjoy the party and each Razzamatazz kid leaves with a very special party favor. Forget the plastic bag with pencils, stickers and bubbles.

"The imagination of a child is inspiring," says Noser. "At that age we still hold firm to the belief that we can be anything we want to be -- a pirate, a princess, a fairy, a cowboy, a pop diva, a superhero. I want to help cultivate that imagination." To that end, every child leaves the party with a costume piece that they will enjoy for years to come. Kathryn's event planning background ensures that no detail is overlooked. Her theater background provides inspiration for bringing a new world to life in your home or backyard. And her love of children promises to make your child's day a celebration of the possibilities.

Doesn't your day need a little Razzamatazz? For more information, call Kathryn Noser at 713.956.2225 or go to www.razzamatazzkids.com.



Affordable and fun, full-service party planning and implementation.
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 Choose a theme or create your own special party to remember.
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 Superheroes • Dinosaurs • Mermaids • Mad Hatter Tea Party
 and many more...

Kathryn Noser • 713-829-4114 • www.razzamatazzkids.com

Houston Green EXPO

April 18-19, 2009 Free and Open to the Public

Gulf Coast Green and the City of Houston are sponsoring the second **Sustainable Energy and Green Building Consumer Expo** exclusively featuring certified green products and building materials, renewable energy, energy efficiency tips, and green vehicles. It will be free and open to the public on April 17 (Friday) from 1-4 p.m. and April 18/19 (Saturday and Sunday) from 10-5 p.m. at Reliant Park.

Gulf Coast Green is the leading green building conference on the Texas Gulf Coast. A two-day green building symposium targeted to design and construction professionals, Gulf Coast Green: Innovations in Building for Hot and Humid Climates, will immediately precede the consumer Expo.

Last year over 10,000 consumers from Houston and the Gulf Coast Region took



advantage of the opportunity to learn about green, energy efficient products and services in a hands-on atmosphere free of green misinformation. An innovative set of Green Guidelines will govern the types of products and services exhibited at the event.

The Expo will feature five themes showcasing product and retail booths, government and non-profit initiatives, and a full roster of educational presentations running throughout the two-day event. The themes are green building, energy efficiency, renewable energy, alternative transportation, and Youth Green Zone which will address strategies and technologies critical to Houston's and the Gulf Coast region's future.

Attendees are encouraged to ride MetroRail to the event.

Garden Oaks Sisterhood

by Dea Larson

Our April meeting will celebrate gardening in Garden Oaks. Join the monthly Sisterhood meeting on Thursday, April 16 at 7:30 pm at the home of Dea Larson, 823 Lamonte Lane. Help christen her new backyard garden and patio. Bring your best and/or worst garden story along with a beverage or snack to share!

The Garden Oaks Sisterhood meets the third Thursday of the month at various homes throughout our neighborhood. All Garden Oaks women are welcome to attend, and it's a great way to meet your neighbors and make new friends. Questions? Feel free to contact Dea Larson at dealarson@aol.com or 713.695.3634.

EASTER QUIZ (from page 5)

Answers:

- 1) **E:** Eostre, a pagan Anglo-Saxon Goddess, was a mythical figure said to have been the goddess of the sunrise and the spring. She is the Teutonic goddess of the dawn. The direction of the sunrise, east, is named for her. In Norse mythology, the name is spelled *Eostare*. *Eastre* is believed to be an ancient word for spring.
- 2) **C:** A celebration of spring.
- 3) **D:** Fertility. Its origin is disputed but the character was mentioned as early as 1600; some trace it to alleged pre-Christian fertility lore, others to the role of the hare in Christian iconography. The Easter Bunny as an Easter symbol seems to have its origins in Alsace and southwestern Germany, where it was first mentioned in German writings in the 1600s.
- 4) **C:** Europeans first discovered it on Easter Sunday, 1722.
- 5) **A:** Passover in Hebrew is "Pesach"; in Europe Easter is also called "Pesach."

Happy Easter! May you and your family enjoy the delights of the newness of spring and the blessings of the holiday!

DEANNA

ZUGHERI

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For more information about the *Gazette*, including ad rates and requirements go to
www.gardenoaks.org/involvement/civicclub-gazett.html

Keep Nominating Your Good Neighbors

by Megan Salch and
Terry Jeanes



Say thank you to your good neighbors and remind those here what Garden Oaks is truly about. Send us your

nomination of someone 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. Awards will be given quarterly with our first recipient to be acknowledged in the May issue of the *Gazette*.

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.

Photos of the Month

submitted by Megan Salch



Graham Park Celebration Held on Saturday, March 6, 2009.



Top left: Tony and Debbie Padon chat with Ed de Alba at the gathering.

Top right: Mia Cohoon checking out the tennis balls.

Bottom: Kirsten Cohoon and Joy Gray playing tennis.



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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Critter Corner

by Casey and Mau Mau Farris

April showers may bring May flowers, but they also bring thunder boomers. This month we have some tips to help your dog overcome fear of thunder. Our Pet of the Month has no fear now.

Pet of the Month:

"Mr. April" is a three-year old Yorkie/Lhasa Apso mix. He lives in Section III with his parents, Jo Ann and Ed Woods. During the work week the Woods' granddog, Manny (Staffordshire terrier), stays with them. Chip and Manny are the best of friends. They wrestle a lot, go for walks, and they each have their own bowl of oatmeal every morning for breakfast with their parents. There are no cholesterol problems in this household. Chip was abandoned twice and ended up at neighborhood supporter, Oak Forest Veterinary Clinic, who called the Woods' to meet Chip. As Ed says, "You don't have to read this book to know the ending." Chip was nervous and insecure as you might expect but it didn't take long before Chip was no longer afraid of anything and now has lots of friends in the neighborhood. In fact, he never meets a stranger whether they be human, dog, cat, or any animal. Living at the vet's office for four months taught him to like everybody. His favorite toys are a squeaky basketball, a porcupine, and a stuffed Big Bird. Last year, the Woods lost their Taffy (Weimaraner) and Sam (Yorkie) so their house and hearts had a big hole. But little Chip and Manny have filled that hole with joy, love and laughter. Ain't life grand!

Critters 101: Fear of Thunder

When your dog becomes frightened he tries to reduce his fear usually by destruction and escaping. Both behaviors can be dangerous for him and trouble for you. Fear of thunder is very common and affects dogs of both sexes and all breeds. There is some speculation that the dog is reacting partially to the atmospheric pressure changes during a storm, as well as to the noise itself. Dogs that display no fear of storms as puppies may develop this fear later in life. There are several ways to help your dog cope with this fear.

If your dog is crate trained or has a place that he considers his safe place, you may find that he will ride out the storm better if he is confined to his safe place. Some dogs hide in the bathroom. Dr. Dodman, a Tufts University veterinarian, proposes that frightened dogs are being affected by a build-up of static charge and seek out conductive surfaces such as sinks and pipes in the bathroom. A sink is typically supplied by metal pipes and therefore acts as an electrical grounding device.

Some dogs merely need to be reassured. However, you must be careful about the way you do this and make sure you are not inadvertently rewarding the dog for a fear reaction. If you positively reinforce fear reactions with unintentional praise, such as softly crooning or stroking when the dog exhibits fear, it is likely that the reactions will continue. By simply ignoring the storm and carrying on with your usual household routine, you send the dog the message that the storm is no big deal. Another way to reassure the dog without inadvertently praising or reinforcing the fear reaction is to massage your dog or brush your dog in long even strokes.

One solution for mild fear of storms is to associate the storms with something wonderful. If your dog has a favorite indoor game or a special treat, provide that during the storm. Many times they will get so absorbed with their game, or the possibility of a favored treat, that they will forget to worry about the storm and will start to associate the storm with good things. Another training option is to play tapes of storms, starting at a low volume and working up to a very high volume. As you stroke your dog and play with him while listening to the tapes, you will be teaching him to ignore the sound.

Any panic behavior, such as uncontrolled running, foaming at the mouth, howling consistently, aggression, or violent shaking should be considered severe and you should consult your veterinarian. Do not punish your dog for being afraid and do not force your dog to experience or be close to the sound that frightens him. This will not decrease your dog's fear.

Support Cat Catchers

Please remember to donate to Cat Catchers, c/o Bone Voyage Pet Sitting, P. O. Box 925613, Houston, TX 77292. We have many cats to spay or neuter and are low on funds. Any amount is appreciated as it all adds together and 100 percent of donations go toward surgeries.

*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.



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**2009 Garden Oaks Constable Program
Contributor Application & Contact Information**

*Please print or write legibly • All information is held strictly confidential • Mail completed applications to
Garden Oaks Constable Program, P.O. Box 10273, Houston, TX 77206.*

CONTACT INFORMATION _____ **NEW** or _____ **RENEWAL** (INVOICE MAILER)

MEMBER 1 (M1): _____

MEMBER 2 (M2): _____

ADDRESS: _____

HOME PH: _____

M1 EMAIL: _____ M2 E-MAIL: _____

M1 WORK PH: _____ M2 WORK PH: _____

M1 CELL PH: _____ M2 CELL PH: _____

IN EMERGENCY, PLEASE CONTACT: _____

HOME PH: _____ WORK PH: _____ CELL PH: _____

IN EMERGENCY, PLEASE CONTACT: _____

HOME PH: _____ WORK PH: _____ CELL PH: _____

PAYMENT OPTIONS

Enclosed find my payment for 2009 of \$180. (Make checks payable to Garden Oaks Civic Club)

I/We cannot contribute \$180 now; however, enclosed please find my/our check for \$_____.

I/We will participate via bank draft. (Complete DRAFT AUTHORIZATION FORM below only if NEW)

Many of our neighbors live on limited, fixed incomes. Are you willing to adopt a neighbor?

Yes! Please accept my additional gift of \$_____ for the year (enclosed) OR \$_____ per month (bank draft option only).

DRAFT AUTHORIZATION FORM

I, _____, hereby authorize **Chase Bank**/to begin Direct Debiting of my Bank

Account Number _____ at _____ Bank and Bank

Routing Number _____ for my participation.

This monthly authorization remains in effect until written notice is given to the **Constable Chair of the Garden Oaks Civic Club**. If any changes occur to my bank account, I will promptly notify the **Constable Chair of the Garden Oaks Civic Club** so that my Constable Program dues can be directly debited from the correct account.

- Please take \$15 out of my account monthly for the Garden Oaks Constable Patrol Program.
- This authorization includes a debit for an additional \$_____ monthly gift to the program.
- This authorization includes permission for a \$15 cancellation fee.

Printed Name _____

Date _____

Signature _____

Telephone _____

*******Attach voided check & mail to Garden Oaks Constable Program PO Box 10273 Houston Tx 77206**

Constable Program...You Make a Difference

by Terry Jeanes & Susan Love-Saranie

Yes, you make a difference. Your action via your calls and financial support all contribute to making this neighborhood a safer place. Again I wish to stress, as reported by Carl Waters of Citizens Patrol, 2008 crime incidents were down to 78 from 102 incidents reported in 2007, a 24 % decrease.

Your calls led to the arrest of a flasher/peeping tom last month. As has been reported, most of the calls made for what appear to be suspicious activities are of merit, although occasionally a neighbor may be stopped inadvertently, and your patience in these situations is greatly appreciated. Please remember that the responding Deputy is just doing his job following up on the call.

Continued thanks go out to all of you who support our program. To those of you who may have not yet joined, please take the time now to complete and return your supporter form. We need you! Forms may be downloaded from www.gardenoaks.org/Resources/ContributorForm2009.pdf or you can sign up online via Pay Pal at www.gardenoaks.org/involvement/civicclub-consta.html

Vacation watch form - <http://gardenoaks.org/Resources/VacationWatch.pdf>

Again you are an additional set of eyes and ears! Call the Constable Dispatch at 713.755.7628, no matter the time of day or night. Your call could make the difference.

PRECINCT ONE CONSTABLE DISPATCH 713.755.7628

Garden Oaks Outreach

a classified listing

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.

FEBRUARY 2009 Statistics

Miles Patrolled: 2965
 Court Citations: 39
 Alarm Responses: 4
 Written Warnings: 5
 Vacations Watches: 21
 Suspicious Vehicles: 13
 Park checks: 128
 Criminal Offenses: 0
 Arrests: 3

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www.tommievaughn.com**



April 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Mom's Night Out at Cedar Creek 7 pm	3	4
5	6	7 Civic Club Meeting 7 pm	8	9 Garden Club Meeting Kroger 7pm	10	11
12 HAPPY EASTER	13	14 	15 GOMO meeting, 7:30 pm Income Tax Day	16 GO Sisterhood 823 Lamonte Ln, 7:30 pm	17	18
19	20	21	22 Earth Day	23	24 Arbor Day	25
26	27	28 	29	30		

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