April 2009

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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!

Save the Date

Sunday May 17, 2009 1 pm
GARDEN OAKS OLD FASHIONED PICNIC
Bring your own picnic Garden Oaks Spark Park Traditional Picnic Games and Dessert Provided
More details – Terry Jeanes

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.

Inquries 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.

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
gazette_delivery@gardenoaks.org

Tim Merritt—Advertising Director
814 W. 43rd  832.474.0770
gazette_ads@gardenoaks.org

Proofreaders
Carol Smith, John Tyler and Dian Austin

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

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

Terry Jeanes—Constable Program
922 W. 41st  713.812.9154
constable@gardenoaks.org

April 2009
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

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.

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.

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

Shannon & Associates, Inc.
Shannon L. Nelson, ASID
Registered Interior Designer #2026
Studio 713-802-9301
Fax 713-802-0071
Wireless 713-304-2551
Residential & Commercial Interior Design
Renovation * Construction
208 W. 34th STREET HOUSTON, TEXAS 77018
Garden Oaks

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 Gazette’s 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 fallingwatert@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)
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.
Ron Adair
Brandley & Tiffany Alexander
Pamela & David Anderson
George Anderson-Wood
Brian & Jaime Ball
Richard Baltz & Craig Adair
Michael Bell
Robert & Jo Bewley
John Blount
Darrin & Kimberly Bollenbach
Claire Bresnahan
Sheila Briones
Jim Capfer/Lisa Peters
Suzanne Debien
Gil & Suzanne DePaul
Rita Donaldson
John & Ann Duggin
Brian Dupnick
Jennie & Bill Edwards
Thelma Elizalde
Susan & James Elmore
May Engelhardt
Falschlechner
MA Flores/JL Dansby
Ernest Fruge/Christine Adams
Robert & Lindsey Gabriel
Kevin & Jody Garey
Graham & Kristiann Gips
Keith & Katie Glenn
Julie Gomez
Joanna & Chuck Graham
Phillip & Elinor Gregory
Ann Hamilton
Mary M. Hamilton
Evelyn Hein
Mark & Ann Herzog
Ginny Howard
Allison Hutton
Michael Joe/Thomas Schwartz
Michael & Bonnie Jones
Don A. King
Mrs. Doris Koebele
Luanne & Lawrence Kopecky
Nathan & Debbie Kvinge
Craig Lee
Lance & Jessica Lightfoot
Jesse Lopez
Lucy Lopez
Peri Mashburn
Peggy McClard/Randall Segotta
McQuade/Reno
Jeff McShan
Russ & Crista Meyer
William W. Morris
Barry & Susan Morris
Kimberley & Bob Mullins
Gwen Munden
Cheryl Murray
Neathery
Mark Neff
Kelly & Sandra O'Guynn
Bertrand Oriot
L. Rasco
Nieves Reyes
Jane Ann & Marc Roberts
Sandy Altman & Dian Austin
Will & Keelan Armstrong
Tammy Ayers
Bruce & Robin Bailey
Ronald Belanger & Gary Voth
Adrian & Carey Berry
Ed & Brenda de Alba
Emmet Doherty & SJ Gonzales
James J. Doyle
Jim & Linda Janssen
Dennis & Becky Duncan
W.G. Eickenhorst
Claudia Garcia
Anne Joyce Gattis
Mohammad-Al & Elham Golshan
Gale & Robin Gorman
David Heiland/Gary Russell
Mary Gerin Hines
Jim & Linda Janssen
Ken & Mel Johnson
L Kennedy/J Muscara
Pete & Lois Kozak
Eduardo & Cece Krumholz
Elaine Maniha
Jorge & Mary Martinez
Susan & Bill McMillian
Johnathan Morgan
Kurt & Marlene Nondorf
O'Leary/Appling
Edward & Jerrie Akin
Lowell Todd & Kathleen Armstrong
John & Barbara Arnett
John & Cindy Bartos
Gail & David Bell
Jeff Benjamin/Tim Merritt
John Bos & Wende Clemence
Cheryl Brown & Jeanine Fisher
James Burciaga
Jerry Butler
Peter & Kathy Chang
Andrea & James Chvatal
The Comstock Family
Marianne Cribbin
Joe Crownover & J. Langdon
Emma Dyer
Scott Easterly/Bill Holden
Neil Ferguson
Lance Free
Sherry & Tom Freeman
Douglas & Susan Gavin
Melissa & Jeffery Gibb
Jade & Peter Gillen
Linda & Gene Guglielmi
Kenneth & Marva Gurrola
Rita Hartman
Tom & Carol Hazel
Grant & Julie Holt
Douglas Johnson
Cathey & Millard Land
Albert & Heidi Lozano
Tera Lyn & Wayne Campbell
Kelly & Kelly Mathews
Ivan Mavroy/J. Mueller
John & Lynn McKemie
Jay & Heather McKeown
William E. Montgomery
Jerry & Robbie Morrison
Nathan & Kathleen Nasir
Larry & Kirsten Patterson
Lee Ream
Russell & Linda Reichle
James and Susan Richard
Tina Sabuco & Shellye Arnold
Dahlia Salazar
Steve & Emily Schwarzbach
Lauren Serper/Peter Seferian
Don & Lynn Stevers
Ronald & Ann Sledge
Rick & Rebecca Stark
Don & Lori Stoyer
Dinah & Michael Sultanik
Gwen Syzdek
Howard & Toni Tate
Jim & Lou Ann Taylor
Alvin Thomas/Dea Larson
Diana Tiberia
David & Peggy Tinkey
David & Deborah Veselka
Norman L. Weindorff
Liz & John Whitsitt
Bryan & Ellen Amsden
Connie Bergen
Don & Jerie Bevis
Daniel & Phyllis Brockmeyer
Larry Broughton/R. Anastasia
Marlene Caldwell
Tom Chisholm/Patrick Callahan
Jim Corbett/Georgie Hrdlicka
Jason & Alisha Cunningham
Betty Turner Davis
Victor & Suzanne D'Souza
Mark & Debra Ferguson
Mr. and Mrs. A.T. Froehlich
Chris & Brenda Funk
Jeremy Gaige
Ian Gardiner
Michael & Kimberly Hess
Verda Holyd
Terry Jeanes
Cindy Jennings & Dave Curran
Melissa Lane
Suk Larsen
Diana & Erik Larson
Arthur & Chris Lindsay
Daniel & Rosemary Lindsey
Nestor Londono/J. Chamberlain
Patty McDaniel
Dale & Karen McKinney
Bruce & Kathleen Meyer
Bryan & Paula Motzel
Tina Nieto
Oscar Ochoa
Tom Price
Phil Ramirez
Stephen & Linda Sawyer
Lisa & Charles Schultz
Amy, Bill, & Clare Shaughnessy
Renee Shaver/Tami Earl
Paul & Vicki Singer
Daniel & Vanessa Smith
Linda Sparks
Shawn & Bill Spear
Kristin Stavinoha
Caroline Stender
Pat Streeter
Susan Tacker & Chuck Fleming
Jason & Cat Theriot
John & Joan Tracy
Thomas A. Van Dyke
Jason Feit/Marisa Zindler
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
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 Stauffa
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
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.

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.

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.

Razzamatazz Children’s Parties

Affordable and fun, full-service party planning and implementation.
Themed dress up parties for boys and girls where every child takes a costume home!
Choose a theme or create your own special party to remember.
Princess • Pirate • Cowboys • Fairies • Pop Diva • Teddy Bear Picnic
Superheroes • Dinosaurs • Mermaids • Mad Hatter Tea Party
and many more...

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

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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.

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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 Eostre. 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!
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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Come meet our new doctors

Hallie Ray Moore, DVM
Jessica Nantz, DVM

Drop-off Service
Surgery
Vaccinations
Dentals
Boarding & Grooming
Baths

Supporting our community since 1964

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Oak Forest Veterinary Clinic

Monday - Friday: 7:00 AM - 6:00 PM
By appointment only
Saturday: 7:30 - 11:30 AM
Walk-in’s welcome
2120 West 34th Street
(Between T.C. Jester & Ella)
(713) 682 - 6351
www.oakforestvetclinic.com
April showers may bring May flowers, but they also bring thunder boomer dust. 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.
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

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: __________________________
IN EMERGENCY, PLEASE CONTACT:

HOME PH: __________________________ WORK 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


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.

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

You don’t have to travel far to purchase or service your car!

TOMMIE VAUGHN

★ New & Used Sales
★ Full Service & Maintenance Departments
★ Diesel Repair Facilities
★ Parts & Accessories Department
★ Collision Repair Center

1201 N. Shepherd
1 Mile North of I-10
Call Don Stokey at 713-412-2464 or 713-802-6633
www.tommievaughn.com

Ask for Don Stokey, Garden Oaks Resident of 20 Years and Sales Representative with Tommie Vaughn 21 Years
## April 2009

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### Just Listed

**Call me about these great listings and others in Garden Oaks or contact me for a free market analysis of your home.**

- **807 W. 41st**
- **4219 Apollo**

[DEANNA@GARDENOAKSHOMES.COM] (mailto:DEANNA@GARDENOAKSHOMES.COM) - 281.658.4514