

GARDEN OAKS GAZETTE

VOLUME 33

ISSUE 8

RED WHITE AND BLUE JULY 4th BICYCLE PARADE



Thanks to everyone who came out to support and enjoy the July 4th parade, which was generously organized and sponsored by Deanna Zugheri.



SEND IN YOUR IDEAS FOR THE 2010 HOME AND GARDEN TOUR THEME

Winner gets a \$100 gift card.
Send suggestions to:
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sueschmidt1@comcast.net

DAYTIME CIVIC CLUB CONSTABLE IN DANGER OF CANCELLATION DUE TO FUNDS SHORTAGE.

YOUR SUPPORT NEEDED NOW!
See form & article enclosed

AUG 2009

CIVIC CLUB MEETINGS

August 4 Civic Club Meeting

Join us as we hear from Heidi Sheesley, owner of Treeseach Farms.

September 1 Civic Club Meeting

Meet the Candidates Night
Come hear from candidates from the City of Houston mayor's race and candidates for City Council District A.

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

REMINDERS

October 6, 2009 National Night Out.

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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.

934 Lamonte **1038 Althea**
423 West 32nd **1039 West 41st**
1070 West 42nd **231 West 32nd**
978 West 41st

August birthdays

Katherine Knauth 4th
Rick Knauth & Gracie Marie Mulry 9th
Warren Walden 14th
Elizabeth Johnson 20th
Matt Veech 22nd
Tony Padon & Trent Salch 23rd
Bridgette Martinez 26th
Emma Kathryn Carvell & Debbie Padon 28th

Happy anniversary

Pat Buron and **Shelly Rogers** 25 years on August 5

Out and about

Patty Walters just returned from a week in Montreal, Canada. The grounds and gardens where she stayed were fantastic, and the weather was cooler allowing her to sleep under a big comforter with the windows open.

Congratulations

To **Pete** and **Tori Vonderhaar** and big sister **Casey** on the birth of their twin girls.

Graduations

Anne Frugé and **Christopher Frugé**, graduates of Garden Oaks Elementary Montessori Program and life-long residents of Garden Oaks, announce their respective May 2009 college and high school graduations. Anne graduated from UT-Austin, Plan II Honors Program then heads off to Belgium for an internship and French language immersion. She plans to attend graduate school and pursue a career with the U.S. State Dept. of Foreign Service. Christopher graduated from the IB

program at Lamar H.S. After working this summer in Austin on a grassroots-organization project, he will attend Harvard University. One of Christopher's Harvard essays was about his GO Montessori teacher, **Mrs. Beverly Carson**. The entire Frugé family is thankful to all those who made the GO Montessori program a reality.

Special thoughts and concerns

Condolences to **Tina Sabuco** and **Shelley Arnold**. Tina's mother **Evie Sabuco** passed away on July 4. Thoughts to **Ronda Kelly** and the family of **Bill Kelly** who passed away June 27. Condolences to the family of **James Feak** who passed away July 7. Condolences go out to **Mel Johnson** whose mother, **Mary Gorman**, passed away in England in early July. Mel worked in London for most of this year and took care of her mother during her illness.

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

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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CITIZEN'S PATROL

by Carl Waters, Jr.

It is not too soon to start planning your National Night Out party. This year the event will be celebrated on October 6. Please let me know if you are hosting a block party, and I will try to get an officer from HPD to stop by for a visit.

May Crime Statistics: 7

Burglaries: 6

- 800 block of Lamonte Ln. on Thursday, April 30, at 7:00 p.m. (garage)
- 700 block of Sue Barnett Dr. on Friday, May 1, at 5:00 p.m. (vacant home)
- 1400 block of Sue Barnett Dr. on Wednesday, May 6, at midnight (unknown)
- 800 block of Lamonte Ln. on Friday, May 8, at midnight (residence)
- 800 block of Lamonte Ln. on Tuesday, May 12, at 8:30 a.m. (residence)
- 800 block of W. 43rd St. on Thursday, May 14, at 8:00 a.m. (residence)

Burglary of Motor Vehicle: 1

- 300 block of W. 34th St. on Wednesday,

April 29, at 6:00 p.m. (driveway)

Neighborhood crime as reported on the HPD Web site has been fairly even this year with between four to six incidents reported each month. From January to May of this year, four fewer crimes have been reported than through the same time last year.

Inquiries about joining the Citizens Patrol Program or about other community safety issues can be directed to me via neighborhood Web site GardenOaks.org, 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

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GOMO Board of Directors

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

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Terms expire October of year in parentheses.

GOMO UPDATE

by Ed de Alba

Annual Meeting To Be Held October 21

The GOMO annual meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 21 at Garden Oaks Elementary starting at 7:00p.m. The business to be transacted will include the election of several directors and the voting on the spending of surplus funds.

Director Positions Open

Section 1: Two positions will open in Section 1. Graham Gips recently transferred to Lagos, Nigeria and his position is open. The term for this position ends in 2010. The term of the position currently held by Kathy Horner ends October 31. The term for this position runs through October of 2012. If you are interested in running for one of these seats you will need to specify which term you are running for.

Section 2: The term of the position currently held by Ed de Alba ends October 31. The term for this position will run through October of 2012.

Section 3: The term of the position currently held by Ivan Mayers ends October 31. The term for this position will run through October of 2012.

Section 5: Two director positions will open in Section 5. The term for the seat held by John Ciccarelli ends October 31. The term for this position runs through October of 2012. The term for the position formerly held by Mitch Katine ends in 2010. Mitch stepped down earlier this year because of conflicting time commitments. If you are interested in running for one of these seats you will need to specify which term you are running for.

Please contact any of the GOMO Directors listed in the Gazette if you are interested in running for any of the open positions.

The Requirements of the Positions Are:

- Must be 18 years or older
- Must own property and live within the Garden Oaks Section for the Director's position that you are volunteering to stand election for
- All property owned in Garden Oaks must be in compliance with the Garden Oaks Deed Restrictions,

excluding violations that existed before your ownership of the property

- If no Member residing in the Section stands for election, then a Member who is an owner in that Section, but lives in another Section, may stand for election as a "Non-Section Director", whose term is 1 year
- Must sign a statement attesting to the above

Surplus Funds

GOMO has surplus funds available for disbursement this next fiscal year.

GOMO currently supports two constable patrols in Garden Oaks, spending on neighborhood greenspaces, and neighborhood infrastructure. If you have a proposal for a neighborhood improvement project please submit your ideas to any GOMO director or to gomo@gardenoaks.org.

Funds not spent or not committed to be spent within the fiscal year beginning November 1, 2008, will be returned to the general fund.

Audit for 2008 Completed

The audit for the 2008 fiscal year was presented at our July business meeting by Patrick Durio of Durio and Company, P.C. GOMO is in good standing and in a solid financial position. All members will receive a copy in the October Newsletter. The audit results are also available on the GOMO website.

An Open Invitation to our Meetings

We would like to personally invite all GOMO Members to all of our meetings. Democracy works best in an open environment and that is as true at the neighborhood level as it is at the Federal and State levels. There is no better way for the people of our community to see for themselves how we evaluate the building plans brought to us and how we reach consensus.

It is also the best way to get your questions answered. The GOMO Board is made up of 12 people and the Board doesn't have an "opinion" about a topic unless a majority of a

quorum forms a consensus view. So no one Board Member is able to tell you what GOMO "thinks" about an issue or idea until we have an opportunity to deliberate and form a collective opinion. The formation of GOMO policy and opinion takes place at 7:00 p.m., on every third Wednesday of the month at our business meeting held at the GOMO Office, Garden Oaks Professional Building, 4001 N. Shepherd, Suite 216. You are very welcome to attend, make suggestions, propose ideas, ask questions, clarify rumors or simply observe the process.



BEAUTIFICATION UPDATE

by Brenda & Ed de Alba

As we went to press we received a wonderful gift of roses from Heidi Sheesly of Treeseach Farms. Treeseach gave the neighborhood 60, 3 gallon roses of 3 different varieties- Roberta, Old Blush and Katy Road Pink. All of these varieties do well in the Houston area. These roses wholesale for \$12.50 and, by any measure, this is a substantial gift. Our initial plans are to add some to the Rose Garden in Section 1, and we are looking at some of our

other parks where we have abundant sunshine to place the rest.

Heidi will also be speaking at the August civic club meeting. Please join us and hear a presentation from a truly knowledgeable plant person and horticultural innovator. One lucky attendee will receive a gift certificate to be redeemed for a tree from Treeseach. Who knows... we may even see a few of the gift roses offered as door prizes.

In other neighborhood greenspace matters I am sure you have noticed the lack of rain we've endured for the last several months. Please call us if you see one of our greenspaces in distress. We rely on you, our neighbors, to keep us informed on the status of the parks near your home. We do not inspect them on a regular basis so we need your help in letting us know if things are looking too dry or too wet. Please call us at home, 713.694.5934.

We recently replaced many of the heads and automated the sprinklers on Garden Oaks Blvd. Some of the damage was due to Ike, some due to mowers, and some due to miscreants driving across the boulevard. We are still trying to get the city to remove the last of the tree stumps from the storm.

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| 436 W. 30th St. | 870 W. 42nd St. |
| 516 W. 30th St. | 823 W. 43rd St. |
| 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 |
| 750 W. 41st St. | 839 Lamonte |
| 818 W. 41st St. | 3205 Lawrence |
| 858 W. 41st St. | 1325 Sue Barnett |
| 862 W. 41st St. | 1458 Sue Barnett |
| 970 W. 41st St. | 1506 Sue Barnett |
| 718 W. 42nd St. | 1575 Sue Barnett |

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

by Scott Easterly

Yes, another article from your president. After all of the details included in the July articles, I promise to keep this one shorter.

Our membership and participation continues to grow. Thank you for your commitment and involvement. As of July 7 our membership stands at 348! We have received enough contributions to the daytime constable patrol to pay for our contract through September. I met a new resident member who recently moved to Garden Oaks from the Heights largely due to our active civic club and great website. Word is spreading about our special community!

A new membership benefit established by Dian Austin, membership chair, is an e-mail group of all submitted and legible addresses. We will use this for meeting notices and quick updates on pressing topics or situations. These updates will be posted on the www.gardenoaks.org website for non-members, so be sure to check it regularly.

Our July program on drainage in Garden Oaks was very interesting thanks to Chris Lindsay who was able to secure representatives from the Harris County Flood Control District and the City of Houston Storm Water Maintenance. Our area is scheduled for some improvements in the 2011 budget cycle. The PowerPoint presentation from HCFCD showed areas of Garden Oaks that tend to pond after heavy rains. They are most concerned to learn of all structural and home flooding to concentrate on preventing re-occurrences. They also want to learn about street and property flooding but these are secondary concerns. Large maps of Garden Oaks were made available for us to note structural flooding, defined as at least 1" inside the house, not the garage that is at a lower grade, and street and property flooding. These different types are to be color coded.

Chris Lindsay graciously agreed to be our liaison with HCFCD and gathered up these maps with specific addresses noted and submitted these. She will have maps available at our August 4 civic club

meeting. You can also e-mail her at: chris.lindsay@sbcglobal.net or call her cell phone, 713.819.8412 to give her your address, including street numbers and what type of flooding you wish to report.

HCFCD primarily is responsible for open ditches, such as the one running along the railroad track. The ditch along the railroad track has not been dug out in years due to an easement dispute with the railroad. It has been cleared but the easement still needs to be resolved. City council candidate for District A, Lane Lewis, questioned and spoke to them at length aside from the meeting on how to force a resolution to this issue.

The City Storm Water Maintenance is responsible for the ditches and most sewers in our neighborhood. To report clogged culverts under driveways and standing water issues please report these by calling 311. The city is supposed to respond to issues within 90 days. Fewer than 200 people are responsible for 7,000 miles of drainage.

Remember that 2010 National Neighbors Night Out has been moved to Tuesday, October 6 from 6-9 p.m. Start planning your block or section parties now. Consider adding an ethnic or geographic theme. We have many neighbors who have lived in or are from many countries. There was much creativity on display in the July 4th parade. Special thanks to Deanna Zugheri for sponsoring and organizing the parade and to city council member Toni Lawrence for serving as our grand marshal.

The City of Houston wants your feedback and opinion reflected in their current survey of customer service to residents in an ongoing effort to improve. Go online to participate: <http://surveys.dir-online.com/se.ashx?s=70FDD09633609231>. The survey data is being collected and tabulated by Houston city controller Anise D. Parker. The results will be available at www.houstontx.gov/controller/index.html.

If you are becoming a more involved activist like me, you may want to receive council member Toni Lawrence's District A's e-mailed newsletter. Sign up for this at districta@cityofhouston.net.



GAZETTE BLOCK CAPTAINS OF THE MONTH

by Dian Austin

August's Gazette Block Captains of the Month are two residents who have been very actively involved in the neighborhood since they first moved here about 10 years ago. Joe Muscara and Lori Kennedy and their cat, Meaux Trouble Than He's Worth Ruttiger Winston Kennedy (there must be another story there), live in the 700 block of Sue Barnett. Joe and Lori have delivered *Gazettes* to their block for about five or six years.

Joe and Lori are constable, civic club and home tour supporters. They actively were involved in getting GOMO passed, and Lori serves on GOMO. Joe is the webmaster for www.gardenoaks.org, having been involved since the start of the site. Joe was *Gazette* editor for several years. Joe's web development business has been a home tour sponsor by doing the home tour auction website for no charge since it was started. Lori has been civic club secretary and was very involved in the rewriting of the civic club bylaws.

Joe writes and records his own songs and plays keyboards for bands around town under the name of Joe Stone. Lori, also a bass guitar player, is senior legal assistant at M.D. Anderson.

Joe and Lori set a great example of giving back to our community. For their continued *Gazette* diligence, they win a \$25 gift certificate to Tony's Mexican Restaurant, courtesy of OD's Printing (Oscar Ochoa). Thanks, Joe and Lori!

If anyone wants to join the Great Gazette Delivery Team, 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 your Gazette is not being delivered on time, please let me know too!



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Paint your house's exterior before you put it on the market.

Remove or replace any dead or dying trees, hedges or shrubs and prune anything that looks scraggly or overgrown.

Be sure that all gutters and down-spouts are in place and clean. Replace missing roof shingles and broken or cracked windows. Check exterior lights to be certain that they're working properly.

Clear everything out of the garage that you don't need.

Keep your windows spotless inside and out throughout the marketing period.

Buyers will notice strong smells as soon as they walk through your front door. Eliminate smoke, mildew, and pet odors. Aromas from fragrant goodies like freshly baked gingerbread or just-brewed coffee bring back wonderful memories of home.

If any of your sinks or bathtubs drain slowly, unclog them.

Always have fresh towels in bathrooms. Buy new shower curtains; old ones usually have mildew. Put new soap in the soap dishes.

Keep your stove, oven, refrigerator, microwave oven and other appliances spotlessly clean inside and out. Keep clutter off of kitchen counters and dirty dishes out of the sink. Clear everything off your refrigerator.

Painting isn't expensive if you do it yourself, but be careful when selecting interior colors. Avoid cherry red, canary yellow, cobalt blue, emerald green, and other bold colors with strong visual impact.

RED WHITE AND BLUE J

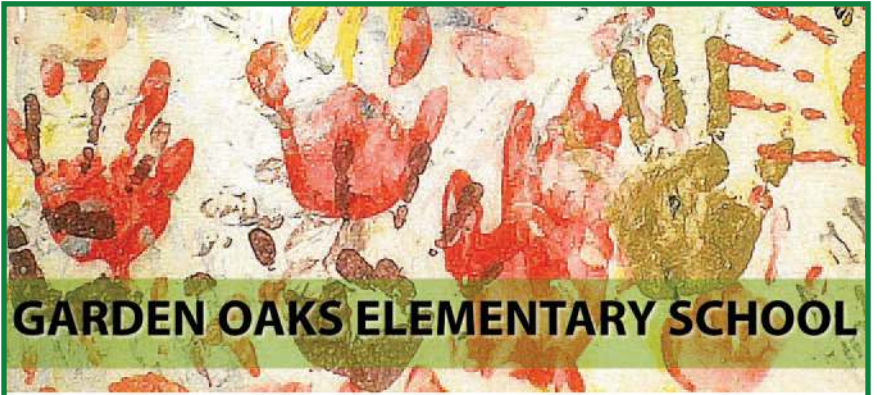


Congratulations to participants and award winners and many thanks to all the volunteers.

Photos courtesy of John Bartos



JULY 4th BICYCLE PARADE



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GO KIDS NEWS

by Sarah McGee Heath

How can it already be August? I hope everyone was able to beat the heat and enjoy the summer. Just a few more weeks until the kids are back in school so join us for these great activities and celebrate the end of summer!

Save the date for our "Back to School Wet & Wild Potluck." The Kurtas Family has graciously invited the neighborhood over for what is sure to be a fun afternoon. Please bring your favorite dish to share as well as a school supply donation to the YMCA's Operation Backpack. Drinks will be provided for the young and old. We will have kiddie pools and sprinkler toys, so bring your swimsuit! See you August 15 at 883 West 41st Street between 4-6 p.m.

Kids home from school driving you crazy? You need a Moms' Night Out! We will meet at Tony's Mexican Restaurant, 2222 Ella Blvd., Thursday August 6, at 7:00 p.m. Come indulge in a margarita and some fun conversations! Contact Maricela Pina at pinamaricela@yahoo.com for more information.

Are you or someone you know an overwhelmed, sleep-deprived new parent? Take heart because help is on the way. We are happy to provide several meals to new families during those stressful first few weeks. If you are expecting or know a neighbor who is, please contact our Dinner Drop Coordinator Amber Berend at amber.berend@yahoo.com and she'll set you up.

Come play at our all-ages GO Playgroup Mondays and Fridays, from 10-12 a.m. at the SPARK Park. Come a little earlier to beat the heat. We will be able to use the park without signing in until the first day of school, August 24. Stay tuned for more details about our new meeting place and times once school is back in session.

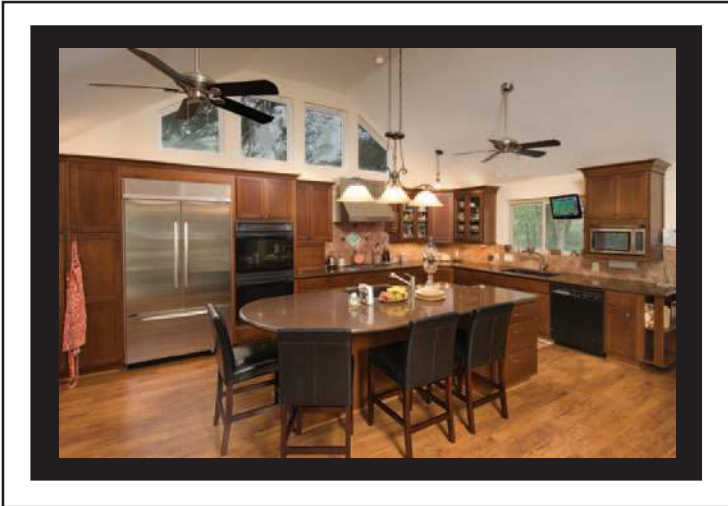
Would you like to be more involved with GO Kids? Do you have some great

ideas or programs you'd like to see implemented? Contact Sarah Heath at sarahmheath@gmail.com for more information. We are always looking for energetic volunteers, and this is a fantastic way to help our community and meet some great families. *GO Kids was started by a group of parents who wanted to build a family friendly neighborhood where children and parents know each other and grow together. All Garden Oaks families are welcome.*

Not on the GO Kids list serve? Want more information about GO Kids? Contact Sarah Heath at 713.812.1355 or sarahmheath@gmail.com.

Parents remember to bring your children to the Civic Club meetings for fun activities and child care with Hannah Stanchi.

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BACK-TO-SCHOOL TIPS

by Lindsey Pollock, GOES Principal

It's school time again! Your child may be feeling excited and maybe a little sad that summer is over. Some kids feel nervous or a little scared on the first day of school because of all the new things: new teachers, new friends and maybe even a new school. Luckily, these new worries only stick around for a little while. By planning ahead, your child's transition to school can be smooth whether it is their first day of PK or the 5th grade! Here are some tips from the American Academy of Pediatrics that may help:

Making the first day easier

- Remind your child that she is not the only student who is a bit uneasy about the first day of school. Teachers know that students are anxious and will make an extra effort to make sure everyone feels as comfortable as possible.
- Point out the positive aspects of starting school: It will be fun. She'll see old friends and meet new ones. Refresh her memory about previous years, when she may have returned home after the first day with high spirits because she had a good time.
- Find another child in the neighborhood with whom your youngster can walk to school or ride with.
- If you feel it is appropriate, drive or walk your child to school and pick her up on the first day.

Backpack safety

- Choose a backpack with wide, padded shoulder straps and a padded back.
- Pack light. Organize the backpack to use all of its compartments. Pack heavier items closest to the center of the back. The backpack should never weigh more than 10 to 20 percent of the student's body weight.
- Always use both shoulder

straps. Slinging a backpack over one shoulder can strain muscles.

- Consider a rolling backpack. This type of backpack may be a good choice for students who must tote a heavy load. Remember that rolling backpacks still must be carried up stairs.

Traveling to and from school

Talk to your child about how he or she will be going home after school and communicate the plan to the school in writing. Safety is number one so practice the routine with your child the week before school, and be sure they can show you they know their way home.

Teacher Meet and Greet at Garden Oaks is Thursday August, 20 from 4 – 7 p.m. Registration begins August 10 for all grades including the tuition-based Pre-Kindergarten! Enroll and join the Mighty Eagles for a wonderful school year!

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**CIVIC CLUB OFFICER
HIGHLIGHT**

Treasurer Phil Ramirez

by Jessica Jarvis

The Garden Oaks civic club is served by a number of very talented and dedicated individuals willing to volunteer their time and talents to our neighborhood. One of those individuals is Phil Ramirez who is serving his first year as treasurer.

Phil and wife Gina are the proud parents of Isabella who turns six this month, and Antonio who turned four in June. Free time is spent largely around the kids. "They are the best thing that happened to us," said Phil. "Swim season is upon us and lately that seems to be THE thing they want to do most." The kids also just got into Tae Kwon-Do and really enjoy it.

Phil decided to lend his talents as treasurer at the urging of Jay Tatum, who pointed out that it had been very difficult to find people who were interested in serving. The Ramirez's moved to Garden Oaks July 1, 2004 and wish they'd found the neighborhood sooner. "Mature trees and the proximity to downtown were the things that brought us here," said Phil. "Now we feel very lucky to have met some really great friends. There are so many very nice people who live in Garden Oaks."

Thank you Phil, for the time and talents you bring to our neighborhood as a valued volunteer!



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YARD OF THE MONTH

The Deveau and Santos Household

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CONSTABLE PROGRAM

Daytime deputy may be cancelled after September due to funds shortage

by Terry Jeanes & Susan Love – Saranie

Funds currently are available to keep Garden Oaks daytime deputy here through the end of September. Many thanks to those who sent in contributions to provide coverage through this time. However, we still are short of fulfilling the commitment through November and need your immediate help. Please send in your money now by using the constable supporter form in this issue.

If you are not a member, please join immediately. Urge your neighbors to sign up. Garden Oaks crime statistics have been declining since with our programs existence and the increased coverage of our deputies. For the safety of the community please join us today. Your support will make a difference.

The form can be found at www.gardenoaks.org/Resources/ContributorForm2009.pdf.



Precinct One Constable Dispatch:

713-755-7628

June 2009 Statistics

- Miles patrolled 2746
- Court citations 19
- Alarm responses 2
- Written warnings 0
- Vacations watches 52
- Suspicious vehicles 13
- Park checks 158
- Criminal offenses 1
- Arrests 2




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GARDEN OAKS CIVIC CLUB MEETING MINUTES

by Cindy Bartos, Secretary

July 7, 2009

Location: Garden Oaks Elementary School cafeteria

Welcome: President Scott Easterly called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. Scott welcomed and recognized new attendees. A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the June 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. Phil announced that we have enough funding to pay for the constable program through August.

Program: Scott introduced Luis Guido, Public Works maintenance manager with the City of Houston and Gary Bezemek, Harris County Flood Control, Planning Division. Bezemek presented an overview of the Flood Control District and provided maps displaying the drainage channels as well as the low lying/ponding areas in Garden Oaks. Guido addressed specific concerns of residents and provided printed maps of Garden Oaks, asking attendees to mark their concerns on the map. The map will be available at next month's civic club meeting. Information concerning storm water management can be found at www.swmp.org. Chris Lindsay agreed to serve as our contact and representative between the civic club members and the city and Harris County

Standing committee reports

- Constable Program: Funds have been coming in, and we were able to make the July payment for the August daytime contract.
- Beautification: Brenda de Alba reported on recent repairs done to the irrigation system on the green space at the Garden Oaks Boulevard. She asked that if anyone notices the grass dying or other problems with the irrigation at the pocket parks to call her number

listed in the *Gazette*.

- *Gazette*: no report.
- Garden Oaks Citizen's Patrol Program: Scott Easterly reported for Carl Waters the neighborhood had seven crimes in May compared to nine crimes reported the same time last year.
- Garden Oaks.org website: Joe Muscara had no report. Scott Easterly announced that he is asking Joe to update the Web site frequently with neighborhood news and encouraged all to check the site.
- Membership: Dian Austin reported we have a membership of 348 family members. Carey Berry won the raffle prize, a \$25 gift card for Lowe's. As a membership benefit, Dian has compiled an e-mail list to be used to distribute notices and concerns that occur outside of the time frame for publication in the *Gazette*. If you are a member of the civic club and did not receive a reminder to this month's program topic earlier in the week then we do not have a valid email address. Please provide that information to Dian at membership@gardenoaks.org.
- Home Tour: The date is set for Sunday, April 25, 2010. There is a contest for the theme with a \$100 gift card prize. Submit your ideas to: Fallingwater@yahoo.com or Sueschmidt1@comcast.net.

Garden Oaks Garden Club: Chris Lindsay announced the field trip on July 9 to The Red Balloon Café and the next meeting will be August 13 at the Kroger's Community Room, 7:00 p.m. The program will be on bromeliads.

Garden Oaks Maintenance

Organization (GOMO): Ed de Alba and the GOMO committee met during the meeting with an attendee to discuss plans.

Announcements: President Scott Easterly thanked Deanna Zugheri for her sponsorship and organization of the 4th of July Parade. Heidi Sheesley from Tresearch Farms

will be the speaker at the August 4 civic club meeting.

The civic club meeting on September 1 will be Meet the Candidates Night with candidates from the City of Houston mayor's race and candidates for City Council District A.

Quick Start Tennis Court: The area for the court is staked out in the SPARK Park. The color scheme will be green on green and will be enclosed by a black vinyl fence. Councilwoman Toni Lawrence is donating two benches to be placed near the court for viewing matches. Harold Graham from the U.S. Tennis Association was present to answer any questions.

Garden Oaks Elementary principal, Lindsey Pollock announced the selection of the school by the National Wildlife Federation as part a research study. The federation will be donating an outdoor classroom and will provide training and curriculum for the staff. Principal Pollock provided copies of the minutes from the SPARK Park ad hoc committee meeting on July 2, 2009, and a list of Frequently Asked Questions concerning the planned fencing of the park.

President Scott Easterly recognized and thanked the committee members. Committee member, Jay Tatum expressed the committee's desire to consult a landscape architect to help with the planning. The committee expects to have suggestions for the design and placement of the fence in a few months. Teacher Marie Pousson spoke of the need of a fence for the safety of the students. There is no information on funding of the fence at this time.

Meeting adjourned: 8:40 p.m.
Attendance: 57

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PHOTO OF THE MONTH GARDEN OAKS SISTERHOOD



The July meeting was held at the home of Alisha Cunningham. GO Sisterhood meetings are held the third Thursday of the month and provide a great opportunity to get to know some of the delightful ladies of the neighborhood.

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GO SISTERHOOD

by Dea Larson

Our August meeting will be a field trip to one of Garden Oaks' new neighbors — Plonk! This is the new wine bar on the northwest corner of Ella and 43rd Street in the shopping center behind Starbucks. We will meet on Thursday, August 20, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. Stop by and enjoy the fun!

All Garden Oaks women are invited to attend. We meet the third Thursday of the month. Newcomers always are welcome. Come meet your neighbors and make new friends!

Questions? Send an email to dealarson@aol.com or call me at 713.695.3634

GARDEN CLUB AUGUST MEETING: BROMELIADS

Join us August 13 at the Kroger's Community Room on the mezzanine level at 7:00 p.m. 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.

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 Merkhams 713.688.4008

Treasurer

Robert DeVea 832.659.7797

Co-Secretaries

Cathy Wahren 713.686.8686

Mary Lynn Porter



AUGUST 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2	3	4 Civic Club mtg 7pm 	5	6 GO Kids MNO 7pm, Tony's Mexican 2222 Ella Blvd.	7	8
9	10	11	12	13 Garden Club 7pm, Kroger community rm - bromeliads	14	15 Go Kids Back to School Wet and Wild Potluck 4-6pm, 883 W 41st
16	17	18 	19 GOMO mtg 7:30pm	20 GO Sisterhood 7:30pm, Plonk!	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29 GOES PTA BBQ Fundraiser 11- 1pm SPARK Park
30	31					

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