

# GARDEN OAKS GAZETTE

VOLUME 33

ISSUE 10

## The Wine Walk is Here!

by Dian Austin



What: Garden Oaks Inaugural Wine Walk Sampling "Wines of the World \$20 and Under"

When: Saturday October 10. Rain date is October 17.

**5-7 p.m. Note time change.** It was previously 6-8 p.m.

Where: 744 W. 43<sup>rd</sup>, the backyard of Ed and Brenda de Alba

Why: To mingle with your neighbors, have some fun and most importantly support the constable program!

Rules: No one under 21 years of age. No

pets. This is a private adults-only party.

There will be very limited parking on W. 43<sup>rd</sup>, so try to "walk the walk" and either walk or bike over for the event. If you park on neighboring streets, please be respectful of driveways, property, etc., as you always are.

Please arrive no earlier than 5 p.m.

Your names will be on a list at the check-in table. You will be given a wine glass and can then freely wander about the beautifully landscaped backyard, view the koi pond and taste some wines. As we go to press, we have 11 table hosts.

A big thanks to Terry Jeanes for underwriting the cost of the glasses. Thanks also to the following folks for their generous cash donations:  
Oak Forest Veterinary Clinic  
Linda Sparks  
Ed and Brenda de Alba

If you're not sure if you have a ticket, please call me at 713.691.6505 or email FallingwaterT@yahoo.com to confirm your attendance.

Thanks for your continued support of our constable program!

Congratulations to  
**Garden Oaks**  
**Good Neighbor Award**  
recipients  
**Chris and Steven Roberts**  
Read more about their  
contributions on page 2.

Join your neighbors for



October 6, 2009

## OCT 2009

### CIVIC CLUB MEETINGS

#### No October Civic Club Meeting

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

### REMINDERS

October 6, 2009 National Night Out.

Wine Walk October 10, 5-7 p.m.

October 21, 2009 GOMO Annual Meeting.

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Gazette Block Captains Needed:

200/300 W. 30th

200/300 W. 31st

200/300 W. 34th

Call 713-691-6505 if interested.

Welcome Shelley Ragsdale,

new Gazette Block Captain

1000 block Althea

Farewell to Clare Bell.

Thanks for your help and best wishes, Clare!

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## GARDEN OAKS GOOD NEIGHBOR AWARD GOES TO CHRIS AND STEVEN ROBERTS

by Megan Salch

A big thank you goes to Chris and Steven Roberts for their consistent contributions to the Garden Oaks neighborhood. The Roberts boys have delivered the *Gazette* newsletter for numerous years. And that's a lot of miles.

Chris Roberts, age 20, is now a junior at Texas State University, majoring in business. He is a graduate of Lanier Middle School Vanguard program and Lamar's IB program, where he placed second in the nation for extemporaneous speech.

Steven Roberts, age 18, is a senior at Waltrip High School with hopes of attending Texas A&M University to major in mechanical engineering. He wants to work with robotics in

underwater exploration and/or in space one day. He currently is the captain of the Waltrip Robotics team, which recently went to International Competition, placing 22nd in the world for underwater robotics.

"The boys are the kind to just help wherever needed with whatever project. It is hard to enumerate," proud mother Jane Ann Roberts said. "Steven literally has given the shoes off his feet to a homeless man, and Chris has bought meals for the guys on the corners. Both jump and help when a neighbor is in need."

These two gentlemen inspire many to go out and make a difference in others' lives. The boys will receive gift cards to their favorite restaurant from award sponsors Terry Jeanes of ReMax Metro and Megan Salch of Tell Your Tale marketing and design.

### Nominate Your Garden Oaks Good Neighbor

The next Garden Oaks Good Neighbor

Award will be for the third quarter 2009 and will be announced at the November civic club meeting with the article following in the *Gazette*. Adult award winners receive a gift certificate while youth are awarded a savings bond.

To nominate your good neighbor for The Garden Oaks Good Neighbor Award, contact Terry Jeanes at 713-812-9154 or [terry@terryjeanes.com](mailto:terry@terryjeanes.com) or Megan Salch at [megansalch@tellyourtale.com](mailto:megansalch@tellyourtale.com).

## 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 15<sup>th</sup> of each month for publication the next month unless otherwise noted.

### No exceptions.

Publication of any article not related to the Civic Club does not imply endorsement by the Garden Oaks Civic Club and is solely the opinion of the author.

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**HEARD UNDER THE OAK TREE**

by Terry Jeanes

**Welcome New Neighbors**

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

- 801 West 30<sup>th</sup>**
- 1443 Sue Barnett**
- 858 Azalea**
- 1514 Sue Barnett**
- 1047 West 42<sup>nd</sup>**
- 830 West 43<sup>rd</sup>**
- 1019 West 42<sup>nd</sup>**
- 335 West 33<sup>rd</sup>**

**October Birthdays**

- Dian Austin 1<sup>st</sup>**
  - Sue Schmidt 3<sup>rd</sup>**
  - Tania Chaix 6<sup>th</sup>**
  - Carey Berry 6<sup>th</sup>**
  - Tina Sabuco 9<sup>th</sup>**
  - Michael Padon 12<sup>th</sup>**
  - Tim Merritt 14<sup>th</sup>**
  - Rita Donaldson 15<sup>th</sup>**
  - Layne Heath 27<sup>th</sup>**
  - Jack Runge 28<sup>th</sup>**
  - Chuck Fleming 31<sup>st</sup>**
- Also belated wishes to **John Beddow 9/22** and **Mitch Weigand**

**Happy Anniversary**

- Debbie & Tony Padon 6<sup>th</sup>**
- Gig & Betsy Runge 9<sup>th</sup>**
- Jim & Sally McDaniel 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Out and About**

Where have the neighbors been visiting? It seems many are not venturing too far and have been found at recently opened, Plonk's Wine and Beer Bistro at West 43<sup>rd</sup> and Ella. GO Sisterhood and Mom's Night Out have met at Plonk's, and we have heard many stories of neighbors meeting neighbors. We're pleased to have Scott and his staff as an addition to the community.

**Lisa & Matt Qualls** visited Paris and Lisbon on a nine day jaunt to Europe. **Carl Waters & Leslie Ryan** visited Cayman to celebrate Carl's birthday and their 20th anniversary in September. The **Padons**, Debbie & Tony, will be off to Chappell Hill/Brenham to enjoy the Inn at Dos Brisas for an anniversary celebration weekend in October.

**Condolences**

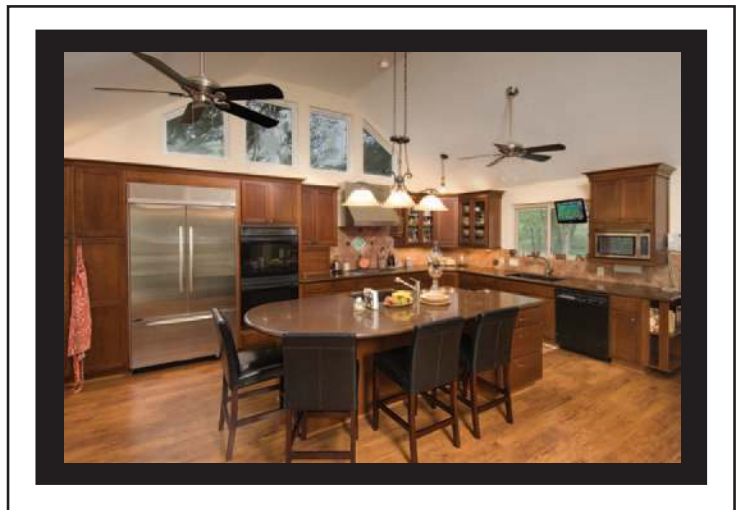
Woodrow Benjamin "**Woody**" **Merhkam**, 90, passed away August 28. Condolences go to our neighbors who have lost cats due to dogs roaming the neighborhood and to **Casey Farris** on the loss of her beloved **Mau Mau**.

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



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744 W. 43rd  
ferrocem@yahoo.com

Lori Kennedy (2009) **Secretary**

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750 Sue Barnett Dr.  
lorikgomo@blue-funk.com

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ilmayers@comcast.net

**Section 5:**

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John Ciccarelli (2009)  
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Terms expire October of year in parentheses.

**GOMO UPDATE**

by Tim Weltin

The annual meeting with balloting and an invitation for Section 4 neighbors to join the homeowners association highlight the Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization's activities this Fall.

GOMO will hold its annual meeting Wednesday, October 21 at 7 p.m. at Garden Oaks Elementary. In addition to a general update about the organization's activity, members will vote on Director positions for Sections 1, 2, 3 and 5 as well as two proposed surplus fund initiatives. Director terms ending in 2012 are on the ballot for all four GOMO sections. As a result of mid-term resignations, Section 1 and Section 5 each have a second Director position open.

To serve as a Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization Director: 1) you must be 18 years of age or older; 2) you must own property and live within the Garden Oaks Section for the Director's position that you are volunteering; 3) 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; and 4) you must sign a statement attesting to the above. 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. If you are interested in serving as a GOMO Director, please contact a current Director listed in the *Gazette*.

There are also two funding proposals for disbursement of surplus funds:

Proposal 1. To provide funds for continuing coverage by one daytime and one nighttime constable patrol of Garden Oaks, 40 hours per week each, for the period January 1, 2010 until December 31, 2010. These two constable patrols are meant to supplement the current daytime patrol already provided by the Garden Oaks Civic Club and GO residents. Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization will pay for the service and the Garden Oaks Civic Club will be in charge of scheduling. Anticipated cost for renewal of the two constable patrols is \$130,000 for the year.

Proposal 2. To provide funds for maintenance and landscaping of neighborhood green spaces by reimbursing the GO Civic Club upon submission of applicable invoices and receipts. This proposal authorizes annual expenditures of up to \$20,000 for three consecutive years with the total cost not to exceed \$20,000 per year.

Each disbursement proposal requires a majority vote for approval at the October 21 meeting to be funded. Proxy ballots are being mailed to homeowners in Sections 1, 2, 3 and 5. The mailing also includes additional information about the Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization and its activities.

As part of a community involvement project launching in October, Section 4 neighbors are officially being invited to join the Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization in the months to come. Currently Garden Oaks residents in Sections 1, 2, 3 and 5 are represented by GOMO. The primary responsibility of the organization is enforcement of deed restrictions. Through monitoring, education and enforcement the Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization has successfully assisted in the maintaining the modest regulations which help define the character of our neighborhood. In recent years, GOMO has also funded two constable patrols, disbursed funds for maintenance and landscaping of Garden Oaks green spaces and contributed to the renovation of neighborhood parks. Each Section has three elected Directors on the GOMO Board.

Section 4 neighbors will be able to join the organization if a threshold number of homeowners agree to join within the period of time open to membership. Additional information will be provided to Section 4 residents in upcoming weeks in that regard. When the homeowners association was formed earlier in the decade through an all-volunteer effort, there was a deadline for collecting homeowners signatures in each particular neighborhood Section. Four of the five Sections

# GARDEN OAKS

met the deadline for membership but Section 4 did not. Neighbors in Section 4 did not reject membership but rather time simply expired prior to collection of a sufficient number of signatures. Beginning in October, neighbors in Section 4 will have an opportunity to learn more about the homeowners association that currently serves 80% of the neighborhood and will have the ability to join.

The Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization is funded through a .75% one-time transfer fee when there is a title transfer of property in Garden Oaks. Unlike many homeowners associations that are funded through annual dues, GOMO has no annual dues, only a one-time fee when property is sold. So there would be no fees for membership for current Section 4 residents. The transfer fee would only apply to future title transfers (and there are exceptions for transfer by inheritance and as a result of divorce.) The unique funding system means that a lifetime resident of Garden Oaks would never have to pay anything to the homeowners association. The fees collected provide for the enforcement

of deed restrictions and any surplus funds can be used for the benefit of the neighborhood, given majority approval of residents.

The invitation for Section 4 residents to join the Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization is now open. There will be additional information provided in the coming weeks. Obviously there will be some questions and various formats will be used to help provide answers. Section 4 residents, along with the rest of Garden Oaks neighbors, are invited to the GOMO annual meeting on October 21. The volunteer nature of the organization means that extra help is always welcome. If you live in Section 1, 2, 3 or 5 you can run for election to be a GOMO Director. If you live in Section 4, you can help with the homeowners association membership project. You can become involved in the process by contacting a current Director. Garden Oaks is a great place to live thanks to the ongoing community involvement of its residents. The Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization works to play a role in that process of neighborhood improvement.

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**GAZETTE BLOCK CAPTAIN OF THE MONTH**

*by Dian Austin*

October's *Gazette* Block Captain of the Month moved to Garden Oaks back in 1970, when W. 43<sup>rd</sup> was a two-lane street. Joan Tracy has delivered *Gazettes* to her block for about three years. Joan even managed to deliver last month's *Gazettes* despite having her arm in a sling from hand surgery. That is dedication!

Joan, her husband, John, and their SPCA rescue terrier, Petey, live in the 900 block of W. 43<sup>rd</sup>. Joan said that they moved to GO from the Montrose area after finding out about our wonderful neighborhood. She loves the trees, the neighbors, the location and all the green spaces. Joan and John have two grown children, both of whom went to Lutheran High.

When not delivering *Gazettes*, Joan is very active in the nearby St. Matthew's United Methodist Church. Joan is now in her 30<sup>th</sup> year of helping with the Mother's Day Out program their, and has been the nursery coordinator for 20+ years. Joan and John are also Garden Oaks civic club supporters.

For Joan's continued dedication, she receives a \$25 gift certificate to Tony's Restaurant, courtesy of OD's Printing (Oscar Ochoa). Thanks, Joan!

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 your *Gazette* is not being delivered on time, please let me know!

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## A GREENER GARDEN OAKS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

by Lindsey Pollock, Principal

Many of us participate in curbside recycling, monitor the use of utilities or watch the number of miles we drive. For many of us we may feel that is where opportunities for our efforts end. I am happy to report that we have been learning a great deal as we at Garden Oaks Elementary School research the Environmental Sciences and area organizations that are available to help us teach children and community members how to expand our circle of influence as we work to save the Earth (and us along with it)!

Working together with Transition Houston and Keeping it Green Houston, we are planning exciting projects for the school children's benefit. Projects include: solar oven, rainwater catchment system complete with a solar powered water pump, composting and a worm farm! We hope that the implementation of these projects will include participation from community members who may be interested in replicating these projects at home. Additionally, we have Greener Living in Houston coming out to teach a series of five workshops focused on sustainability and transition to cleaner, greener lifestyles. Call the school for more information.

If you'd like to work with your child at home to emphasize care and respect for our planet, here are few additional ideas:

1. Use less bottled water. Instead use reusable containers and fill up before you leave the house. Bottled water results in tons of plastic waste and landfills full of trash. If you must use bottled water, carry your empties home and place in recycling bins.
2. Empty your drinks into a plant bed before tossing your container. Water thrown away in containers adds to waste in the landfills and the amount of energy needed to transport the

trash to the landfills.

3. Place your trash in the trash can. Playgrounds and streets are littered with trash that accidentally is left behind. Live by the Boy Scout camping rule of "Leave No Trace" and leave every area better than when you arrived!
4. Plant a tree! Take a photo of your child by the tree when you plant it and date the photo. Every year take a new picture of the child and tree side-by-side on the same date. A great scrapbook item!
5. Plant a butterfly garden in your yard. A local garden center or Web site can help you determine what to plant and where to maximize the kind of wildlife you wish to attract.
6. Car pool! Save gas, reduce air pollution and make friends by driving together. Even better, ride your bike to school – be sure to wear a helmet!

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

### 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

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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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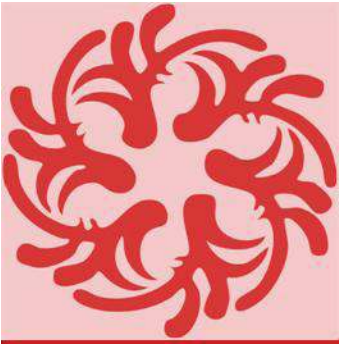


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## 2010 GARDEN OAKS HOME TOUR UPDATE

by Sue Schmidt

Thanks to those who "stepped up to the plate" after the call for leadership positions went out in last month's *Gazette*. We are seeing many new faces join the effort. Committee meetings will be starting in the near future; the homes will be selected and the winner of the theme contest announced. It is amazing how quickly times flies once the work commences for the big event.

Showcasing Garden Oaks is such a natural thing to do. Our spring weather is typically great and the landscaping is in full bloom by the tour date of April 25. Who wouldn't love our big yards, charming architecture, gorgeous parks and down-home friendly atmosphere!

While just a few committee positions remain unfilled, each is vital to the success of the 2010 Home Tour. If you are interested in meeting neighbors, having fun and participating in our largest fundraiser that benefits every one of us in the neighborhood, please consider one of the remaining positions available on the 2010 Garden Oaks Home Tour executive committee.

For more information on volunteering, please call Sue Schmidt at 832.563.3402 or Dian Austin at 713.691.6505.

### 2010 Garden Oaks Home & Garden Tour 2010 Executive Committee

Sue Schmidt, Dian Austin - 2010 Home Tour Co-Chair  
 Sandy Altman - Command Center  
 Sandy Altman, Terry Jeanes - Florist  
 John & Tina Beddow - Publicity  
 Jerry Butler & Kelly Mathews - Concessions  
 Ed DeAlba - Transportation  
 Jan Forster - Graphics  
 Jessica Jarvis - Docent Scripts  
 Susan Kostelecky - Selection/Sponsorship  
 Dian Austin - Silent/Live Auction  
 Brian O'Leary - Volunteers  
 Brian O'Leary and George Appling - Volunteer Party  
 Todd and Nelda Prince - Set Up  
 Susan Saranie - Finance

Co-Chairs needed - Preview Party  
 Chair Needed - Communication  
 Co-Chair Needed - Silent/Live Auction  
 Chair Needed - Posters  
 Chair Needed - Pre-Tour ticket sales

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for more info contact: julie@julielandreth.com

## CITIZEN'S PATROL

by Carl Waters, Jr.

The Patrol Program lost one of its charter members at the end of August. Woodrow "Woody" Mehrkam passed away at the age of 90. Woody was among the founding members of the patrol program amassing 1,526 patrol hours and an equal number serving at a base station in our CB days. Woody held the distinction of being one of two Garden Oaks patrollers who received a helicopter ride from HPD as a reward for all the hours he spent patrolling the neighborhood.

October 6 is National Night Out. If you are planning a block party, please contact me so I can try to have an officer stop by to discuss your neighborhood safety concerns.

### August Crime Statistics: 4

*Burglary: 3*

900 block of Sue Barnett Dr. on Monday, August 17 at 11:00 a.m. (school)  
 500 block of W. 34 St. on Monday, August 17 at 6:00 p.m. (residence)  
 3000 block of N. Durham Dr. on Tuesday, August 18 at midnight (restaurant)

*Auto Theft: 1*

3200 block of N. Shepherd Dr. on Friday, August 28 at 12:58 a.m. (church parking lot)

For the year to date, crime remains down approximately 24%. Please remember that if you are a victim of a crime it is important to report it to the constable's office or HPD no matter how small. Unreported crime allows the perpetrator to think we don't care and

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encourages him or her to return and try again.

Inquiries about joining the Citizens Patrol Program or about other community safety issues can be directed to me via neighborhood Web site GardenOaks.org or to the COP email account at GOCOP77018@AOL.com or by phone at 713.864.1992.

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**CONSTABLE PROGRAM**  
**Daytime constable remains to December**  
 by Terry Jeanes & Susan Love – Saranie

Good news, bad news. The good news is that through a generous motion passed at the last civic club meeting allowing that "the civic club pay up to \$9,000, in the form of a loan to the constable program account, to cover the patrolling payments due for October and November to avoid lapse of the 2009 contract. This loan is to be paid back to the civic club from the constable program account by January 31, 2010," funds are now available to keep the Garden Oaks daytime deputy through the contract year-end in December. Without this critical loan we risk expiration of our contract thereby placing us on the waiting list for service with as much as a four month delay in service. Because of this, the bad news is that we are still in need of financial support and are beginning our 2010 campaign early to secure necessary funds for the daytime deputy/civic club constable contract. Having our daytime deputy remain, who is one of three contracted patrol offices, will depend on your support and upon increasing participation to cover both the remaining contract months as well as the year ahead. It is short and simple we need funds — now. Watch for your civic club mailer coming out within the next month for the 2010 campaign, civic and constable supporter. And thanks to all those who will help make this mailer possible.

Please use the constable supporter form in this issue for support for 2010. If you are not a member, please join ASAP. If you are, take a moment and sign up your neighbors. Garden Oaks crime statistics have been declining since our program started and the increased coverage of our deputies. For community and to keep these numbers down, do your part and join us today. You will make a difference. [www.gardenoaks.org/Resources/ContributorForm2010.pdf](http://www.gardenoaks.org/Resources/ContributorForm2010.pdf)

Welcome back Deputy CJ Mangano, who returned to regular patrol in September. Thanks to the area deputies, Captain Kovar and Deputy Chris Kendrick, for their assistance with the loose dog issue and related cat killings. Their valued assistance not only protects you but also beloved pets. Let's support them via your contribution today.

**Precinct One Constable Dispatch**  
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- August 2009 statistics**
- Miles Patrolled 2406
  - Court Citations 33
  - Alarm Responses 4
  - Written Warnings 0
  - Vacations Watches 3
  - Suspicious Vehicles 20
  - Park checks 72
  - Criminal Offenses 7
  - Arrests 4

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## GO KIDS NEWS

by Sarah Heath

Fall is almost here! We love this time of year, especially Halloween! I hope to see everyone at some of the very special "treats" GO Kids has planned for October!

Dust off your beer steins and lederhosen, because the fall potluck theme is Oktoberfest! What better way to get to know other Garden Oaks families than while sampling good beer and yummy food? Kirsten and Patrick Cohoon will host the next GO Kids potluck on Saturday, October 10, from 4:00 -6:00 p.m. Please bring a 6-pack of microbrew or "interesting" beer along with your entree, side dish or dessert to share. Kirsten and Patrick live at 832 Fisher, 713.683.7877.

In need of a scary good time? Then join us for Moms' Night Out! This month we'll be meeting at Amber Berend's lair, 1058 West 42, on Tuesday, October 13, at 7:00 p.m. Bring your favorite "potion" or a snack to share. For more information contact Maricela Pina at pinamaricela@yahoo.com. We hope to see you there!

Be sure to stop by for a GO Kids All Ages playgroup! We'll meet at Candlelight Park, 1520 Candlelight Lane, every Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 pm. And mark your calendars for our special Halloween playgroup on October 30. Let your little pumpkins wear their costumes to the park, and we'll have treats to share with everyone!

Are you or someone you know an overwhelmed, walking zombie (a.k.a. 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, contact our dinner drop coordinator, Amber Berend, at amber.berend@yahoo.com, and she'll set you right up. Does the thought of applying and sending your little goblins off to school in the near future scare the pants off you? Be on the lookout in the November *Gazette* for a Garden Oaks back-to-

school forum for interested parents. Get your questions answered about our neighborhood school and all their various programs. Stay tuned for more details.

*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.*

## GO SISTERHOOD

by Dea Larson

October is full of fall favorites: pumpkins, harvest festivals and Halloween! Come join the GO Sisterhood for a gathering of friends and neighbors on Thursday, October 15th to celebrate the season. We will be meeting at the home of Carrie Shamblen, 4210 Alba from 7:30 to 9:30p.m. Please bring a snack or beverage to share.

The GO Sisterhood meets the third Thursday of the month and all GO women are welcome to attend. Come make a new friend -- we always have newcomers as well as regulars at all meetings. Questions? Feel free to contact Dea Larson at 713.695.3634 or dealarson@aol.com.

## 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.

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## GARDEN OAKS CIVIC CLUB MEETING MINUTES

September 1, 2009  
 by Cindy Bartos, Secretary

**Welcome:** President Scott Easterly called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm. Scott welcomed new attendees and thanked the November 3 city election candidates present for Meet the Candidates night.

A motion was made and carried to accept the August 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 recognized the efforts of Jessica Jarvis, *Gazette* editor, and Tim Merritt, *Gazette* advertising director, for the increased revenue generated for the *Gazette*. Phil also reported on the low funds in the constable program used to pay for the daytime patrol. He said we have enough to make the September payment for October, and while we expect more money to be coming in, we currently could not meet contract payment for November or December. Phil reported that only about 20 percent of the residents contribute to the program. There is concern that if we allow our constable contract to expire we would have to get back on the waiting list and could experience as much as a four month delay in service.

Brenda de Alba made a motion that "the civic club pay up to \$9,000, in the form of a loan to the constable program account, to cover the patrolling payments due for October and November to avoid lapse of the 2009 contract. This loan is to be paid back to the civic club from the constable program account by January 31, 2010." After discussion the motion carried.

**Program:** Ivan Mayers introduced and moderated the "Meet the Candidates" forum with candidates for the City of Houston November 3 elections. The mayoral candidates were given three minutes each to speak, followed by questions from the audience. All other

candidates were given two minutes followed by questions at the conclusion of their presentations. In attendance were:

**Mayor:**

Annis Parker, Gene Locke, Roy Morales, and a representative for Peter Brown

**Controller:**

Pam Holm, M.J. Khan and Ronald Green

**City Council District A:**

Lane Lewis, a representative for Jeff Downing, Amy Peck, Brenda Stardig, Bob Schoellkopf and Alex Wathen

**City Council At Large Position 1:**

Stephen Costello and a representative for Herman Litt

**C.C. At Large Position 2:**

Andrew Burks

**C.C. At Large Position 4:**

a representative for C.O. Bradford

**C.C. At Large Position 5:**

Jolanda Jones  
 Carlos Obando

**Standing Committee Reports:**

- Garden Oaks Citizen Patrol: Carl Waters described the program and would like those interested in joining to contact him. He announced four reported crimes for the month of August. Carl urged everyone to get involved in National Night Out on October 6. Contact Carl if you are sponsoring a Night Out event so he can arrange to have police officers stop by.
- Constable Program: Terry Jeanes also would like to be contacted if you are having a National Night Out event. She will provide constable program stickers and sign-up forms and ask for residents to encourage sign up for the program at their event.
- Beautification: No report
- *Gazette*: No report
- Garden Oaks.org Web site: No report
- Membership: Dian Austin reported having 349 family memberships. Oscar Ochoa won a gift certificate to Lowes in the membership raffle.



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- Home Tour: The home tour will be April 25, 2010. The contest for the home tour theme ends September 30, 2009. The committees will be co-chaired and many key spots are still open. Contact Dian Austin DKA2007@comcast.net or Sue Schmidt sueschmidt1@comcast.net with theme ideas or to volunteer for a committee.
- Wine Walk: The Wine Walk will be October 10, 2009, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the home of Ed and Brenda de Alba. Ticket holders will be contacted with information on time, place, parking, etc. A few tickets are available at \$25 each. Contact Dian Austin.

**GO Garden Club:** No report

**Garden Oaks Maintenance**

**Organization (GOMO):** Ed de Alba met with homeowners that brought plans following the civic club meeting. The annual meeting on October 21, 7:00 p.m. at the Garden Oaks Elementary School will hold elections to fill open director's positions and to determine the use of surplus funds. If you have any suggestions on how to spend the

surplus funds, submit ideas to one of the GOMO directors.

**New Business:** Scott Easterly announced there will not be an October civic club meeting due to National Night Out. The proposed 2010 civic club budget, the nominations committee's presentation of a slate of 2010 civic club officers and a presentation by The Orchard Community, a senior facility being constructed at 34<sup>th</sup> and Brinkman will take place at the November meeting.

Scott Easterly announced the members of the nominations committee for the 2010 civic club officers: Jay Tatum, Chris Funk, Terry Jeanes, Rick Knauth and Chris Lindsay.

**Old Business:** The SPARK Park ad hoc committee will meet at 5:15 p.m. on September 10 at Garden Oaks Elementary School.

**Quiet Zone:** Contact President Scott Easterly if you have comments, questions or concerns.

Meeting adjourned: 8:50 pm  
Attendance: 78

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**CRITTER CORNER**

by Casey Farris

October is here and one of the best months in Houston, so get outside and enjoy it with your pets. However, please keep your cats inside because a pack of dogs is on the prowl and they have already killed several neighborhood cats. My deepest condolences to all victims.



Mau Mau Brown Farris (November 1, 1988 – September 8, 2009).

Mau Mau, my co-author, best friend, and the best cat in the whole world died at age 21. Three months ago Mau was diagnosed with jawbone cancer. We decided to put our focus on love and quality of life for however long we had with him. We got two months. Mau was a serene cat; he very seldom got ruffled, and even as a kitten he was calm. He got along with people, other cats and dogs. At our first house together we had window boxes on all the windows. I came home from work one day and there was a cat lying in every window box. If he were a human he would be described as a really nice guy. No matter what we threw at him he adapted easily and in 21 years we threw a lot at him — dating, marriage, moving, blending with Michael’s pets, remodeling, a house full of feral cats, godchildren, traveling back and forth between our GO and Galveston houses, evacuation and more remodeling. He didn’t understand it all and didn’t even try. His job was to be the steady one and he did that better than anyone or any other animal I have ever met. Mau was a rock and one cool cat!



*Critters 101: Cats Can Have Cancer*  
 Mau and Meaux Trouble Than He’s Worth Ruttiger Winston Kennedy Muscara, another neighborhood pet, both died of cancer so I want to talk about the “big C” this month. Cats, like people, can have cancer. The diagnosis cancer often evokes overwhelming feelings of fear, loss of control and loss of hope. Making the situation even more difficult are the important and radical decisions that have to be

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PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Neighbor Mitch Weigand, who turned 50 on 9/9/09, celebrated his birthday with friends at Rudy's BBQ.

made for pets whose well being fully depends on this. I knew someday that Mau would leave me but the day we found out he had osteosarcoma (bone cancer) I was shocked and scared. There is no apparent cause of osteosarcoma and it just shows up spontaneously. Surgery, chemotherapy and radiation are available for our pets and many pets go on to live long healthy lives. In our case the cancer was in Mau's jaw and we did not want to put him through any of the standard treatments at his age. We opted just to make the best of what time we had left together.

Typically, if a cat is sick he will quit eating – this is a telltale sign that something is wrong. In our case, Mau never quit eating but one side of his face was swollen. Inappropriate elimination can also mean that something is wrong with your cat. The Muscara's knew something was wrong with Meaux because in a very short amount of time he was not eating, he


was lethargic and had a couple of potty accidents. Meaux had squamous cell carcinoma and went all too quickly. Check your cats regularly for lumps and bumps and if your cat quits eating even for one-day talk to your vet immediately.

*Casey Farris is owner/operator of Bone Voyage Pet Sitting Services and Go Dog USA, Home of the Go Dog Social Club and Go Dog Academy @ Urban Tails. Please forward your questions and pet news to Casey@GoDogUSA.com or call 713-688-6363.*




A Happy Halloween Birthday to Jeff Gibb from his wife, Melissa.

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# OCTOBER 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6 National Night Out	7	8	9	10 GO Kids potluck 4210 Alba 4 - 6 p.m.
11	12	13 GO Kids MNO 7pm, Berend home 1058 West 42nd 	14	15 GO Sisterhood 7:30pm, Shamblen home 4210 Alba	16	17
18	19	20	21 GOMO Annual mtg 7:30pm	22	23	24
25	26	27 	28	29	30 Halloween	

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