The Wine Walk is Here!
by Dian Austin


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. 43rd, 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. 43rd, 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

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 Anual 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 or Megan Salch at 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

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

Dian Austin—Membership
733 W. 42nd 713.691.6505
membership@gardenoaks.org

Terry Jeanes—Constable Program
922 W. 41st 713.812.9154
constable@gardenoaks.org
Welcome New Neighbors
Congratulations on joining us. We hope to see you at a civic club meeting soon.
801 West 30th
1443 Sue Barnett
858 Azalea
1514 Sue Barnett
1047 West 42nd
830 West 43rd
1019 West 42nd
335 West 33rd

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

Happy Anniversary
Debbie & Tony Padon 6th
Gig & Betsy Runge 9th
Jim & Sally McDaniel 12th

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 43rd 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.
GARDEN OAKS

GOMO Board of Directors

Section 1:
Sheila Briones (2011)
Home: 713.861.8091
Cell: 281.685.8133
412 W. 34th
sbriones@hotmail.com

Kathy Horner (2009)
Cell: 713.385.2050
527 W. 33rd
kathy@associatedcounsel.com

Ed de Alba (2010)
President
Cell: 713.628.7008
744 W. 43rd
ferrocem@yahoo.com

Section 2:
Adrian Berry (2011)
Home: 713.692.0408
737 W. 42nd
adrian.berry@yahoo.com

Lori Kennedy (2009)
Secretary
Home: 713.691.6833
750 Sue Barnett Dr.
lorikgomo@blue-funk.com

Ed de Alba (2010)
Vice President
Home: 713.861.8091
Cell: 281.685.8133
412 W. 34th
sbriones@hotmail.com

Section 3:
Jerry Butler (2011)
Home: 713.822.3175
871 W. 41st
jbutler1982@att.net

Kelly Mathews (2010)
Treasurer
Home: 713.640.5225
855 Lamonte Lane
rkmathews1@gmail.com

Ivan Mayers (2009)
Home: 713.202.7113
802 Lamonte Lane
ilmayers@comcast.net

Section 5:
Tim Weltin (2011)
Home: 713.540.5315
1567 Sue Barnett Drive
timweltin@mycase.info

John Ciccarelli (2009)
Home: 713.688.8285
4310 Apollo
ciccarelli@intergate.com

Terms expire October of year in parentheses.

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 activities, 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 midterm 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...
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.
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. 43rd 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. 43rd. 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 30th year of helping with the Mother’s Day Out program there, 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!
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!
GARDEN OAKS

Neela R Patel, DDS, PA
Comprehensive & Cosmetic Dentistry

Dental Care For Life:
Creating & Maintaining healthy smiles for a lifetime.

- Cosmetic Smile Makeovers and Restorations
  - Preventive and Comprehensive Care
  - Crowns, Bridges, and Veneers
  - Root Canals and Fillings
  - Occlusal and TMJ Therapy
  - Sedation Dentistry

Dr. Neela Patel earned her dental degree at Baylor College of Dentistry in Dallas, Texas. Annually, Dr. Patel and her staff attend many continuing education courses so that she can provide optimal care for her patients. Her mission is to provide one-on-one care to each patient and use modern techniques to achieve healthy, long-lasting and pleasing results.

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We gladly accept all Traditional Dental Insurance Plans. There are discounts available for patients that do not have a traditional insurance plan. We are in-network providers with United Health Care, Guardian, GEHA, Assurant and, Cigna. We accept usual and customary fees for many other insurance companies such as Aetna and Met Life.

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2525 North Loop West # 230 Houston, TX 77008
Telephone: email: info@drneelarpatel.com

Some exclusions will apply. Call for details. Please bring this to the appointment.
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

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 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.
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

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
713.755.7628

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

CONSTANCE PROGRAM
Daytime constable remains to December
by Terry Jeane & 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

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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 p.m. 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 9:30 p.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 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 October and November to avoid lapse of the 2009 contract. 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: Annise 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.
• 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 34th 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
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, 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 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
PHOTO OF THE MONTH

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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