

GARDEN OAKS GAZETTE

VOLUME 33

ISSUE 12



DEC 2009

CIVIC CLUB MEETINGS

December 1 Civic Club Meeting
7pm at 701 Garden Oaks Blvd.

VOLUNTEER THANKS

The recent death of beloved neighbor and friend, Johnnie Gonzales, left a big hole in our monthly Gazette delivery. Johnnie delivered Gazettes to the 1000 block of Lamonte and to the 4200 block of Alba for many, many years.

Several people stepped forward to take over Johnnie's routes when the request went out. Thanks to the Carlin family in the 1000 block of Lamonte; they were the first to respond and will become new block captains for those streets. Johnnie will really be missed.

REMINDERS

Be sure to check for the recent Civic Club and Constable membership mail-out and complete your forms today!

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SANTA AT GAZEBO PARK *by Bill Holden*

Children young and old are invited to come visit Santa and Mrs. Claus who will be at Gazebo Park on Tuesday, December 15 and Wednesday, December 16 between 6:30 and 8:00 p.m. In anticipation of their arrival, join your friends and neighbors as they decorate the Gazebo Park on Saturday, December 5 at 10 a.m. Decorations will be provided.

Bill and Susan McMillian have been Santa and Mrs. Claus for twenty-seven years and will be retiring after this year as they are moving out of Garden Oaks, and closer to family in Angleton, Texas.

Bill said that when he and Susan began doing this for the kids of Garden Oaks, there was no Gazebo in the park and had to improvise by sitting on a concrete bench in the park with lots of decorations around the huge Oak Tree that once stood in the park. Over the years they have had lots of helpers in the park and some even dressed as elves. Over the past twenty-seven years Bill said they have probably given out over 2200 candy canes to children. "What has always given me the most joy over the years has been the joy and the occasional tears I saw from the kids," Bill said.

All of Garden Oaks residents wish to thank Bill and Susan McMillian for their commitment and hard work year after year. Plans are already underway to commemorate Bill and Susan for all these years of dedication. Anyone interested in helping put this together should contact Bill Holden at 832.443.8593.



HAPPY
HOLIDAYS

CIVIC CLUB HOLIDAY POT LUCK

Join your friends and neighbors for the December 1 Civic Club meeting and holiday pot luck supper held at the home of Brian O'Leary and George Appling, 701 Garden Oaks Blvd. The civic club will provide the meats, soft drinks and paper products.

Residents with the last name beginning with A – H are asked to bring a side dish; I – Q a dessert and R – Z an appetizer or bread.

Please bring a new, unwrapped toy for the Constable's Toy drive.

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.

1063 West 42nd 946 West 41st
827 West 43rd 1010 Althea
1310 Sue Barnett
507 West 32nd 515 West 31st
706 West 38th 1317 Sue Barnett
4232 Apollo 1558 Sue Barnett

December Birthdays

Ron Williams 1st
Terry Jeanes 11th
Ian & Julia McDaniel 12th
Jim McDaniel 15th
Brian O'Leary 17th
Claudia Kolbinger 18th
Gale Roanoake 19th
Gary Hickman 21st
Sandy Altman 24th
Susan Gavin 25th
Katie Cunningham 30th

Congratulations

To **Johnny Murphy** on his recent retirement and to **Georgia Lister** for earning her Brown Belt for Nia on her recent trip to Portland.

Out and About

Welcome back to **Ron and Sheree Peoples** who have returned from a 17-month assignment in NYC.

Lots of Garden Oaks neighbors were at Last Concert Café Friday, November 13, to hear and support Garden Oaks' own **Georgia Lister** singing with Cowjazz.

Good News

Evan Weltin is home recovering from open-heart surgery. A minor twist came when mom, **Angela**, got the flu the day after his surgery leaving dad, **Tim**, to make the visits and keep everyone posted.

Condolences and Special Thoughts

Condolences go out to the family of longtime resident **Johnnie Gonzales** who passed away November 6.

Special thoughts go to **Rita Hartman** concerning the loss of her dear pet companion, 14-year old miniature schnauzer, Timmy.

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

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Garden Oaks Gazette

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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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IN MEMORY OF JOHNNIE GONZALES

by Brenda de Alba



Garden Oaks lost a valued friend and neighbor with the untimely death of Johnnie "Nippy" Gonzales (Section 4), November 6. Many of you certainly will never forget the memory

of seeing this elderly gentleman jogging in the summer heat wearing his long-sleeved windbreaker jacket and pants.

I had the pleasure of knowing Johnnie almost 30 years and found him to be fiercely independent and always willing to lend a hand in the neighborhood and at Garden Oaks Elementary. He put his heart and soul into helping the entire community for over 40 years. Johnnie was one of the longest running Gazette block captains and was recognized in September 2008 for his service. He had a green thumb and loved sharing plants with people. Some of his pass-along plants are in my own garden, and I'm

sure in countless other neighbors' yards. He liked to barbeque and make tamales, which he shared with neighbors and friends.

Johnnie was a native Houstonian and moved to Garden Oaks with his family in 1965. He was a World War II veteran and active with the American Legion. As a young man, Johnnie was quite the softball player, being an important member of both the Latin Legends and the Rusk Athletic club. He was the first MVP in 1954, which earned him a key position in the Latin American Hall of Fame in 1999. His family described him as an amazing and loving husband, father, father-in-law, grandfather, and great-grandfather.

Garden Oaks extends our most sincere condolences to Johnnie's family.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Jack Henry Tyler was born a month early on September 27, 2009, weighing 5lbs and 18in long. He spent the first two weeks in the NICU but is now eating well and growing strongly. Parents Stefanie and John Tyler of 875 W 42nd are incredibly proud of their little boy, but are seriously wondering when they might get to sleep again.

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Terms expire October of year in parentheses.

GARDEN CLUBBERS CHILL OUT

by Chris Lindsay, GOGC President

The Garden Club held its monthly meeting at the home of Cathy Wahren on November 12. We asked each member to talk about a favorite gardening tool, tip or resource. Here are a few of our favorites:

Hand gardening tools (trowel, weeder and cultivator). These are the basic tools of every gardener. Some gardeners keep a set for years, while others seem to need to replace them on a regular basis. Cathy puts the tools in a basket with fold-down handles and also carries along twine, wire cutters (instead of the standard pruners) and a bottle of water. The water is not for her but to water the seeds she plants.

Rain barrel. Tina Nieto provided us with a diagram and directions for making one own out of a plastic trashcan. She hasn't installed the faucet at the bottom of the barrel so she dips her watering can into the barrel and waters her plants. The diagram is available by emailing chris.lindsay@sbcglobal.net.

A multi-garden knife. Janet Cones brought a new tool, which looks like a narrow garden trowel. The knife has one serrated edge to help open bags of mulch or soil and to trim small branches or twigs. The straight edge can cut through sod and twine. The notch at the tip is a weeder. The blade is slightly dished so it can be used to dig and has 1" increment markings to measure the depth of holes for planting bulbs or plants.

Chill towel. This was probably the coolest and newest item. Robert DeVeau brought a towel similar to a chamois that becomes cold or chilly when you dampen it with water. Presto, a chilled wet cloth that you can use to wash with, wear around your neck or cover your head to keep you cool while working in the garden. Plus, it does not need refrigeration or to be placed into the freezer. Just roll it up and put it back in its plastic storage tube.

Best garden book says Mark Saranie is the Houston Home & Garden's "Houston Garden Book: A Complete Guide to Gardening in Houston and the Gulf Coast."

You are invited to attend our Christmas Party on Saturday, December 12 at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Trish and Tom Merkhham, 1082 Gardenia. This is our potluck Christmas Party. The club supplies the ham and beverages, and members each bring a dish. If you would like to come, contact Shawn Spear at shawnspear@comcast.net to coordinate your potluck dish. We also do a "Chinese" gift exchange. Bring a garden themed gift of no more than \$20 in value and gift wrapped. You put your gift in the pile and when it is your turn you pick a gift and see what you get in return. Participation is optional.

This year we have two competitions that will take place during the Christmas party. One is an "Eggnog Faceoff" between Shawn Spear and Robert DeVeau. The other competition will be a "Ginger Bread Bakeoff." All interested should bring a sample of your best ginger bread confection (gingerbread cookies, ginger bread cake, ginger bread, gingersnaps, etc.). Judging will be done by those present.

Oh, I almost forgot. Before we partake of all the festivities, we will conduct some Garden Club business such as the election of officers for next year. Our slate consists of:

President: Janet Cones
1st Vice President: Trish Merkhham
2nd Vice President: Chris Lindsay
Treasurer: Robert DeVeau
Co-Secretaries: Mary Lynn Porter and Cathy Wahren

So come one, come all. If you have any questions you can email me at chris.lindsay@sbcglobal.net or phone 713.819.8412

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Cathy Wahren 713.686.8686

Mary Lynn Porter

CIVIC CLUB, GOMO, CONSTABLE PATROL

What is the difference?

by Scott Easterly, Civic Club President

Have you ever been confused or wondered if these were part of one organization or different and distinct from one another? Which one does what? You are not alone. It can be confusing but not nearly as complicated as it may seem.

Each one is a distinct entity, and while they are all organizations for the Garden Oaks residents, they operate and are funded very differently.

The Garden Oaks Civic Club is a voluntary organization open to all residents of Garden Oaks whether you own or rent. It provides a venue for residents to meet and discuss topics of mutual interests. It is supported strictly by voluntary membership fees, donations, and the bi-annual spring Home Tour. A basic household membership starts at only \$25 per year (or \$5 for seniors), and allows voting privileges (budgets, election of officers, etc.). Business memberships are also available (non-voting) with an annual fee of only \$50. The Civic Club is NOT a Homeowners Association with mandatory membership and fees. It also does not have any authority or responsibility for deed restriction

enforcement or collecting related fees. Through monies received, the Civic Club DOES fund the *Gazette* newsletter, the gardenoaks.org website, Citizens Patrol (a small group of neighbors who patrol in their own cars), the Home Tour, upkeep of area green spaces (handled by the Beautification Committee), and any activities related to Membership, including the annual membership mail out, welcome packets for new residents, and monthly door prizes at meetings. Civic Club members also receive email notices of timely topics of neighborhood interest.

Speakers and topics this year included Sheldon State Park, crime prevention, Activities for Houston Kids (and the Kid in You), a Spark Park Forum, a Meet the Candidates Forum prior to the November elections, residential market values and HCAD, Treeseach Farms (replanting after Hurricane Ike), HCFCD and flooding issues pertinent to Garden Oaks, and a Holiday Party/election of 2010 officers.

The Civic Club meets at 7 p.m. on the first Tuesday of the month (except October, when there is no meeting due to National Night Out), at Garden Oaks Elementary School. You do not have to be a member to attend the meetings.

The Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization (or GOMO), is totally separate from the Civic Club. The purpose of this *continued on page 14*

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BEAUTIFICATION UPDATE

by Brenda and Ed de Alba

If you want to plant trees and shrubs in your yard, now is the time to do it! Fall and winter months are the best time for getting new trees and shrubs planted so root systems are established before the summer heat sets in. For information on what grows well in our area, Heidi Sheesley's tree presentation from the August civic club meeting is posted on the Garden Oaks website forum (Garden

Oaks Trees & Shrubs 8-4-09.doc).

Another fall gardening activity is to mulch your planting areas. We're big fans of pine straw because it doesn't wash out of the beds during heavy rains, retards weed growth, breaks down faster than bark mulch, and its acidity balances our alkaline soil. If pine straw doesn't appeal to you, the next-best mulch is shredded hardwood rather than pine bark.

Recent Beautification Activity

The Randall Berm and Gazebo Park were weeded in October and the Memorial Rose Garden was weeded in November.

Big thanks to Kristin and Nolen Strange, and their company Ace Tree Specialists, for spraying, at cost, the pine trees at the edge of the Rose Garden.

Ten new under-story, flowering trees, whose description can be found in the document on the website forum, have been added to three of our greenspaces:

- Memorial Rose Garden in Section 1: a Chinese Fringe, a Todd Gresham, and a Jon Jon Gresham
- Garden Oaks Boulevard in Section 2: a Mexican Clethera, a Chinese Fringe, a Whitebud, and two Redbuds
- Gazebo Park in Section 2: a Kobai Flowering Almond and a Whitebud

Upcoming Beautification Activity

The neighborhood entrance-sign esplanade on W. 43rd near Ella Blvd area has needed sprucing up for some time. However, we have been limited because we have no irrigation system to provide water to new plantings in this area. Section 3 residents Melissa Reid and Jeff Gibb volunteered to hand water new plantings until their root systems get established enough to survive on what nature provides. We plan to amend the existing soil, prune the existing shrubs, and plant foxtail fern, typically a very hardy, low-maintenance plant.

The gazebo in the Gazebo Park is in need of repair. The floorboards have deteriorated from normal use but the side rail sections have suffered greatly in the past year from what looks like abuse. We've contacted the Vixen Hill Gazebo Company and will order replacement parts to fix the damaged sections. Anyone interested in helping with repairs?

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GAZETTE BLOCK CAPTAIN OF THE MONTH

by *Dian Austin*

December's Block Captain of the Month is a Garden Oaks native, Julie Fox, who lives in the 900 block of Lamonte with husband David, son Marshall, and daughter Samantha. Julie was raised in the house where she now lives and attended GOES, Black, and Waltrip schools.

Julie delivers the *Gazette* in her block, assisted by Marshall and Samantha. Julie said she delivered the *Gazette* for a couple of years some time ago but stopped. After Marshall was born, she became a *Gazette* deliverer again to help lose weight after her pregnancy. Marshall is now nine, and the weight is gone. But Julie's still handing out *Gazettes* each month. We figure she's got at least 11 years of *Gazette* delivery service on her resume!

Having been raised in Garden Oaks, Julie loves our small-town, close-knit community that we call home.

Thanks to Julie for her continued *Gazette* delivery support. She will receive a \$25 gift card to Lowe's, courtesy of Oscar Ochoa at OD's Printing.

If anyone wants to join the great *Gazette* Delivery Team, call me 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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GARDEN OAKS HOME AND GARDEN TOUR: GARDEN OAKS: SOMETHING OLD, SOMETHING NEW

by Sue Schmidt

The theme for the 2010 Garden Oaks Home and Garden Tour, *Something Old... Something New*, is proving to be quite true! This month the selection committee (Susan Kostelecky, Jan Forster Sue Schmidt) is announcing the homes and gardens that will be showcased in next year's Home Tour. The wide variety of homes selected, ranging from original footprint to new construction and everything in between, is so representative of what Garden Oaks has to offer! The garden selection proved to be somewhat different than in past tours. Three of the six homes have such unique and individual garden styles that the selection committee decided to showcase *both* homes and gardens for three of the homes. Thanks go to all of the homeowners who allowed the selection committee to preview their homes. As always, it was a difficult task to narrow the wonderful choices down to these six. We are very excited that the owners of the homes selected have graciously decided to open their abodes for the 2010 Garden Oaks Home and Garden Tour!

The homes and owners for the 2010 Garden Oaks Home and Garden Tour,

Something Old... Something New, are:

- **John and Tanisia Hoye—1019 W. 43rd St, home and garden.** True DIY fans, these first time owners took it to heart, rolled up their sleeves and designed a home around their lifestyle and personalities. An original footprint, this home is a prime example of what can be done to bring *Something Old... Something New* and creative again! John also has a landscaping business and their garden shows off his many talents!
- **Blake Woods—1023 W. 43rd St, home and garden.** What would a Home Tour be without that stand-out artsy, eclectic home with so much pizzazz? Filled with color, collections and art, this original footprint showcases the owner's design talent at its best. As the homeowner is an interior designer and the owner of a design oriented boutique, this home will definitely bring the words "Why didn't I think of that?" to the lips of all those who attend!
- **Ralph and Barbara Smith—1075 Lamonte, home and garden.** Artistically updated with an open, airy kitchen and cozy family room addition, this home fits the bill for this empty nester couple with college kids still returning to the nest. This is the second home that Ralph and Barbara have opened to Garden Oaks for the Home Tour! Their fabulous mix of flowers *and vegetables* throughout their yard is so thoughtfully created. Both inside and out, this home is fun and fanciful!
- **Barry and Jen Weaver—831 W. 41st St.** Are you *sure* this is a remodel? That is the **FIRST** impression upon entering this builder/owner's personal family home. A *second* major renovation took this original 1000 square foot home to over 4000 square feet. The growing family needed more space and took the time to design living spaces that work for their
- lifestyle. A must-see for those growing families in Garden Oaks that need ideas on how to do it right!
- **Jay and Shana Tatum—725 Garden Oaks Blvd.** No Home Tour can be without some element of green and did Garden Oaks EVER luck out! This Garden Oaks Blvd. home has registered their renovation with USGBC for LEED Certification. The USGBC (U.S. Green Building Council) is best known for the development of the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating system. This guide is an ecology-oriented building certification program. New construction projects are most common, but the category of Major Rehabilitation is beginning to emerge as more consumers and builders realize their effects on the environment during construction. Once the preliminary checklist has been completed and fully documented through the LEED project manager, the contractor, and the LEED for homes Green rater, the project will be considered for certification. A great example of going GREEN in Garden Oaks!
- **Sean and Beth Jez—802 W. 31st St.** WOW! What else can be said about this wonderful new construction.? Loving the old, but desiring something new, the owners blended many Craftsman traditions into their new abode. The true *over the top* feature in this home is the wine cellar, (Yes, I said CELLAR, in Houston!) just made for intimate dinners and discovery of delicious wines!
- **Garden Oaks Elementary School—901 Sue Barnett.** Once again, Garden Oaks Elementary will welcome the neighborhood into their ever-growing and changing gardens that add so much to the education of neighborhood students. This year a newly installed labyrinth and

dry creek have added interesting dimensions to the gardens.

The Garden Oaks Home Tour Executive Committee is so excited about the selections for 2010. There truly is something for everyone within this showcase of homes. We look forward to a wonderful and successful tour that will highlight all of the reasons area residents call Garden Oaks "Houston's best kept secret"!

AUCTION OPPORTUNITIES

2010 Home and Garden Tour

by Dian Austin

One of the fun ways to generate revenues for the Home Tour are the auctions. The online, silent, and live auctions to be held in concert with the 2010 Home Tour will offer all the talented neighborhood folks numerous opportunities to contribute. And the rest of us untalented souls can have lots of fun bidding (and hopefully winning) all these goods and services!

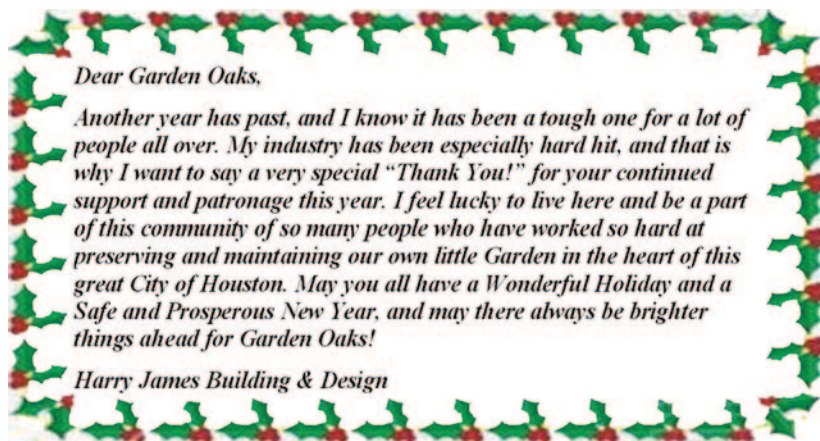
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landscapers, doctors, workshop givers, event planners, vintners, restaurant owners, seamstresses, massage therapists, beer makers, vexillologists, cartoonists, tree trimmers, Renaissance Faire owners, tightrope artists — you get the idea. If you have a service (or air miles!) to donate, we can find someone to bid on it!

Garden Oaks typically has a wonderful online auction (thanks primarily to Joe Muscara, gardenoaks.org webmaster). This year, the online auction will end prior to the home tour weekend. Any online bidders can then win the item without having to attend the preview party. Both the silent and the live auctions will be held only at the preview party on Saturday evening, April 24th.

If you have any auction items or service that you'd like to contribute to the auction, email me at FallingwaterT@yahoo.com or call 713-691-6505. In return, your name or business name will be featured on the 1,000 home tour tickets. Your name or company name also will appear in the Gazette, on the gardenoaks.org website, and will be displayed prominently on a large sign at both the preview party and at the command center on tour day. Large-item donors will receive complimentary home tour tickets.

I am chairing the Auction Committee with Debbie Padon and Mark Saranie. Linda Sparks and Susan Saranie have offered to help; we can always use more people. If you're interested in helping us solicit auction donations or working the silent and/or live auction during the preview party, let me know.



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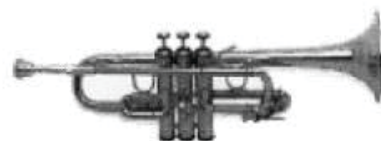
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HOLIDAY TIPS FOR KIDS

by Lindsey Pollock, GOES Principal

Holidays are a time of joy, but often the hustle and bustle of the season may also be a source of stress for families and children. Here are some tips to help children cope with the many demands that may surface as a result of changing schedules and routines:

- When making plans, try to maintain regular bedtimes and meal routines as lack of sleep or food may create a very cranky child!
- Bring a favorite game, book or even DVD along with you to be sure your child has something to do when visiting relatives who may not have same age children.
- Take time to review behavioral expectations with your child when visiting others. If you are visiting someone with physical ailments be sure to talk to your child about the needs of the person such someone who may be hearing impaired or confined to a wheelchair.
- Be sure to set aside time for you and your child to be together. You don't have to attend every social

function, especially if your child is beginning to feel fatigued.

- During the break, engage in a learning-related activity every day to keep your child on track, such as reading together or working a few math problems. Addition, subtraction, multiplication and division are fun and easy games to play together in the car by keeping time and working to better your family "record" each time.
- Have a system in place for gift opening and expectations. Being sure to thank everyone for whatever gift they bring is an important social skill.
- Encourage your children to be sensitive to others who may not have as much as them. Volunteering as a family at a nursing home or food pantry is a great way to give to the community and teach your child simple gratitude.
- Be sure your child gets time to relax, whether that be reading or playing outside. Children need downtime, too and this simple gift to your child may be the best of all!

Happy Holidays!

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GO KIDS NEWS

by Sarah Heath

Happy Holidays! It's a wonderful time of year, especially for the little ones. So with that in mind, come join us for some of these fabulous GO Kids activities. And if anyone wants to watch "A Christmas Story" with me, come on over!

Caroling, caroling now we go, Christmas bells are ringing! Join us for dinner and caroling at the Listers' house, 927 Gardenia, on Saturday, December 19. Dinner is at 5:30 p.m. and caroling will start at 6:30 p.m. (bring flashlights). The Listers will provide yummy black beans and rice, and the group will supply all the accompaniments. Please go to the "Database" section of the group website to see what ingredients are needed and then sign up for specific items to bring. You can call or email Georgia Lister with any questions: 832.692.1430 or gvlisters@yahoo.com. This has become a fun Garden Oaks tradition, and we hope to see lots of little carolers!

Take a break from the holiday madness and join us for a Moms' Night Out! This month we'll be meeting at Michele

Jankowski's house, 4315 Alba, on Tuesday, December 8, at 7:00 p.m. Bring a festive drink or snack to share. For more information, contact Maricela Pina at pinamaricela@yahoo.com.

Come play with us at the GO Kids All Ages playgroup! We meet at Candlelight Park, 1520 Candlelight Lane, every Friday from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Are you or someone you know an overwhelmed, sleep deprived new parent? Take heart because Santa has a great gift for you! We are happy to provide several meals to new families during those stressful 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 right up.

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.



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GO CIVIC CLUB MEETING MINUTES

November 3, 2009

Garden Oaks Elementary School
cafeteria
by Cindy Bartos, Secretary

Welcome:

President Scott Easterly called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. and welcomed the guests from Orchard Communities.

A motion was made and carried to accept the September minutes as they appeared in the *Gazette*.

Treasurer's Report:

Phil Ramirez presented the proposed 2010 Garden Oaks Civic Club budget and had detailed copies available at the meeting. The 2010 budget will be voted on at the December meeting. Ike Eickenhorst suggested the area around 38th and the railroad be included in the maintenance provided by the beautification committee. Phil announced that per the vote at the September 2009 GOCC meeting authorizing a loan to the Constable Program, an \$800 loan to the program was applied and has since been paid back from the Constable Program account.

Standing Committee Reports:

Garden Oaks Citizen Patrol:

Carl Waters described the program and would like those interested in joining to contact him. He announced a reported 47 crimes to date, compared with 58 at this time last year.

Constable Program:

Terry Jeanes urged calling the constables if you notice suspicious behavior. She thanked the volunteers that compiled the program's membership mail out to the residents. Terry would like to put together a committee of at least five volunteers to assist in following up with the registration. Contact Terry if you are interested. Officer C.J. Mangano reported on specific crimes that occurred recently in the neighborhood.

Information on the constable's Precinct 1 Toy Drive for the holidays will appear in the December Gazette.

Beautification:

Brenda de Alba reported on recent bed maintenance at the Gazebo Park and the Randall Berm Park. Two flowering trees will be planted in the Gazebo Park, five along the Garden Oaks Blvd. esplanade, and three in the Rose Garden.

Gazette: No report

Garden Oaks.org website: No report

Membership:

Dian Austin reported having 350 family memberships. Carey Berry won the door prize, a Home Depot gift card.

Home Tour:

Dian Austin announced the winning theme of the 2010 Home Tour: "Garden Oaks: Something Old, Something New," which was submitted by Brenda de Alba. Brenda won a \$100 gift card to Buchanan's Nursery. The homes and gardens selected are in this *Gazette*.

Wine Walk:

The Wine Walk was a tremendous success and will be held again in the fall of 2010 at the home of Ed and Brenda de Alba.

Garden Oaks Garden Club:

Tina Nieto reported details of the next meeting to be held on November 12.

Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization (GOMO):

Ed de Alba said the GOMO board will meet with homeowners who brought plans following the Civic Club meeting. Tim Weltin, vice president of GOMO, announced and explained the invitation being extended to the residents of Section 4 to join the association.

Old Business:

Garden Oaks Elementary Principal Lindsey Pollock reported on the Quick Start tennis court dedication on October 23. Plans for the SPARK Park fence created by a landscape architect

and a sample of the four-foot black fence were available to view following the Civic Club meeting. The project will cost approximately \$26,000 and Principal Pollock has contacted the HISD Bond department to inquire about funding for the project. Brenda de Alba reported on the damage done to the net and use of scooters on the tennis court surface.

Quiet Zone:

President Scott Easterly reported that Garden Oaks is seventh on the list compiled by the city of Houston. Hearings and the opportunity for public comments will be held in the future. Scott reported that Stephan Fairfield of Orchard Communities has offered to underwrite up to \$60,000 to upgrade the Brinkman street railroad crossing to Quiet Zone safety standards.

New Business:

Nominating Committee:

Terry Jeanes reported the recommended partial slate of 2010 Civic Club officers:

President: Mark Klein

Vice President: Scott Easterly

Treasurer: Phil Ramirez

The position of secretary is still open.

Contact Terry if you have an interest or know someone interested in the office. Nominations will be taken at the December meeting, followed by a vote.

The Program:

Stephan Fairfield of Orchard Communities presented the planned housing for seniors entitled, The Orchard at Oak Forest, to be located at the corner of Brinkman and 34th. He announced the name would be changed to The Orchard at Garden Oaks. For information, Fairfield can be reached at sfairfield@orchardcommunities.org.

Announcements:

The December 1 Civic Club meeting will be a combination meeting and holiday pot luck supper held at the home of Brian O'Leary and George Appling, 701 Garden Oaks Blvd. The Club will provide the meats, soft drinks, and paper products. Residents with the last name beginning with A – H are asked to bring

a side dish; I – Q a dessert; and R – Z an appetizer or bread. Please bring a new, unwrapped toy for the Constable's Toy drive.

Terry Jeanes announced the winners of the recent Good Neighbor Award to brothers Chris and Steven Roberts. Nominations for future winners should be given to Terry.

Come help decorate the Gazebo Park on December 5 in preparation for Santa's visit later in the month.

Meeting adjourned: 8:05 pm
Attendance: 36

Emergency Numbers

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

CITIZENS' PATROL

by Carl Waters, Jr.

Happy Holidays everyone!
Please be careful out there someone besides Santa maybe watching you. So here's my annual list of holiday safety tips:

- Keep the outside of your home well lit. Lock your doors and keep the curtains drawn.
- If you display gifts beneath the Christmas tree, do so in a manner where they are not visible from outside.
- Cut up gift boxes and put them in nontransparent trash bags to avoid advertising all those wonderful presents you received.
- Make sure to keep fresh cut trees well watered to reduce the possibility of fire in your home.

October Crime Statistics: 6

Burglary: 3
500 block of W. 31st St. on Wednesday October 7 at 9:00 a.m. (residence).
200 block of W. 33rd St. on Saturday, October 10 at Noon (vacant residence).

700 block of W. 38th St. on Friday, October 30 at 6:00 p.m. (residence).

Theft: 2

3100 block of N. Shepherd Dr. on Sunday, October 11 Midnight (bar/club).

200 block of W. 33rd St. on Saturday, October 24 at 6:00 p.m. (residence).

Auto Theft: 1

800 block of W. 34th St. on Sunday, October 4 at 8:30 p.m. (residence).

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

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Civic Club, GOMO cont. from pg 5
organization is to enforce deed restrictions. GOMO also reviews building plans to prevent the costly mistake of renovations or construction not within deed restriction compliance.

GOMO receives funding at closing when properties within Sections 1, 2, 3 and 5 are sold. While GOMO currently does not have funding from property sales within Section 4, the deed restrictions still are applicable in Section 4. For section 4, the City of Houston is the fallback enforcer of deed restrictions, which requires that residents be vigilant and notify the city if violations are occurring.

Currently Section 4 is in the midst of voting on becoming part of GOMO.

The main purpose of the monies that GOMO collects is to pay for enforcement of deed restrictions, particularly any legal fees. For 2010, surplus GOMO funds were also approved (by a majority of persons within Sections 1,2, 3 and 5) to fund one daytime and one nighttime constable patrol (each 40 hours per week), and to reimburse the Civic Club for maintenance and landscaping of neighborhood green spaces (up to \$20,000 annually).

GOMO meets at 7 p.m. on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at the Garden Oaks Professional Building. These meetings are open to all residents.

The Garden Oaks Constable Patrol is made up of hired Harris County deputies that patrol all 5 sections of Garden Oaks. Currently we have 3 Constable Patrols: one daytime and one nighttime patrol (both funded by GOMO surplus funds) and a third daytime patrol funded by voluntary monies paid by Garden Oaks residents. This ensures that we have deputies in the neighborhood and quick response time 24/7.

Harris County has recently raised the cost of these patrols; each 40 hour per week patrol costs about \$75,000 annually. The Civic Club does not have enough funds to pay for the Constable Patrol. Thus the neighborhood greatly benefits by GOMO's funding of two constable patrols. The 3rd patrol then must be funded by voluntary donations from Garden Oaks residents if we are to have 24/7 constable coverage in the neighborhood.

The fee for 2010 will be \$200 per household but any amount is appreciated. Currently only about 24% of Garden Oaks residents contribute to the Constable Patrol, but all residents benefit.

Constable Program supporters have all their contact data on file should an incident happen at their home. This ensures prompt notification to whomever may have key access to the property to allow the constables to investigate quickly and contact the homeowner.



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If more folks don't voluntarily pay for the annual Constable Program, then we will eventually lose our 3rd patrol (daytime) and will not have coverage 24/7. Many incidents have proven that the Constable Patrol's response time is very, very quick, and much faster than HPD. Having the Constable Patrol definitely helps keep our neighborhood crime rate down.

Although all of the organizations serve to make Garden Oaks a wonderful neighborhood to live in, all three are separate entities and are funded by sometimes overlapping segments of our neighborhood.

Memberships are annual and coincide with the calendar year. Join today or in January and strengthen your investment in Garden Oaks. Both 2010 Civic Club Membership and Constable Patrol Contributor forms can be found in the *Gazette*.

DOG BARKING REMINDER

The city of Houston has a specific ordinance prohibiting nuisance animal noise including dog barking, the Code of Ordinances for the City of Houston chapter 30 sec. 30-5. The violation is punishable by a fine up to \$500 for each offense.

None of us wants to be bad neighbors, but please respect those who work out of their homes or work shift work. Nobody wants to report neighbors to the police.

2010 OFFICER SLATE

The slate of officers presented by the nominating committee at the November 2009 civic club meeting were:

Mark Klein - President
 Scott Easterly - Vice President
 Phil Ramirez - Treasurer

A name for Secretary was not presented.

Nominations will be taken from the floor at the December meeting and then a vote for officers for 2010 will be taken. Any one with interest for the secretary position may be placed in nomination from the floor at the December meeting. Thanks to nominating committee members Jay Tatum, Rick Knauth, Chris Lindsay, Terry Jeanes and Chris Funk.

For questions contact Terry Jeanes at 713.812.9154.

CONSTABLE PROGRAM

Support the Annual Cruising for Smiles Toy Drive

by Terry Jeanes & Susan Love-Saranie

Please do your part in support of our community constable program by completing the constable supporter forms mailed out recently with the civic club dues statement. The first list of supporters will be printed in the *Gazette* in the next few months. Also you can help Precinct One deputies with their annual *Cruising for Smiles Toy Drive* benefiting children of need in Precinct One. Unwrapped toys may be dropped off at the December civic club meeting, on the porch at 922 West 41st, or may be given to Santa in the Gazebo Park. Also watch for the annual *Cruising for Smiles Toy Drive* benefit at Dr Gleem Car Wash 3103 Ella Blvd. For your donation, you receive a free car wash and a sandwich prepared by area deputy volunteers.

Thank you to the following individuals who helped with the civic club and constable mail-out:

Liz Terrill, Jeremy Gaige, Leslie Waters, Lucy Gilmore, Martha Kennedy, Claudia Staffa, Isela Villareal, Michael Dreiss, George Anderson-Wood, Cindy Jorgensen, Bryan Amsden, Sue Walmsley Amash, Doug Rude, Crey Berry, Sandra O'Guynn, Sandy Altman and Robin Gorman. A HUGE thanks to Oscar Ochoa (OD's Printing) who furnished most of the envelopes and did all the printing of envelopes and inserts for free.

Constable Dispatch
713.755.7628

GO SISTERHOOD

by Beverly Jernigan

Ladies, please join us December 10 for some holiday cheer at the Garden Oaks Sisterhood Meeting. December's gracious host is Joan Harmon who lives at 827 Lamonte Ln. The festivities begin at 7:30. Please bring a snack or beverage to share.

Questions? Beverly@beverlypr.com
 or 713.494.1733

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Civic Club mtg 7:00pm, 701 GO Blvd 	2	3	4	5 Gazebo Park Decorating 10am
6	7	8 GO Kids MNO 7pm, Michele Jankowski's house, 4315 Alba	9	10 GO Sisterhood 7:30pm, Harmon home 827 Lamonte Ln	11	12 Garden Club Christmas Party Merkham home, 1082 Gardenia 6:30pm
13	14	15 Santa at Gazebo Park 6:30-8pm 	16 Santa at Gazebo Park 6:30-8pm	17	18	19 GO Kids Caroling Listers' home, 927 Gardenia, 5:30 pm
20	21	22	23	24	25 Christmas	26
27	28	29 	30	31	Happy New Year!	



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