

GARDEN OAKS GAZETTE

VOLUME 34

ISSUE 02

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT *by Mark Klein*



Join us at the February meeting of the Garden Oaks Civic Club for a presentation by Melissa Noriega, Chair of the City of Houston's Public Safety Council Committee. Ms. Noriega will provide an update of the city's public safety efforts.

It will also be an ideal time to catch up on neighborhood activities, meet some new friends and find out how to help make our community even better. But if those aren't enough reasons, how about the monthly drawing for a gift card? Section 3's Lewis Goodkouski took home January's gift card to Home Depot.

If this year's first Garden Oaks Civic Club meeting is any indication, we are going to have some fine gatherings in the coming months. In January we heard interesting presentations covering the Montessori program at Garden Oaks Elementary School; energy saving workshops being held in the neighborhood; and a fascinating history and introduction to the Bell Tower on 34th Street.

Keeping a neighborhood special takes input and help from a wide variety of its residents. These monthly meetings are your chance to contribute, or at least see what's being done to keep the Garden

Oaks neighborhood one of Houston's best.

There is always room for ideas. And, believe me, our dedicated volunteers could use the help.

From neighborhood crime to beautification, from GOMO to the Garden Oaks Elementary School, each meeting features reports and information useful to residents. I encourage all of our neighbors to attend these monthly meetings, hear what's going on in the community, maybe even step up to help a little in the coming year. There are lots of ways to do so, and they can make a positive difference in our neighborhood.

If you can't attend out meetings, please consider joining the Civic Club. Membership is only \$25 a year for households, \$5 for seniors and \$50 for businesses. The addition of new memberships will help the Civic Club's efforts to improve safety and beautification in the neighborhood.

We hope to see you 7 p.m. Tuesday, February 2, for the next GO Civic Club meeting at the Garden Oaks Elementary School cafeteria on Sue Barnett. Maybe you'll be the one to take home that gift card.

FEB 2010

CIVIC CLUB MEETINGS

February 2 Civic Club Meeting
7pm at Garden Oaks Elementary School

VOLUNTEER NEEDS

Gazette Ad Manager: If interested contact gazette@gardenoaks.org.

Civic Club Secretary: If interested contact president@gardenoaks.org.

REMINDERS

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

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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.

971 West 41st
 1066 Lamonte
 1070 Gardenia
 963 Lamonte
 959 Lamonte
 910 Lamonte
 407 West 34th
 227 West 33rd
 411 West 31st
 718 Sue Barnett
 1071 West 42nd

February Birthdays

Garrett Langdon Crownover 3rd
 Hannah Stender 4th

Patricia Semands 19th
 Jennifer Langdon 21st
 Lindsay Veech 24th
 Allison Padon 28th
 Joe Muscara and Shellye Arnold 30th

Congratulations

Rudy and Bonnie Hernandez celebrating their 37th wedding anniversary.

Out and About

Ken, Mel, Elizabeth, and Jerry Bear Johnson just returned from a fabulous vacation on the big island of Hawaii.

As Ken and Mel are both PhD geologists, they reveled in the awe of olivine rich pyroclastic flow dominated cliffs, pahoehoe lava, olivine beaches, active rift vents, fumaroles, igneous rocks, and viewing an active volcano from a helicopter. And if that wasn't enough,

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there was lots of snorkeling, hiking, and taking pictures.

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

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Carol Smith and Dian Austin

Garden Oaks Gazette

The Garden Oaks Gazette is the official publication of the Garden Oaks Civic Club and is published on a monthly basis. Submission deadline is the 15th of each month for publication the next month unless otherwise noted. **No exceptions.**

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

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CITIZENS' PATROL

by Carl Waters, Jr.

At the January Civic Club Meeting, the Constable passed on an alert to everyone who owns vehicles with 20 inch wheels and rims. These tires and rims are the target of thieves in the area who are bringing their own equipment (jacks and tire irons) to steal the tires. The cars have been left on cinder blocks with all the tires gone. It was also mentioned in some instances the tires were still on the vehicle but the lug nuts had been loosened. If you own a car with 20 inch rims, please check your vehicle to be sure your lug nuts are tight before you leave home.

December Crime Statistics : 4

Burglary: 2

800 block of W. 32nd St. on Friday, December 11 at 10:00 p.m. (residence).
1000 block of Althea Dr. on Monday, December 14 at noon (residence).

Theft: 1

800 block of W. 30th St. on Tuesday, December 8 at 6:00 a.m. (residence)

Auto Theft: 1

700 block of W. 39th St. on Thursday, December 10 at 5:00 a.m. (street)

We can now close out the books on 2009. Based on the information provided by the Houston Police Department website we had 59 crimes reported in 2009 compared to 78 crimes reported in 2008. This means we had a reduction of reported crime of about 24% for the year.

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 713.864.992.

Emergency Numbers

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

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Terms expire October of year in parentheses.

BEAUTIFICATION UPDATE

by Brenda & Ed de Alba

As 2010 begins, our primary objective with Beautification is to continue the maintenance of our neighborhood parks. The Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization (GOMO) will once again reimburse the Civic Club for neighborhood beautification activities in 2010 up to a maximum of \$20,000. Garden Oaks is unique in the number and style of green spaces existing in our neighborhood and keeping them in good shape enhances property values for all of us.

Before getting further into 2010, we'd like to thank Bill Holden and Scott Easterly for decorating the Gazebo Park in early December with the holiday lights.

Old Man Winter really hit hard in January. It's tough looking at all the black plants but best not to cut anything back until all threat of cold weather is past. Getting everything in good form before the Home Tour will be a priority for us.

Most of our parks have committed Captains. When you meet or see one of the people listed below, **PLEASE** thank them for their continued commitment to keeping our parks beautiful.

Rose Garden Captain (W. 34th and Lawrence): Sheila Briones (713-861-8091)

Gazebo Park Captain (Sue Barnett and W. 42nd): Open- We need help! See below.

Triangle Park Captain (Alba and Azalea): Tina Nieto (713-956-4822)

GO Blvd. Esplanade Captain (Garden Oaks Blvd. and Sue Barnett): Shana Tatum (713-699-4166)

Randall Berm Captain (Randall and W. 30th): Matt Roesler (713-861-5568)

Art Park Captain (W. 43rd and Sue Barnett): Ed de Alba (713-694-5934)

Garden Oaks Community Garden Captain (Located on Alba, north of W 43rd St. just

past Sue Barnett): Beth Galiano (713-682-0920).

If you have an interest in growing food organically we have a community garden in the neighborhood. Virtually all of the produce goes to local food banks, the rest to the volunteers who grow it.

We need a captain for the Gazebo Park. The duties are not too onerous. You act as our main eyes and ears for this park, help us schedule workdays and assist on the workdays. If you are interested in helping out please contact us at 713-694-5934.

Upcoming Workdays & Other Beautification Activities:

- Gazebo Park – the materials to repair the Gazebo have arrived. Mark Saranie and Ed de Alba will be making the repairs. Call Ed to find out if he needs additional assistance (713-628-7008)
- Rose Garden – **February 13th, 9:00 a.m.**, 34th and Lawrence, Section 1
- Neighborhood Entrance Sign on W. 43rd near Ella – we still have plans to improve this area but are really happy we didn't do it prior to the recent freezes

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Cathy Wahren 713.686.8686

Yard of the Month selection committee

Mary Lynn Porter

GOMO Review Meetings

will now take place prior to, rather than following, the Civic Club meetings.



GAZETTE BLOCK CAPTAIN OF THE MONTH

by Dian Austin

February's Block Captain of the Month is Lorie Reno, who lives in the 3200 block of Lawrence with son, Chandler (a junior at St. Pius), and husband, John. Lorie has lived in Garden Oaks for 12 years and loves the diversity of the neighborhood and its great location.

Lorie has delivered Gazettes to the entire block of Lawrence in Section 1 for about seven years. She doesn't know how she got involved but thinks that the Gazettes just magically appeared on her doorstep one day and she felt compelled to distribute them! (Maybe I should try that with other blocks.)

Lorie says that she and John are homebodies and enjoy making wine (red and sparkling cider) and brewing beer. Their wine label says "Garden Oaks Vineyards" and sports the big oak tree.

Lorie and John are both long-time civic club members and avid constable supporters.

Thanks to Lorie for her continued commitment to delivering those Gazettes on time! She will receive a \$25 gift card to Home Depot, courtesy of Oscar Ochoa at OD's Printing.

If anyone else wants to join the great Gazette Delivery Team, call me at 713.691.6505 or email me at FallingwaterT@yahoo.com. And if your *Gazette* is not being delivered timely, please let me know.

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BIN THERE, STILL DOING IT
by Mark Saranie

Several times in the *Gazette* I have shared about compost and its virtues. I will not pull any punches here; compost can be hard work, but man is it rewarding! The materials that go into making compost are free and currently, highly available. Just take a look up and down your street. On any day, mostly before trash day, yards are lined with bags full of organic material. Yes, the city will pick it up, give it to a company who eventually will bag it and ship to the gardening stores for us to buy, but why not make your own?

Your system does not have to be elaborate. It can range from a single pile to a multi-bin system. I have the latter, composed of three bins, and have used it ever since moving to G.O.

Preferably, select an area in the back of your yard that is out of the way, gets some sun and will benefit from rain. This is how I put mine together.

Each bin is three feet wide by five feet deep, (I make a lot of compost). I have used 12 posts that have the tabs into which the fencing can be clipped to form the outside walls and the two interior divisions. Four posts are used for the back, four for the middle, and four posts for the front. The sides can be normal chicken wire but I find it a bit flimsy, so instead I

used a thicker gauge fencing wire. The interior divisions are two lengths of the fencing. Presto, you have compost bins at a low cost.

And now for the fun. Use the first bin or the last as the bin into which you will first place all the raw ingredients. When that material has reached a mid decomposition point, after four months or so,



shovel all that into the middle bin. This will allow a good loosening up and will reverse new additions to the bottom and put all the really nice dark stuff on top. Start a new pile in the first bin. Several months later you will shovel the middle bin into the third bin, shovel the first into the middle and start building yet a third new pile.

Continued on pg 16

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TO BAG OR NOT TO BAG?

Changes required for city yard trash pick up

by *Dian Austin*

The City of Houston plans to start up their collection of yard trimmings in compostable bags on **April 5, 2010**.

As of that date, City of Houston crews will **ONLY pick up bagged yard trimmings placed at the curbside in city-approved compostable bags. Yard trimmings placed in the wheeled garbage cart or in any other type of container (such as the old black trash bags) will not be collected.**

City Council approved this change to the City's Code of Ordinances in September 2009. The start-up date was to be January 1; then it was moved to February 1. As we go to press, the date has been pushed back to April 5, 2010.

By diverting this material from the landfills, the City estimates at least \$1.5 million in savings annually, while also preserving the environment and landfill

space. The cost savings also should allow more Houstonians to be added to the curbside recycling program.

The City is encouraging folks to "let it lay or take it away." Each of us has the alternatives of letting grass clippings remain on the lawn, using mulching mowers for "grasscycling," or starting a compost bin if we do not want to purchase the new bags.

The city-approved compostable bags are available at Kroger and Wal-Mart; other retailers will be stocking these as well. The bags can be identified by a logo on the box specifying "City Approved" and "City of Houston Biodegradable/ Compostable Bag." I found some at Kroger on W. 43rd for \$6.39 for a box of ten 33-gallon bags; another resident found some at Wal-Mart, but they were slightly more expensive.



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CONSTABLE PROGRAM

by Terry Jeanes & Susan Love-Saranie

Reminders

Supporter dues are for the January through December calendar year. New supporter forms need to be completed each year, even if you are on a draft program.

Thank you to all who have contributed

Supporter forms are rolling in but we still need your 2010 commitment. The updated supporter list includes forms submitted through Jan. 12, 2010. You do make a difference!

Security note

In the northside area including Heights, Plazas, Oak Forest, and Garden Oaks, 20-inch rims/tires are being stolen off large trucks and SUVs. This is done quickly in the middle of the night. If possible, park in your garage or behind a gate. And, of course, keep your eyes and ears open. Call constable dispatch anytime to report suspicious activity.

New deputy

Our newest deputy will start working

in Garden Oaks sometime in February. Meanwhile Deputy Vest is reassigned to our area as Deputy Edwards moved to another district.

Draft Increase

Please note all bank drafts will be increased to \$20 per month due to the increase in the new contract. The prior draft option was generating funds well below the supporter annual fee of \$200 advanced pay with the fees charged for this monthly payment option. Please adjust your bank accounts accordingly.

Vacation watch form:

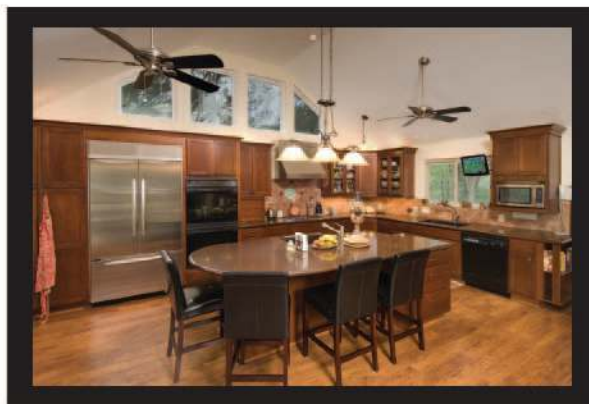
www.gardenoaks.org/Resources/VacationWatch.pdf

Supporter form: www.gardenoaks.org/Resources/ContributorForm2010.pdf

December 2009 Statistics

- Miles patrolled 3,527
- Court citations 14
- Alarm responses 6
- Written warnings 0
- Vacation watches 24
- Suspicious vehicles 23
- Park checks 119
- Criminal offenses 3
- Arrests 1

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2010 CONSTABLE SUPPORTER HOUSHOLDS

(as of 1/12/10)

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Forbes	Flood	Lewis	Bresnahan	Perez	Garey	Hamilton	King
Dilley	Engelhardt	Amalfi	Smith	Capfer/Peters	Stanfield	Wenford	
Hendrickson/Gomez		Bain	Waters/Ryan	Salch	Wilson	Neathery	Rausch
Falschlehner	Mink	Huffman	Barnhill	Seale	Mullins	Smith	Briones
Jez	Saranie	Adair	Forster	Jobe/Schwartz	Frazier/Phillips	Groneman	Winston
Theaker	Alexander	Charlton	Dimmitt	Fletcher	Gomez	Kasischke	Kopecky
Lee	Lengyel	Marquis	Mathews	Murray	Rogers	Winter	Morris
Williams	Rahman	McClard	Gilliland	Gould	Perkins/Zeelst	Edwards	Rauch
Jevremovk	Porter	Anderson-Wood	Taylor	Sherber	Madisetti/Vemireddy		Rasco
Duggin	Herzog	Carney	Francis/Davidson	Deaton/Sarlay	Neff/Mooney	Kissling/Tipton	
Koebelen	Roberts	McQuade/Reno	Schirmbeck	Bishop	Scarbrough	Lewis	

SECTION TWO

Bailey	Seghers	Gaillet	Tatum	Duncan	Austin/Altman	de Alba	Prince
Blassingame	Clark	Janssey	Montgomery/Gurski		Cotterman	Russeel	Johnson
Morgan	Ayers	Synnott	Kalisek	Sonnier	Vuchetich/Cleghorn	Lightfoot	
Berry	Sonnier	Gallagher	Gilmore	Hamilton	Easterly	Arnett	Pina
Muscara/Kennedy		Knauth	Canttz/Hurliman	Puff	Gorman	Klein	Belanger/Voth

SECTION THREE

Crownover/Langdon		Syzdek	Taylor	Sultanik	Spangle	Gavin	Tinke
Hartman	Thomas	Bartos	Stark	Armstrong	Butler	Dyer/Kelly	
Gibb/Reid	Mayers/Mueller	Sledge	Sabuco/Arnold	Schwarzbach	Gurrola	Mueller	Garza
Veselka	Thomas/Larson	Glaze	Sievers	Bell	Guglielmi	Beddow	
Horowitz	Neal						

SECTION FOUR

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Chisholm/Callahan		Schuttz	Trantham	Shaughnessy
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Baron	Lane/Wise	Payne	Wolfarth	Davis
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SECTION FIVE

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Cronin/Sestak	Seyffert	Mullen	Lee	Larato
Willburn	Harbert/Martin	Daly		



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2010 GARDEN OAKS HOME AND GARDEN TOUR PREVIEW PARTY

by Sue Schmidt

The 2010 Garden Oaks Home and Garden Tour will kick off Saturday, April 24th with a casual, self guided tour of the six spectacular homes selected for this year's tour, *Something Old, Something New*. One of the benefits of attending the Home Tour Preview Party is the chance to stroll through the homes at leisure and visit with the homeowners, generous sponsors and tireless volunteers who make this event happen! The homes are held open



for those attending the party and volunteering during the home tour from 5 to 7 p.m. on April 24.

The party will continue at the Bell Tower on 34th, 901 W. 34th St, from 7:00 until 10:30. A fabulous dinner menu has been selected of appetizers of assorted cheeses, seasonal fruit and spicy raspberry torte. A mixed green salad will be followed by inside round of beef and seasonal vegetables as well as two different pasta selections. A table of scrumptious desserts will be available. Three drink tickets for wine, beer or well drink selections are included with each ticket. Valet parking will be provided that evening.

If you have not had the opportunity to experience the wonderful ambience of the Bell Tower yet, you will not want to miss this event! There will be two levels of seating for the celebration. Inside seating in the wine cellar building will be available for \$1,250 per table of 10. Exterior seating in the serene water wall garden area will be \$100 per individual ticket. Exciting silent auction items will be available for viewing *and bidding* throughout dinner. As always, our guests of honor, our wonderful homeowners and sponsors, will be introduced to all in attendance. It is a great opportunity to meet those who so generously step up to help make Garden Oaks this city's best kept and *greenest* secrets!



If you have not had the opportunity to experience the wonderful ambience of

The auction committee has been feverishly working to come up with an unbelievable array of auction items for the 2010 celebration! Fabulous weekend getaways, wine dinners, photography packages, a St. Arnold's Brewery party, dinners for two (or ten) and so much more will be auctioned off at this year's event. A live auction for five of the night's most coveted items will follow dinner! You will not want to miss all of the action! If you are interested in donating an item, please call Dian Austin at 713-695-6505. We need all the helping hands we can get!

Seating for this year's event is limited to 200 in the wine cellar/waterwall areas of the Bell Tower. Start making your plans early for a magical night



of Something Old, Something New in Garden Oaks. Tickets will go on sale Wednesday, March 3. Check next month's *Gazette*, www.gardenoaks.org or Garden Oaks Home Tour 2010 Facebook page for updates! Become a Garden Oaks Home Tour 2010 Facebook fan today <http://tinyurl.com/GOHomeTour2010>.





GEARING UP FOR THE HOME TOUR AUCTIONS

by *Dian Austin*

The 2010 Garden Oaks Home Tour Auction Committee is working hard to ensure that this year's auctions are even more stellar than in previous years.

While the auctions are always great fun, they also are integral to the success of the home tour. We will have three different auctions in concert with this year's tour:

- The **online** auction will become active on the www.gardenoaks.org website beginning March 15. It will end online on April 22.
- The **silent** auction will be held only during the Preview Party and dinner (at the Bell Tower on 34th on Saturday evening, April 24. Tickets are necessary to attend.
- The **live** auction will be held near the end of the evening at the Preview Party.

We are looking for both additional auction donors and more committee members.

Auction donors get great visibility on the www.gardenoaks.org website as well as on signage at the preview party and also have their name or company name printed on the home tour tickets. Depending upon the level of contribution, other benefits include free home tour tickets and free advertising in the *Gazette*. We publish the names of all auction donors in the *Gazette* after the tour and encourage residents to patronize the businesses that support our neighborhood. So, donating an item or service that represents your business can help us all. If you are interested in donating or finding out more information, please email me at FallingwaterT@yahoo.com or call 713.691.6505.

Some of the more popular items have included original artwork, jewelry, anything food-related, photography services, home-related services



(decorating, painting, landscaping, staging), anything pet-related, experiences (such as children's parties, customized tours, an evening at the pool with BBQ and drinks, cooking lessons), tickets to events, and outdoor adventures.

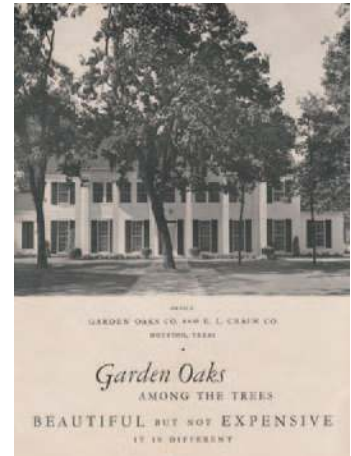
We would love to have not only business donors but also contributions from more residents. Several GO friends have donated various home-cooked dinners delivered to your door (along with wine or high-octane margaritas!). Others generously are donating a year's worth of desserts, vacation cabins, wine dinners, customized tours, pet-sitting services, jewelry, and bath fixtures, just to name a few.

In our diverse neighborhood, all kinds of talents could be contributed to ensure that this year's home tour is a huge success. I know we have attorneys, bakers, business owners, veterinarians, computer gurus, artists, pet-friendly folks, season-ticket holders, frequent fliers, and experts in various fields. Please thoughtfully consider donating your talents or items, whatever they may be. Or you may have a second home ... say, a villa in Tuscany, an historical home in Nova Scotia, or a small cabin on the lake that you would be willing to donate for a two- or three-day getaway. We definitely would be interested in hearing from any potential donors!

Additional committee volunteers also are needed. Putting together three auctions is a big endeavor and requires lots of folks to keep things running smoothly. Volunteers are needed to solicit auction items, deliver and/or stage items at the Preview Party, run the live auction (any good auctioneers out there that can help whip the crowd into a bidding frenzy?), and ensure the checkout process at the end of the silent/live auctions runs smoothly. If you are interested in joining our team, we can find a match between your talents and our needs.

Working on the home tour has been one of the highlights of my 30-plus

years in Garden Oaks and a great way to meet some fun people. Please consider volunteering for the home tour in any capacity, attending the home tour and supporting our great neighborhood. And if you can become an auction donor or an auction committee member, that's even better! Again, contact me at FallingwaterT@yahoo.com or 713.691.6505 for more information.



HOME TOUR SPONSORS

by *Susan Kostelecky*

Thank you so much for the sponsors that have committed to and paid for their sponsorships for the upcoming Home & Garden Tour!

Corporate Sponsor \$2500

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Gold Sponsors \$500

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James Garman Homes Corp.

Silver Sponsors \$250

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Tyler Flood & Associates

Thank you so much for supporting the neighborhood! We appreciate it!

If you would like to participate as a sponsor, feel free to email me at skdesigns@mindspring.com or call me at 713.697.4110.

**GO CIVIC CLUB MEETING
MINUTES**

January 5, 2010

The Bell Tower on 34th

President Mark Klein called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. at the Bell Tower on 34th Street.

The December 2009 minutes were approved as published in the Gazette, January 2010.

Treasurer Phil Ramirez presented and gave an overview of the budget in a new and more complete format and also gave an update on the Constable Patrol. Our need to cover the Constable Patrol is \$37,000 shy of our \$71,000 goal for 2010. We have received approximately \$34,000 as of January 5. GOMO gave the Civic Club a check for about \$18,000 to reimburse 2009 park maintenance expenses the Civic Club incurred keeping up the parks it is responsible for in the neighborhood.

Carl Waters Jr., Citizen Patrol Chair, said four December crimes were reported to HPD. The HPD web site shows a 24 percent decrease in crime rate from last year.

For the Constable Program, the club was reminded that all constable supporters need to complete a new annual profile each year. Terry Jeanes reported that upcoming issues of the Gazette will be updated with contributors. Also a new afternoon patrol will be assigned; however, Deputy Vest temporarily is covering the shift until a replacement is available.

Carl Waters requested the help of three to five neighborhood volunteers to call GO residents to encourage participation in the constable program. Interested volunteers can contact Carl at gocop@gardenoaks.org or 713.864.1992.

For Beautification, Committee Chair Brenda de Alba reported that replacement parts for the Gazebo repairs are in; Mark Saranie and Ed de Alba will help with the repair.

Dian Austin, Membership Chair, reported that GO Civic Club membership is currently 252 residents. Last year's total was 351.

During the monthly GO Civic Club drawing, Lewis Goodkouski from Section 3 won a \$25 gift card to Home Depot.

Jessica Jarvis, Gazette Editor, announced that Tim Merritt, Advertising Manager, has resigned to accept a new job in California and will be missed greatly. The Gazette needs one or two volunteers to take his place. Contact Jessica directly for details or if you have a recommendation: 713.446.6440 or gazette@gardenoaks.org.

For the Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization report, Ed de Alba announced that GOMO meetings will be held 6:30 p.m. the first Tuesday of each month, prior to the Civic Club meetings at Garden Oaks Elementary cafeteria. GOMO's second monthly meeting is held in the GOMO offices on the third Wednesday of the month.

The 2010 Garden Oaks Home and Garden Tour is taking shape, Sue Schmidt reported, as volunteers meet regularly to produce the event. More services, events, and items are needed for the auctions held during the 2010 Home and Garden Tour Preview Party, reported Dian Austin. Also, the Auction Team is growing but can use more volunteers. Get your tickets now for the 2010 Home and Garden Tour Preview Party, which has limited reserved seating at the Bell Tower in 34th Street.

President Klein thanked the 2009 Civic Club Officers and Committee Chairs for their service and presented past President Scott Easterly with a gift card to Tony's Mexican Restaurant.

Roger and Angela Igo of Igo Development gave a presentation on the history, space and services now available at the Bell Tower reception and meeting hall and introduced their

business partner Chuy Terrazas. Visitors to the January Civic Club gathering were given a tour of the Bell Tower's indoor banquet rooms, wine barrel room, outdoor patio, and water wall. The Bell Tower on 34th Street is an impressive and welcome addition to our neighborhood.

Tony Knauth, President, Garden Oaks Chapter-Friends of Montessori, gave a presentation on the history, scope, and purpose of the Montessori program at Garden Oaks Elementary School. Mark the date: The 16th Annual Pancake Breakfast and Silent Auction annual fundraiser is Saturday, February 6th at GOES. The community-wide breakfast and auction raises funds needed to pay for scholarships and expenses not covered by HISD.

Debbie Antoon gave an overview of the five-week energy saving workshops offered by Greener Living in Houston, which will be held at Garden Oaks Elementary Jan. 13, 20, 27 and Feb. 3 and 10.

GOES Principal Lindsay Pollock reported that she has requested HISD to pay the entire cost of the iron four-foot fence for the SPARK Park. Security cameras are being installed in and surrounding the school. They will be monitored both at the school and centrally by HISD Police. She is holding Friday Tea Parties for 12 students and their parents or guardians and requested donations of six tea pots and six creamer and sugar sets.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.



16TH ANNUAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST

California Dreamin' package one of many auction highlights at 16th annual Pancake Breakfast and Silent Auction Fundraiser

by Dian Pittman

The popular pancake feast and silent auction held yearly in Garden Oaks is boasting another slew of unique and appealing auction items this year.

Now a neighborhood tradition, the 16th annual event, with the theme, "Learn 2 Love 2 Learn" will be held Saturday, February 6, at Garden Oaks Elementary, from 8 to 10:30 a.m. Free, hot pancakes are served up by the Men of Montessori (MOMs), along with fresh java courtesy of Katz Coffee.

Those who never miss this event agree: you never know what you might find. One of the highlights of this year's auction benefiting the Montessori program at Garden Oaks Elementary is a California Dreamin' package that

includes passes to Disneyland and two round-trip Southwest Airlines tickets.

The pancake breakfast and auction is the program's largest fundraiser of the year, providing funding for Montessori classroom materials, which differ from traditional school supplies, as well as Montessori-specific teacher training and scholarships.

Friends of Montessori began in 1994 when parents and community members were interested in changing educational opportunities within the public school system, specifically at Garden Oaks Elementary. While HISD offers the program, traditional sources of revenue do not cover the cost, and private funds raised by volunteer parents and community partners are necessary to meet the program's annual budget.

Garden Oaks Elementary School is located at 901 Sue Barnett Dr. For more information, call 713.696.2930 or visit www.fomhouston.org.



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CELEBRATING WHAT'S RIGHT IN THIS WORLD WITH TEA PARTIES!

by Lindsey Pollock, GOES Principal

In November, I attended a Public Montessori Educators in Texas conference and participated in a workshop on tea. I learned what a wonderful teaching tool and bonding experience it could be for children and adults to sit together for a tea "party."

As a result, I am hosting Friday "Tea Parties with the Principal" at Garden Oaks. Our new school board member, Anna Eastman, joined us on Friday, January 15! At home, you, too, can have fun with a delicious caffeine-free herbal tea and celebrate a special time with your child. Share these fun facts about

Step two: Eyes – Visually appreciate the slightly tinted green or yellow shade of nature.

Step three: Hand – Feel the warmth and energy generated by the tea.

Step four: Nose – Close your eyes and inhale the scent of fresh tea leaves.



tea with your children and friends while relaxing with a nice warm cup of tea.

While drinking tea is customary in many cultures world-wide, in Korea, the true meaning of a cup of tea is determined by these Five Steps for a Harmonious Retrospection Toward Thyself that includes the five senses of Human Body:

Step one: Ear – Listen to the sound of the boiling water, mediate, and calm emotions.

Step five: Mouth – Enjoy every energy-providing drop.

Many wonderful books about tea are geared to children such as *Miss Spider's Tea Party* and *Listen to the Wind*. Greg Mortensen, acclaimed author and Nobel Peace Nominee, and others have found tea to be a tool for social change as detailed in his book, *Three Cups of Tea*. His efforts have provided educational opportunities for more than 60,000 children in Pakistan and Afghanistan including girls who formerly were excluded from educational settings. Mortensen will be speaking in Houston Feb, 8 from 7-9 p.m. at Jones Hall.



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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.

GO KIDS NEWS

by Sarah Heath

Happy Valentine's Day! What a great month: hugs, kisses, flowers, and chocolate! What could be better? Joining us for some of the great activities we have planned this month would be a great start. We would L-O-V-E to see you!

Join GO Kids for a Valentine's potluck dinner on Saturday, February 6, from 4-6 p.m. at Sarah and Corey Heath's house. Bring an entrée, side dish, or dessert to share with your neighbors. The Heaths live at 1031 West 42nd Street and their number is 832.724.3325.

We're having a Grab & Gab for this month's Moms' Night Out. Bring your unwanted purses, perfumes, clothes, accessories, shoes, or whatever to swap with other GO moms. Take something home you love and get rid of something you don't. We'll have a special guest, closet consultant Angela Miller, who

will talk about how to get your closet into shape. This special MNO will be hosted by Deanna Zugheri at her home, 1054 Gardenia, on Tuesday, February 9 at 7 p.m. In addition to your swap stuff, please bring your favorite drink and/or snack to share. For more information contact Maricela Pina at pinamaricela@yahoo.com. We hope to see you there!

Big changes are in store for the GO Kids All Ages playgroup! GO mom Jennifer Funderburk has agreed to regroup and reorganize the playgroup. Look for details in next month's Gazette and on our website. If there are some changes you'd like to see, contact Jennifer at funderburkjennifer@yahoo.com.

Are you or someone you know an overwhelmed, sleep deprived new parent? Take heart because help is on the way! We are happy to provide several meals to new families during those stressful 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 832.724.3325 or sarahmheath@gmail.com.



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COMPOSTING *Continued from pg 6*

The ingredients are simple. Any organic material from your yard and kitchen, except for meat and grease will do. Layer everything and water it in as you go. One layer of dried or brown material, about 6-8 inches thick, a similar layer of green stuff, (grass clippings, leaves trimmings, etc.) and finally a layer of dirt from forgotten pots or leftover compost, (if available). Repeat including necessary watering with every addition as moisture is a key element here. Aeration is also critical so every week or so, grab a pitchfork, dig into the pile and turn it. This speeds up the cooking process. For more detailed information on making compost and more complex systems, there is a plethora of information online.

Making the final product does take time, so I can understand purchasing ready made compost. I just like the satisfaction of making it. Be sure to join the Garden Club for other great gardening tips and advice.

GO SISTERHOOD

by Beverly Jernigan

Make one of your new year's resolutions to join a great group of neighborhood ladies: the Garden Oaks Sisterhood. We meet on the third Thursday of every month and it is always a great time.

Join us for the Garden Oaks Sisterhood February meeting. February's hostess is Beverly Jernigan and the theme is Valentine's day of course!

February 18
512 West 33rd Street
The fun begins at 7:30 PM – Please bring a snack or beverage to share.

Questions? Beverly@beverlypr.com
or 713.494.1733



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PHOTO OF THE MONTH

Picture taken by Cindy Bartos



A Bullock's Oriole, taken in Linda Spark's backyard (1400 block of Sue Barnett). Per bird books, the eastern limit for this bird is supposed to be the Texas Hill Country.



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CRITTER CORNER

by Casey and Dorothy Dan Farris

February is National Pet Dental Health Month so this month we talk about tips for home dental care for your pets. Also, Sunday, February 14 is the Krewe of Barkus and Meow Pet Mardi Gras parade in Galveston on the seawall at 1:00 p.m. This is a fun, fun, family event that benefits the Galveston Island Humane Society.

New Co-author: Dorothy Dan

Dorothy Dan will be joining the writing team this month. She is my five-year old black cat that I rescued from a feral cat colony in Garden Oaks when she was just a few weeks old. Many of the Cat Catchers remember her as a tiny, sick kitten. She is prissy, vocal, and very fast. Somehow or another she has managed to completely dominate our household and our hearts. Happy Valentine's to my sweet baby girl and to all our precious pets.

Critters 101: Eight Tips and Tools for Home Dental Care for Pets

Start with your vet. First, schedule a dental exam for your pet. Your vet will examine your pet's teeth, gums, and oral cavity.

Ask your vet for a tooth care demonstration. Your vet can demonstrate the proper techniques for your particular pet and any special needs your pet may have. They can recommend toothpastes and brushes that are suited for your pet's dental health and temperament.

Shop for appropriate toothpaste . Do not use human toothpaste! Besides not being tasty for pets, human toothpaste is sudsy and is to be rinsed out, not swallowed. Most pets prefer meat-flavored toothpastes over mint flavors. If possible, start with a small sample to find a flavor your pet likes.

Shop for an appropriate toothbrush or cleaning tool. Several pet specific are toothbrushes available. Select a brush size with soft bristles that is appropriate for your pet's mouth. If this will not work for your pet, consider a fingertip brush, a tissue, cloth or, as a last resort, a mouth spray.

Introduce brushing and dental care slowly. The most important things to be aware of when starting a home dental care program are to not get bitten and not harm your pet's mouth. Go slowly. Start with a small amount of toothpaste

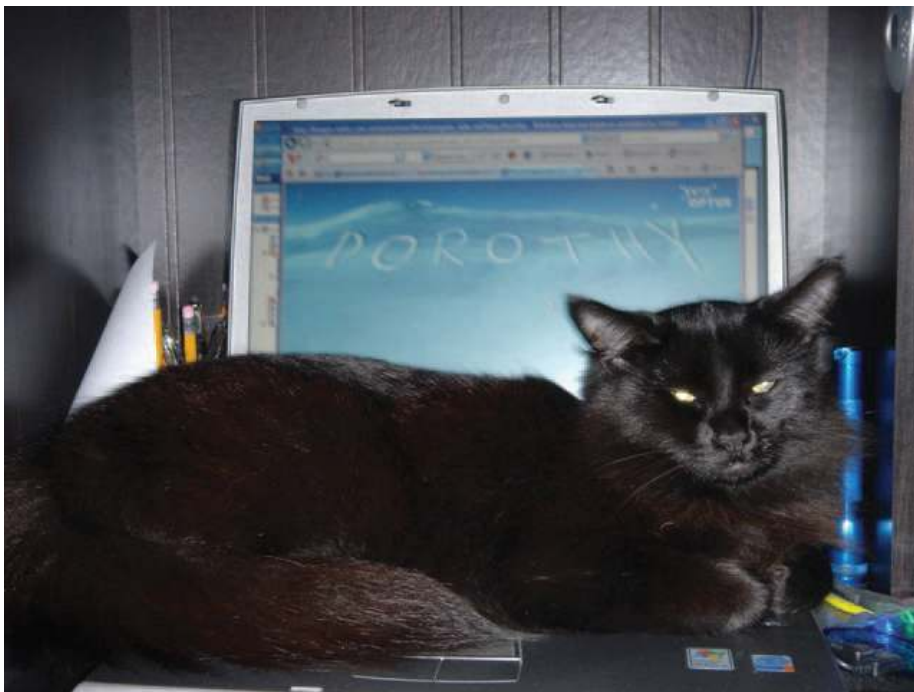
and let your pet smell and taste it, praising and encouraging your pet. Add the brush or other tool once you feel comfortable and your pet knows what to expect. Brush gently, stroking from the gums downward. Do not worry about brushing the inside of the teeth by the tongue as they are cleansed by saliva.

Brush daily. Realistically though, once or twice a week is great. Setting up a routine and getting into the habit will help.

Bones or chew toys to help keep teeth clean. I like rope toys and the Kong dental toys, as they are durable and not consumable. Choose a toy appropriately sized for your pet.

Foods or Treats to Keep Teeth and Gums Healthy. A variety of biscuits are on the market labeled as tartar control. Ask your vet if this is an option for your pet for daily care. As with all treats and special diets be mindful of the calories and your pet's overall weight.

Casey Farris is owner and operator of Bone Voyage Pet Sitting Services and Go Dog USA. Please forward your questions and pet news to Casey@GoDogUSA.com or call 713.688.6363.



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RECYCLING...BOOKS

by *Dian Austin*

If there are any other non-Kindle users in the world besides me, and you like to read a lot but don't want to spend the money on brand new books, here are some sites I use weekly to trade books:

www.bookmooch.com

You get a point for every book that someone "mooches" from you. Each point allows you to "mooch" a book from someone else.

www.paperbackswap.com

You get a point for every book that you send to someone once they have received it. Each point allows you to receive a book from another member.

www.swaptree.com

This is my favorite trading site. You can trade books, CDs, DVDs, and games. You

don't have to trade like for like. Often the trades are three-way: you send a book to someone in NY. The NY person sends a DVD to someone in Iowa and the Iowa person sends you a CD that you want.

Almost all of the things I have received have been in great condition. Some have looked brand new. Most people ship very quickly. I have been very pleased with all three of these sites.

Both the paperbackswap and swaptree sites allow you to print the prepaid postage labels (you pay thru credit card or Paypal), and then you don't have to stand in line at the post office to mail your package.

For all sites, you pay the postage when you ship (and all can go by USPS Media Mail which is generally cheaper than first class), but you do not pay postage on anything received.





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FEBRUARY 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Civic Club mtg 7:00pm, GO elementary school	3	4	5	6
7	8	9 GO Kids MNO 7pm, 1054 Gar- denia, Zugheri Home 	10	11 Garden Club meeting 7pm, W. 43rd Kroger Community Room	12	13
14 	15	16	17	18 GO Sisterhood 7:30pm, Jernigan Home, 512 West 33rd Street	19	20
21	22	23 	24	25	26	27
28	1 MARCH	2 Civic Club mtg 7:00pm, GO elementary school	3	4	5	6

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