

GARDEN OAKS GAZETTE

VOLUME 34

ISSUE 04

Something Old



SOMETHING NEW

GARDEN OAKS HOME & GARDEN TOUR 2010

HOME TOUR COUNTDOWN IS ON

by Sue Schmidt

The final preparations are in full swing for the 2010 Garden Oaks Home and Garden Tour, *Something Old, Something New*, which takes place Sunday, April 25 from noon until 6 p.m.

The homes and gardens this year represent all that Garden Oaks has to offer: two original footprints lovingly restored; renovations designed to meet the needs of growing families; and new construction incorporating favorite elements of the past. And what would any home tour be these days without a great example of the "green" construction sweeping the industry? The 2010 Home Tour promises to have something of interest for everyone. We hope to see all of our Garden Oaks neighbors come out to support the community's largest fundraiser that helps promote beautification of our parks, the constable program, the *Gazette*, and other community improvements.

Our Garden Oaks Beautification Committee, headed by Brenda and Ed de Alba, along with volunteers and park captains, have been working to bring the parks back to life after the unusual multiple winter freezes. The many parks

in the neighborhood look wonderful thanks to these dedicated gardeners.

Volunteers are needed including docents for the homes and shuttle buses. Several residents have said how much the stories shared on those rides through the neighborhood during Home Tour have meant in their decision to make Garden Oaks the place they would later decide to call home. Our docents breathe life into the story of our community. Ticket takers are needed and set-up volunteers to prep each home. Acting as a volunteer for the Home Tour is a wonderful way to meet people in the neighborhood and feel a part of the community. To volunteer, call Brian O'Leary at 713.695.1236.

Given the state of our economy over the past eighteen months, there are not enough words to express the appreciation to our many sponsors who have stepped up to make the 2010 Garden Oaks Home and Garden Tour the success it promises to be. Most of our sponsors are small-business owners and many are residents giving back to our community. Home Tour *continued on page 10*

APR 2010

CIVIC CLUB MEETINGS

April 6 Civic Club Meeting
7pm at Garden Oaks Elementary School

The April meeting will feature two of our neighborhood elected officials: State Representative Dawyne Bohac and newly elected Councilwoman Brenda Stardig.

REMINDERS

2010 Home Tour: Sunday, April 25
Noon to 6 p.m.
\$13 in advance
\$15 day of tour

Preview Party: Saturday, April 24
5 to 7 p.m. self guided tour followed by dinner and auction at the Bell Tower. Tickets are available via the Ticket Order Form (see insert)
\$1250 for a table of 10
\$100 single tickets

Don't forget to complete your Constable membership form found in this issue today!

Don't forget, compostable yard bags are required as of the week of April 5.

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CITIZENS' PATROL

by Carl Waters, Jr.

Congratulations to patroller Gilda Evans. who accumulated enough hours to earn her 85-hour T-shirt and 100-hour patrol jacket!

Last year's trend of lower crime numbers continued through the first two months of this year. Through February only seven crimes were reported on the HPD website versus nine through February 2009.

February Crime Statistics: 2

Theft: 2
700 block of W. 41st St. on Sunday, January 31 at 10 p.m. (residence)
1000 block of Althea Dr. on Saturday, February 6 at midnight (driveway)

Please stay alert and report any

suspicious activity to the constable's office or the Houston Police Department.

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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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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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.

- 942 West 41st 814 West 41st
- 987 West 42nd 942 West 42nd
- 946 West 43rd 1043 Gardenia
- 950 Lamonte 1586 Sue Barnett

April Birthdays and Celebrations

- Kylie Elyse Salch 7th
- Craig Lee & Keith Kostelecky 9th
- Melissa Neiser 10th
- Linden D'Amico 11th
- Lily Claire Bowman 18th
- Orvil Sims 22nd
- Robert Deveau and Leslie Waters 23rd

Happy Anniversary

Tina Sabuco & Shelly Arnold Anniversary on April 6, and **Melissa & Trey Kuchar** celebrating their five-year wedding anniversary on April 16.

Welcome new additions

Maya Gabrielle Rahman, born February 23rd, joins big brother **Noah**.

Proud parents are **Laura & Sami Rahman**.

Out and About

Brian OLeary and George Appling are spending tons of great weekends at Sherwood Forest Faire.

Did I hear **Jessica Modad** was on a big trip in Cancun?

Jason, Alisha, Lela, & Katie Cunningham headed to San Antonio for spring break.

Condolences

Special thoughts for the **Salch family: Trent, Megan and Kylie**. Trent's dad, Steven, passed in February in Galveston.

For **Sherry Freeman**, thoughts for the passing of **Tom (Eddie) Freeman** on March 8 in Lake Tahoe.

For **Charlie & Jane Kelso Winter**, in the passing of **Kelsey Buzzanco** on March 11.

To **the Gross family** for the loss of their dear dog Saydi.

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



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Terms expire October of year in parentheses.

BEAUTIFICATION UPDATE

by Brenda and Ed de Alba

Ornamental trees throughout the neighborhood and in our green spaces really put on a show in February and March, most likely due to our colder than usual winter temperatures! The Mexican Plum tree in the Gazebo Park was magnificent and so fragrant its aroma could be detected from across the street.

Getting ready for the Home and Garden Tour has been our primary focus during February and March.

Recent Beautification Activity:

Randall Berm: Ornamental grasses were cut back, ornamental trees trimmed, and weeds pulled.

Memorial Rose Garden: Roses, ornamental trees, and shrubs were pruned and beds weeded.

Gazebo Park: Crepe Myrtle trees were pruned (not murdered) and beds weeded.

Garden Oaks Boulevard: All ornamental trees and shrubs pruned.

City of Houston NeighborWoods Program

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department, in conjunction with **Trees for Houston**, encourages you to improve the quality of life in your neighborhood by taking advantage of the NeighborWoods Program, which is a private/public volunteer initiative aimed at providing Houston neighborhoods with beautiful trees free of charge. NeighborWoods enhances and enriches area landscapes by working with neighborhood and community organizations to plant and help maintain trees in residential rights of way.

Citizens wishing to participate in the program and obtain two five-gallon trees can contact NeighborWoods at www.houstontx.gov/parks/neighborwoods, fill out the appropriate request form, and send it to the Houston Parks and Recreation Department Urban Forestry Division. In exchange, you must agree to pick up your trees and plant them properly on the right of way adjacent to your property and maintain its growth and development for two years. Approximately 30 to 40 types of trees are available. Trees also can be requested on the City's 311 website at <https://webintake.houstontx.gov>.



GARDEN CLUB OFFICERS

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Yard of the Month selection committee
Mary Lynn Porter

GOMO Review Meetings

take place at 6:30p.m.
prior to the Civic Club meetings.



GAZETTE BLOCK CAPTAIN OF THE MONTH

by Dian Austin

April's Block Captain of the Month is Mary Martinez, who lives in the 400 block of W. 31st and delivers *Gazettes* to the 400 and 500 blocks of her street. Mary has been delivering *Gazettes* since 1997, when she first moved to Garden Oaks and took over that route from Belle Katzer. Many of you old-timers will remember fondly Belle's name.

Mary lives with her husband, Alex, and their pets: Xena the yorkie, Heidi the feline, and Chirpy the parakeet.

They have a great set up that most of us envy: a double lot! Mary and Alex remodeled their own house, bought the house next door, and built a small home on the second lot. The area is fenced, so they have their own little Garden Oaks paradise. The second home serves as a guest/party house and is called the Outback. (Where are you? I'm out back.)

Mary and Alex are long-time civic club and constable supporters.

We really appreciate Mary's diligence over all these years delivering *Gazettes*. She will receive a \$25 gift card to Home Depot, courtesy of Oscar Ochoa at OD's Printing. Thank you, Mary!

If anyone 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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WHEEL AWAY YOUR RECYCLABLES!

by Dian Austin

By now you should have received a notice from the City of Houston that you will soon be getting a free 96-gallon green bin on wheels for recycling. Yes, Garden Oaks has been accepted into the expanded automatic recycling program!

These new and larger bins on wheels will accommodate newspaper, magazines, catalogs, plastics (rinsed and drained), aluminum and tin cans (rinsed and drained), flattened cardboard, and glass bottles, jugs, and jars (rinsed and drained, without caps or lids). The glass pick up will be new for us, as our previous curbside recycling bins were not eligible for glass.

This single-stream recycling will allow us to mix different types of recyclables, and the collection will become automated rather than using manual pickup. The city is hoping that this new process will

increase the amount of recycling, which will divert more waste from landfills. Collection costs should be reduced due to the automatic collection process.

Please be a good citizen and do not use this recycling container for garbage, yard trimmings, or trash. Please use it only for recycling. A list of acceptable items for recycling will be printed on the cart lid, so you can check to see if what you are including is eligible to be recycled.

Some things that should not be included are paper plates, plastic bags (like those you get at the grocery store), pizza boxes, anything Styrofoam, or plate glass.

Only one container will be issued per household. The containers will be picked up every other week per the usual schedule. Per the city's solid waste department, they will not be pick up our current green small bins. You can use those inside your home to hold smaller

amounts of recyclables, and then dump them in the larger bin. You may find another more creative use for them. I use them for hauling plants in the back of my car; the bin keeps the plants from falling over and spilling dirt.

All residents who receive a 96-gallon bin are eligible to participate in the RecycleBank program. The larger recycling cart has a special identification tag on it that links your address to your RecycleBank account, should you choose to activate your account. You can earn RecycleBank Points for the amount recycled; the points can be redeemed at various retailers. Residents will receive a letter from RecycleBank explaining how the program works.

You can read more about this program on the city's website: www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/index.html

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CONSTABLE PROGRAM

by Terry Jeanes & Susan Love Saranie

We have received several calls of parties not posted to the supporter list, so please note, supporter lists include those for the current supporter calendar year. 2010 are those who have paid a contribution since the 2010 mailing of the 2010 forms. Our contract runs January to December so those who may have paid in later in the year may not be listed.

Also remember new supporter forms are needed each year, even if you are on a draft program, in order to keep you updated on the email distribution for important security alerts and notices.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED THUS FAR
 Supporter forms are steadily rolling in but we still need your 2010 commitment.
 You do make a difference!

NEW DEPUTY
 Welcome afternoon/evening Deputy

Joseph Lane.

DRAFT INCREASE

Just a reminder all draftees were increased to \$20 per month due to the increase in supporter dues per year and the costs charged by the bank.

Vacation watch form:
www.gardenoaks.org/Resources/VacationWatch.pdf

Supporter form in this Gazette or at:
www.gardenoaks.org/Resources/ContributorForm2010.pdf

PRECINCT ONE CONSTABLE DISPATCH
 713.755.7628

- February 2010 Statistics
- Miles Patrolled...2371
- Court Citations.....11
- Alarm Responses....4
- Written Warnings.....0
- Vacations Watches....38
- Suspicious Vehicles....12
- Park checks...71
- Criminal Offenses...3
- Arrests....0



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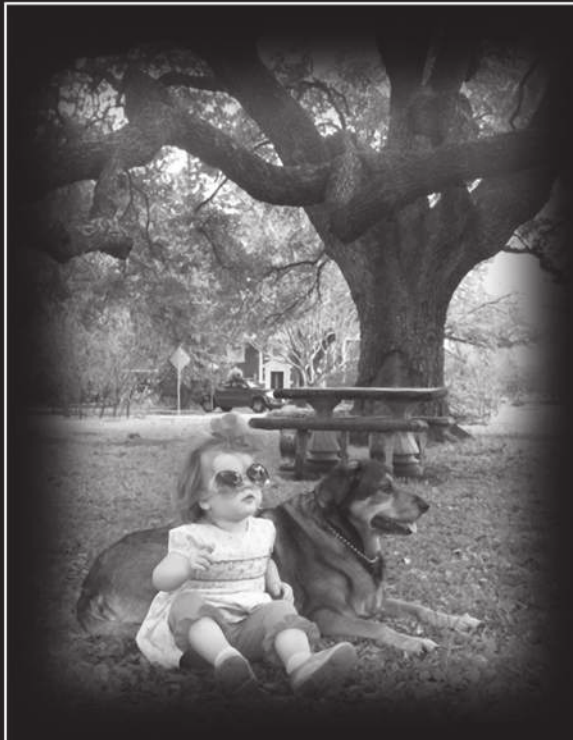
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2010 Constable Supporter Households
(posted as of 3/1/10)

SECTION ONE

Debien	Villman	Spinks	Caudill	Colca
Lancey	Herbster	Bewley	Forbes	Flood
Lewis	Bresnahan	Perez	Garey	Hamilton
King	Dilley	Engelhardt	Amalfi	Smith
Capfer/Peters	Stanfield	Wenford	Hendrickson/Gomez	
Bain	Waters/Ryan	Salch	Wilson	Meyer *
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	Taylor
Anderson-Wood	Sherber	Madisetti/Vemireddy		Rasco
Duggin	Herzog	Carney	Francis/Davidson	
Deaton/Sarlay	Neff/Mooney	Kissling/Tipton	Koebelen	Roberts
McQuade/Reno	Bishop	Scarborough	Lewis	Lee
Morris	Dansby/Flores	Afghani	Grandstaff	Montgomery
Starustka	Evans	DePaul	Stautherg	O'Guynn
Pennington/Hoover		Lilly	Herbster	Odom
Hall				

SECTION TWO

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

SECTION THREE

Crownover/Langdon	Syzdek	Taylor	Sultanik
Spangle	Gavin	Hartman	Thomas
Bartos	Stark	Butler	Dyer/Kelly
Gibb/Reid	Mayers/Mueller	Richard/Talley	Snell
Sledge	Sabuco/Arnold	Schwarzbach	Mueller
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SECTION FOUR

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Funk	Ochoa	Bergen	Motzel	Swick	
Baron	Lane/Wise	Payne	Wolfarth	Davis	
Rasmus	Chemali	Broughton/Anastasia	Shaver/Earl	Beyer	
Londono/Chamberlain		Williams	Cunningham	Gaige	
Jeanes	Johnson	Stender	Singer	Heurihg	
Price					

SECTION FIVE

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Griffiths	Restrepo	Hansen/Rodriguz		Smith	
Coleman	Smith	Shepperd	McDaniel	Roca	
Terrell	Salazar/Wooten	Munoz	Gloriod	Kenyon/Meyer	
Frazier	Terrett	Torres	Peoples	Carlin	
Keegan	Kelly	Rude	Staffa	Tomchesson	
Pfeiffer-Traum	Naff	Cronin/Sestak	Seyffert	Mullen	
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Home Tour cont. from pg 1

executive committee members ask that you support those business owners. A list of sponsors can be found in this edition of the Gazette and online at www.gardenoaks.org/sponsors. Thanks to Susan Kostecky for chairing this vital part of any fundraising event!



The weekend of activities for the Home Tour will kick off with a Preview Party on Saturday, April 24, in honor of this year's sponsors and homeowners. The party will start with a self-guided homes preview from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. A dinner and silent/live auction will follow at The Bell Tower on 34, 901 W. 34th from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. Houston's latest event venue generously donated the rooms and water wall area for the 2010 Preview Party. Tickets are \$1250 for a reserved table for 10 in the wine cellar rooms or outdoor water wall area. Individual tickets in the water wall area are \$100. An order form for



the event is found as an insert in this Gazette and online at www.gardenoaks.org/previewparty. Tickets are limited to the first 200 and are designated by area on a first-come basis.

The silent/live auction items will be set up for viewing and bidding. A delicious

buffet will be served from 7:30 until 9 p.m. followed by a fabulous live auction. Tina Sabuco will take charge of the live auction.

Can't make the party? Not to worry. The online auction at www.gardenoaks.org is up and running with a listing of all the many live/silent items available to bid on the night of the Preview Party and items up for bid online only. Bidding for online-only items will continue until Thursday, April 22 at 10 p.m. Check out the great items available and get the bidding started today!

Dian Austin and the auction committee members have come up with unique and



interesting items and experiences for the silent/live auctions. Examples include: a stay on the Frio River; lodging at Padre Island, a wine dinner for eight at the Bell Tower; one of a kind art by local artists, Janet Cones, Kermit Eisenhut, and Gail Siptak; and so much more.

On Sunday, April 25, the home tour command center at the Garden Oaks Shopping Center at 3930 N. Shepherd will be the starting point for the 2010 Home and Garden Tour. Pre-sale tickets are available online at www.gardenoaks.org/presaletickets as well as numerous locations throughout Garden Oaks and The Heights. Pre-sale tickets are \$13 until Friday, April 23, and must be brought to the Command Center the day of the tour to exchange for a Day of Tour ticket. Day of Tour tickets available at the command center are \$15. The shuttle bus service will provide an entertaining journey to



each of our home and garden stops. Ample parking is available at the Garden Oaks Shopping Center. Riding the shuttle to the various locations will help alleviate traffic congestion.

The six homes, three gardens, and the gardens at Garden Oaks Elementary School will let visitors experience the wide diversity of homes and gardens in our area. With so many avid gardeners in the neighborhood, the gardens this year offer the best Garden Oaks has to offer. The homeowners themselves represent a wide range of backgrounds from romance writer, to architect, to builder, to photographer, to interior designer, to landscape designer. Talent abounds in Garden Oaks!

Volunteers for the Home Tour are invited to the volunteer thank you party at the home of Brian O'Leary and George Appling, 701 Garden Oaks Blvd. Barbeque, beer, and wine will be served. The party begins immediately following the Home Tour and continues until 8 p.m.

Call friends and family with a reminder to visit the Home Tour and become a fan through Facebook and spread the word. Come join the fun! It benefits each and every one of us in so many ways to support the 2010 Garden Oaks Home and Garden Tour, *Something Old, Something New!*



HOME TOUR AUCTION UPDATE

by Dian Austin

The home tour online auction is up and running at www.gardenoaks.org! As more bidders register on the site, we will be adding more items. The online auction also let's you take a peek at some of the items that will be for auction at the Preview Party on Saturday, April 24. The items in the online auction are just a little "taste" of what the Silent Auction will be offering. Check back often and see the new items. Let the bidding begin!

We owe a big thanks to the auction donors listed below who provided goods and/or services for the online and upcoming silent and live auctions. Thank you, thank you, and thank you! Please support these business owners and also thank your neighbors who have donated. We are still taking auction items, so if you have an item or a service to donate, please call me at 713-691-6505 or email me at FallingwaterT@yahoo.com.

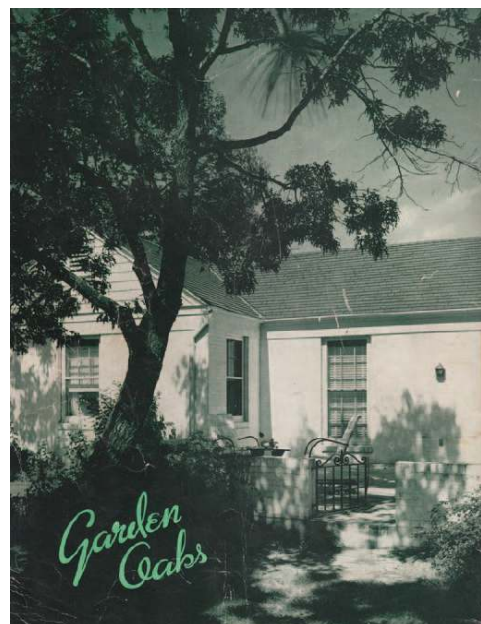
Also, we are still collecting funds for our big Wine Cellar, to be auctioned off at the Preview Party. A BIG thanks to Irma Galvan (Irma's Restaurant) who donated \$250 to our Wine Cellar. If you'd like to donate, please contact me per the above.

A Peaceful Pet
Adrian & Carey Berry
Alley Theatre
Anthony & Debbie Padon
Baking Divas of GO (Jeanes, Saranie, Rogers, Sievers)
Batterton Chiropractic Clinic
Brandy Stoesz Photography
Brent & Joanne Austin
Brian O'Leary & George Appling
Carol Smith
Cavallini's Creations
Claire School of Dance
Crave Cupcakes
Crider's Cabins on the Frio
Dessert Shoppe
Dian Austin & Sandy Altman
Discover Gymnastics
Ed & Brenda de Alba

Eric Arbiter Photography
Fly High Little Bunny
Fratelli's Restaurant
Fuller's Vintage Guitars
Gail Siptak
GO Kids
GoRead and GoRead2 Book Clubs
Gretchen & Ivy's Pet Sitting
Haak Vineyards & Winery
Hairsay
Heights Vet
Helen Perry Image Consulting
Herbert's Watch Repair
I Cycle Bike Shop
Irma's Restaurant, Inc. (Irma Galvan)
Janet Cones
Jennifer Langdon & Joe Crownover
Jerry & Martha Kennedy
Jewelry by Vicki Glyn
Joan Harmon
John & Cindy Bartos
John Barber Studios/Wildlife Art
Joshua's Native Plants
Katy Prairie Conservancy
Keith & Susan Kostelecky
Kermit Eisenhut
Kojak's Deli
La-Z-Boy Furniture Galleries
Linda K. Sparks
Lynn Sievers
Massage Envy
Mel & Ken Johnson
Melissa Kuchar Photography
Messina Hof Winery
Mike & Becky McCullough
Mike & Debbie Dishberger
Modern Worth
Mother's Old Fencepost (Kiki Neumann)
Mytiburger
Opera in the Heights
Peggy Smith
Petrol Station
Pie in the Sky Pie Co.
Radio Music Theatre
Rich & Rebecca Stark
Rub a Dub Dub Mobile Grooming
Sheila Briones
Sherwin Williams
Sherwood Forest Faire
SPI Vacation
Starbucks
St. Arnold Brewing Company
Studio Fitness (Jose Madrigal and Carlton Cousins)



Studio NiaMoves
Susan & Bill McMillian
Tecate's Mexican Restaurant & Cantina
The Bell Tower on 34th
The Big Mamou Cajun Restaurant
The Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion
The Harriet and Joe Foster Family
YMCA
The Houston Museum of Natural Science
The Pink Pokka Dot
Therapy Hair Studio (Victoria Souder)
Tina Sabuco & Shellye Arnold
Tiny Dog Seed Bead
Trish Mehrkam
U-Protest Property Tax Seminars (Kay Van Cleave)
Urban Tails
Veech Designs
Vietnam Restaurant
Vonda Wheeler
Watches by Paulin
www.SketchesbyBeth.com



PURCHASING HOME TOUR TICKETS

by Dian Austin

Home Tour tickets can be purchased until April 23 at www.gardenoaks.org or at various pre-sale locations. Pre-sale tickets are \$13 and must be traded for Day of Tour tickets at the command center on tour day, Sunday, April 25, between noon and 5 p.m. If you purchase your tickets online, print off the receipt and bring it to the Command Center to redeem it for a Day of Tour ticket.

The command center will be located in front of Bally's and Cavallini's Creations in the Garden Oaks Shopping Center at 3938 N. Shepherd (at GO Blvd). You can catch the buses there and hear amazing neighborhood stories as you are dropped off at the front door of every tour location. We encourage everyone to ride the buses to eliminate traffic congestion and to learn more about our neighborhood!

On tour day, tickets can be purchased at the command center for \$15 each.

Pre-sale ticket locations should have their tickets the first week of April (for those in the neighborhood). The Heights locations probably will not have their pre-sale tickets until after the Heights Home Tour (the second week of April).

Pre-sale ticket locations include:

Bells My Own Cleaners

1362 W. 43rd
713.680.8404

Bliss on 19th

235 W. 19th
832.673.0099
www.blisson19th.com

Buchanan's Native Plants

611 W 11th St.
713.861.5702
www.buchanansplants.com

Cavallini's Creations

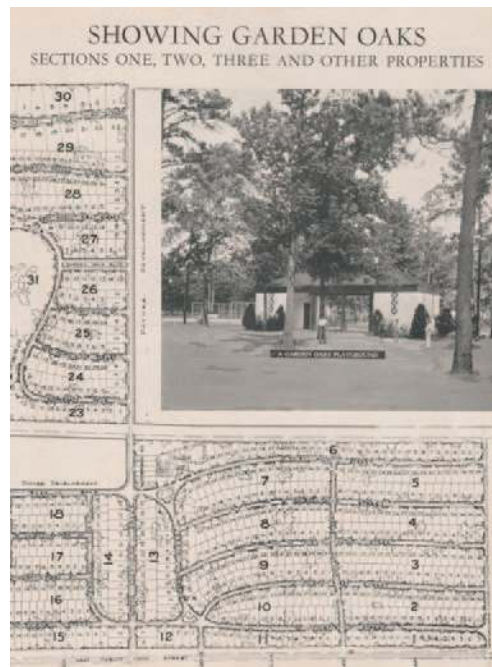
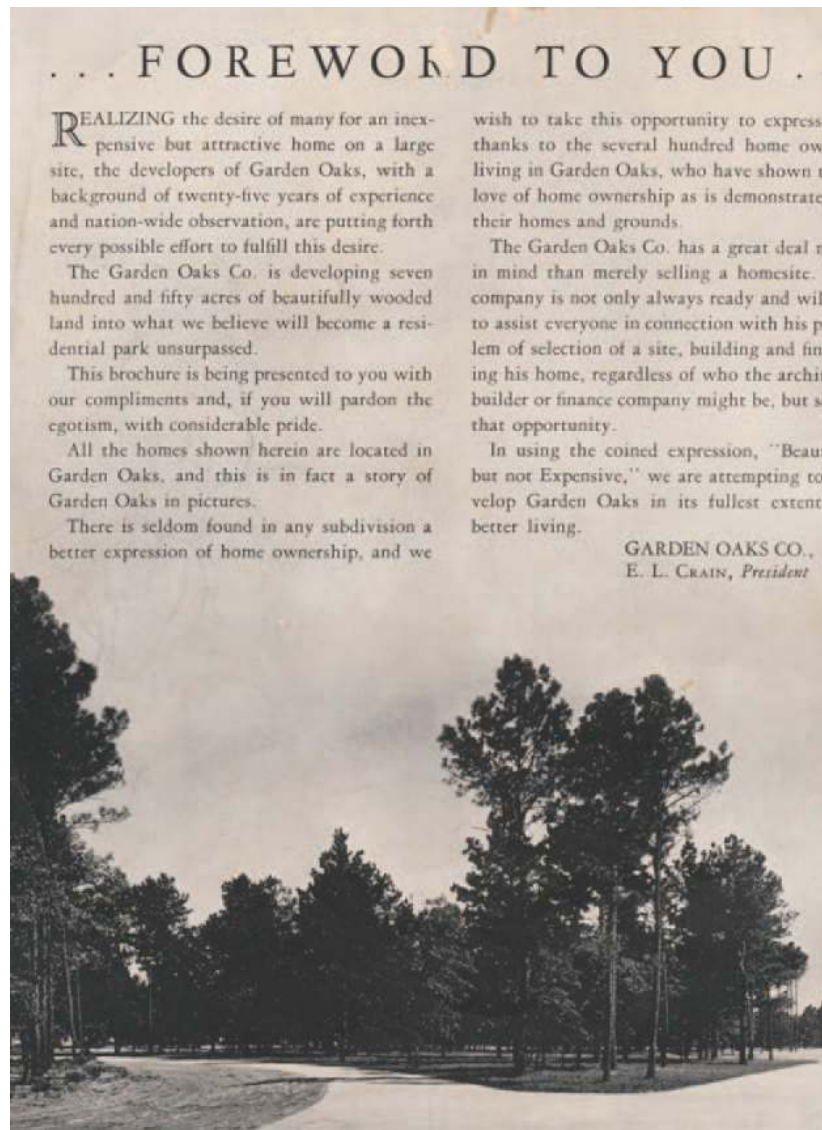
3938 D North Shepherd (at Garden Oaks Blvd)
713.595.5212
www.cavalliniscreations.com

The Petrol Station

985 Wakefield
713.957.2875

Another Place in Time

1102 Tulane St.
713.864.9717
www.anotherplaceintime.com



Something Old... Photos from the original brochure marketing Garden Oaks. The 2010 Home Tour features homes old and new in our unique neighborhood.



HOME TOUR SPONSORS

by Susan Kostelecky

Our list of generous sponsors for the upcoming Home and Garden Tour continues to grow. Please support our great sponsors with your business whenever you can. Many sponsors have participated in every home tour, and we have several new sponsors supporting our event as well.

Thank you so much for the sponsors that have paid for their sponsorships for the upcoming Home and Garden Tour. We have a current paid total of \$16,250!

Corporate Sponsor \$2500 (total \$5000)

Garden Oaks Builders, Inc. (owned by Harry James Building & Design)
Shannon & Associates, Inc.

Platinum Sponsor \$1000 (total \$3000)

AMS Remodeling
GOMO (Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization)
SCM Construction (Chris Schmidt)

Gold Sponsors \$500 (total \$5,500)

A.L. Design – Al Irvin
Alleanza Custom Homes

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Silver Sponsor \$250 (total \$2750)

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Bos Lighting & Design
Centerpoint Energy
Cindy Wingo Realtors, Inc.
Ergos Technology
G&S Custom Draperies
Modern Worth/Manchee Woods Design
Oak Forest Veterinary Clinic
Prosperity Bank
Tyler Flood & Associates
Vandrick James Furniture

Thank you so much for supporting the neighborhood! We appreciate it! If you would like to participate as a sponsor, email me at skdesigns@mindspring.com or call me at 713.697.4110.

2010 GARDEN OAKS HOME AND GARDEN TOUR COMMITTEES

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Command Center

Sandy Altman	713.691.6505	texhotdog@comcast.net
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Docent Scripts

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Graphics/Printing

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Posters

Mel Johnson	713.692.8806	igjohnson@yahoo.com
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Pre-Sale Ticket Sales

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Silent/Live Auction

Dian Austin	713.691.6505	DKA2007@comcast.net
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Susan Kostelecky	713.857.6292	skdesigns@mindspring.com
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Volunteers/Volunteer Party

Brian O'Leary	832-875-5733	brian@oleary-appling.com
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GO CIVIC CLUB MEETING MINUTES

March 2, 2010

President Mark Klein called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. at Garden Oaks Elementary School.

The February 2010 Minutes were approved as published in the Gazette.

Announcements

Upcoming GO CC Meetings: Mark Klein announced that the April meeting will feature two of our neighborhood elected officials: State Representative Dawyne Bohac and newly elected Councilwoman Brenda Stardig. Representative Bohac will discuss the Top 10 bills passed during the last Legislative session, along with his education initiatives. Councilwoman Stardig will be on hand to discuss city government and neighborhood issues. In May, return guest Roland Altinger, of the Harris County Appraisal District, will be at the Civic Club to answer questions about property taxes, valuations and the dispute process.

Upcoming Neighborhood Events:

Mark Klein reminded the meeting attendees about two major upcoming events, the 2010 Home Tour, April 25, and the Old Fashioned Sunday Picnic, sponsored by Terry Jeanes and tentatively scheduled for May 23 at the Spark Park.

34th Street Corridor Quiet Zone

Update: On February 23, Scott Easterly, Civic Club Vice President, and Mark Klein, Civic Club President, met with City of Houston Public Works & Engineering officials. Mr. Easterly recapped the status of the project and said the 34th Street Corridor Quiet Zone is currently number nine on the list of proposed Houston Quiet Zones. The first six projects are being implemented.

The City has appealed to the Federal Railroad Commission (FRA) for a ruling that some of the railroad crossings on the list already meet the requirements for a Quiet Zone and therefore do not require costly upgrades. If the FRA rules

favorable there will likely be enough funding for the 34th Street Corridor Quiet Zone. If that happens, the next steps would be approval by the City Council and public hearings. The City would then proceed with closing the Golf and Courtlandt crossings and upgrading all other intersections for safety. Once the 34th St Quiet Zone receives all approvals, it will take an estimated 13 months for the railroad company (BNSF) to implement the 34th St Quiet Zone.

Garden Oaks is closer than ever to seeing a quieter railroad operation become a reality. You can support the 34th Street Corridor Quiet Zone by emailing or writing City officials with your support. Contact information can be found at <http://www.34thquietzone.com/index-2.html>.

2010 Home Tour: Dian reminded everyone that the Garden Oaks Home Tour 2010 – Something Old, Something New is Sunday, April 25. Six beautiful Garden Oaks homes and three gardens will be open for tours. Tickets for the Preview Party at the Bell Tower on 34th Street go on sale March 4 and are \$100 per person or \$1,250 for a table of ten for this significant and fun Civic Club fundraiser. You can check out the wonderful Online Auction Items/Preview Party Silent/Live Auction Items available at the Garden Oaks Website (gardenoaks.org). Remember to bid early and bid often. More information can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/GOHomeTour2010> and on facebook.com (simply put “Garden Oaks Home Tour” in the Facebook search bar). Brian O’Leary needs additional volunteers for the Home Tour. There are multiple needs including Docents, T-shirt Sales and Tour Guides for the buses. Sponsors from local businesses are also needed to donate additional auction items.

Membership: Dian Austin reported that GO Civic Club membership has grown to 322 members.

Treasurer’s Report: Phil Ramirez was out of town. Mark Klein reported that additional funds are still needed to support the constable program. Of the

\$71,000 needed, \$47,500 has been collected leaving \$23,500 still needed to fund the constable program.

GO Citizens Patrol: For February, Carl Walters Jr. reported two crimes, though one occurred on January 31. This statistic is down two from last year. Jeremy Gaige is a new GO Citizens Patroller. With 10 volunteers currently covering nearly 1,500 homes, the GO Citizens Patrol needs additional volunteers. You must be eighteen years of age and a resident of Garden Oaks. There is a one-hour training class with local police. Please contact Carl Waters Jr. if you are interested, at gocop@gardenoaks.org.

Constable Program: No new report.

Beautification: No update, per Brenda de Alba.

Garden Oaks Elementary School

Update: The Garden Oaks Civic Club provided a forum for Houston Independent School District (HISD) officials to discuss plans regarding an HISD grant application with the U.S. Department of Education’s Magnet Schools Assistance Program (MSAP). HISD is seeking the \$12 million, three-year grant to support four schools with specialized magnet programs: Dodson and Garden Oaks Elementary Schools, Fondren Middle School, and Jones High School. The Magnet School Assistance Program is a Federal grant from the Department of Education that seeks to help schools provide specialized curriculum to attract students from multi-cultural backgrounds.

To qualify for the grant, schools must demonstrate a significant curriculum change. HISD proposed plans for GOES would provide an all-Montessori program, with an emphasis on Environmental Sciences. Currently 171 students participate in the existing GOES Montessori program (with another 100 on the waiting list).

Mark Klein introduced Anna Eastman, HISD Board of Education Trustee, who explained she has three children in

HISD and is committed to transparency and parental involvement in the plan. Also in attendance: Dr. Michele Pola, HISD Chief of Staff; Nathan Graf, HISD Grant Committee Chair; Dottie Bonner, HISD Magnet Coordinator; and Lindsey Pollock, GOES Principal.

Ms. Pollock stated that the purpose of the presentation was informational and would include an overview of the Magnet Assistance Program Grant and the proposed Montessori program, with its focus on Environmental Sciences. Ms. Pollock said this is an opportunity to infuse HISD campuses with funds that would provide educational benefits to children. Magnet Status for GOES could include increased prestige and visibility in the community, in addition to increased funding, said Ms. Pollock. Magnet Programs are held to a rigorous set of standards with the objective of providing a strong engagement model for students, parents, personnel, and community.

Ms. Pollock reviewed the Montessori program, describing it as an interdisciplinary program where relationship development is fostered via a multi-age environment and formation of smaller groups and individual accountability. Ms. Pollock continued her description: Students remain with the same teacher for three years in an academically challenging environment where they can move beyond their defined grade level; children move from concrete to abstract thinking with the use of sequenced, kinesthetic materials; confidence, leadership, and a commitment to a peaceful community are fostered. Ms. Pollock explained that a program with a focus on environmental sciences includes the encouragement of social consciousness through an expanded science lab, an environmentally focused curriculum, and campus initiatives which support stewardship of the Earth.

Garden Oaks Elementary currently has 239 (64%) zoned students and 124 (36%) transfers in the traditional

program, according to Ms. Pollock. In the current Montessori program, there are 94 (55%) zoned students and 77 (45%) transfer students. Presently, 105 (31%) students zoned to Garden Oaks are enrolled in other HISD schools. Ms. Pollock said Garden Oaks Elementary would like to recapture the 105 students and thinks the Magnet program would help.

Dottie Bonner, HISD Magnet Program Coordinator, described the HISD Magnet Program has one with an excellent reputation. The District looks for locations where it can serve the entire community. GOES was a natural choice, Ms. Bonner explained, as it already has a good reputation, expertise in Montessori, and community interest in the program.

A transition team, said Ms. Bonner, will communicate with parents to explain options for those who do not want Montessori for their children. HISD and the Magnet Program, said Ms. Donner, are committed to working with parents to understand the changes. Existing GOES students will be able to continue their traditional education through the 6th grade.

Dr. Michelle Pola, HISD Chief of Staff, discussed the background behind the grant proposal and HISD's analysis about which schools should become Magnet schools, which included initial discussions with parents, consultants and District officials. With the right combination of resources, opportunity, and expertise, Ms. Pola said HISD believes that GOES could become a model across the country for this type of program.

During the presentation, the attendees had the opportunity to submit some questions for discussion. Ms. Pollock answered several questions, while Ms. Pola committed HISD to providing written responses to the questions on the HISD website, www.houstonisd.org. Also, Ms. Pollock has been hosting weekly meetings for parents.

Examples of some of the common

themes of questions included:

Q: What will happen to students who were zoned to Montessori but do not want to attend or are not accepted?
A: Students in the zone are given priority. They can transfer to another nearby Recognized School if they prefer not to pursue the Montessori program.

Q: Why were only six parents included in the parent selection for input into the grant and was that an adequate selection?
A: It was the start of parental input. The urgency of the grant prevented a comprehensive communication and involvement of all parents. Noted was that the selection did not include Friends of Montessori representatives.

Q: What happens to the teachers, and can teachers choose not to train for Montessori?
A: The HISD is committed to their teachers and does not want to lose them. There is a transfer policy in place to support the teachers who do not want to train in the Montessori discipline.

Q: Will property taxes be increased?
A: HISD said taxes will not be raised as a result of the implement of the Magnet Program.

There was a strong audience reaction to the proposed changes – both in favor and against. Some voiced concerns about the process itself, the lack of time and information given to parents, the rationale behind making a campus-wide Montessori school and potential costs. HISD announced a follow-up forum for parents on Wednesday, March 10 at GOES. Before the end of March, the defined questions and answers and next steps are expected to be published on the HISD website.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 p.m.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

We have been residents of Garden Oaks for 14 years. We have paid dues, attended civic club meetings, and picked weeds in the rose garden. We do not leave Graham Park without making sure the trash is picked up. I feel lucky my family is able to live in such a great community. We have one child that attended Garden Oaks Elementary School in the traditional program from K-5 grade and is now in the Vanguard program at Hamilton. Our other child currently attends the traditional program at GOES and is doing very well due to the outstanding teachers.

HISD has recently decided to apply for a federal grant and announced major proposed changes to the curriculum at GOES. This decision has been made in haste and caused quite an uproar at school. HISD has proposed eliminating the traditional program and making the school all Montessori without any consideration from the people affected.

HISD is moving forward without a contingency plan for the displaced students other than to say HISD is an open enrollment district.

HISD has done a shameful job of communicating the proposal and changed or modified statements and answers to questions on several occasions.

HISD has refused to give the community the opportunity for an open dialogue to discuss these changes.

HISD does not have funding in place for these expensive proposals while facing a current budget shortfall of \$25 million (announced by Superintendent Terry Grier at the March HISD Board meeting).

An invitation to the community in the March *Gazette* stated, "Please join your neighbors at the March meeting, where GOES Principal Lindsey Pollock will be joined by Anna Eastman, Houston Independent School District (HISD) Trustee, to discuss the grant proposal and what it means for the elementary school." I attended because I was

excited to be able to finally get some answers to some of the many questions I had. The next time the Civic Club invites the community to a meeting for discussion they should choose their words more carefully since any discussion was immediately stopped by the civic club. We were told "now is not the time or place for discussion and these other people should not have to sit through this". Was the discussion to be between Eastman and Pollock only? I have attended many civic club meeting and sat through topics that were of no interest to me so my reply to that would be to get up and leave. Besides, how much more of a civic/community issue could you have than your neighborhood school being taken away from you?

A letter was also sent out by the school inviting parents to a meeting to verbally express their concerns and questions with HISD representatives. The meeting format was changed a few hours prior to the meeting to only allow 4 people on either side of the issue to speak, thereby denying the majority in attendance to participate in an open discussion. We have once again been denied the right to verbalize our concerns. One of the pro Montessori speakers was an officer of GOMO who made negative comments against the traditional program at the school. I'm confused. Shouldn't GOMO and the GOCC be making positive comments and promoting the entire school rather than making negative comments about one part?

I invite anyone interested to schedule a tour of the school to get a better understanding about the programs offered and what a truly great school we are lucky enough to have in our community.

In closing, I would like to make clear the mounting opposition is not against the Montessori program, but against HISD for taking away our choice to educate our children in a traditional format at a school that has been a vital part of the community for 68 years.

Michael Dreiss
Section 1 resident since 1996

LETTER IN RESPONSE

Most people are aware that the Garden Oaks Civic Club – as well as the Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization (GOMO) – has long supported Garden Oaks Elementary School (GOES), its programs and students. Monthly Civic Club meetings regularly feature updates about the school, courtesy of GOES Principal Lindsey Pollock, parents and others. For its part, GOMO contributed \$35,000 to the community effort to transform the neighborhood Spark Park into what has become a fine playground for GOES students. Officers from both organizations regularly attend GOES fundraising events, while contributing time and money to the school, supporting both PTA, traditional curriculum and Montessori functions, volunteering for campus beautification projects, and other hand-on mentoring activities like reading to students during class.

For our March Civic Club meeting, the HISD presentation was not even on the agenda – nor had anyone requested it to be. As the Civic Club can be a conduit for information relevant to the neighborhood, I organized a last-minute HISD presentation about the Magnet School proposal. We arrange presentations like these as a source of information for our neighborhood. In the case of the HISD Magnet proposal, we felt our neighbors (particularly those without children attending GOES) would appreciate an opportunity to hear about this program firsthand from those directly responsible for creating school policy.

Ultimately, it is HISD not the Civic Club that makes decisions about GOES. For school parents, other meetings had already taken place, including a large presentation the week prior to the Civic Club meeting, plus ongoing weekly meetings hosted by Ms. Pollock, with another large community meeting planned by HISD the week following our meeting, not to mention an upcoming HISD Board meeting where several people, both for and against the proposal, would voice their

GARDEN OAKS

position to the Trustees responsible for approving policy.

We kept our regular Civic Club business brief, dedicating the bulk of our time to HISD's presentation. The HISD folks stayed after the meeting adjourned, providing parents direct access to ask questions and voice comments. It was heartening to see a packed house of people passionately interested in public education, be they for or against the program. Our neighbors got to hear about the Magnet School proposal from HISD itself, those responsible for making education policy. By most measures, that made for a successful Civic Club meeting. The rest is up to HISD.

Mark Klein, President GOCC



Something Old... Photos from the original brochure marketing Garden Oaks. The 2010 Home Tour features homes old and new in our unique neighborhood. Join us April 25 from noon to 6pm.

Please support our advertisers who in turn support our neighborhood. Tell them you saw their ad in the Gazette!

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EARTH DAY

by Lindsey Pollock, GOES Principal

Celebrate Earth Day on April 22 and make a commitment to sustaining a clean and healthy world for today and the future.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of Earth Day. The Earth Day website explains that when the nation's thoughts turned to conservation on a grand scale, Earth Day was founded in 1970. A key component was the engagement of youth in environmental thinking and action. The original Earth Day largely was carried out on college campuses and billed as a "national teach-in on the environment."

We now have the opportunity of emphasizing environmental science education programming by carrying the original message of Earth Day into the 21st century through the work we do at school, in the home, and as a community.

This network has grown to 25,000 self-selected K-12 teachers who view that Earth Day offers a unique opportunity to bring environmental awareness into their classroom. The current themes of Environmental Sciences movement include: advocacy, climate change, conservation and biodiversity, education, energy, food and agriculture, green economy, recycling and waste reduction, sustainable development and water.

What can we do to help the children at school and in our community?

Perhaps one of the most important factors is helping children identify the fragile balance between human beings and the finite resources on the earth. Researchers suggest ensuring that children spend time playing and enjoying outdoor space may be one of the most effective strategies for helping our children and our planet at the same time. According to the Earth Day website, environmental education and outdoor play is important for our children's personal and academic

growth. With students now spending 90 percent of their time indoors, "nature deficit disorder" is on the rise.

A recent study found that children spend less than four minutes a day in "unstructured outdoor play." This secluded lifestyle is causing emotional, educational, and physical consequences, including obesity. Getting kids outside teaches them about the world around them and gives them an appreciation for nature while providing an opportunity for sunshine and exercise. Take your children to the park, on walks, go camping and spend quality time together volunteering to restore natural environments such as the annual Houston area Trash Bash (www.trashbash.org). Other websites to check out for ideas include www.earthday.org or www.kidsrecycle.org. Enjoy!

UPCOMING GOES DATES

4/10 and 4/17. Community most cordially invited!

MASONRY COLUMN IMPROVEMENT FOR SPARK PARK FENCE

by Scott Easterly, vice president and ad-hoc Spark Park committee representative

The ad hoc Spark Park committee met March 12 with HISD's bond department representative John Becvar and project manager Elena Stephens. After reviewing our proposal for an iron, four-foot fence to follow the perimeter of the Spark Park and several meetings with Principal Pollock, they agreed to our special requests but insisted on building the fence to the current standard height of six feet.

After much exchange of the neighborhood's strong feelings, history, and involvement in the funding of improvements to the park and school grounds a huge concession was granted. HISD will fund and install a black iron four-foot high fence that follows our recommended lines with four gates.

Principal Pollack and teachers Marie Pousson and Kori Catlin were adamant in the necessity of a four-foot fence, not the standard six-foot fence. Standard HISD fences are black vinyl-coated chain link without barbed wire on top. The 1997 bond issue that will fund the project had slated a six-foot black chain link fence to run straight along the boundary of the park. They conceded that due to the corner shaped park that their standard compromise of iron on the front of the school and chain link on the sides and back would not make sense.

Concerning the masonry columns we proposed for the four gates, instead of the standard two gates, we reached another compromise. HISD and their contractor agreed to build them per our specifications if we could find funding. The fence was slated to be installed by the end of April. HISD agreed to delay installation until after our May civic club meeting to see if we can fund these columns.

At the April civic club meeting, a motion will be made to fund up to \$6,000 for the installation of 8 to 10 columns, approximately 20" x 20" with caps. At a later date the children of Garden Oaks Elementary will decorate them with decorative tiles or art. These would be similar to the columns in the Spark Park. The cost of the columns is expected to range from \$ 4,500 to \$6,000.

A vote on the motion made at the April meeting will take place at the civic club meeting on May 4 as prescribed in the by-laws.

If we do not pay for the upgraded columns, the gates will have standard 4" x 4" black iron columns.



GO KIDS NEWS

by Sarah Heath

Spring is here! What a great time of year! We hope you'll hop on down the bunny trail and join us for some fantastic GO Kids activities this month.

Hippity Hoppity! Easter's on its way! The Annual GO Kids Easter Egg Hunt will take place on April 3 at 3 p.m. at the SPARK Park. Bring your little bunnies and their baskets to join the fun. A huge thank you to Deanna and Will Zugerhi for sponsoring this fun event.

The Easter Bunny will need some help getting the eggs ready, so join us for an *Eggstra* Special Moms' Night Out. We will meet at Deanna's house, 1054 Gardenia, Thursday, April 1, at 7 p.m.

Let's bowl! Join us for what is sure to be a hilarious Moms' Night Out. We will meet at Del Mar Lanes, 3020 Mangum Road on April 13, at 7 p.m. Contact Maricela Pina at pinamaricela@yahoo.com for more information. You won't want to miss this!

The playgroup is still under construction. If anyone would like to head up a committee to re-group the playgroup please contact me at sarahmheath@gmail.com. In the meantime I suggest visiting the SPARK Park in the afternoons after school. There are tons of GO Kids families and kids to play with of all ages. Introduce yourself and have fun!

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 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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THE EXTRA MILE GANG

by Dain Austin

We are so lucky in Garden Oaks that we have people ready to volunteer for the 2010 Home and Garden Tour, as it requires a large number of people to make it happen. It really does take a "village" to pull this off. In addition to the committee folks to whom we are grateful for volunteering, some people have worked in many capacities behind the scenes, freely donating their time and/or their talents (and often their own money) to help ensure the success of the tour. All of their efforts help bring funds into the neighborhood. These folks go way beyond the extra mile, so we'd like to recognize them:

GO SISTERHOOD


by Beverly Jernigan

Join the Garden Oaks Sisterhood on Thursday, April 15 at 7:30p.m. at the home of Dea Larson, 823 Lamonte Lane. We will celebrate Springtime and Tax Day! Please bring a beverage or snack to share.

The Sisterhood is open to all women living in Garden Oaks who want to meet their neighbors and catch up on the local news - newcomers and longtimers are always welcome!

Questions? Beverly@beverlypr.com or 713.494.1733

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George Taylor – Photographed the homes

Jessica Jarvis – Designed poster and tickets

Joe Muscara – Kept the website and online auction running

John & Tina Beddow – Donated the Chronicle Spring Bazaar ad

Liana Winkler – Designed the party invitations

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PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Three Garden Oaks neighbors on the Breeders Greeters Committee of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo were on the same shift on March 15 and are shown driving tractors at the livestock gate. Terry Jeanes (left), Renee Shaver (center) and Scott Matney (right).

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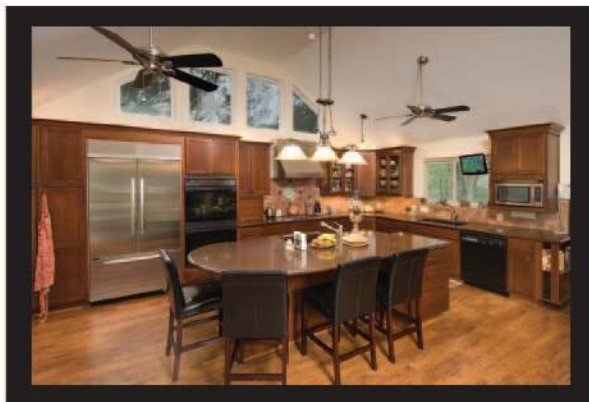
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CRITTER CORNER

by Casey and Dorothy Dan Farris

April is here, which brings Spring, Easter, the Garden Oaks Home Tour, and more than likely some rain and humidity. Ear infections in dogs are more common in humid months and a new survey of pet health insurance claims shows ear infections in dogs were the leading cause of vet visits in 2009. This month we talk about the types of ear infections and what to do about them. However, our pet of the month is prone to ear infections not because of humidity but because of a lack of humidity.

Pet of the Month: Mr. April is Rocky Wohrer, a one-year-old Gulf Coast Box Turtle. He lives in Section IV with his humans, Amy, Rob, and Angus. Rocky was adopted from a recreational park at Taylor Lake when a young woman from a nearby neighborhood found the turtle in her yard. Her brother was weed eating and accidentally injured the turtle. It was a box turtle and probably not suited for the lake, so the Wohrer's took him home.

Now Rocky has his own terrarium and

eats turtle food pellets and hamburger meat. Box turtles can live 30 to 40 years in captivity and will get about eight inches in diameter when full grown at 7 to 9 years old. Rocky likes to bask in the sun or burrow and hide in his terrarium. He loves humidity, and the lack of humidity can cause ear infections in box turtles, which is the number one health problem of captive box turtles. So regular misting is crucial. His ears are flat against his head, and he can hear as well as a cat. He also can see very well, and when he gulps air in his mouth he is really smelling.

He shares his home with Rhiannon (Border Collie mix), Mazurka (Siamese mix), and Blaze (Bearded Dragon). The Wohrer family includes a thoroughbred racehorse named Hajji who lives in a retirement home in Dallas, a Welsh Pony named Suzy, and her one-year-old foal, Kiku.

Turtles are popular choices for pets but their needs are complex, so please check out the Gulf Coast Turtle and Tortoise Society at www.gctts.org for more information before adopting this species. Rock on, Rocky Wohrer!

Critters 101: Itchy Ears?

Do you often see your dog scratching its ears, shaking its head, or very irritable with its ears? If so, it could be suffering from an ear infection, which can be caused by ear mites, bacterial infections, food allergies, unhealthy environments, and improper dog hygiene.

Ear infection in dogs calls for medical attention. While some cases of this disease may heal naturally, veterinarians should be involved in the treatment process. Treat dog ear infection the moment it starts so as not to worsen your dog's condition. All dog owners have to be well informed about this disease.

There are three types of ear infection in dogs – outer ear, middle ear, and inner ear infection. It is easy to know if your dog has an outer ear infection. You'll often see the symptoms of this disease,

which is characterized by inflammation and foul-smelling wax discharge.

Both the middle ear and inner ear infections are regarded as more severe than outer ear infections and require the help of a veterinarian because the condition easily can get worse and are require special treatment procedures.

Ear infection is very common to dogs with flopped ears. Cocker spaniels are the type of dogs most prone to this disease. Fungal infections are common to cocker spaniels because air fails to circulate freely in their ears. Air circulation is very crucial in maintaining the health of the ears of dogs. In the cases of flop-eared dogs, small follicles of hair grow in their ears that further block the air. These hairs usually are overlooked by pet owners and often are only taken cared of at the grooming centers.

Ear infections in dogs easily can be treated and cured. Often, antibiotics or eardrops are prescribed. Some home remedies can help. The right treatment procedure depends on what caused the disease. Some ear infections may be contagious. So if you have other dogs, make sure that they don't associate too much with the infected ones.

Regularly check the ears of your dogs to see if it discharges earwax abnormally. Normal earwax excreted by the ears is primarily odor free. If you smell stench in your dog's ear, chances are it has some infection. If that's the case, try to clean your dog's ears gently. Don't use Q-tips or cotton buds in cleaning. Instead, use cotton balls. Dip them in an ear cleaning solution obtained from a vet clinic.

Casey Farris is owner/operator of Bone Voyage Pet Sitting Services®, and Go Dog USA, Garden Oaks companies offering many services and products dedicated to the welfare of our pets and the people who love them. Dorothy Dan Farris is owner/operator of Casey. Please forward your questions and pet news to Casey@goDOGusa.com or call 713.688.6363.



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SPARK PARK FENCE UPDATE & THANKS

by Lindsey Pollock, GOES Principal

Thanks to the hard work of the Garden Oaks Elementary Spark Park ad hoc committee and the forward thinking of HISD Project Manager Elena Stephens and John Becvar, we have the district's assurance that a four-foot wrought iron fence will be installed to secure the perimeter of the school's Spark Park.

Although the fence is outside the typical installation parameters, the district representatives recognized the vital contributions of the community working together with school parents and teachers. They voiced their commitment to respond to community input and complimented the committee for their work on the plan. Community members agreed to contact the Garden Oaks Civic Club to request funds for possible upgrades. Work on the fence is expected to begin in April.

Many thanks to the committee members and volunteers who attended the meeting at Garden Oaks: Jay Tatum, Tonya Knauth, Ed de Alba, Scott Easterly, Marie Pousson, Kori Catlin, Tony D'Angelo, Elena Stephens, John Becvar, and Lindsey Pollock.

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6 Civic Club mtg 7:00pm, GO elementary school 	7	8 Garden Club mtg home of Cathy Warren 7pm 971 Gardenia Dr.	9	10
11	12	13	14	15 GO Sisterhood 7:30pm, Larson Home, 823 Lamonte Lane	16	17
18	19	20 	21	22	23	24 Garden Oaks Home Tour Preview Party 7 -11 pm
25 Garden Oaks Home and Garden Tour noon - 6pm	26	27	28	29	30	

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