

# GARDEN OAKS GAZETTE

VOLUME 34

ISSUE 06

## 2010 Home and Garden Tour



### STREETS, DRAINAGE AND NATIVE PLANTS

*Join us June 1 for another GO Civic Club packed with useful information*

Urban Harvest – Houston's charitable organization that supports a network of urban gardens, farms and orchards – will be on hand to discuss how their resources can help people interested in gardening, plus they will review the group's productive community and educational partnership with Garden Oaks Elementary School.

ReNew Houston will talk about an ambitious campaign to upgrade the City's aging streets and drainage infrastructure by creating a dedicated funding mechanism through a charter amendment. The charter change requires a petition process for the item to make the November 2010 ballot.

## JUN 2010

### CIVIC CLUB MEETINGS

#### June 1 Civic Club Meeting

7pm at Garden Oaks Elementary School

Next meeting, July 6 at 7pm.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

2010 Red, White, and Blue Parade

Sunday, July 4th, 10am SPARK Park

Registration begins at 9:30am.

### REMINDERS

Complete your Constable and Civic Club membership forms found in this issue today. Your support is needed!

### IN THIS ISSUE

Heard Under the Oak Tree ... 2

Citizens' Patrol ... 3

Civic Club Minutes ... 4

July 4th Bicycle Parade ... 5

Want Better Drainage and Streets? Let's

ReNew Houston ... 6

Block Captains of the Month ... 7

Home Tour Success ... 8

Home Tour Photos ... 10

Calling All Cooks ... 12

AC Tips ... 13

GO Kids ... 14

Teach Your Children Well ... 14

2010 Home Tour Auction Wrap Up ... 16

GO Sisterhood ... 16

Photo of the Month ... 17

Critter Corner ... 18

Garden Club ... 19

Events Calendar ... 20



## 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.

**951 Althea      1058 Althea**  
**212 West 34<sup>th</sup>    846 West 43<sup>rd</sup>**  
**235 West 30<sup>th</sup>    954 West 42<sup>nd</sup>**  
**1435 Sue Barnett**  
**3002 N. Shepherd**  
**4133 Apollo**

### June Birthdays

**Tina Parks Rowe-1**  
**Stephen Wesley Syzdek-4**  
**Rebecca Stark & Andrew Balance-5**  
**Shana Tatum -21**

### Congratulations

**Janice & Warren Walden** on their anniversary, June 22.

**Becky Jeanes**, native Garden Oaks resident and former Civic Club babysitter was married on May 8 to **Tray Tougate** in Austin. Following the

wedding the two honeymooned in Rome and Santorini.

**Kate McKeown** enjoyed her recent May Dance recital, as did the entire **McKeown family**.

### New Additions

Welcome to **the Acosta** household, a rescued pup from Plonk, named **Athena**.

### Out and About

**Matt Veech** shared a special evening double date with his daughters in April at the Father-Daughter dance at St. Anne's.

**Jayne Maltbie**, Garden Oaks photographer took part in the Party For Layla Benefit in April. Jayne was interviewed by Channel 2 as she photographed families at the Gazebo Park Sunday April 19th. This benefit is very dear to Jayne because her five year old daughter Emma survived brain cancer last November. **Emma** is doing well in her recovery and is back at school with caring friends. Two year old Layla lost her battle with neuroblastoma cancer in March 2010.

**Carey and Adrian Berry** enjoyed a recent barge trip in France, following the finish of the semester for Carey.

**Robert DeVeau** enjoyed a recent trip to Paris along with a cruise to London for a friend's wedding.

### Special Thoughts

Condolences to **Teresa Coleman** on the death of her mother, Maxine Burgan, on Saturday, March 13.

Condolences to **Ron and Sheree Peoples** on the loss of their dear pug, **Ringo** and on the loss of **Sheree's** grandmother.

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

### Emergency Numbers

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

## Civic Club Officers

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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 15<sup>th</sup> of each month for publication the next month unless otherwise noted. **No exceptions.**

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





## CITIZENS' PATROL

by Carl Waters, Jr.

I hope everyone took advantage of April's home tour to enjoy some of fascinating homes and gardens of the neighborhood. Another way you can check out the neighborhood is by becoming a Citizen Patroller. The requirements are; you must be a Garden Oaks resident at least 18 years of age and can pass a criminal background check conducted by the Houston Police Department. After the completion of a one-hour training program and a ride along with one of our veteran patrollers you will be ready for patrolling on your own and making Garden Oaks a safer place to live. Got an hour to spare? We can help you fill it!!

It appears 20" tires and rims remain popular items to steal as two incidents were reported in May where the tires were stolen and vehicles were left on blocks in the driveway. If you own a vehicle with 20" rims you might want to consider buying a set of wheel locks.

### March Crime Statistics: 3

**Burglary: 1**  
1000 block of Sue Barnett Dr. on Wednesday, March 4 at 5:30 p.m. (residence).

**Theft: 2**  
1000 block W. 43<sup>rd</sup> St. on Tuesday, March 23 at 7:00 a.m. (street).  
1000 block of Lamonte Ln. on Friday, March 12 at 6:00 a.m. (driveway).

### April Crime Statistics: 4

**Robbery: 1**  
400 block of W. 32<sup>nd</sup> St. on Wednesday, April 28 at 9:35 p.m. (driveway).

**Burglary: 1**  
1500 block of Sue Barnett Dr. on Friday, April 23 at 6:30 a.m. (residence).

**Theft: 2**  
900 block of W. 41<sup>st</sup> St. on Thursday, April 22 at 10:30 p.m. (driveway).  
700 block of W. 38<sup>th</sup> St. on Sunday, April 25 at 10:15 p.m. (driveway).

*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.*

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Terms expire October of year in parentheses.

## GO CIVIC CLUB MEETING MINUTES

May 4, 2010

**Welcome:** President Mark Klein called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

A motion was made and carried to amend the April minutes as originally published on page 8 of the Garden Oaks Gazette. The published phrase "... after the meeting the GOCC agreed to use ..." will be replaced with "... after the motion Brenda de Alba offered to use..."

**Treasurer's Report:** Phil Ramirez reported that revenue and expense numbers from the Home Tour are not finalized but that preliminary numbers indicate that this year will be on target or better than prior years. The Constable Patrol is \$18,909.74 short of its goal. He also asked everyone to remind friends and neighbors to send in their dues.

**Garden Oaks Home Tour Update:** Sue Schmidt announced that the home tour surpassed expectations in multiple areas. Pre-sales sold out. The auction was above expectations, and the party broke even for the first time. There was more publicity than in prior tours. Sponsorship surpassed expectations. Volunteers did outstanding work. Feedback on the tour and the quality of the homes has been consistently positive. Sue expressed appreciation to individuals and sponsors who donated their time and effort to make the tour a success. Finalized numbers will be published in June.

### Standing Committee Reports:

**Constable Program:** Terry Jeanes asked neighbors to be aware and communicate if there is a crime or police-related activity in progress. If you see something happening and others in a public area (e.g. the SPARK Park) are oblivious, please make them aware. Terry noted that the Constable Joseph Jane is vigilant regarding stop sign rules. He will pull you over and give you a warning on the first offense.

### GOMO Review Meetings

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

**GO Citizens Patrol:** Carl Waters reported four crimes in April. Crime is down based on prior years. Carl added to the Constable Program's update by encouraging families in a public place who see something happening to move slowly to their vehicles if possible.

**Beautification:** No update.

**Gazette:** No update.

**GardenOaks.org Web site:** No update.

**Membership:** No update.

### Garden Oaks Maintenance

**Organization (GOMO):** No update.

### Garden Oaks Elementary School

**Update:** Principal Lindsey Pollock announced that HISD did approve the inclusion of Garden Oaks Elementary School in the federal grant submission. She thanked everyone for their input regardless of position on the magnet program. A response on the submission is expected in late August or early September.

The SPARK park fence will be installed this month. The children decorated a car with poetry for submission to the art car parade.

**Announcements:** The deputies will be at the neighborhood family picnic on May 23 to fingerprint children. Volunteers are needed to assist with setup. The picnic will start at 1 p.m. with games beginning at 1:30 p.m.

**Presentation:** President Mark Klein introduced Roland Altinger, the Division Director of HCAD's Information and Assistance Division. Altinger covered the history of property taxes, the makeup of the appraisal districts and the protest process including the online capabilities (I-File and I-Settle). He noted that while value has dropped in other areas, the Garden Oaks community has remained stable. There was a question and answer period at the end of the presentation.

**Adjournment:** President Mark Klein adjourned the meeting at 8:46 p.m.



**RED , WHITE AND BLUE JULY 4th BICYCLE PARADE**

*by Will and Deanna Zugheri*

Garden Oaks 2010 Red, White, and Blue Parade is scheduled for Sunday, July 4, beginning at 10:00 a.m. at Rick Englert SPARK Park on Sue Barnett, with pre-registration beginning at 9:30 a.m.



With the enormous patriotic spirit that is in this community, it is expected that anyone who is not in the parade will be on the street cheering. Bring a lawn chair and find a seat along the parade route.

First, second and third place prizes will be awarded in the following categories:

- Strollers & Wagons
- Tricycles
- Youth bicycles
- Adult bicycles
- Floats

Refreshments will be served after the parade.

Volunteers are needed to work the registration table, serve as judges, parade marshals and photographers. If you are interested in helping, contact Deanna Zugheri at [Deanna@GardenOaksHomes.com](mailto:Deanna@GardenOaksHomes.com) or 281-658-4514.

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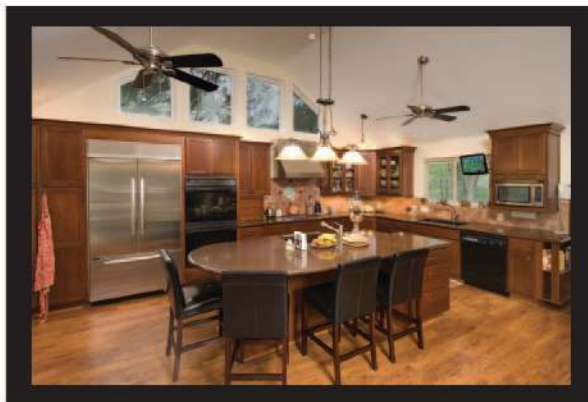
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**WANT BETTER DRAINAGE AND STREETS? LET'S RENEW HOUSTON**

by Chris Lindsay

Did you know that more than 60% of all the City of Houston streets and drainages systems are past their useful life? The number will go up to 80 percent in the next 20 years.

We live in an older neighborhood. We love it because of its old homes, large lots, great neighbors and great location. But, as with anything that is aging, unless you keep up with its maintenance you can face serious problems. That is where the City of Houston is now with regard to two of its main infrastructure systems. It has not kept up with their maintenance, and they are getting further and further behind.

ReNew Houston has a solution. It is proposing a city charter amendment campaign to create a dedicated pay-as-you-go funding source to repair our drainage and streets.

When a street is assigned for re-construction, it takes the city 12 years before the work will be done due to lack of funding.

Houston's older drainage systems and streets were not designed and constructed to the same standards and expectations of performance that today's population wants.

A member of ReNew Houston will be guest speaker at the June Garden Oaks Civic Club meeting to talk about the ReNew Houston Campaign to create a dedicated funding mechanism through a charter amendment to upgrade our drainage and streets. The dedicated fund will require the city to address the worst problems first, no matter what area of the city. The program will require the city to pay as you go to maximize the dollars spent on improving our drainage and streets.

To accomplish a charter change requires a petition process. For the item to be placed on the November 2010 ballot, 22,000 signatures are needed on the petition. Then Houston

voters can approve the charter amendment by a simple majority on November 2, 2010.

The petition, to change the city's charter and establish a dedicated funding source, proposes that the money comes from three sources: adoption of an impact fee to be paid by new development; reallocation of 11.8 cents of our current property taxes into the fund, and changing from a debt-based program to a pay-as-you-go program; and, third, establishment of a monthly drainage fee charged on all property in the city based on land size and development coverage. The anticipated monthly charge will be \$5 per month.

More information will be presented at the June 1 Civic Club meeting. Or, go to the ReNew Houston website at [www.renewhouston.org](http://www.renewhouston.org).



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**GAZETTE BLOCK CAPTAINS OF THE MONTH**

by *Dian Austin*

June's Block Captains of the Month are the entire Zugheri Family. Will and Deanna, along with their boys Alex (13) and Zach (11), live in the 1000 block of Gardenia. They deliver *Gazettes* to the same block and have taken care of that route for several years.

Will and Deanna moved to GO 17 years ago to be closer to downtown and work and quickly discovered that they found the best place to live in Houston with the best neighbors! Over time they remodeled their former 900 square foot home, added a pool and started their family (not necessarily in that order).

Deanna is a well-known realtor (The Metropolitan – Keller Williams) and was a gold sponsor for the 2010 Home and Garden Tour. Will is a mortgage banker and recently opened a branch of Envoy Mortgage in the Heights.

Deanna and Will are active in our community, particularly with the GO Kids group, sponsoring and organizing the Easter Egg Hunt each year and heading up the Fourth of July bike parade. They were active during our home tour years as well. Will helped with the set-up committee, and Deanna volunteered as a docent. They are long-time civic club members and constable supporters.

The Zugheris set a nice example for giving back to the community. Thanks to the Zugheris for their continued commitment to delivering those *Gazettes* on time! They will receive a \$25 gift card to Lowe's, 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](mailto:FallingwaterT@yahoo.com). And if your *Gazette* is not being delivered timely, please let me know too.



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| 858 W. 41st St.   | 1325 Sue Barnett |
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## 2010 HOME AND GARDEN TOUR A MAJOR SUCCESS

by Sue Schmidt and Dian Austin

This year's home tour topped all records! Not only did we have record-setting attendance of about 750 persons, but we also netted over \$34,400 for the neighborhood's biggest fundraiser ever!

All the stars were aligned, most notably the gorgeous weather we had on tour day, and lots of publicity helped to stir up interest in viewing our neighborhood. The Chronicle featured an article on one of our tour homes that very day; Kathy Huber's gardening article appeared the weekend before. Our publicity committee, John and Tina Beddow, made sure we had lots of coverage in various regional newspapers. The poster committee, led by Mel Johnson, made sure we had nearly 100 home tour posters displayed in prominent locations throughout the city. And then we also had a blurb on Great Day Houston (thanks to civic club president Mark Klein). Pre-sale ticket sales broke all records thanks to the diligent efforts of our pre-sale ticket chair, Ali Kirby. Folks want to know what's happening in Garden Oaks and the secret is definitely out.

Thanks again to all our many sponsors who once again stepped up to support the neighborhood. When we started this event last year, we lowered expectations of what we might expect in sponsorship due to the current economy. Thanks to the overwhelming generosity of the sponsors listed, over \$18,000 was raised in sponsorship alone. Each and every one of these businesses deserves a HUGE thank you. Many are advertisers in the *Gazette* as well. When needing the services of a professional, we ask that you keep this list on hand as a reference guide for those that truly step up and support Garden Oaks. If you give them a call or do business with them, take a minute to say thanks. Thanks also go to Susan Kostelecky who worked tirelessly to reach out to area businesses, breaking all records for sponsorship.

The Preview Party turned out to be

the place to be on April 24! What a fabulous night at the Bell Tower on 34<sup>th</sup>. The wine cellar and water wall areas were the perfect backdrops for a fun-filled night honoring our sponsors and homeowners, with lots of fun auction items. All of the wonderful goods and services were on display and the scene of some highly competitive bidding! When the dust cleared, over \$12,000 was netted on some really great items donated by area residents and businesses. Thanks to all of those who so generously donated for this event. Both the auction and party committees did a great job in providing one of the most successful parties ever. Thanks also go to the Bell Tower on 34<sup>th</sup> for donating the location for the party. It truly was a magical evening!

What would any home tour be without unbelievable houses to tour? The home and garden owners who graciously opened their homes to the public (and spent hours preparing for it) deserve a big round of applause. Those on the executive committee heard comments all during the tour about the wonderful selection of homes to tour this year. From original footprint to renovations to "green" and new construction, the homes and gardens were outstanding. With a supportive group of homeowners and great volunteers working each location, the home tour once again went off without a hitch!

We hope all of you who attended the preview party and/or the home tour enjoyed the event. It is Garden Oaks' primary fundraiser. We say it often and it is absolutely true: it takes a village to showcase our neighborhood. Thanks to the dedicated executive committee that worked so hard for over eight months on this project. Thanks also to all the home and garden captains and the many, many volunteers who made this happen. Showcasing our neighborhood is great fun, but it takes a lot of work behind the scenes to put it together. It's not too early to start thinking about the 2012 Home and Garden Tour!



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2010 Home Tour Preview Party



2010 Home and Garden Tour



Preview party photos were generously provided by Brandy Stoesz. For more information on viewing and purchasing these and many more preview party pictures visit: [www.pictage.com/820875](http://www.pictage.com/820875). For more on Brandy Stoesz Photography, visit [www.brandystoesz.com](http://www.brandystoesz.com).



2010 Home and Garden Tour Homeowners



Special thanks to the 2010 Home Tour home and garden owners who worked around the clock in preparation of opening their homes and gardens: Smith, Barry and Jen Weaver, Sean and Beth Jez, and Jay and Shanna (not shown) Tatum.



Home and  
Tour



Home Tour photos were generously provided by David Ziff. For more information on viewing and purchasing these and many more Home Tour pictures visit: <http://davidz.smugmug.com/Photography> Select "Garden Oaks Home Tour."




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Shown above from left to right are Tanasia and John Hoye, Blake Woods (center), Ralph and Barbara



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**CALLING ALL COOKS!**

by Cindy Jorgensen

With all the wonderful events we have had in the neighborhood, from the Wine Walk to the Home Tour, one thing is evident, the residents of Garden Oaks love to cook and, of course, eat! This fact, as well as the sell out of the original Garden Oaks Cookbook during the Home Tour, created inspiration for a new, more modern cookbook to be created. A group of industrious neighbors have formed a cookbook committee to create a new cookbook that will benefit our 2011 Constable program.

How can you help? We are seeking a variety of recipes from you, our neighbors, to create a very special and personal collection of recipes. Recipes of all kinds are welcome! From barbeque to enchiladas, cocktails to cold soups, we hope to include them all. Visit our Web site at [www.GardenOaksCooks.com](http://www.GardenOaksCooks.com) to learn more and submit your recipe. If you don't surf the web, please mail your recipes

to: Brooke McKamy, Garden Oaks Cookbook, 316 W. 34<sup>th</sup> Street, Houston, TX, 77018.

Don't cook much but wish you did? You can still help by purchasing a copy this fall for yourself, friends and family. Visit our Web site to sign up for our mailing list to be notified when copies are available to purchase.

Let's get cooking, Garden Oaks!



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**AIR CONDITIONING TIPS FOR THE SUMMER**

by Mitch Weigand

**Tip No.3: Filters**

Filters can be your air conditioner's best friend or worst enemy. Imagine: a relatively inexpensive filter can make or break the most expensive A/C system. Amazing, isn't it?

An A/C system is dependent upon an unimpeded flow of air to do its job: that of cooling your home. A new filter will clean your air of dirt and pollutants before it reaches the A/C units in your attic where the air is cooled. A dirty filter, on the other hand, restricts or blocks air flow. Here's the rule to keep in mind: the ability of your system to produce cool air is decreased to the degree that air flow is impeded.

Dirty filters have other consequences, all bad. Lack of air flow stresses your compressor in the outside unit. The number one reason for premature failure of compressors is a dirty filter. I recommend that you use pleated filters, which are now the industry standard.

The moral of the story is this: change your filter once a month during the summer.

**Tip No. 4: The Thermostat**

Your thermostat regulates the temperature in your home.

If you shut your A/C system off when you leave home during the day, it costs more and takes longer to cool when you return in the evening. The answer is to keep your A/C on, but at what temperature?

I recommend that you leave your A/C on no higher than 5 degrees above your normal operating temperature when you're home. For example, if your comfort level is 75 degrees you should set your away temperature no higher than 80 degrees. This ensures that the humidity levels within your home do not rise to a level where mold or mildew could occur.

A central air conditioning system is the largest single consumer of energy in your home. However, the reason you own an A/C system is to stay cool. It may

not make sense to compromise your comfort to save a few dollars. If you are having "cool vs. dollar" issues, you could consider upgrading to one of the high-efficiency units that are available today.

So, use your thermostat wisely!

*Mitch is the owner of Air Wise™ and a member of the Garden Oaks Civic Club. You can email Mitch any A/C questions at mitchw@pdq.net or write to 1590 Sue Barnett Drive, Houston TX 77018*



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**Mitch Weigand, Garden Oaks resident and Civic Club member**

## GO KIDS NEWS

by Sarah Heath

Summer is here! Time for the pool, sno-cones, fireflies, and lazy days with the kiddos. What could be better!?!?

Let's kick off the summer right with an "Under the Sea" meet and greet. Katie Wolfenberger has enthusiastically agreed to "re-group the play group" and is organizing this great event for us! Join us at Graham Park on June 19 from 4-6 p.m. for a playgroup potluck. The kids will have a blast and we'll be able to discuss the future of the GO Kids playgroup and help Katie figure out a plan to bring it back with a bang! See you there!

Calling all kids! Be sure to get your bikes, trikes, wagons, even strollers decorated and ready for the GO Red, White & Blue Parade on July 4th. Or bring along a picnic blanket and find a spot to watch the festivities along the parade route. Don't miss this charming tradition!

Do you like to support local businesses AND save money?!? Then join us for a very special Moms' Night Out at Young and Restless resale shop at their new location on Ella, Tuesday, June 8, from 7-8:30 p.m. Enjoy some delicious snacks and wine as you peruse the awesome inventory. GO Kids members will receive an extra 30% off! We'll move the party over to Plonk after the shop is closed up. For more information contact Maricela Pina at pinamaricela@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](mailto: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](mailto:sarahmheath@gmail.com).*

## TEACH YOUR CHILDREN WELL

by Lindsey Pollock, GOES Principal

This past week marked a major milestone in my family. Our youngest daughter graduated from the University of Arizona. Visiting Tucson, I was reminded of the resilience of the natural world in the flora and fauna of the desert and the tremendous responsibility we have of safeguarding the planet we inhabit.

Garden Oaks Elementary is being considered for a Federal Magnet Assistance Grant, which would provide us the opportunity to transition to an all-Montessori campus with an emphasis on Environmental Education. Presently, I am enrolled in a master's degree program called Montessori Integrative Learning to enhance my skills as a leader of a Montessori school. The emphasis of the program thus far has been the cosmological interconnectedness and responsibility we have as human beings on the earth located within our galaxy, the Milky Way, which is only one of millions of galaxies in the universe! What does that have to do with what we are doing at Garden Oaks Elementary and in our neighborhood?

In the words of the Crosby, Stills and Nash song, we must teach our children well when it comes to the concerns

of our planet. Now more than ever, we are confronted with necessity of educating children who are not only able to perform well on the mandated assessments but children who are also filled with the awe, wonder and awareness of their place in the universe. We are confronted daily with the challenges of existing in a consumer culture and yet confronted with dwindling resources at the same time. While our human population expands, the resources to sustain this growth also expands. We must find ways to safeguard land to support food supplies, to grow crops, filter water and dispose of waste in new ways.

Dr. Maria Montessori recognized our global interconnectedness decades ago when she emphasized the cultural connections and responsibilities we have to one another in response to the world wars that rocked the globe. Presently, we have a world that is besieged with our humanity and we must find ways to educate our children to go forth.

The commencement address at U of A was delivered by Bob Woodward who shared his top 10 list with the graduates. Among them was recycle. This must be one of the core practices that we embrace as a society. Many people forget this vital step as we are increasingly isolated from nature in our houses, cars and offices, which create

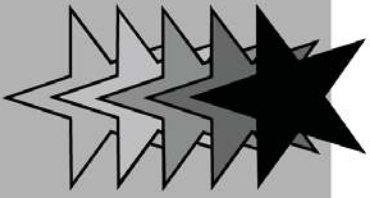
a gap between us and the wonder of nature.

Here are some ideas to help your family connect to nature (even in the heart of the city):

- Write down the directions to your home or to other points in your neighborhood. Use only nature's guideposts. Instead of using the stop sign as a landmark, use the oleander bush and the live oak.
- Walk or ride your bikes with your children and note the changes in the plants in your neighborhood. Keep a family journal of your observations.
- Catalogue the types of plants and animals in your backyard.
- Learn the songs of the birds in your neighborhood or region. Spend time listening for them and record their activity.
- Recycle, reuse, reduce.
- Try a buying "fast." See how long you can go without purchasing anything other than groceries.
- Teach your children the difference between wants and needs.

Take these steps now and help your children prepare for the challenges that face our humanity. For more information about ways to connect with the natural world, check out Christophehr Uhl's book, *Developing Ecological Consciousness: Path to a sustainable world*.

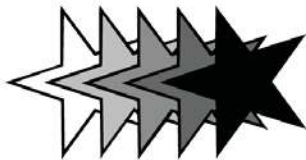




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**2010 HOME TOUR AUCTION WRAP-UP**

by Dian Austin

The Home Tour auctions (online, silent and live) were big contributors to the success of this year's home tour, bringing in more than \$12,000.

For the online auction, the most sought-after item was the Italian dinner for 6 (donated by Tina Sabuco and Shellye Arnold); there was a huge flurry of very last minute activity before the auction closed. Tina Nieto emerged as the high bidder at \$155. She and several of her neighbors plan to collect on their fabulous dinner! The online auction generated about \$1,500 in total.

At the preview party, we ran both the silent and the live auctions. About mid-evening, everyone gathered around the Bell Tower wine cellar and Tina Sabuco, ever the auctioneer extraordinaire, whipped the crowd into a bidding frenzy. We gained some \$3,100 from the five live auction items alone. The biggest item was the private dessert for six with Mayor Annise Parker, hosted by Garden Oaks resident Peggy Smith. Corporate sponsor Harry James (Garden Oaks Builders, Inc.) was the high bidder at \$800.

The auction committee put together about 50 different silent auction items/packages for bidding only at the preview party. The top silent auction item was an evening with chef Brian (Garden Oaks' own resident freelance chef, Brian Dupnick). This one-of-a-kind dining experience went for \$800, and the high bidders were Chris and Sue Schmidt (Chris - platinum sponsor - SCM Construction Services; Sue - gold sponsor Keller Williams Metropolitan).

The original "G" and "O" letters from GOES (donated by longtime residents, Bill and Susan McMillian) also garnered quite a bit of interest. Harry James and Brenda de Alba were in a bidding war with gold sponsor Sean McGregor (Alleanza Custom Homes). We had to add extra bid sheets to keep up with

all the bidding; but at the end of the night, the letters went home with Sean, for a high bid of \$590.

Thanks to everyone who donated auction items or services and to those who participated in any of our auctions. The auction committee did a great job in lining up all the fun, and we can't wait to see what the next committee can do for the 2012 Home Tour!



*Auctioneer extraordinaire, Tina Sabuco whipped the crowd into a bidding frenzy to earn \$3,100 at the Preview Party live auction held in the Bell Tower wine cellar.*

**GO SISTERHOOD**

by Beverly Jernigan

Come spend your evening with the Garden Oaks Sisterhood, you'll be glad you did.

This month's hosts are:  
Anna Fornaris and Kathy Silver  
826 Lamonte Lane

Thursday - June 17 - 7PM

Please bring a snack or beverage to share.

For more information, to volunteer or if you have questions contact Beverly@beverlypr.com or 713.494.1733



PHOTO OF THE MONTH



2010 Home Tour Co-Chairs Sue Schmidt and Dian Austin presenting one of the six Home Tour home and garden owners with a drawing of their home in thanks for their participation. These two dedicated ladies worked tirelessly to create a very successful event with about 750 persons in attendance and which netted over \$34,400 for the neighborhood's biggest fundraiser. Thank you, Sue and Dian, for your incredible dedication to the 2010 Home Tour and to our neighborhood!

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*Ringo Peoples: former pet of the month  
and much loved pug extraordinaire.  
He will be missed.*

## CRITTER CORNER

*by Casey and Dorothy Dan Farris*

School is out for Summer! Maybe you can get the kids to walk the dog this summer or how about taking the dogs to TC Jester Dog Park. This dog park has a separate small dog area, drinking water, benches, trees, and a wash station. The dog park is on TC Jester Blvd. right behind the baseball field. This month we talk about why cats must scratch and how to protect your furniture.

### **Critters 101: Claws and All; Living with Your Cat and Your Furniture**

Scratching behavior is a normal and natural part of a cat's existence. It conditions the claws, is used to mark territory, and is a mechanism for stretching. A cat's claws are their primary defense and allow for rapid acceleration and sharp turns while running. For many cat lovers feline onychectomy (declawing) is unconscionable, many veterinarians will not perform the procedure, no animal organization condones the practice and in some countries it is outlawed. The cat's claw is not a toenail as in other animals. It is a movable digit attached to muscle as a finger might be. Declawing is akin to cutting off half the cat's toes. Since cats have keener senses than humans, they suffer even more than humans. Besides the physical mutilation, consider what declawing may do to the cat's emotions, the personality changes that may occur. Knowing he has not the means to defend himself, some cats will bite at the least provocation. Others become depressed and lose their loving personality.

Scratching is often misinterpreted as misbehavior. Your cat does not realize he is ruining your furniture; after all this is perfectly normal and necessary behavior. What particular object he scratches depends on whether he is a vertical or horizontal scratcher. The vertical scratcher will go after walls, door side moldings and the backs of chairs and sofas, whereas horizontal scratchers tend to prefer rugs, carpets, chair cushions and other flat surfaces. Most cats prefer to scratch vertical objects since those surfaces are most visible to other cats. A

cat will reach up and scratch downward to leave an indicator of how big he is, the higher the mark the bigger and tougher he is.

There are things you can do to limit the damage. Give your cat his own special place to scratch; scratching posts for vertical scratchers and scratching pads for horizontal scratchers. Put these scratching surfaces in visible, high-traffic areas of your home. That is where your cat wants to mark his territory. Who cares about the corner behind the TV. Whenever the little darling scratches on an inappropriate object, tell him "No" and take him over to the appropriate scratching place. Rub his feet on the surface but do not force him. It is up to you to show him how fun the scratching post really is; spray it with catnip, and hang toys from it. Always be on the alert to lavish your cat with praise, affection, attention, and even a treat anytime he scratches or climbs his post, especially on his own. Another alternative is to learn the proper procedure and trim your cat's claws every 2-4 weeks or have your Vet apply little rubber caps on the claws. You can also make your furnishings less desirable by spraying with a lemon or orange scent or you could put double-sided tape or aluminum foil at scratching sites.

If you really love your cat, you will want him to lead a long, happy life, giving and receiving love and affection. Don't declaw him, instead make it clear to your cat what's okay to scratch and what isn't, and be consistent in enforcing the rules. Once your cat's learned the proper place to scratch, you, your cat, and, of course, your furniture will be a lot better off.

*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.*



**CLUB GARDEN, ANYONE?**

by Mark Saranie

The Garden Oaks Garden Club meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every month. Our meetings typically are held at the West 43<sup>rd</sup> Kroger community room and are quite informal. Meeting times start at 7 p.m. and last 45 minutes to an hour and beyond, depending on our speaker of the month, club business and the normal amount of socializing amongst ourselves. Important to know is that visitors are always welcome and are encouraged to join the club. From time to time we meet at each others homes, go on a field trip or two, hold plant swaps, visit each others gardens to dispense advice, etc.

For June, we are trying to secure a speaker who will focus on weeds, their identification, and organic ways of eradication.

Our main club responsibility is the upkeep of the beds in the Friendship Park in Section One, right where West 30<sup>th</sup> and Lawrence come together. Thanks to Beautification, the grass is

taken care of. Prior to the 2010 Home Tour, we had several cleaning days during which weeding and general clean up of all the beds took place. We looked good for the tour.

More information about the G.O. G.C. can be found at [www.gardenoaks.org/involvement/gardenclub.html](http://www.gardenoaks.org/involvement/gardenclub.html).

We sure hope you will attend. We are working on some neat things for this year and new ideas and participants are always needed. See you there!

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6	7	8 GO Kids MNO 7pm, Young & Restless resale on Ella	9	10	11	12
13	14	15 	16 GOMO mtg 7pm, Garden Oaks Professional Bldg. 4001 N. Shepherd, Suite 216	17 GO Sisterhood 7pm, Anna Fornaris & Kathy Silver 826 Lamonte Ln.	18 American Legion Steak Night 6pm	19 GO Kids playgroup potluck 4 - 6pm, Graham Park
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30 	1 JULY	2	3	3/4 4th of July Bicycle Parade 10 am, SPARK Park

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