

GARDEN OAKS GAZETTE

VOLUME 34

ISSUE 07

THE GARDEN OAKS GOOD NEIGHBOR AWARD

by Megan Salch

All around our neighborhood are those individuals who regularly help others. It's these people who we wish to thank through the Garden Oaks Good Neighbor Award.

One neighbor faithfully attends the Garden Oaks Civic Club meetings to report on local crime statistics, aiming to strengthen area security. He patrols our streets with the Citizens Patrol magnet on the side of his car. Families wave to this neighbor, while criminals run. The sight of a Citizens Patrol car is a solid reminder of the neighborly watch throughout Garden Oaks. This person's name regularly appears in *The Gazette* with either security updates or mentions of his volunteering at the Garden Oaks Home Tour.

This quarter's Garden Oaks Good Neighbor Awards goes to our friend **Carl Waters**.

Wife Leslie Ryan Waters said she wasn't really surprised that Carl is being recognized because he's been involved for so long. When they moved to Garden Oaks in 1993, the couple started attending civic club meetings, looking for ways to get involved.

"He felt that the right fit was to do the Citizen Patrol and soon he took over the entire program," Leslie said. "We both believe a safe community comes from an involved community. Carl believes that you can never have too many people, including

law enforcement, watching your neighborhood."

"Carl is one of the dependable, dedicated volunteers that make *continued on page 6*

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 or 281-658-4514.

JUL 2010



CIVIC CLUB MEETINGS

August 6 Civic Club Meeting
7pm at Garden Oaks Elementary School
Next meeting, September 7 at 7pm.

SAVE THE DATE

Wine Walk - October 16, 2010

REMINDERS

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

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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.

**930 West 42nd 1006 West 43rd
866 Lamonte 1026 Lamonte
974 West 41st 1027 West 41st
1070 Gardenia 1074 Gardenia
4331 Apollo 3110 Lawrence
721 West 38th**

July Birthdays

Caroline McLean - 1
Matthew Knauth, Claire Elizabeth Balance, Alexander Zugheri - 2
Kaplan Martinez - 12
Sterling & Sean Walden - 16
Jason Cunnningham, Sally McDaniel - 27
Belated birthday to Ray Trantham who celebrated his 45th again, on June 30

Congratulations

To **Billy Chiasson**, volunteer at F.M. Black Middle School, who received HISD's VIPS Senior of the Year award for his dedicated service the last 16 years at the school.

New Additions

Welcome to the **O'Leary–Appling** family, twins **Gareth** and **Gaia**, born May 21. **Margarita Barcenas** is a new aunt with the arrival of nephew Daniel Andres born June 13. And finally....the **McLeans** adopted their foster canine **Princess Lucy**, originally from Seattle.

Congratulations to Princess on her new forever home.

Well wishes

Linda Sparks recovering from knee replacement surgery.

Out and About

Caroline McLean and family enjoyed a Florida vacation and then returned home to have a great day at the lake for water sports. **Tina Sabuco** was

seen recently on The Ellen Show and of course danced with Ellen. Don't be a bit surprised if you see her wearing her new *I Danced with Ellen* T-shirt.

Robert DeVeau visited Atlantic City in June. **Holly Veech** enjoyed a weekend trip to New York City with the Veech women and then a getaway to Austin. **Sarah Heath** had an exciting trip to SeaWord with sons **Marshall** and **Layne**.

Special thoughts: Condolences to **Sandra O'Guynn** on the loss of her father.

Thoughts go to the **de Albas** household in the recent loss of their cat, Pandora, who they rescued 11 years ago along with her brother, AJ, from Treeseach Farms. Also to the **Peoples** in the loss of Cupcake, who is now with pal Ringo who they lost last month.

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

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Garden Oaks Gazette

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.



CITIZENS' PATROL

by Carl Waters, Jr.

The program has added another patroller, Stephen Mink, who joined the program in May and is now out patrolling on his own.

May Crime Statistics: 9

Assault: 1

300 block of W. 34th St. on Saturday, May 1 at 10:30 p.m. (residence)

Burglary: 3

3000 block of N. Durham St. on Weds., May 5 at 1:26 a.m. (restaurant).

200 block of W. 34th St. on Tues., May 11 at 8:00 a.m. (residence)

3100 block of Randall St. on Tues., May 25 at 3:15 p.m. (residence)

Theft: 5

900 block of Sue Barnett Dr. on Weds. May 5 at 3:00 p.m. (school).

1400 block of Sue Barnett Dr. on

Mon., May 10 at 8:00 p.m. (driveway)
800 block of Azalea St. on Tues., May 11 at 2:00 a.m. (residence)
1000 block of Lamonte Ln. on Tues., May 11 at 6:00 p.m. (driveway)
900 block of W. 41st St. on Thurs., May 20 at 11:00 a.m. (residence)

This brings the total crimes reported for the year to date now at 23, compared with 24 for the same period last year.

Inquiries about joining the Citizens Patrol Program or about other community safety issues can be directed to me via neighborhood website GardenOaks.org or to the COP email account at GOCOP77018@AOL.com or by phone at 713.864.992.

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Terms expire October of year in parentheses.

GO CIVIC CLUB MEETING MINUTES

June 1, 2010

Welcome: President Mark Klein called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. at Garden Oaks Elementary School.

A motion was made and carried to accept the May minutes as published in the *Gazette*.

Treasurer's Report

Phil Ramirez reported that the home tour was very successful, yielding a net profit of close to \$37,000. The Constable Patrol is \$16,000 short of its goal. Treasurer Ramirez asked everyone to remind friends and neighbors to send in their dues. He highlighted that the *Gazette* has been an income source this year as opposed to an expense as in prior years. We should continue to encourage businesses and associates to purchase advertisements in the *Gazette*, while supporting those that advertise.

Announcements

Quiet Zone: Vice President Scott Easterly gave an update on the 34th Street Quiet Zone. Progress is slow but not dead. Easterly hopes to get Councilwoman Brenda Stardig involved to help with the city's commitment. As of May 19, the 34th Street Quiet Zone is No. 9 on the planned list. No. 4 has been implemented and Nos. 6-8 are pending. The federal railroad commission has ruled favorably, but progress continues to be slow.

Super Neighborhood: President Klein announced that Garden Oaks has been asked to become part of a Super Neighborhood. It would include 9 to 10 civic associations including Oak Forest, Shepherd Forest and Candlelight Estates among others. Oak Forest has declined to participate. The heads of the civic associations create a council and

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

collaborate on issues to leverage access to politicians and city funding. There are no dues and all participation is voluntary. President Klein recommends that we explore it further and discuss it again in July.

Standing Committee Reports

GO Citizens Patrol: Carl Waters reported nine crimes in May totaling 23 crimes to date this year, which is one less than this time last year. A new patroller, Stephen Mink, joined the Citizens Patrol.

Constable Program: Terry Jeanes reported 20 in. rims continue to be stolen, so please park up in your driveways to help prevent theft.

Beautification: No update.

Gazette: Jessica Jarvis announced that the *Gazette* has a new Advertising Director, Kristin Strange. She asked that neighbors let businesses know that they have seen their advertisements in the *Gazette*.

GardenOaks.org Website: No update.

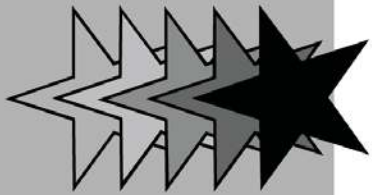
Membership: Dian Austin reported that membership has reached a plateau at 349.

Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization (GOMO): No update.

Garden Oaks Elementary School Update: No update.

Presentation: President Mark Klein introduced two speakers during the meeting. The first was Carol Burton, Urban Harvest's Director of Youth Gardening. Urban Harvest is a non-profit organization that supports a community network dedicated to the support of urban gardening and local farms. Carol's presentation highlighted the inclusion of native plants in gardens. More information on upcoming events and classes can be found online at www.urbanharvest.org.

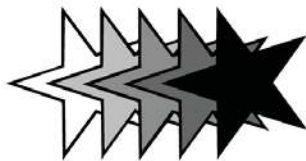
continued on page 12



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Garden Oaks Good Neighbor Award recipient, Carl Waters.

Good Neighbor cont. from pg. 1
Garden Oaks not only a community but a safe one too," neighbor Scott Easterly said. "I sleep better and worry less about my safety and property knowing that Carl is watching out for us all."

Carl also attends the monthly Positive Interaction Program (PIP) meetings with HPD and residents

of other surrounding neighborhoods. The group meets to voice concerns and learn what's going on in the super-neighborhood.

"Carl has been a tireless advocate for neighborhood safety and I very much

applaud his leadership of the Citizen Patrollers," Garden Oaks resident Brenda de Alba said. "The patrollers' efforts complement the neighborhood Constable Program and I'm happy he's getting the recognition he so sorely deserves!"

As busy as Carl is, it's hard to imagine that he has any free time. Still, he manages to play golf every Sunday

at the Sharpstown Golf Course. He also likes to bowl. In the spring, he is an umpire for t-ball and is a pitching coach at Oaks Dad's club.

Award sponsors Terry Jeanes of ReMax Metro and Megan Salch of Tell Your Tale Marketing thank Carl for his contributions with a \$25 gift certificate to Tony's Mexican Restaurant.

The next Garden Oaks Good Neighbor Award will cover good acts during the summer 2010 and will be announced at the September civic club meeting. Adult award winners receive a gift certificate and youth are awarded a savings bond.

To nominate your good neighbor for The Garden Oaks Good Neighbor Award, contact Terry Jeanes at 713-812-9154 or Terry@terryjeanes.com or Megan Salch at MeganSalch@tellyourtale.com. We hope you'll commend others for good acts around Garden Oaks.

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INVASIVE MATTERS

by Mark Saranie

For our June Garden Club meeting we had as speaker Carol Fraser, who is with the Harris County Master Gardener Program. Her topic was on invasive plants, and wow, we all had our eyes opened on this matter.

A plant may be considered invasive if it causes economic and environmental harm. This matters because knowing it or not, we all have at least one item that is labeled as invasive in Texas. Fraser advised us that while some of the invasive plants sound like common plants we all purchase at many of our local nurseries, the entire genus is not considered invasive, just some of the family members. Many invasive plants are not native to Texas or the United States, having been introduced because of some economical benefit, or unknowingly, such as the stuff dumped out of someone's aquarium that now clogs some of our waterways and is taking over some of our lakes.

Now, most of us have heard of the Chinese Tallow, Kudzu, and Climbing Yams, as being invasive, and they are on the list. However, did you know that St. Augustine is considered invasive? It causes economical harm, in the form of excessive watering, thus water waste and large water bills, and environmental harm due to all the fertilizer and herbicide runoff that ensues after watering or a rainstorm. Sacred Bamboo, *Nandina domestica*, a mainstay in many gardens throughout our neighborhood is on the invasive list. So are Silktree, *Mimosa Albizia julibissin*, Cherokee rose, *R. laevigata*, a few Ligustrums, Honeysuckles, and more.

Before you start ripping out all your landscaping, understand that not all members of a genus are invasive if an invasive plant in said genus exists. Rather, what we all should do to start curtailing further spreading of invasive plants is to get informed before you buy. Unfortunately, until restrictions are in place, these plants will continue to be offered up for sale.

A great site to visit and on which to register for updates is: www.texasinvasives.org. You can get a free copy of "Nonnative Invasive Plants of Southern Forests: A Field Guide for Identification and Control," by James H. Miller, from the Southern Research Station, 200 W.T. Weaver Blvd., Asheville, NC 28804. While it is not 100 percent comprehensive, it is a eye-opening start.

We have all heard the saying, "it takes a village." Well, "it takes a single bird to start an invasive infestation." Oh, by the way, Benjamin Franklin introduced the tallow tree into the United States. On one of his travels abroad, he saw how it was used for making candles, soap and other goods for which people were in serious need back home. Who knew?

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2010 GARDEN OAKS WINE WALK ~ SAVE THE DATE!

by Brenda de Alba



Plans are underway for the 2010 GO Wine Walk benefiting the civic club sponsored constable program. This year's theme is "Below the Belt" and will be showcasing wines from countries below the equator. If you would like to help with this event or be a sponsor, please contact Brenda de Alba at 713.694.5934 or ferrocem@yahoo.com.

Date: Saturday, October 16 (rain date November 6)
Time: 4-6 p.m.
Where: 744 W. 43rd St. (Ed & Brenda de Alba's backyard garden)
Tickets: \$35 per adult (Must be age 21 or older) – limited to 200 sold tickets

Terry Jeanes of ReMax/Metro graciously has offered to underwrite the cost of wine tasting glasses.

Our first order of business is to find out who wants to host a table. As a courtesy, preference will be given first to those who sponsored host tables in 2009. If you would like to host this year, contact Shelley Rogers at 713.880.0503 or srogers@sheehyware.com. We are limiting the number of host tables to 12.

Table Host Details:

- Hosts receive 2 free tickets including two tasting glasses and can be individuals or groups of friends/neighbors.
- Hosts supply at least one case of wine that is limited to no more than two different wines costing \$20 per bottle or less.
- Hosts also supply a spit bucket, water for rinsing glasses, cocktail napkins, table decorations and information identifying themselves and their wines.
- Hors d'oeuvres and/or palate cleansers are optional.

More information on this year's Wine Walk, including how to purchase tickets, will be in the August Gazette. So stay tuned!

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

by Jessica Jarvis

Summer. For me it brings a slightly slower pace to life and work: time to tend to my yard, complete projects around the house and of course enjoy a trip or two to escape the heat and visit family and friends up north. And while temperatures aren't necessarily conducive to all the things I'd like to be doing with this additional time, it does allow me the opportunity to catch up on some things and attempt to be proactive in other areas.

One of those areas is my work as Gazette Editor. With Spring came a flurry of work, volunteer activity, and family visits, and I became painfully aware of how much I would benefit from having someone who might either assist or pinch-hit for me as editor or assistant editor from time to time.



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Fortunately, I am supported by an incredible team who make my work as editor possible. Every month Carol Smith faithfully assists in editing and proofing articles and Dian Austin does a once-over of the entire publication before it goes to press. The newest member of the *Gazette* team is Kristin Strange who has agreed to fill the critically important job of Advertising Manager. Without each and every one of these fun, talented and amazing ladies I would be at a serious loss.

So, are you interested in trying your hand as editor from time to time? Would you like to put your own skills to work on our neighborhood's publication? We've been served by many talented and creative folks and I welcome the opportunity to work with perhaps our next great editor. We're fortunate in Garden Oaks to have

many talented and creative residents and I eagerly encourage those ideas and skills being put to work for the betterment of the neighborhood.

So, not only do I want your help, I need your help! If you are interested in exploring this fun and rewarding work, I'd love to hear from you. Contact me at 713.446.6440 or gazette@gardenoaks.org for more information.





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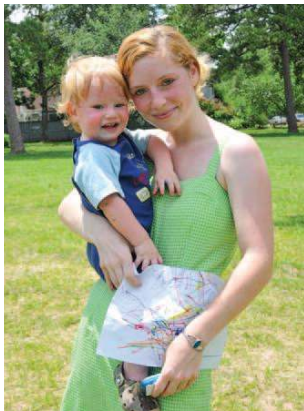


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Garden Oaks

Old-Fashioned Picnic



SECOND ANNUAL GARDEN OAKS OLD FASHINED PICNIC A HOT SUCCESS

It was a hot Sunday afternoon May 23 , the balloons were flying high, and area residents gathered for the 2nd annual Garden Oaks Old Fashioned Picnic at the SPARK Park. Shade was popular and so was the ice cream provided by picnic sponsor and organizer Terry Jeanes (RE/Max Metro). Everyone enjoyed their own picnic, then joined in for fun and games. The adults started it off with the egg race and more games included an egg toss, sack races, three-legged races, big feet race, balloon race, and more. Thanks to the following who helped with this event–Patrick Kelley, Dea & Al Larson, Alisha Cunningham, and the Tatums. Additional thanks go to Brandi Stoesz Photographer, Arts Alive – Tina Sabuco for the sound system, and Kathryn Noser of Razzamatuzz Children’s Parties for the small children’s games.

Plan ahead to next year’s event when more competition will be added in May 2011.

Picnic



Terry Jeanes
Your Neighbor & Area Specialist



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AIR CONDITIONING TIPS FOR THE SUMMER

by Mitch Weigand

Tip No. 4: Preparation for Thunderstorms and Hurricanes

It's officially hurricane season, and we frequently experience some pretty intense thunderstorms at this time of year. So how can you protect one of your home's most valuable assets? When there's electricity in the air, turn your A/C off.

When you hear thunder from an approaching storm, turn your A/C off. There's no need to go to the breaker box to do this; just turn it off using the thermostat. This simple step helps protect your A/C system from devastating power surges. Nearly 90 percent of all electrical related damage occurs when your A/C is left on during thunder storms and hurricanes. You may suffer a bit from the increased heat and humidity but you'll prevent thousands of dollars in

preventable repairs.

If a power outage occurs during the storm, wait 20 minutes after power is restored to then turn your air conditioner back on. Unstable or "dirty" power can occur at this time.

Another concern during a hurricane is flooding. While flooding can harm your outside unit when it's off, serious damage virtually is guaranteed if it's on. Water and electricity just don't mix.

Once the thunderstorm or hurricane is over and electrical power has been properly restored, clear all leaves and limbs that have gathered around your air conditioner, and use a garden hose to remove accumulated debris from its fins. These simple steps will help your A/C system survive the aftermath of Mother Nature's fury.

Weather Trivia:

- The Earth experiences 2,000 thunderstorms occurring at any one time.
- Florida is the lightning capital of the U.S. Texas is No. 2.
- A bolt of lightning typically is 50,000° F, about three times as hot as the sun's surface.
- In the Pacific Ocean, hurricanes generally are known as typhoons. In the Indian Ocean they are called tropical cyclones
- The first hurricane with a male name was Hurricane Bob, which hit near New Orleans in July 1979.

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, 77018.

“Reliability, fairness and efficient service are hallmarks of Mitch’s work.”

Joe C., Section 3, Garden Oaks

For the last 10 years, Mitch has taken great care of us. Reliability, fairness and efficient service are hallmarks of his work. As a neighborhood provider, Mitch has helped us recover from 100-degree heat, Hurricane Ike and Sunday evening A/C blowouts. It's invaluable to have someone we trust so much, available right around the corner.

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Mitch Weigand, Garden Oaks resident and Civic Club member

CALLING ALL COOKS!

by Cindy Jorgensen

We have begun collecting recipes and need your help! We are in need of recipes for a new Garden Oaks Cookbook! Proceeds will benefit our 2011 constable program.

How can you help? We need 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. Have a favorite restaurant in the neighborhood? Let us know! We are asking local restaurants to share their specialty recipes with us as well!

Visit our website at www.GardenOaksCooks.com to learn more and submit your recipe. Or you can mail your recipes to: Brooke McKamy, Garden Oaks Cookbook, 316 W. 34th Street, Houston, TX, 77018.

Don't cook much? You can still help. Consider purchasing a copy this fall for yourself, friends and family. Sign up for our mailing list by visiting our website so you will be notified when the cookbooks are available.

Let's get cooking, Garden Oaks!



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GO KIDS NEWS

by Sarah Heath

Our GO Kids group is making some great changes this summer. First on the agenda is switching over our group from Yahoo to Big Tent on August 1. Please check your email often throughout the month of July to learn more about Big Tent and what you'll need to know as we make this switch.

Do you have any changes or ideas you'd like to see implemented to GO Kids? Come to our fun and fabulous Meeting of the Minds! Bring your thoughts and ideas to the Petrol Station on Tuesday, July 20, at 7:30 p.m.

GO Kids has a Facebook page! Search for us and become a fan. Post events, interesting information or family-friendly activities. We're getting high tech around here! A huge thank you goes to Kristin Jordan for designing our official GO Kids logo.

Get those finishing touches on your bikes, trikes and wagons, and head on over to the GO Red, White & Blue Parade on July 4. This is a great neighborhood tradition for both the young and old. You won't want to miss it!

Kids home from school driving you crazy yet? Join us for a Moms' Night Out at Chatter's Café & Bistro located

at 140 South Heights Blvd. on Tuesday, July 13 at 7:00 p.m. Contact Maricela Pina at pinamaricela@yahoo.com for more information.

The GO Kids Babysitting Co-op has been going strong for three months, and we are ready to open it to more families! We have working moms, stay-at-home moms, dads who can babysit, and kids ranging from newborns to nine years old. There are families with one child and some with several children, and I think we cover most of the Garden Oaks sections! We are looking for people who would use the co-op at least once a month. It works great for date nights, doctor appointments and any occasion that is easier when you are childless. For more information, contact Brooke Whisenhunt at 281.793.1578 or brookemckamy@yahoo.com.

Are you or someone you know an overwhelmed, sleep deprived new parent? Take heart because help is on the way! We are happy to provide several meals to new families during those stressful few weeks. If you are expecting or know a neighbor who is please contact our Dinner Drop coordinator, Amber Berend, at amber.berend@yahoo.com and she'll set you right up.

GO Kids was started by a group of parents who wanted to build a family-friendly neighborhood where children and parents know each other and grow together. All Garden Oaks families are welcome. Not on the GO Kids list serve? Want more information about GO Kids? Contact Sarah Heath at 832.724.3325 or sarahmheath@gmail.com.

FOSTERING CREATIVITY IN CHILDREN

by Lindsey Pollock, GOES Principal

Curiosity and a sense of discovery are integral components in successful learning experiences for human beings. These are critical qualities that our children must embrace if they are to solve the challenges of our ever-changing world.

In the school setting, this sense of curiosity is encouraged in hands-on activities and self-directed projects that allow children to work on topics that spark their interest. Science fair projects and history fair projects are prime examples of opportunities for children to work with adult mentors as they search out answers to new questions or conduct interviews with adults who might shed light on the topic of interest.

In a world that is blaring impending injury and harm, how can parents encourage children to embrace the world with a sense of awe and wonder? How can we nurture a child's curiosity and desire to question the world around them and explore?

Here are a few ideas from the National Institute for Child Development to use at home to encourage your child's curiosity:

Model interest in the world around you. Take a walk outside and wonder aloud about the trees, the sky, the stars. Let your child see you pursuing interests of your own.

Follow your child's lead. Encourage natural interests. Children learn so much more through activities that capture their attention and

imaginations. If he likes music, play it for him often, make and play instruments together, dance together. If bugs are her thing, give her a shovel and a net. Find books on bugs and read to her.

Answer questions simply and clearly and according to your child's development. No matter the child's age, ask them first what their thoughts are before answering. If you don't have the answer, say so. Let them know it's okay not to have all the answers. This also provides an opportunity to model how to find answers. Go with her to the library or call someone else who might know.

Use the library! Take this field trip together often. Books are windows into all kinds of worlds to delight the curious mind. Young children who are exposed to books become better readers. Let your

child choose his own books. Studies show that it doesn't matter whether children are reading books about rockets or comic books, the key is that their interest is captured and that they like to read.

Stimulate your child with open-ended questions. These are questions that require conversation such as: "How do you feel about ..."; "What was (such and such experience) like for you?" "Tell me about what happened in school today." These kinds of questions encourage your child to develop his thoughts and ideas, show love and interest, and will give you a window into his inner life.

Redirect, and encourage. Try to figure out what is capturing her interest or what skill she is trying to master and create a safe and acceptable way for her to explore. Put some dirt in a plastic container

for your child to play with and inspect. If a young child likes to pour water from her cup onto the high chair or floor, move her to the kitchen floor, bathtub or backyard after the meal so she can explore and experiment with water without driving you crazy. This also will teach children problem-solving skills and creative and acceptable ways to do and get what they want.

Allow time for open-ended activities. Unlike some toys that are designed to be used a certain way, materials like boxes, blocks, water, sand, pots and pans, and any art material can be used imaginatively. Do not tell your child what to do with the material, how to do it or what it should look like in the end. Let your child's curiosity be her guide.

Enjoy your time together and explore!

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HAPPENINGS AT THE AMERICAN LEGION

by Jim Acker, Post Historian

Our American Legion Post on Alba sent 17 boys to Boy's State in Austin for a week the first week in June. The women's auxiliary sent a similar number of girls to Girl's State. The post sponsors two boys and two girls from each high school in our district, which is Harris County north of I-10. They are selected based on academic achievement and leadership qualities.

The program immerses the youths in state government in the case of state and national government in the case of nation. They are bussed to Austin where they reside in a UT dormitory. They elect and fill all government posts from legislators to governor. They campaign for these positions and hold caucuses then elections. They spend the last day with their adult counterpart and return home with a thorough understanding of how to set up a functioning democratic government. It looks great on their resume when they apply for university entrance and they are on the fast track for appointment to one of our four military academies. Our Garden Oaks post sponsors more kids to the program than any other post in Texas. The American Legion started the Boy's State program to counter a growing membership in Communist youth programs. There were more than 400,000 registered Communists in the United States during the depression. The famous photo of a teenage Bill Clinton shaking President John F. Kennedy's hand was Boy's Nation where two of the brightest boys from Boy's State in each state are sponsored for a week in Washington DC.

Help support our programs by joining if you are a veteran or child of a qualified veteran who was active military during time of war. On July 4 we are having a fish fry for \$7.00 per person all afternoon starting at noon, and July 16 is steak night. For \$12.00 you get a rib-eye steak, baked potato and salad. If you bring a GO Gazette with you, it is \$10.00 (per Gazette).

CC Meeting Notes cont. from pg 4

Chris Lindsay from ReNew Houston made the second presentation. ReNew Houston is a volunteer group whose primary goal is to charter an amendment that would create a funding mechanism dedicated to improving Houston streets and drainage with continued consistent, needs-based infrastructure investment.

The proposed funds are raised by a combination of means, including developers' and homeowners' fees. The City of Houston is one of the few major cities in the area that do not have this type of drainage assessment. To be considered on the November 2010 ballot, ReNew Houston needs 22,000 petition signatures by July 1, 2010. Detailed information and petition forms can be found at www.renewhouston.org.

Adjournment: President Mark Klein adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.



AREA FOURTH OF JULY FESTIVITIES

by Jessica Jarvis

In case you haven't already selected the perfect fireworks display or Fourth of July celebration for you and your family, here are some of the many options.

Chevy's Freedom Over Texas

Eleanor Tinsley Park

The 2008 Red, White and Blue Fourth of July in Houston Presents America's Largest Land-Based Fireworks Show and an Evening of Family Activities Events begin at 4p.m., Fireworks begin at 9:35p.m.

Star Spangled Salute

Miller Outdoor Theatre

The Houston Symphony led by Principal Pops Conductor Michael Krajewski presents an All-American salute to commemorate Independence Day in style. The evening concludes with fireworks presented by the Miller Theatre Advisory Board. 7:30 p.m.

July 4th Fireworks Extravaganza at Sam Houston Race Park

Sam Houston Race Park

Quarter Horse racing begins at 5p.m. followed by fireworks at 9:30p.m.

Stars and Stripes Celebration

Children's Museum of Houston

Proclaim Independence! Children's Museum of Houston celebrates the nation's birthday with a 21-balloon rocket salute! Open 10 - 6p.m.

Second Annual Fourth of July Celebration

Bayou Bend

Before families top off their Fourth of July celebration with a fireworks show, they can take in an afternoon of early American-themed performances, crafts, and demonstrations at Bayou Bend Collections and Gardens' second annual Fourth of July celebration. The free event is from 1 to 5p.m.

And don't miss our very own **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.

GO SISTERHOOD

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

Next Meeting:
Thursday - July 15 - 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



One of the many games played and enjoyed by Garden Oaks residents at the Old Fashioned Picnic on May 23, 2010.



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CRITTER CORNER

by Casey and Dorothy Dan Farris

Because it is the hottest time of year, please pay attention to the pets and keep them cool and hydrated. Also, if you attend a fireworks display on July Fourth, leave your pets at home – they don't like all the noise. If you go out that day or that night, leave the TV or a radio on in case someone around your house has fireworks.

Critters 101: The Dog Days of Summer

Everyone knows that the dog days of summer occur during the hottest and muggiest part of the year. *Webster Dictionary* defines dog days as the period between early July and early September when the hot sultry weather of summer usually occurs in the northern hemisphere. But where does the term come from? Why do we call the hottest days of summer dog days?

In ancient times, when the night sky was unobscured by artificial lights, people drew images in the sky by connecting the dots of stars. These star pictures are now called constellations, and the constellations that are now mapped out in the sky come from our European ancestors.

They saw images of bears (Ursa Major and Ursa Minor), twins (Gemini), a bull (Taurus), and others, including dogs (Canis Major and Canis Minor). The brightest of the stars in Canis Major (the big dog) is Sirius, which also happens to be the brightest star in the night sky. It is so bright that the ancient Romans thought that the earth received heat from it.

During late July, the Dog Star rises and sets with the sun. They named this period of time, from 20 days before to 20 days after, dog days after the Dog Star. Today, dog days occur during the period between July 3 and August 11. Although, it is certainly the warmest period of the summer, the heat is not due to the added radiation from a far-away star, regardless of its brightness. No, the heat of summer is a direct result of the earth's tilt.

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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Size	Single	Six Months	Twelve Months
2 ¼ W x 2 3/8 H	\$60.00	\$300.00	\$580.00
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Half Page 7 ½ W X 4 ½ H	\$110.00	\$550.00	\$1065.00
Full Page 7 ½ W x 9 ½ H	\$180.00	\$900.00	\$1745.00

Inserts (full page only, single sided) \$180.00
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For more information on advertising please contact the Advertising Director, Kristin Strange, at gazetteads@gardenoaks.org.

JULY 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 Bicycle Parade 10am, SPARK Park American Legion Fish Fry 12- ? pm	5	6 Civic Club mtg 7:00pm, GO elementary school	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 GO Kids MNO 7pm, Chatter's Café & Bistro 	14 GOMO meeting	15 GO Sisterhood 7pm	16 American Legion Steak Night 6pm	17 GO Kids playgroup potluck 4 - 6pm, Graham Park
18	19	20 GO Kids Meeting of the Minds 7:30pm, Petrol Station	21	22	23	24
25	26	27 	28	29	30	

 <h2>Oak Forest Veterinary Clinic</h2> <p>Monday - Friday: 7:00 AM - 6:00 PM By appointment only</p> <p>Saturday: 7:30 - 11:30 AM Walk-in's welcome</p> <p>2120 West 34th Street (Between T.C. Jester & Ella)</p> <p>(713) 682 - 6351</p> <p>www.oakforestvetclinic.com</p>	<p>Hallie Ray Moore, DVM Jessica K. Parkerson, DVM</p>
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