

GARDEN OAKS GAZETTE

VOLUME 34

ISSUE 09

WINE WALK TICKETS NOW ON SALE!

Constable Fundraiser 4-6 p.m. Saturday, October 16
by Dian Austin

What better way to celebrate the coming cooler weather than to sip assorted wines in a lush Garden Oaks setting, visit with neighbors, and raise money for the constable program? The Wine Walk may be just the answer you were looking for! Get your tickets now, because this year's Wine Walk is shaping up to be even bigger and better than last year. We will be selling only 200 tickets, and last year's event sold out quickly. The ticket order form can be found both online at www.gardenoaks.org and also here in the *Gazette*.

As we go to press, five neighborhood sponsors have stepped up and we have filled all table host spots.

Terry Jeanes, Section 4 neighbor and ReMax/Metro Realtor, will be providing the souvenir wine glasses for tasting all the fabulous wines the table hosts will be showcasing.

Additionally, \$200 sponsors include: Garden Oaks Builders, Inc. (Harry James Building & Design) Irma's Restaurant (Section 2 neighbor Irma Galvan) Oak Forest Veterinary Clinic (2120 West 34th) Linda Sparks (Section 4 neighbor)

Our theme this year is "Below the Belt," and table hosts have been asked to provide wines from the southern hemisphere that retail for \$20 or less.

Continued on page 8

SEPT 2010

CIVIC CLUB MEETINGS

September 7 Civic Club Meeting
Featuring Mayor Annise Parker 7pm at Garden Oaks Elementary School

No October meeting due to National Night Out

SAVE THE DATE

National Night Out - October 5
Wine Walk - October 16
GOMO Annual Meeting - October 20

REMINDERS

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

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CITIZENS' PATROL

by Carl Waters, Jr.

Details of a scam targeting senior citizens were released at the Positive Interaction Program (PIP) meeting last month. A couple has been targeting seniors requesting access to their property under the ruse of looking for a lost pet. The couple was described as a white female, age 25 to 27, 5'2" to 5'4" and approximately 125 - 135 pounds plus a white male, age 32, approximately 5'6" and 200 - 220 pounds. He was also described as having a beard and moustache.

The suspects approach the victim claiming to live on the next street and looking for a pet that got into the victim's back yard. Upon gaining access to the backyard, they then ask if they can use the bathroom, and if granted access to the house they slip out of the bathroom to look around for small valuables and money, which they take. This couple has also included a child in the scam, telling the victim the missing pet belongs to the child. The suspects have been seen driving a black or gray

SUV (Suburban). If you are approached by someone matching this description please do not allow them access to your property and call the Constable or HPD to report them.

In other news from the PIP meeting, Division Commander Captain Rodriguez reported that crime in the North Division was the lowest in the month of June and the lowest it had been in 10 years.

By the way, the PIP meeting is held on the **third Tuesday of every month in the HPD North Command Center, 9455 W. Montgomery Rd. The public is welcome to attend** and discuss their concerns with our local HPD command staff.

One way to help prevent crimes like the one discussed above is to know your neighbors. A great way to accomplish that is by hosting a block party for National Night Out, October 5. It can be simple or elaborate depending on your budget. Some blocks even have themes for the party.

July Crime Statistics: 3

Theft: 1

900 block of Lamonte Ln. on Tuesday, July 13 at 7:00 p.m. (residence).

Burglary: 2

800 block of W. 34th St. on Wednesday, July 14 at 1:30 p.m. (residence).

4200 block of Apollo on Thursday, July 29 at 9:33 p.m. (residence).

For 2010, we've had a total of 30 crimes reported on the HPD website compared to 35 through July of 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.

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.



HEARD UNDER THE OAK TREE

by Terry Jeanes

Welcome New Neighbors

- 1571 Sue Barnett
- 1466 Sue Barnett
- 809 West 32nd
- 927 Gardenia
- 527 West 32nd
- 816 West 32nd
- 307 West 33rd
- 729 West 39th

Congratulations on joining us. We hope to see you at a civic club meeting soon.

September Birthdays

- Janice Walden - 24
- Mark Swick - 26

Congratulations

- Happy Anniversary to **Trent & Megan Salch** - 5
- And to **Rick & Tonya Knauth** - 29

Out and About

George Appling, Brian O'Leary and the whole crew went to the annual family & friends tubing trip in New Braunfels. **The Fatherees, Luke and Celeste**, vacationed in Florida during July with family. The **McKeowns family** were seen throughout Destin during July. **Caroline McLean** spent a week in Canada with her book club chums during July, arriving back in time to pack the bags again and head with the rest of the **McLean family** to Scotland (travel is Caroline's middle name).

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



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729 W. 39th St.	975 Gardenia
721 W. 41st St.	1043 Gardenia
750 W. 41st St.	839 Lamonte
818 W. 41st St.	3205 Lawrence
858 W. 41st St.	1325 Sue Barnett
862 W. 41st St.	1458 Sue Barnett
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**GO CIVIC CLUB MEETING
MINUTES**

August 3, 2010

Welcome

Vice President Scott Easterly called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m. at Garden Oaks Elementary School.

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

Announcements

September 7 Meeting: Mayor Annise Parker will be the GOCC keynote speaker. Encourage your neighbors to attend the meeting.

Wine Walk: The Wine Walk is scheduled for Saturday, October 16. The rain date is November 6. The table hosts have been confirmed. Ticket sales will open up on August 15. The goal is to have 200 paid tickets at \$35 per person. The proceeds will cover one month of expense for the Constable program.

2011 Budget: The GOCC budget will be submitted in September. The final budget will be published in the November *Gazette*, prior to a GOCC vote on December 7. Please submit ideas and suggestions. Contact information is available on the www.gardenoaks.org website.

Garden Oaks Cookbook: The Civic Club audience was asked to please support this effort by submitting recipes (recipes were due August 20). Sales revenue will support the Constable Program. (Editor's note: pre-sales should begin in September; the book is due out in October.)

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Phil Ramirez reported that GOCC is spending more than the dollars coming in this month, which

is normal for this time of year. Spending for July exceeded our cash intake by just short of \$2,200. The *Gazette* remains net positive for the year. Annual renewals are not expected to start coming in until late November or December as the fund-raising campaign begins. The Constable Patrol is \$12,000 short of its annual \$71,000 goal. Based on existing funds, there is enough cash to cover the cost of the constable program for September and October. We hope that the funds from the Wine Walk cover the November payment – but please encourage neighbors (who may have forgotten to contribute) to support the Constable Program with their contributions. Failing additional contributions, we will not be able to make the last two payments for the year and we are in danger of losing the constables during the Holidays. Only 300-400 of 1,400 households in Garden Oaks are currently supporting the Constable Program.

After the Treasurer's Report, there was additional discussion about other ways to potentially raise funds, including the idea of holding a 5K run.

Standing Committee Reports

GO Citizens Patrol: Carl Waters reported three crimes (one theft and two burglaries) in July compared to six last year. Crime in the North division is down in every category except burglaries. A scam in the area is targeting senior citizens. A 5'7" white female is going to homes claiming to look for a lost cat and trying to access the backyard. She sometimes has a child with her. The car is a black or gray SUV. Do not let her in your home or backyard.

Constable Program: No update.

Membership: No update.

Beautification: Brenda de Alba reported that the beds have been cleaned at most parks and will be mulched. One park needs to be weeded. There will be one more round of cleanup and weeding before the end of the year. Brenda announced that she will step down as the Beautification Chair at the end of the year. She has been the Chair for the majority of the past 14 years. She asked that someone volunteer to come forward, take the reins, and bring some new ideas to the table.

Gazette: No update. Please support businesses that support the Gazette, and encourage businesses to advertise.

GardenOaks.org Website: No update.

Garden Oaks Maintenance

Organization (GOMO): Ed de Alba announced that the annual meeting is set for the third Wednesday in October. There is one position available in Sections 1, 2, and 3. There are two positions in Section 5. No decision has been made on the funding of additional projects.

Garden Oaks Elementary School Update: No update.

GOCC September 7, 2010 Meeting

Discussion: Prior to adjournment, there was additional discussion about the possibility of strategically preparing for the September meeting with Mayor Annise Parker so that the neighborhood concerns were heard. Issues that were voiced included: Drainage, sewers, speed bumps, Carter's Grove Apartments, the Quiet Zone, deteriorating sound wall in Section One (although this was mentioned to be a TX DOT issue, not a City issue), and land being used for a Step-Up Home.

Adjournment: Vice President Scott Easterly adjourned the meeting at 7:58 p.m.

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AIR CONDITIONING TIPS FOR THE SUMMER

by Mitch Weigand

Tip No. 6: How Humidity Affects Indoor Air Quality and Comfort

It's not the heat, it's the humidity.

Here in Houston and it's easy to feel the effects of humidity -- sticky skin, beads of sweat on your brow and air so saturated with moisture that it's almost difficult to breath. An ambient temperature of 95 degrees combined with 80-90% humidity (typical for Houston) can actually feel like 105-110 degrees.

However, when it comes to humidity inside your home, the symptoms change. You can experience cold, clammy skin in addition to sneezing and coughing.

Humidity refers to the amount of water vapor in the air. Too much of it promotes growth in mold and dust mites. Both are significant indoor allergens which can set off allergic reactions such as rhinitis and asthma. Keeping the humidity inside your home around 50% or lower provides relief

GO SISTERHOOD

The final Garden Oaks Sisterhood meeting will be held Thursday, September 16 at 7:30p.m at the home of Dea Larson, 823 Lamonte Lane. The Sisterhood has been a wonderful way for our GO women to meet and share their love for our neighborhood. However, it is time for the Sisterhood to take a pause for awhile so this will be our last meeting.

Please join the Sisters for a glass of champagne and a toast to our wonderful Garden Oaks neighborhood. Bring a snack or beverage to share. We look forward to seeing you on the 16.

Final Meeting: Larson Home
823 Lamonte Ln.
7:30 p.m. Thursday, September 16

For more information contact
Beverly@beverlypr.com
or 713.494.1733



DEANNA ZUGHERI
GARDENOAKSHOMES.COM

When my husband Will and I purchased our home in Garden Oaks in 1995, we knew it was the perfect place to raise our family. It was the cute homes and tree lined streets that first attracted us to the area but we quickly realized that we found a true neighborhood where neighbors wave as they pass and visit in their yards in the evenings. It is full of great history and old-fashioned traditions such as the 4th of July Bike Parade, Fall Fest and Home & Garden Tour.



Over the years, we have seen Garden Oaks grow and change, yet it still has that same wonderful sense of community. It gives me great pleasure to help others discover this beautiful place we call home. If you or any of your friends or relatives are thinking of buying or selling please give me a call.

- Deanna


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from these aggravations.

A wet house also draws insects. Bugs are always looking for water, and indoor condensation provides them with the water they need.

If indoor humidity is too high, you can solve the problem with ventilation, dehumidifiers and most importantly, air conditioning. Be sure to vent areas which create moisture such as the bathroom or kitchen. You can also have a dehumidifier installed that will work in concert with your A/C system to eliminate excess humidity.

With A/C tonnage, more is NOT better.

The best solution to provide ideal indoor air quality and a comfortable level of humidity is a properly installed and maintained air conditioner system. A good rule of thumb is one ton of air conditioning for every 400-500 square feet of indoor space. When properly sized, it can cool the air and remove humidity. However, too much tonnage creates problems. The A/C system cools the air too quickly and not run long enough to pull sufficient moisture from

the air. You end up with cold, wet air. Sixty-eight degrees with 80% humidity feels very cold and clammy while 78 degrees with properly dehydrated air (around 50% humidity) can feel quite good. Cold, dehydrated air is what's most desired.

Trivia: According to Wikipedia, Houston is the most air conditioned city in the world.

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

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2nd Vice President

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Patti D., Meyerland

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Mitch Weigand, Garden Oaks resident and Civic Club member

LOCAL GIRL SCOUT TROUP TRAVELS TO SAVANNAH

by Jane Ann Roberts

Neighborhood Cadette Troop 24017 traveled to Savannah, Georgia, the birthplace of Girl Scouts, the last week of July. Fifty people from Houston's San Jacinto Girl Scout Council, Austin and Beaumont took this trip of a lifetime. Two dozen girls and moms from Troop 24017 traveled more than 2,100 miles roundtrip on a coach bus.

In Savannah, the girls toured the birthplace of Girls Scouts founder Juliette Gordon Low, where they tried on corsets, heard the history of Juliette (Daisy), toured her home, and participated in a bridging ceremony in Daisy's Rose Garden. When the girls toured the First Headquarters of Girl Scouts, established in 1912, they participated in a televised surprise Gold Award for two of Savannah's own girl scouts. It was a moving ceremony, as our neighborhood girls brought home their own candles to pass on the flame of the Gold Award. Several of the scouts attended Christ Church where Juliette Gordon Low was baptized and married. The group also walked deep into Laurel Grove Cemetery to form a 'Circle of Friends' around Juliette's grave, giving thanks to a lady who started an organization that supports and builds strong, caring young women worldwide.

The girls and moms from Troop 24017 also toured historic Savannah by trolley, on foot, and in a hearse for a ghost tour. They spent a day on Tybee Island becoming an 'official' confederate soldier at Old Fort Jackson, climbed 178 steps to top of the Tybee Lighthouse; took a two-hour estuary cruise amid dolphins; and played on the beach until sunset. The girls learned about female pirates at the Ship of the Sea Museum. And they toured the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist and the First African American Baptist Church, where slavery's history and the Underground Railroad were brought to life for the girls.

Of course, there was fantastic food in Savannah. Meals at the haunted Pirate

House; an etiquette class at the Olde Pink House; dancing with a belly dancer and eating with their hands at the Moroccan Casbah, a family style meal at the historic Ms. Wilkes' House; and Paula Dean's ("tastes better with butter") the Lady & Sons all made the trip yummy.

The girls filled in their spare time shopping on the River Front and Market Square, getting henna tattoos, riding the ferry across the Savannah River, watching taffy and pralines being made at Savannah Candy Kitchen, playing in fountains, and having a door decorating contest in the hotel, ending it all with a swim party. Some of the girls even attended the Southern Nights Variety Musical. All in all, the girls earned up to seven Interest Project Badges and numerous patches.

This council trip was led by Girl Scout enthusiast, leader and volunteer Dawn Donaldson of Jersey Village on her third trip to Savannah. Dawn's passion, knowledge, and love of scouting ignited the Girl Scout "fire" in many of our local girls. Several are already making plans to join Dawn in Savannah in 2012 to celebrate the Girl Scout centennial. Some of the girls hope to receive their Silver Award in Daisy's Rose Garden.

Juliette Gordon Low once said "Ours is a circle of friends united by ideals." Troop 24017 has experienced this in such a wonderfully memorable way. What a great trip!

WINE WALK *continued from pg 1*

Table hosts include these neighbors and area businesses/supporters:

1. Tina Rowe and Jim Dicola and Artesa Vineyards and Wineries
2. Garden Oaks Vineyards (The Renos)
3. Jeana Kelly
4. Heidi and Stuart Arouty
5. Cheryl Brown and Jeanine Fisher
6. Solution Builders (Dara and Laura Childs and Lesli Dabney)
7. Facundo Home Builders (Miguel Facundo)

8. Kimberly and Daniel Horowitz and Kirstin and Tony D'Amico
9. GO Kids Group
10. Cavallini's Creations (Orlando Flores)
11. Jason and Lori Heuring
12. Craig and M'lissa Dilley and Scott Miller
13. Sean and Laura McGlothlin

The Wine Walk will be from 4-6 p.m. Saturday, October 16, in the spacious and beautifully landscaped backyard of Ed and Brenda de Alba, 744 W. 43rd. The rain date is November 6.

Tickets are \$35 each. All attendees must be 21 years of age or over. Tickets will be sold on a first come basis.

Please order your tickets as soon as possible. We had quite a few disappointed folks last year who waited too late to order tickets; we sold out quickly. Once your order form and check payment are received, you will get a return email (or phone call) to confirm your ticket purchase (email correspondence is preferred). All checks should be made payable to Garden Oaks Civic Club. All tickets will be held for you at the check-in table on October 16, under the name of the person ordering them.

As an additional plus, attendees will be able to pre-order the upcoming new Garden Oaks cookbook at the Wine Walk. Cookbook proceeds also benefit the constable program.

Wine Walk sponsorships are \$200 and entitle you to two free tickets to the event, lots of PR, and the gratitude of your neighbors. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor or have other questions regarding the Wine Walk, please contact Shelley Rogers at srogers@sheehyware.com, or at 713.951.1033 (day), 713.880.0503 (nights and weekend), or 281.330.9447 (cell).

All Wine Walk proceeds go to support the constable program.

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Our local Cadette Girl Scout Troop traveled to Savannah, the birthplace of Girl Scouts. This troop has been together mostly since kindergarden and is part of the Twin Oaks Service Unit sponsored by St Rose of Lima. Most of these girls live in Garden Oaks, Oak Forest, Shepard Park Plaza and surrounding neighborhoods. These girls have been one of the top selling neighborhood troops of GS cookies for years. Besides, donating cookies to the troops and to Manna's food pantry, these girls saved their proceeds to make this trip to Savannah. Picture on steps of Juliette Gordon Low's Birthplace: Bottom to top:

- Isla Lewis, Emma Barrett, Maddie Novak
- Anneliese Buenker, Caroline Calabrese, Anjolie Ruiz-Hernandez
- Emma Smith, Sydney Novak, Lillian Evans
- Emily Roberts, Jessica Smith, Natalie Buenker
- Madison McGarity, Simone McGowan, Jodi McNamara-Alexander
- Jane Ann Roberts, Brianna McGowan, Leslie Novak
- Bobbie(Mimi) Kelly, Vicki Barrett, Yolanda Ruiz-Hernandez
- Joyce Evans, Pam Buenker, Elizabeth McGowan

GOMO Board of Directors

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Terms expire October of year in parentheses.

GOMO ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD OCTOBER 20

By Ed de Alba

The GOMO annual meeting will be held 7 p.m. Wednesday, October 20 at Garden Oaks Elementary. The business to be transacted will include the election of several directors and voting on the spending of surplus funds.

Director Positions Open Section 1

The term of the position currently held by Melissa Haselden Zepeda ends October 31. The term for this position runs through October of 2013.

Section 2

The term of the position currently held by Edward de Alba ends October 31. The term for this position will run through October of 2013.

Section 3

The term of the position currently held by Kelly Mathews ends October 31. The term for this position will run through October of 2013.

Section 5

One director position is open in Section 5. The term for this position runs through October of 2013.

Please contact any of the GOMO Directors listed in the *Gazette* if you are interested in running for any of the open positions.

The Requirements of the Positions Are:

- Must be 18 years or older.
- Must own property and live within the Garden Oaks Section for the Director's position that you are volunteering to stand election for.
- All property owned in Garden Oaks must be in compliance with the Garden Oaks Deed Restrictions, excluding violations that existed before your ownership of the property.
- If no Member residing in the Section stands for election, then a Member who is an owner in that Section, but lives in another Section, may stand for election as a "Non-Section Director", whose term is one year.
- Must sign a statement attesting to the above.

Surplus Funds

GOMO has surplus funds available for disbursement this next fiscal year.

GOMO currently supports two Constable Patrols in Garden Oaks, spending on neighborhood green spaces, and neighborhood infrastructure. If you have a proposal for a neighborhood improvement project, please submit your ideas to any GOMO director or to gomo@gardenoaks.org.

Funds not spent or not committed to be spent within the fiscal year beginning November 1, 2009, will be returned to the general fund.

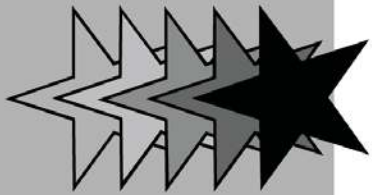
2009 Audit Completed

The audit for the 2009 fiscal year was presented at our July business meeting by Patrick Durio of Durio and Company, P.C. GOMO is in good standing and in a solid financial position. All members will receive a copy in the October Gazette. The audit results are also available on the GOMO website.

An Open Invitation to our Meetings

We would like to personally invite all GOMO Members to all of our meetings. Democracy works best in an open environment. There is no better way for the people of our community to see for themselves how we evaluate the building plans brought to us and how we reach consensus.

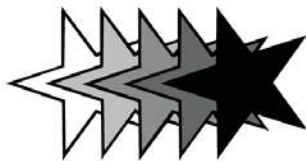
It is also the best way to get your questions answered. The GOMO Board is made up of 12 people and the Board doesn't have an "opinion" about a topic unless a majority of a quorum forms a consensus view. So no one Board Member is able to tell you what GOMO "thinks" about an issue or idea until we have an opportunity to deliberate and form a collective opinion. The formation of GOMO policy and opinion takes place at 7 p.m. every third Wednesday of the month at our business meeting held at the GOMO Office, Garden Oaks Professional Building, 4001 N. Shepherd, Suite 216. You are very welcome to attend, make suggestions, propose ideas, ask questions, clarify rumors, or simply observe the process.



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GO KIDS NEWS

by Sarah Heath

Back to school! I hope everyone had a wonderful summer and are settling into the back to school routine. Summer was great while it lasted!

A huge THANK YOU to the Whisenhunt family for hosting the annual GO Kids Back to School Potluck. A great time was had by all and the food and company were fantastic as always. Isn't it great that we live in such a wonderful neighborhood?

GO Kids big switch to Big Tent has been wonderful. If you haven't received

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your invitation or are interested in joining please contact Sarah Heath at sarahmheath@gmail.com. The Yahoo group will officially shut down September 31st. Thanks to everyone for their enthusiasm and support. Please take some time to poke around on the new sight and play with all the cool features. It's fun!

GO Cook – A Neighborly Collection of Recipes will be available for pre-order in September and for purchase in late October. Thank you to everyone who contributed recipes and ideas. Be sure to order several for holiday gifts. All proceeds benefit our amazing constable program. For more information please visit www.gardenoakscooks.com.

Join us for a Moms' Night Out at Kerry Taylor's beautiful home! Bring a snack or drink to share and we'll laugh the night away. See you 7 p.m. Tuesday, September 14, at 3310 Lawrence Street, across the street from Graham Park in Section 1. Please contact Maricela Pina at pinamaricela@yahoo.com for more information.

Don't worry dads. We know you deserve a night out too! Dads' Night Out will be at Cedar Creek, 7 p.m. Thursday, September 23 at 1034 West 20th St. Come unwind with the guys! Contact Richard Whisenhunt at whisenhuntrichard@yahoo.com for more information.

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.

READ ALOUD

by Lindsey Pollock, GOES Principal

Do you recall read-aloud experiences as a child? For me, one of my most indelible memories of elementary school was Mrs. Schultz reading aloud to us every day. Her reading of the story *Where the Red Fern Grows* will forever echo in my mind as a series of treasured days in which my fourth grade class was transformed daily into another place and time where our collective imaginations ran with the characters in the story and felt their lives unfold. It gave us a sense of unity and togetherness I have never forgotten.

What was it about that read-aloud experience and those magical nights of story time with my parents before I drifted off to sleep that made such lasting memories? Should we still read aloud to children or in this day of technology does it matter anymore?

Seth Mullins, a non-educator, wrote in a recent article from The Washington Post about the value of read aloud: "The growing complexity of our modern world has made the ability to read more essential than ever before. As with most other skills, reading is more easily mastered by those who enjoy it. We can cultivate this passion in our young ones early by reading aloud to them."

Reading aloud is a gift you can freely give your child throughout their life. Child reading experts agree that reading aloud offers the easiest and most effective way to turn children into lifelong readers. It can be as much fun for you as it is for your children!

Jim Trelease in his book *The Read-Aloud Handbook** says "Reading aloud is a commercial for reading." Reading aloud to children helps them develop and improve literacy skills – reading, writing, speaking, and listening. And since children listen on a higher level than they read, listening to other readers stimulates growth and understanding of vocabulary and language patterns.

Whether your child is six months old or 16 years old, there are really only two efficient ways to get words into a person's brain: either through the eye or through the ear. The best source for sharing ideas and brain building in a child becomes the ear. The messages we send into that ear becomes the foundation for the rest of the child's "brain house." Those meaningful sounds in the ear now will help the child make sense of the words coming in through the eye later when learning to read or encountering new words or concepts.

We read to children for all the same reasons we talk with children: to reassure, to entertain, to bond; to inform or explain; to arouse curiosity; to inspire. But in reading aloud, we

also:

- Condition the child's brain to associate reading with pleasure;
- Create background knowledge;
- Build vocabulary;
- Provide a reading role model.

According to the research of Reading is Fundamental (RIF), one factor hidden in the decline of students' recreational reading is that it coincides with a decline in the amount of time adults read to them. By middle school, almost no one is reading aloud to students. If each read-aloud is a commercial for the pleasures of reading, then a decline in advertising would naturally be reflected in a decline in students' recreational reading.

A child whose day includes listening to rhythmic sounds and lively stories is more likely to grow up loving books. And a child who loves books will want to learn to read them. Thomas Jefferson wrote that he "couldn't live without books," and hopefully, despite the many demands on your time, your children will exclaim, "I can't wait to hear my parents read aloud!"

To spark that desire in your children, that connection between you and your child, and a love for reading, here are a few read aloud tips from The National Institute for Literacy and the American Academy of Pediatrics:

- It helps to look over a book before you read it aloud. Shorten or skip overly descriptive passages.
 - It takes time to learn how to take pleasure in reading aloud. And your children need time, too, to learn how to listen.
 - Read slowly and with expression. Don't be afraid to ham it up!
 - Make sure your children sit where they can see the book clearly, especially if it's a picture book. Of course, some children just don't like to sit still and listen—yours may prefer to draw or play quietly while you read.
 - Allow time for a child to settle into a story, and allow time after reading aloud to talk about the story.
 - As you read aloud, encourage your children to get into the act. Invite them to describe pictures, read bits of text, or guess what will happen next. Dramatize roles in the story with them.
 - Expect lots of questions, especially from young children. Take time to answer these as you go along.
 - Children like a sense of completion, so finish what you begin, or at least find an appropriate stopping point, like the end of a chapter.
 - Keep reading aloud to your children even after they go to school. There is no age at which the fun and benefits of reading aloud end.
 - Teenagers may enjoy reading aloud to a younger brother or sister. And you can often
- Continued on page 15*



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CRITTER CORNER

by Casey and Dorothy Dan Farris

Not every dog thinks that a round of fetch is doggie nirvana. Some would rather track interesting smells, or learn new tricks. Some would rather dig a hole to China. And some, of course, just want to see what's next on Animal Planet. Dogs like to play differently, depending on their breed and their individual personality. But once you figure out which games wag your dog's tail, you can use them to give him exercise, mental stimulation, and a sense of purpose. Then there's the bonding that comes from having so much fun together. This month we focus on games for athletic dogs.

Critters 101: Games for Athletic Dogs – The Jock

The Jock plays a vigorous tug of war with you, and is then ready to sprint to the dog park. He is always frisking around, and sniffing out new scents and experiences. He may come from a breed that was developed to do a high-energy job, such as hunting or herding.

Top activities for The Jock would include

agility which combines obedience with athleticism, with the dogs following a course that goes under, over, and through obstacles and jumps. Flyball is a timed relay race that involves jumping hurdles and retrieving a ball – nirvana for high-energy, ball-obsessed dogs. Frisbee lets your dog work off steam with just a little effort from you. Just be sure to get a disc that's made for dogs, with padded edges and cloth material. Try freestyle, also known as dancing with your dog. You can learn more about these sports on www.AmericanSportDog.com.

You can also hike, rollerblade, or go on a bike ride with The Jock; just be sure to protect him from traffic and overexertion. Visit a dog park and let his canine pals give him a workout. Play dog soccer by rolling a large ball toward your dog and tell him to get it. If he noses or paws at the ball, give him lots of praise. He'll soon get the idea.

Live by the philosophy that a tired dog is a happy dog.

In hot weather avoid heavy exercise, give your dog plenty of water, and



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be alert to signs of heat stress, such as glassy eyes and heavy panting. Short-nosed breeds like Pugs and Bulldogs are especially vulnerable to overheating. Build up your dog's exercise routine gradually. Playing weekend warrior can result in torn ligaments and other injuries for both of you.

Casey Farris is owner/operator of Bone Voyage Pet Sitting Services©, and Go Dog USA, Garden Oaks companies offering 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 questions and pet news to Casey@goDOGusa.com or call 713.688.6363.

READ ALOUD continued from pg 12
 whet teenagers' appetites for reading by sharing aloud short selections from books or articles that might interest them.

- Tape record yourself reading a book. Children often enjoy this and are especially comforted if you are traveling or even out on a date night!
- After you've got the hang of it, be creative with the stories you've read. Substitute your child's name for the name of a character in the story. Make up your own stories.
- Vary your selections, returning to old favorites and introducing your children to new works.
- Occasionally try reading stories that are slightly beyond your children's reach. But if they seem frustrated rather than challenged,

put the stories aside for another day.

- Be flexible. If a child doesn't seem to like the book you're reading, drop it and try another. Ask questions to discover the kinds of books your children would like to hear.

After You Read a Story

- Ask questions about the story. For example, you might ask some or all of the following:

- o What is the title of the story?
- o Who is the author? Illustrator?
- o Where does the story take place?
- o Who is the most important character? Why?
- o What is the problem or conflict in the story? How is it solved?
- o Does this book remind you of another book? Why?
- o How did the story make you feel?
- o Did the illustrations help tell the story?
- o Has anything that takes place in the story ever happened to you?
- o What is your favorite part of the story and why?

- Ask children to describe one of the characters in the story, or how they might feel or act if they were one of the characters.

For more information, I suggest Reba Wadsworth and Lester Laminack, *Learning Under the Influence of Language and Literature: Making the Most of Read-Alouds Across the Day*, and *Reading Aloud Across the Curriculum*.
 Jim Trelease, *The Read-Aloud Handbook* (2006)



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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5 American Legion Fish Fry 12pm	6 Labor Day	7 Civic Club mtg 7:00pm, GO Elementary School 	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 GO Kids MNO 7pm, Taylor Home 3310 Lawrence St.	15 GOMO meeting	16 GO Sisterhood 7:30pm, Larson Home, 823 Lamonte Ln.	17 American Legion Steak Night 6pm \$12 for 16oz rib- eye ~ \$2 off with your Gazette	18
19	20	21 	22	23 GO Kids Dad's Night Out 7pm, Cedar Creek	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

2010 Garden Oaks Wine Walk Saturday, October 16th, 4~6 PM 744 W. 43rd St.

Ticket sales limited to the first 200 to respond.
This is an ADULTS only event (age 21 or older).

___ Yes! Reserve ___ tickets @ \$35.00 ea. for a total of \$ _____

Name: _____

(NOTE: This is the name in which your tickets will be held in will call)

Address: _____

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Email: _____

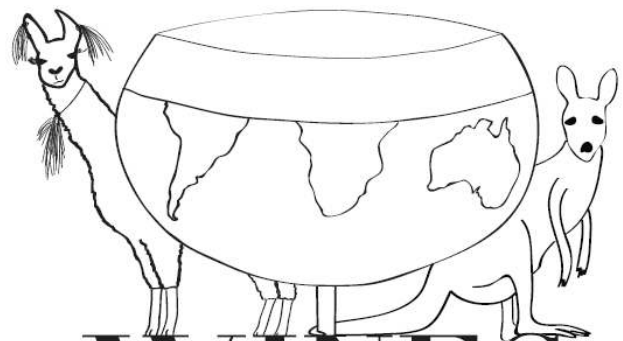
___ No, I cannot attend, but enclosed is a donation to the Garden Oaks
Civic Club of \$ _____ to be applied to the Constable Program

Please mail this completed form along with your check payable to:

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Pick up your souvenir glasses at the venue when you arrive. We will acknowledge your ticket order via e-mail or by phone. Rain date is Saturday, Nov. 6. Sorry, no refunds.

Thank you!



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