

GARDEN OAKS GAZETTE

VOLUME 34

ISSUE 10



The Wine Walk is Here!

by Dian Austin

The Wine Walk is sold out! Yes, all 200 tickets were gone quickly. All those lucky persons who bought tickets are in for a real treat this year.

We have 13 generous neighbor groups and supporters as table hosts, each providing a sample of a different wine. Also, the team that has put together the new Garden Oaks cookbook will be taking orders for the upcoming books and providing hors d'oeuvres from recipes in the book.

What: Garden Oaks 2nd Annual Wine Walk, sampling wines from the southern hemisphere that retail for \$20 and under

When: Saturday, October 16 (rain date November 6) 4 to 6 p.m.

Where: 744 West 43rd, the backyard of Ed and Brenda de Alba

Why: To mingle with your neighbors, have fun, and most importantly, support the Constable Program!

This is a private adults-only gathering. No one under 21 years of age will be admitted. No pets. There will be very limited parking on W. 43rd, so try to "walk the walk" and either walk or bike over for the event. If you park on neighboring streets, please be respectful of driveways, property, as you always are.

Please do not arrive before 4 p.m.

If you purchased tickets, you should have received a confirmation email. If you did not receive an email please email FallingwaterT@yahoo.com or call 713.691.6505.

Ticket purchasers will have their names on a list at the check-in table. You will be given a souvenir wine glass and can then freely wander about the beautifully landscaped backyard, view the koi pond, and taste some wines.

Thanks to Terry Jeanes for underwriting the cost of the glasses.

Cash sponsors: Irma Galvan (Irma's Restaurant), Garden Oaks Builders, Inc. (Harry James), Oak Forest Veterinary Clinic, and Section 4 neighbor, Linda Sparks.

Our generous table hosts:

1. Tina Rowe and Jim Dicola and Artesa Vineyards and Wineries
2. Sean and Laura McGlothlin
3. Jeana Kelly and Denise Hansen
4. Heidi and Stuart Arouty
5. Cheryl Brown and Jeanine Fisher
6. Solution Builders/Dara and Laura Childs and Lesli Dabney Photography
7. Facundo Home Builders, Miguel Facundo
8. Kimberly and Daniel Horowitz and Kirstin and Tony D'Amico
9. GO Kids Group
Amber Berend, Selena Crochet, Sarah McGee Heath, Lissa Hutchison, Brandy Groth, Michele Jankowski, Kristin Jordan, Jennifer Osowski, Kerry Taylor
10. Cavallini's Creations, Orlando Flores
11. Jason and Lori Heuring
12. Craig and M'lissa Dilley and Scott Miller
13. Garden Oaks Vineyards, The Renos

Thanks everyone for their continued support of our constable program!

OCT 2010

CIVIC CLUB MEETINGS

No October Civic Club Meeting
Next meeting, November 2
7pm at Garden Oaks Elementary School

EVENTS



Join your neighbors for National Night Out - October 5

Wine Walk - October 16, 2010
Halloween - October 31, 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.

1011 West 41st **959 West 42nd**
1043 West 42nd **1006 West 43rd**
1462 Sue Barnett **1526 Sue Barnett**
819 Lamonte **3213 Lawrence**

October Birthdays

Dian Austin - 1
Sue Schmidt-3
Tania Chaix - 6
Carey Berry - 8
Tina Sabuco-9
Michael Padon-12
Rita Donaldson-15
Layne Heath-27
Jack Runge-28
Chuck Fleming-31
 Belated Birthday wishes to **John Beddow** 9-22

Happy Anniversary

Debbie & Tony Padon - 6
Elizabeth & Mark Klein - 7
Gig & Betsy Runge - 9

Jim & Sally McDaniel-12
Holly & Matt Veech-14
Eric & Jessica Jarvis - 15
John & Tina Beddow-21

Out and About

Blanche Ragsdale and **Margaret Hesse** returned from a fabulous September trip to Germany. Extra special return from the trip was Margaret's son **Andy Hesse's** visit back home in Garden Oaks. **Sheree Peoples** visited New York City seeing Bernadette Peters in A Little Night Music and two matches at the US Open. **Eric** and **Jessica Jarvis** and **Scott Easterly** enjoyed their Home Tour Auction purchase of a weekend on the lovely Frio River courtesy of former neighbors **Jill** and **Jim Farnsworth**.

Caroline McLean left on a jet plane again...this time for San Diego. **George Appling** and **Brian O'Leary** enjoyed a fun filled Labor Day weekend at Sherwood Forest Faire. **George** has been busy visiting Denver, Miami and San Diego as well.

Michael Beard spent a special week with family in Gulf Shores celebrating his mom and dad's 50th anniversary.

Congratulations

Eric and **Jessica Jarvis** welcomed new greyhound, **Rigby**, to their family.

Prayers and Well Wishes

To **Emma Maltbie** who is recovering from brain surgery.

In memoriam

Fred Cowart (96) longtime Garden Oaks resident passed away September 2, 2010.

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 ON PATROL

by Carl Waters, Jr.

Tuesday, October 5 is National Night Out and is a good time to get to know your new neighbors and reacquaint yourself with your old ones. See more about National Night Out on page 11.

Monthly Crime Statistics: 2

Aggravated Assault: 1
200 block of the North Loop West, on Thurs., Aug. 19, at 4 p.m. (Gas Station).

Burglary: 1
800 block of W. 31st St. on Fri., Aug. 20, at 4 p.m. (garage).

Again this year we are experiencing lower crime in the neighborhood. Through August, 32 crimes have been reported on the HPD website compared to 39 crimes reported 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.

CONSTABLE PROGRAM

Support the constable program in new exciting ways

by Terry Jeanes & Susan Love Saranie

You have even more new and exciting ways to support our GO Constable Patrol. Many neighbors bought tickets to the Wine Walk, you can buy a Garden Oaks Cookbook, and, of course, complete your 2011 Supporter Form. Remember supporter contributions are credited from January to December each year to coincide with the civic club's contract with the county. It is very important to get your funds or commitment via draft or credit card within the first quarter of the year.

Thank you for the generous contribution from the 2010 Home Tour proceeds to assist as a reserve for the constable funds.

Supporter lists include those for the current 2010 supporter calendar year (Jan. through Dec.). The 2011 Supporter forms are being prepared and mailed and will arrive along with your Civic Club dues statement within the next month.

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Terms expire October of year in parentheses.

GO CIVIC CLUB MEETING MINUTES

September 7, 2010

Welcome: President Mark Klein called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. at Garden Oaks Elementary School.

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

Special Guest: President Klein introduced the Special Guest Speaker, Houston Mayor Annise Parker. Mayor Annise Parker spoke about a number of Houston's key issues and her progress on making changes since taking office. She has replaced two-thirds of the department directors, including Metro. She has aggressively supported initiatives to tear down uninhabitable properties, including a Demolition Day where she issued a challenge to see how many buildings could be torn down in one day. The City has worked with developers to implement 380 agreements, where the developer has initial funding responsibility for infrastructure upgrades that the City would normally prioritize and fund. The proposed Heights Walmart is an example where the developer would spend \$6 million dollars to improve surrounding roads and the City would pay back the investment at zero interest over a 10-year period.

Mayor Parker highlighted three key issues she strongly supported for the November 2nd vote:

1. Renew Houston – A citizen's initiative to create a dedicated drainage/street improvement fee.
2. Residency Amendment - A one-time charter amendment altering residency requirements to support citizens wanting to run for City Council based on the new district boundaries.
3. Red Light Cameras - Keep the cameras as a tool to reduce incidents

of red light running, while freeing up police resources to enforce other laws.

The floor was opened for questions after her speech. Questions covered a broad range of topics including details of the drainage fee, red light cameras, timing of street lights, involvement of City in children support initiatives, Quiet Zones, Metro leadership, City budget, and backlog infrastructure projects.

President's Announcements: 34th

Street Quiet Zone: We are on the Quiet Zone list. Six of the zones have been funded. Progress has been made. Jack Hanagriff, Law Enforcement Liaison for the City of Houston, Police Officer, noted that 34th Street only has eight trains but that they travel at odd hours, as it is safer to travel at off times. Federal Law has prohibited dusk to dawn quiet times.

Oak Forest Library Renovations:

\$500,000 has been funded by the City Council: \$150,000 to materials, \$250,000 to IT equipment, \$90,000 for furniture and other infrastructure.

Super Neighborhood: The name has been changed to Near Northwest Super Neighborhood. The Council structure has been formed; the group hopes to be recognized by Councilwoman Stardig and Mayor Parker in the near future.

Constable Fundraiser - Cookbook:

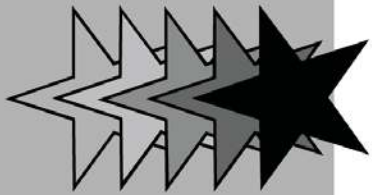
Please pre-order online or via the *Gazette*.

GOCC Schedule: No October meeting due to National Night Out. The November meeting will have a speaker (to be announced) and will include a review of the proposed 2011 budget. The December meeting will include the 2011 budget vote.

Garden Oaks Pictures: If you have any old pictures of the Garden Oaks neighborhood from the 1930's, 1940's or 1950's please email them to: president@gardenoaks.org.
continued on page 18

GOMO Review Meetings

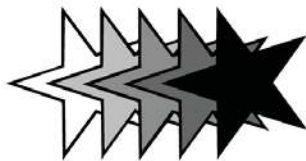
take place at 6:30p.m.
 prior to the Civic Club meetings.



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GARDEN CLUB CALENDAR IS ON THE WAY

Calling all G.O. Business Owners
by Mark Saranie

The Garden Oaks Garden Club is publishing an 18-month calendar. It will run from July 2011 through December 2012. Each month will feature a photo of one of our members' most prized flowers and garden subjects. Also included will be gardening tips relevant to each month and future gardening plans.

We are in the organizing stage, so more information will be forthcoming about purchasing your copy.

GO BIZ, a category grouping of businesses, will list our resident's businesses in a Yellow Pages-like listing. We are calling on all Garden Oaks residents who own a business anywhere in town to take advantage of putting your business in front of other residents for a year and a half. Large or small, all are welcome for a nominal fee.

Advertising spaces are comprised of full, (limited, and on a first come basis), half,

and quarter page, and business card sized spots. Month sponsorship is also available. Each month, a directive on the calendar page will focus on a business category. When a neighbor refers to the GO BIZ section of the calendar, all advertisers will have exposure.

Proceeds from the sales of this first, and we hope, annual calendar, will benefit the Garden Oaks Garden Club, enabling us to further enhance the Friendship Park at West 30th and Lawrence in Section 1.

For details and costs for advertising opportunities and GO BIZ listings, contact one of the Garden Club vice presidents for details and costs for advertising opportunities and GO BIZ listings.

Chris Lindsay at
chris.lindsay@sbcglobal.net or
Trish Mehrkam at
standrewsepiscopal@hotmail.com



continued on page 6

CONSTABLE *continued from page 3*
Whether you are supporting for the first time or renewing as a longtime supporter, complete new and updated forms each year to keep you updated on the email distribution for important security alerts and notices.

Thank you to all who have contributed. You do make a difference.

Updated Supporter List:
www.gardenoaks.org/involvement/civicclub-consta.html

Vacation Watch Form:
www.gardenoaks.org/Resources/VacationWatch.pdf

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

August 2010 Statistics

- Miles Patrolled...4162
- Court Citations.....55
- Alarm Responses....7
- Written Warnings.....10
- Vacation Watches....109
- Suspicious Vehicles....25
- Park checks...123
- Criminal Offenses...0
- Arrests....13

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BEAUTIFICATION UPDATE

New Chairperson needed for 2010

by Brenda de Alba

The time has come to bring in some new blood and fresh ideas for the beautification efforts of the neighborhood so Ed and I will be passing the trowel and shovel off to a new beautification chair as of January 2011. We will be available for consulting. We have headed up the beautification committee for 11 of the last 14 years and feel it's time to allow others to step up.

The numerous green spaces within Garden Oaks provide an extra measure of beauty seldom experienced in most neighborhoods and are truly a draw for many families looking for homes in our area of Houston. Our working relationship with Garden Oaks Elementary School in their past beautification projects also is unique compared to many other neighborhoods.

If you love seeing our green spaces cared for, have extensive or limited horticulture knowledge, and possess good organizational skills, consider volunteering to fill this vacancy. We will be happy to share our knowledge and neighborhood history with you.



GARDEN CLUB OFFICERS

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Robert DeVeau 832.659.7797

Co-Secretaries

Cathy Wahren 713.686.8686

Yard of the Month selection committee

Mary Lynn Porter

IN MEMORIAM: FREDRIC HAROLD COWART

by Linda Sparks

Fred Cowart, my next-door neighbor, and a fixture in our neighborhood, passed away September 2. Even if you did not know Fred, you surely saw him walking the neighborhood all these years. You just never knew where Fred would turn up next. I was amazed at his range. All that walking served him well as he lived to be almost 97 and lived independently until a few months ago.

Fred had quite a life. He and his family traveled in a horse drawn wagon from Lorain, Mississippi to New Orleans in about 1915. From New Orleans they took a train to East Texas. Fred was a veteran of WWII, serving on Saipan, one of the bloodiest battles of the South Pacific. When he returned from the war he earned a business degree from the University of Houston and retired from Reed Roller Bit.

Fred was sharp as a tack right to the end. He listened to Paul Harvey and told me all kinds of things I did not know. No new star or other celestial happening occurred without Fred noting it. He always knew what the price of coffee was and what drove it. And I got coffee for Christmas every year, a chocolate egg at Easter, and Little Debbies from the dollar store when I earned them by driving him around.

I would not say charm was Fred's long suit, but he had a way about him that stuck. I will miss him.

He is survived by his son Frederic H. Cowart II and daughter-in-law Carol; brother Edward Cowart; sister Nelda Kimbro; two granddaughters and several nieces and nephews.

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531 W. 32nd St.	1026 Althea
524 W. 34th St.	1030 Althea
527 W. 34th St.	815 Azalea
729 W. 39th St.	975 Gardenia
721 W. 41st St.	1043 Gardenia
750 W. 41st St.	839 Lamonte
818 W. 41st St.	3205 Lawrence
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862 W. 41st St.	1458 Sue Barnett
970 W. 41st St.	1506 Sue Barnett
718 W. 42nd St.	1575 Sue Barnett

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GARDEN OAKS PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

The next monthly Garden Oaks Elementary PAC (Parent Advisory Council) meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 8 at 8 a.m. at the school. This meeting is to encourage parents and community input and involvement.

One of the agenda items will be to highlight the work of the Garden Oaks Elementary Environmental Science Committee, headed by Laura Childs, which has taken on the refurbishment of the Garden Oaks habitat. Their first priority is to redo the school pond to more efficiently hold water.

Other committees will also be formed as parent and community interests are revealed. All parents and community members, whether interested in working on the pond project, dialoging with the school, expressing felt needs, or knowing more about school operations and their place in it, are invited to attend. HISD Strategic Planning will also be presented. There will be PTA meeting on October 7 at 6 p.m.



GO KIDS NEWS

by Sarah Heath

Cooler weather is on the way, and Halloween is just around the corner. Gather up your little ghosts and goblins and join us for some GO Kids fun!

If you haven't heard, we officially have two fantastic new playgroups. Introducing GO Baby, for the little bits up to age three, and GO Buddies, for all our "big" kids! Check out our BigTent calendar for dates and join in on all the fun. For more information contact Kristin Jordan (kriki@me.com), Emily Garcia (emigarcia13@hotmail.com), or Morgan Shields (morganbshields@gmail.com).

A Neighborly Collection of Recipes is available from GO cooks for pre-order. The first shipment is expected in November, just in time for holiday

gift giving. Thank you to everyone who contributed recipes and ideas. All proceeds benefit our constable program. For more information, visit www.gardenoakscooks.com.

GO Kids has a table at the October 16 Wine Walk Fundraiser. Stop by our table to laugh with some of your fellow GO Kids moms as we pour wine and serve appetizers all while staying in character! What character you ask? Come and see for yourself. But trust me; you don't want to miss our table.

Speaking of wine, any "mummies" ready for a Moms' Night Out? Join us at Octane for a potion or two! See you Tuesday, October 12, at 7 p.m. Octane is located at 34th and Shepherd. Contact Maricela Pina at pinamaricela@yahoo.com for more information.

Hey, Dads, ready for some football and beer? Then Dads' Night Out is the place to be on Thursday, October 21, 7 p.m., at the Petrol Station. Come unwind with the guys! Contact Richard Whisenhunt at whisenhunrichard@yahoo.com for more information.

Are you or someone you know an overwhelmed, sleep deprived zombie

When my husband Will and I purchased our home in Garden Oaks in 2002, 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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GARDEN OAKS

(aka new parent)? Don't get spooked 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.

HISD AND FIRST METHODIST HOUSTON HOLD COMMUNITY MEETING

Meeting Focused on Gifted/Talented and Magnet Programs

First Methodist Houston is pleased to host HISD for a second annual community meeting on Wednesday Oct 27. The meeting, which will take place at the church's main campus at the corner of Main & Clay will focus on two key issues: Houston ISD's Gifted & Talented Programs and Magnet Programs. These topics were selected from the questions and interests of last year's meeting. The directors of both the Gifted/Talented Programs and the Magnet programs for HISD will be speaking. The meeting is open to the public and the church is offering free childcare (with reservation), light refreshments, and free parking. This was a well attended and productive meeting last year and HISD anticipates an event better event in 2010. We hope to see you there!

For information and childcare reservations, please contact Jan Arnold at jarnold@fmhouston.com or 832.668.1862.

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GAZETTE BLOCK CAPTAINS OF THE MONTH

by Dian Austin

Congratulations to October's Block Captains of the Month: Jim Capfer and Lisa Peters, who live in the 500 block of W. 32nd and deliver *Gazettes* to the 400 and 500 blocks of their street. Lisa and Jim took over from long-time GO resident Rick Englert when he became ill about 10 years ago. They have lived in Garden Oaks since 1996.

Jim and Lisa moved to GO because it looked like a nice place to raise a family, and apparently found it quite suitable. Sons Chris, 14, and Adam, 11, reside with them along with Sunday, the wonder dog, Keeshon the cat, Pippin the bird, and some unnamed goldfish.

Jim and Lisa are both constable and civic club supporters. They love the trees, the friendly and interesting neighbors and their pets. Jim and Lisa frequent the 34th St. YMCA, the TC Jester dog park, garage sales, and enjoy reading, traveling, and supporting school activities. They are active at St. Rose of Lima and in the Boy Scouts at St. Michaels.

We appreciate their continued support over all these years delivering *Gazettes*. Jim and Lisa will receive a \$25 gift card to Starbucks, courtesy of Oscar Ochoa at OD's Printing. Thank you, Jim and Lisa.

This month we say farewell to long-time *Gazette* deliverer Bob Bewley. Bob lives in the 200 block of W. 32nd and has delivered *Gazettes* on his street for about 11 years. Bob has asked for a respite to deal with some family health issues, and we wish him and his family all the best. For his long-time dedication, he will be receiving a \$25 gift certificate to Tony's Mexican restaurant, also courtesy of Oscar Ochoa at OD's Printing. Thank you, Bob.

Super *Gazette* Deliverer Extraordinaire Gale Gorman (Section 2 resident) has volunteered to deliver Bob's route on W. 32nd until a permanent replacement is found. Gale also delivers the 200 and 300 blocks of W. 31st, which is awaiting a permanent block captain. Gale is quite an asset to our team, and will turn 70 in November! Gale, thank you so much for filling these big gaps in *Gazette* delivery. However, aren't there any residents on those blocks who could permanently take over these routes?

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



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

by Carl Waters, Jr.

In 1984, the National Association of Town Watch introduced National Night Out, America's Night Out Against Crime. The program was the brainchild of executive director Matt A. Peskin.

Peskin felt that a high-profile, high-impact type of crime prevention event was needed nationally to heighten awareness and strengthen participation in local anticrime efforts. He noted that in a typical crime watch community, only five to seven percent of the residents were participating. Due to the growth and success of these programs, he felt this percentage was too low. Subsequently, he proposed a national program that would be coordinated by local crime prevention agencies and organizations but would involve entire communities at one time.

The first National Night Out was introduced in 1984 on the first Tuesday in August, and 2.5 million Americans in 400 communities in 23 states participated. The event has grown to involve more than 34 million people in more than 10,000 communities in all 50 states, U.S. territories, Canadian cities, and military bases worldwide.

The National Night Out program suggests a 7 to 10 p.m. timeframe, but you can start or end times to meet the needs of your block. If you are interested in hosting a party, call me at 713.864.1992 (evenings please) or email me with your information, GOCOP77018@aol.com. I will pass the information to the Houston Police Department so it can be included in the city's numbers for the program.

The techies among you can post your party information on one of the neighborhood bulletin board sites.

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AIR CONDITIONING TIPS FOR THE WINTER

by Mitch Weigand

Tip No. 7: Preparing Your Home for Cool Weather Ahead

It's over 94 degrees outside as I'm writing this column and who knows what the temperature will be while you read this *Gazette*. However in Houston, we know that eventually the seasons will change and things will cool off. Like I said, eventually.

But no matter what the temperature is outside, how can you achieve that perfect indoor environment? The key is proper use and maintenance of your air conditioning system.

Schedule a winter check up

Before winter and holiday guests arrive, have a routine maintenance check performed on your furnace. This check up will ensure that all components are working properly,

safely and efficiently.

Upgrade to variable speed heating

Variable speed heating enhances your indoor comfort while using less energy. "Variable speed" refers to how a furnace's indoor blower motor operates. It allows your furnace to operate at an energy-efficient lower speed and when necessary, a higher speed for increased warmth. With this smarter system, your furnace doesn't have to turn on and off as much and that will save money, and you won't experience uncomfortable drops or rises in temperature.

Have a programmable thermostat installed

With a programmable thermostat, you can pre-set temperatures to match your daily schedule, whether you're at home relaxing or away for the holidays. The newer thermostats have touchscreen controls that are easy to use and some side benefits like informing you what the

temperature is outside so you know how much or little, to bundle up, and when it's time to change your air filter.


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 mitch@airwisehouston.com or write to 1590 Sue Barnett Drive, 77018. Check out Mitch's new website at airwisehouston.com.

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CULTIVATING COMMUNICATION WITH CHILDREN

by Lindsey Pollock, GOES Principal

Recently, I had a chance to visit a school in a nearby Texas city. As I listened to the teacher present her Science lesson to the class, the children were engaged and lively participants. As the teacher wrapped up, she posed this question to the group of kindergartens, "What do a pound and a yard have in common?" The group of children whispered to one another and a little boy stood up. "Teacher, I know!" he shouted, "They are both places for a dog!" "No, that's not right" replied the teacher and dejectedly the little boy sat down. The teacher went on to state the concepts of having ways to measure things in the world around us, but I could tell that little boy was no longer engaged in the lesson as he felt rejected and misunderstood by the teacher's response. Watching this drama play out in the classroom, I was reminded of the importance of language and understanding. How do we nurture our children to be comfortable in communicating with others even if there are occasional misunderstandings?

As human beings, we thrive on social interactions. Our children develop essential oral language skills as a way to be active participants in our families and in social settings they encounter. It is imperative that we encourage children to engage in conversations from the time they are very young as they learn to make sense of the world around them and as they navigate their place in the world.

In Early Years Update (March, 2007) Linda Thornton and Pat Brunton cover ways to use the children's curiosity about their world to have authentic dialogue with young children. By so doing we help them become self-motivated, independent learners. They point out that for children, learning to communicate is a very significant step towards independence and self-reliance. Further, young children have a naturally investigative style of

learning and an equally natural urge to communicate their discoveries. By communicating their ideas, children are able to demonstrate their curiosity and express their creativity. (Thornton & Brunton, 2007).

Sometimes, adults get so busy in the tasks of "caregiving", dressing, feeding, washing and chores with children that we forget the vital importance of communicating with children. Instead of speaking to a child with directions or commands, Dr. James MacDonald points out that, "One of the most important things in helping children learn to talk is to have frequent, friendly conversations with them. These conversations do not have to be long, or be about anything adults consider important; the goal is to keep your child interacting with you using any words he can say."

You can use anything your child is doing or interested in as a springboard for conversation, even if it seems insignificant to you. Use easy words he can understand and say, then keep the conversation going as long as you both are enjoying your time together. Think of this as "practicing" conversations the same way a child practices doing anything else. A child who can stay in conversations will, in time, learn more and have the opportunities to use what he knows to learn still more and build stronger relationships with people. (MacDonald, 2010).

The following suggestions from Dr. MacDonald may help you have more enjoyable, successful conversations with your children.

Communicate for a variety of reasons. Talk about anything - just don't do all the talking! Be sure to share the lead with your child. Listen and respond with pertinent questions. Talk sometimes about what he just said; at other times, about your own ideas.

Communicate more for enjoyable social contact than to get something done. While there are certainly times to get things done, they are not frequent enough for your child to learn

language and conversation. Children who are around adults who interact in directive ways, become more passive and less social.

Comment and wait.

Remain non-judgmental and ask for clarification. Talk about the things you both know about and what you are doing at the moment. For young children, model simple, appropriate words and avoid "baby talk".

Reply to your child's comments.

Without our continued attention, many children are not likely to get into a habit of talking with others. Remember to respond when you hear a child talking. Consider your own spontaneous replies as the "fuel" that keeps your child communicating.

Keep conversation balanced.

It is normal for children to talk mainly about themselves, but it is important for them to talk about other's ideas as well. Help your child be accepted by society by learning to talk about other's interests and to think of things for the point of view of another person.

Think of talking as creative play.

Unless a child feels free of judgment and failure in an interaction, he is not likely to communicate much of what he knows. Enjoy watching and hearing your child create new ideas. When your child feels free to express his thoughts, he will be more interesting to you and others.

Follow rules of social conversations.

When your child is in the habit of having conversations, you can then start to show him the basic rules society will expect from him. Some of those are: communicate for a response; wait silently, responding to the other person's intent; be clear about what he means and change his words if not understood. (<http://jamesdmacdonald.org>)

Children trust the adults around them to help them and listen to them as they risk their feeling of acceptance in expressing themselves to us. The observations of children are often unique, creative, original and may represent a deep, even spiritual connection. By showing them

our respect for their ideas and their value to us, we can help child be even more curious and creative and to build a world of understanding for tomorrow.

And for those of you who are still wondering about that teacher, I am proud to report that as the class moved to their next activity she pulled the little boy to the side. From where I was sitting, I could see her face light up as she listened to his explanation and she called the class to "Freeze!" She exclaimed, "Billy was absolutely right! You can put a dog in a yard and a pound!" Billy's face now glowing as he took center stage and explained his reasoning to a circle of rapt peers. As I stood to go, I was once again amazed by the wonder of our children and the hope they represent for our world. Enjoy your conversations!

SALE TO BENEFIT THOSE WHO GIVE BACK

Discover fabulous deals and help others at the same time!

1321 Sue Barnett Dr. in Garden Oaks will host a HUGE sale on Friday and Saturday October 1 & 2* from 8 a.m. until Noon. All proceeds will benefit Central City Co-op, a not-for-profit organic produce cooperative situated in Montrose and servicing Greater Houston. Central City Co-op is dedicated to providing excellent food and outreach to our community—last year over \$11,000 in donations went to feed the hungry and as we grow, we hope to feed and educate many more of our fellow Houstonians, as well as continuing to support local farmers and our wonderful population. Any unsold items will be donated to Manna, a local thrift store/charity and outreach organization located on W. 43rd St. in Oak Forest.

This is a fabulous opportunity to find quality items at bargain prices. Please join us for a selection including:

- Sports & Camping equipment
- 2-person spa (*Time for some relaxation!*)
- Clothing
- Desk, Sofa, Rugs, Lamps

- Window treatments
- Office Supplies
- Dog agility training items (New in Box)
- Wedding dress
- Kitchen appliances & supplies
- Books
- GE Profile Microwave (mountable type for above a stove)
- New in Box Bamboo Flooring
- Hurricane supplies
- Stereo
- Jewelry & a Watch (valued at \$200)

- Garden supplies
- Binoculars (*A Bird watchers' must!*)
- Luggage (*Ready to head out to see the world?!*)

And much, much more!

Please join us for a great time and wonderful deals while helping worthy local organizations. We can't wait to see you there!

****in the event of inclement weather, the sale will be held on the 8th and 9th.***

*****Please, no early-bird shoppers. Anyone arriving before 8 will be put to work!***

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AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL

by Dale Mitchell

American Legion baseball is a national institution, having thrived during a world war, several national tragedies, and times of great prosperity as well as great despair.

The league still stands atop the traditional values upon which it was found nearly 85 years ago. Since 1925 American Legion baseball has taught hundreds of thousands of young Americans the importance of sportsmanship, good health, and active citizenship. The program is a promoter of equality, making teammates out of wealthy bankers' and industrial workers' sons and erasing any social divide between them.

American Legion Baseball has been and continues to be a stepping stone to manhood for thousands of young men who have gone on to raise families and many who have played the sport at the highest levels. Some of the most famous Astros played their first serious

baseball on American Legion teams such as Roger Clemmons, graduate of University of Texas, and Jeff Bagwell, graduate of San Jacinto North.

Garden Oaks Post 560 sponsored two teams this year, Sam Houston High School and Lutheran North High School. Lutheran North made district playoffs, but was eliminated from further competition by Tomball High School. Although this season is over, we know we have made a difference in these young men's lives by providing the opportunity to play summer baseball and at no cost to the players.

Chief Dale Mitchell, an active duty US Navy recruiter, is Commander of Post 560 and coaches the teams.

AMERICAN LEGION EVENTS

by Jim Acker

The Ladies Auxiliary is sponsoring a childog dinner Friday October 8 from 4 p.m. until gone. Two childogs and a bag of chips for \$5. Friday October 15 is the monthly steak night. A prime 16oz. rib eye steak,

baked potato and endless salad bar is \$12. Bring a *Gazette* and it is \$10.

Saturday October 30 is the children's Halloween party from noon until 3p.m. Candy, games and prizes for best costume. These are public events. Come and get acquainted with your American Legion Post 560 on Alba.



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PHOTOS OF THE MONTH



Mayor Annise Parker visited the Gaden Oaks elemetary school to speak at the September 7 Civic Club meeting. Mayor Parker shared information about some of her city-wide initiatives as well as issues of importance on the upcoming November 2 ballot. She is shown here with GOES students Cade Klein, Sarah Klein, and Matilda Acosta. Shown to the left on page 16 is Sky Hedges, who visited SPARK Park on Labor Day with Great Grandmother Carol Jean Terrett. Carol, a resident of Garden Oaks since 1981, has fond memories of taking Sky's mother to SPARK Park as well.

Melissa M. Reid 
 Attorney, Garden Oaks Resident

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CRITTER CORNER

by Casey and Dorothy Dan Farris

This month we continue with our series on dog play personalities. 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 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 or her exercise, mental stimulation, and a sense of purpose. Then there's the bonding that comes from having so much fun together.

Critters 101: Games for The Ball Hound

The ball hound comes from a breed that works with the mouth, such as a retriever. He adores fetching and gnawing on chew toys and is prone to nipping, chewing, or play biting.

If you would rather not do a lot of running or walking yourself, consider playing a good game of fetch; it is a great way to give your ball hound all the exercise she needs. Athletic, mouthy dogs love a good game of Frisbee. You can take it to the competition level with Disc Dog (search the internet for a local club) or just have a game at the park. Buy a Frisbee with padded edges because it is gentler on the dog's mouth.

Flyball is a timed relay race that involves jumping hurdles and retrieving a ball – nirvana for high-energy, ball-obsessed dogs. I have seen this competition at a dog show and the dogs are so happy and the humans seem to be having just as much fun.

Give your ball hound a box full of chew toys so he or she has things to pick up and carry around. You can take your game of fetch to a nearby pond or any body of water. Ball hounds usually love to swim.

Examples of ball hounds include: border collies, golden retrievers, English springer

spaniels, and labradors but I also have seen daschunds in this category.

Remember the philosophy that a tired dog is a happy dog.

In hot weather avoid heavy exercise, give your dog plenty of water, and be alert to signs of heat stress, such as glassy eyes and heavy panting. Short-nosed breeds like Pugs and Bulldogs especially are 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 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.

CC Meeting Notes continued from pg 4

2010 Garden Oaks Wine Walk: Dian Austin confirmed the date of October 16, 2010. Of 200 tickets, 120 have been sold. Thirteen table hosts have committed to the event.

Treasurer's Report: 2010 Budget: Treasurer Phil Ramirez reported that based on existing funds; there is enough cash to cover the cost of the constable program through October. There is concern about the funding for the additional two months of the year. Please support the fund through donations and fundraising initiatives, like the Wine Walk.

2011 Budget: The proposed budget has been given to the GOCC committee heads. Some ideas for additional budget items include technology automation of routine communications, business cards for president and officers, a thank you

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party for *Gazette* volunteers, Citizens Patrol jerseys, more neighborhood activities, and a different meeting venue.

Home Tour: The Home Tour had \$34,193 in income, less one check for \$48.50. The Home Tour Committee recommended that the income be allocated as \$250 for a new Santa Suit for the annual Gazebo appearance, \$1,000 for Cat Catchers, and the \$30,000+ balance to be set aside as a reserve fund for the Constable Program. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to support the allocation of the Home Tour income as noted.

Standing Committee Reports:

GO Citizens Patrol: Carl Waters reported two crimes in August. An assault and a garage break in. There were 32 crimes as compared to 39 last year. As always, more volunteers are needed to patrol. Please contact Carl Waters at gocop@gardenoaks.org.

Constable Program: Terry Jeanes urged support of the Wine Walk and GO Cookbook, fundraisers to support the Constable Program. For National

Night Out on October 5, please let the Constables know where the parties are scheduled so they can mix and mingle with neighbors.

Membership: Dian Austin reported membership at 360.

Beautification: No report.

Gazette: The *Gazette* would like editors and volunteers. Please contact gazette@gardenoaks.org to help.

GardenOaks.org: Joe Muscara is exploring functionality to allow subscription to certain email lists targeted at specific audiences.

Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization (GOMO): Ed de Alba announced that the annual meeting is Wednesday, Oct. 20 at GO Elementary School. There is one position available in Sections 1, 2, and 3. There are two positions in Section 5. A volunteer is needed for Section 3. GOMO's audit results will be sent out. One budget item regarding the Constable will be on the ballot. Section 4 joining GOMO is still an open item. While Section 4 has

deed restrictions, without GOMO, there is no means to actively enforce deed restrictions at an entity level.

Garden Oaks Elementary School: Principal Lindsey Pollock announced that the new school year has gotten off to a successful start. Currently, there is no update from the federal government on the magnet program grant HISD applied for. This year, GO Elementary has 594 students, up 65 from last year. GOES opened two new Montessori classrooms and achieved a Recognized Rating from the state. GOES is shooting for an Exemplary Rating. If anyone wants to volunteer to help, please contact the Lindsay Pollock at the school. Pollock noted that HISD has a strategic direction plan in place that focuses on five core initiatives: (1) An effective teacher in every classroom; (2) an effective principal in every school; (3) rigorous instructional standards and supports; (4) data-driven accountability and (5) a culture of trust through action.

President Mark Klein adjourned the meeting at 8:56 p.m.

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OCTOBER 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5 National Night Out 	6	7	8 American Legion Ladies Auxilliary Chillidog Night 4pm	9
10	11	12 GO Kids MNO 7pm, Octane	13 GOMO Annual meeting	14	15 American Legion Steak Night 6pm	16 GO Wine Walk 4 - 6pm
17	18	19 	20	21 GO Kids Dad's Night Out, 7pm, Petrol Station	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30/31 Happy Halloween 

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