

GARDEN OAKS GAZETTE

VOLUME 35

ISSUE 06

JULY CIVIC CLUB MEETING – KEEP TEXAS WILD

by Brenda deAlba

We share our wonderful neighborhood with a diverse abundance of wildlife but do you know what to do and who to call if you find a baby bird or injured squirrel that needs help?

Come to the July 5 Civic Club meeting to find out. We encourage the entire family to come as the program will include a speaker from Texas Wildlife Rehabilitation Coalition, Inc. (TWRC), who will provide information on how to coexist with our native wildlife and about the services offered by staff and volunteers. We'll even have a special guest animal.

The TWRC center serves as an emergency room for native Texas wildlife brought to them by the public. Houston's first urban wildlife emergency and rehabilitative care facility, TWRC provides a second chance for the wildlife in Houston's neighborhoods.

More than 65,000 injured, orphaned, or ill wildlife have passed through the hands of the caring volunteers at TWRC. Volunteers and part-time staff at this private, non-profit organization, focus on conservation, public education and wildlife rehabilitation.

TWRC provides:

- A centrally located emergency facility for rescuers to bring injured, ill or orphaned wildlife
- A staffed facility to handle phone inquiries regarding wildlife-related issues
- Initial examination of wildlife by trained, experienced staff to assess status and provide treatment in their on-site vet room
- A veterinarian who oversees the training of vet room staff and provides support to TWRC rehabilitators
- Coordinated placement of wildlife with appropriately skilled and permitted rehabilitators who care for wildlife until it is released back into its native habitat

TWRC receives no funding from state or federal agencies and relies solely on the community's tax-deductible donations. Wildlife support care can last a few weeks to many months and includes the use of wildlife formulas, *Continued on page 5*



JUN 2011

CIVIC CLUB MEETINGS

June 7 Civic Club Meeting

7pm at Garden Oaks Elementary School

UPCOMING EVENTS

Red, White and Blue July 4th Bicycle Parade Monday, July 4, beginning at 10:00 a.m. at Rick Englert SPARK Park.

REMINDERS

Copies of the GO Cookbook benefiting the Constable Program are still available. See this month's insert for more information.

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

We hope to see you at a civic club meeting soon.

4239 Apollo
1435 Sue Barnett
1571 Sue Barnett

June Birthdays

Andrew Joseph Balance - 3
Stephen Wesley Syzdek - 4
Rebecca Stark - 5
Tina Parks Rowe - 5
Shana Tatum - 21
Antonio Ramirez - 23
Allison Padon turns Sweet 16 and, of course, wants a car - 28

Ray Trantham - 30

Happy Anniversary

Janice & Warren Walden - 22

Welcome New Arrivals

Congratulations to **Olga Marruffo** and **Eric Gonzalez** on the arrival of **Nicholas Jose** and to **Tim** and **Angela Weltin** and big brother **Evan** on the arrival of **Ryan Reed**.

Out and About

Margarita Barcenas enjoyed a fabulous trip to Asia. **Dian Austin** and **Sandy Altman** enjoyed a week in the Outer Banks of North Carolina. **Bill Holden** and **Scott Easterly** enjoyed a cabin on Canyon Lake for a week of fishing, rafting and hiking. Watch for **Cindy**

Bartos cruising the streets on her new bike!

Congratulations

Dr. Jason Theriot on your recent PhD of Public History. **Tim Weltin** on receiving the HISD 2011 Community Volunteer of the Year Award for his work at Frank Black Middle School.

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



Garden Oaks Gazette

The Garden Oaks Gazette is the official publication of the Garden Oaks Civic Club and is published on a monthly basis. Submission deadline is the 15th of each month for publication the next month unless otherwise noted.

No exceptions.

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

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CITIZENS' PATROL PROGRAM

by Carl Waters, Jr.

Some concerned neighbors reported that the persons who are panhandling at 34th and North Shepherd appear to be building a homeless camp under the railroad overpass just north of Carter's Grove Apartments. It was also reported several individuals had gone through the fence onto the property and may be living in the abandoned apartments. This information has been passed on to HPD. If you see anyone entering the grounds of the apartments call HPD or the constable and report the incident so the trespassers can be prosecuted.

April Crime Statistics: 7

Theft: 6

900 block of Sue Barnett Dr. on Monday, April 11 at 5:00 p.m. (park)
 300 block of W. 34th St. on Wednesday, April 13 at 10:00 p.m.

(residence)
 500 block of W. 34th St. on Wednesday, April 13 at 10:00 p.m.
 (residence)
 400 block of W. 33rd St. on Thursday, April 21 at 9:00 a.m. (residence)
 300 block of W. 30th St. on Monday, April 25 at 11:00 a.m. (unknown)
 200 block of West Loop North on Tuesday, April 26 at 6:20 p.m. (Exxon store)

Auto Theft: 1

700 block of Garden Oaks Blvd. on Tuesday, April 5 at 11:00 a.m. (street)

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 713.864.1992.

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Terms expire October of year in parentheses.

GO CIVIC CLUB MEETING MINUTES

Location: Garden Oaks Elementary School
May 3, 2011

Welcome: President Mark Klein called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. A motion was made and carried to accept the April minutes as published in the *Gazette*.

President's Announcements:Gazebo: The estimated budget is \$18,000. The estimate includes a foundation plus highly durable and weather-resistant roofing, decking, electrical work, labor and all materials to build and install a new, larger gazebo. A vote to fund the project will be included on the June GOCC agenda.

Chaim Goldberg Sculpture

Update:The city has denied the request to move the statue from the Art Park. City approval has been received to remove the holly around the statue and improve the landscaping.

July Meeting: A guest from the Texas Wildlife Rehabilitation Fund will speak at the July meeting and will bring animals. Please attend and bring your families.

GODAT Update: A contractor, Mike Rao, has been hired for the technology initiative. The requirements document is completed and needs to be reviewed and signed by the GOCC. Table design is underway and the web interface design will start in late May. In June, testing of the solution will begin. Based on current progress and the more detailed design, the final project budget will be less than the allocated \$10,000.

Treasurer's Report: President Mark Klein reported that we have \$48,900 in the general account. A combination of general funds and donations could be used to fund the gazebo. Approximately \$3,600 in deposits is not yet reflected in the April numbers. The constable program is short \$25,000 to

fund this year's patrols.

Standing Committee Reports:

GO Citizens Patrol: Carl Waters reported six thefts and one auto theft in April. One theft was at the Exxon Station at Yale and 30th. The statistics are higher than last year for the month. If you see a crime in progress, call 911 or the constable.

Constable Program: Terry Jeanes reported that there have been complaints about vagrants near the railroad and Shepherd. She is working to bring attention to the situation as well as Carter's Grove apartments, where the gates are no longer secure. If you notice solicitors in our neighborhood, call the constable. The constable can confirm if they have a permit and can check to see if the individual is legitimate. If, for any reason, you need the constable and one is not in the area, your call will be forwarded to HPD. Terry is working with the HPD on their standard response when this occurs as it can be confusing for the caller.

Membership: No update.

Beautification: Kimberly Horowitz noted that one of her first Beautification projects will be the weeding and clearing of the area in the Art Park.

Gazette: Jessica Jarvis reported that the May *Gazette* was misprinted and delivery is delayed. The 1400 block of Althea did receive the misprinted version. In addition to being available online, the *Gazette* has been reprinted.

GardenOaks.org Website: No update.

GOMO Update: No update.

President Mark Klein adjourned the meeting at 7:58 p.m.

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

TWRC Continued from pg 1

special diets, specific caging regulated by state and federal agencies and consumable items like paper towels, disinfectant and feeding utensils.

TWRC offers volunteer opportunities for all age levels, skills and interests. Especially welcome is participation from Boy or Girl Scouts or other organizations interested in serving the community by helping wildlife. Typical service projects include building bird or mammal cages, constructing nesting boxes for recovering wildlife and making educational presentations for school or other scout groups.

TWRC offers educational camps for youth (education@twrc-houston.org):

- Saturday Wildlife Camps run 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. (\$50)
- Wildlife Summer Camp - Fur, Feathers & Scales: A Wildlife Adventure! (5 days, ages 7-11, \$255 per week or \$55 per day)

- Wildlife Summer Camp - Team Green: Taking Action for Texas Wildlife! (5 days, ages 12-15, \$255 per week or \$55 per day)

TWRC
10801 Hammerly, Suite 200, 77043
713-468-8972
director@twrc-houston.org

Hours:
Monday – Thursday: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
and 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Friday – Sunday: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Come to the July Civic Club meeting and learn how the TWRC keeps Texas wild!



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WILDLIFE ABOUNDS IN GARDEN OAKS

by Brenda de Alba

My husband, Ed, and I recently experienced first hand the wonderful services offered through Texas Wildlife Rehabilitation Center (TWRC), which will be the featured program at the July Civic Club meeting.

Our cat, Elvis, presented us with a gift one Saturday night, a juvenile



Southern Flying Squirrel. Southern Flying Squirrels are native to our area and many of them reside in Garden Oaks. We captured our little "Rocky" from beneath the den sofa, put him safely in a ventilated box with a soft, warm towel to keep him cozy and took him to TWRC on Sunday morning.

We weren't sure what he was because he looked nothing like our bushy-tailed squirrels but he had webbing stretching between his arm and leg. From the TWRC veterinarian technician we learned that he was a male, was a juvenile living without need of parents and that his species is nocturnal and often owl prey. He seemed unhurt but was cared for by a TWRC rehabilitator until his health status was confirmed and he got a little older.

Other wildlife in Garden Oaks

We have birds galore in our neighborhood. Not only do we see

doves, songbirds and varieties of woodpeckers in our yard we also have birds of prey (owls and hawks) and water birds (herons and egrets). Baby bird season is approaching and each summer, approximately 1,500 baby birds enter TWRC's center. In 2001, a baby bird program was initiated that provides on-site care for baby birds. Bird feeder volunteers are trained and sign-up to work 4-hour shifts.



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are ugly, destructive, and dirty creatures. While I might agree that they're not cute, I believe the opossum has been unfairly maligned. An opossum near a garden is a good thing, as they eat cockroaches, mice, rats, grubs, slugs, snails and other pests that threaten our plants. They groom themselves as fastidiously as cats and do not carry disease. As the opossum is nocturnal, they often come out to feed at dusk and can be seen foraging during the night. Leaving uneaten dog or cat food outside is an open invitation to an opossum.

Coexisting with wildlife can be vexing at times, but I'm willing to share my small spot on the planet and look for the positive aspects that Mother Nature provides.

The two species of squirrel in Garden Oaks are Eastern Gray Squirrels and Eastern Fox Squirrels. Gray squirrels have gray fur with a white belly, and fox squirrels have ruddy, foxlike fur with a yellowish belly and cinnamon-colored tail. Squirrels will bury nuts in autumn in hundreds of locations just beneath the ground and recover their bounty in winter. Most nuts go unrecovered, only to germinate and grow into new trees.

Many people believe opossums



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ENJOYING THE ARTS WITH YOUR CHILD

by *Lindsey Pollock, Principal of Garden Oaks Elementary School*

Interacting with your child in the arts is a wonderful way to create special memories to last a lifetime. You may be thinking that you're no Rembrandt, but art is much, much more than the visual arts. The arts provide opportunities for children to explore and enjoy the world around them. It is more important to focus on the process than the product when introducing children to artistic endeavors. For children, the arts allow children to express their boundless dreams, visions and energies of creativity as they find their calling in the world.

Ways to encourage your child's creativity include setting aside a space in your home supplied with child-safe scissors, glue, crayons, markers and paints. Place a plastic tablecloth or vinyl shower curtain

on the floor if indoors so children feel secure in trying these new skills without the worry of making a mess.

Engage in storytelling activities with your child such as using a picture book and taking turns creating a new story line to replace the one provided by the author. Create musical instruments with items found in your kitchen. In addition to the pots and pans for drumming, jars of spices make great noisemakers and are great fun for children to smell. Olfactory stimulation can be a wonderful impetus for storytelling, too.

Music playing in the home may provide an inspirational background for children to create visual art, but children may also respond to music with movement. Allowing them to dress up and dance to different types of movement can be great fun for both boys and girls. Encourage children to come up with words to

familiar tunes by playing tracks of music only. Take a "sound" walk and record all the noises you hear as you go. Not only are these activities fun but also they improve literacy through imagination and writing.

You may wish to visit the Houston museums that regularly offer free or reduced-price admissions. Free concerts and activities are held at Discovery Green and Miller Outdoor Theater.

Keep a journal or scrapbook of your child's creations by storing the item or creating a digital record. The added dimensions for creative expression will enhance and enrich your child's capacity for problem solving, critical thinking and improved self concept. They will feel accomplished and successful in their endeavors by your enthusiasm and support. By combining opportunities for performing arts and visual arts you and your child will have many treasured memories.

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RED, WHITE AND BLUE JULY 4th BICYCLE PARADE

by Will and Deanna Zugheri

Garden Oaks 2011 Red, White, and Blue Parade is scheduled for Monday, 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.

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CONSTABLE PROGRAM UPDATE

Door-to-Door Solicitors and Vacation Watch

by Terry Jeanes & Susan Love Saranie

Deputy Joseph Lane, one of our patrollers, asks that you notify the constable dispatch office when solicitors are in the neighborhood. Most are operating within the parameters of the law. However, Deputy Lane noted anyone can make a badge on a computer and look official. If solicitors do not have the correct City of Houston permits they should not be going door to door. Deputies have checked on some of these individuals and have discovered outstanding warrants and history of criminal behavior.

With summer and vacation season approaching, remember you can find the vacation watch form at <http://www.gardenoaks.org/Resources/VacationWatch.pdf>

To become a supporter visit <http://gardenoaks.org/Resources/2011Constable.pdf>

An updated 2011 supporter list will soon be available on the garden oaks website via <http://gardenoaks.org/involvement/civicclub-consta.html> and click contributors.

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April 2011 Statistics

- Miles Patrolled 3,875
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SECOND ANNUAL CLASSIC CAR SHOW SUCCESS

by Virginia van der Pol

We had a blast on April 30 at our Second Annual Classic Car Show and appreciate everyone who came out to join us.

We raised more than \$1,000 for The School of American Leadership and for the tsunami victims in Japan. The public cast their votes on their favorite classic car, and the winners were determined by more than 100 votes.

We're proud to announce the following winners of the car show:
 The People's Choice Award First Place Winner: Charles Alexander and his 1967 Ford Mustang
 Second Place: Anthony Zuccarini and his 1962 Chevy Pick Up
 Third Place: Mark Jozwiak and his 1970 Chevrolet Chevelle

Most Interesting Car History: John Aden and his 1961 Morris Minor 1000
 Oldest Vehicle: Stan Jankowski and his 1931 Ford Coupe
 Most Distance Traveled: Martha Villalobos and her 1985 Grand Wagoneer Jeep

An art contest was held with entries from Garden Oaks and Oak Forest Elementary Schools.
 First place: Alonso Trevino from Garden Oaks Elementary
 Second place: Isaac Palacio from Oak Forest Elementary
 Third place: Miles Escalante from Oak Forest Elementary.

They each won a die-cast model car, donated by Main Auto-Parts and CarQUEST.

For more information on The School of American Leadership, visit www.thesoal.net.

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AIR CONDITIONING TIPS FOR THE SPRING

by Mitch Weigand

Tip No. 14: Flora, Fauna and Your A/C

While landscaping your yard this spring, consider doing so the plants contribute to the cooling of your home. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, keeping the condenser (the A/C system's outside unit) in the shade can increase its efficiency by as much as 10 percent. Be sure the shrubs or vines planted near the condenser do not obstruct air flow or impede access for repairs. Leave 24 to 30 inches of clearance around the equipment and at least five feet above it.

In turn, the condenser can benefit your landscaping. One of the tasks your A/C performs is to de-humidify the air. From within your home, it


collects and pumps the humidity outside as condensation. While not a lot, water from the drain line can provide moisture to keep the surrounding plants alive through a drought.

Pet damage can happen

While we train our pets to mind their manners indoors and teach them to relieve themselves outdoors, the condenser is especially vulnerable to damage by pet urine. Urine contains chemicals that eat away metals, especially aluminum. Condenser fins and coils are made of this metal, and in time fins become encrusted with dust and coils begin to leak.

A leak in the condenser coil means that your A/C is no longer a closed system. The freon will leak out, and the system could be emptied completely and you run the risk

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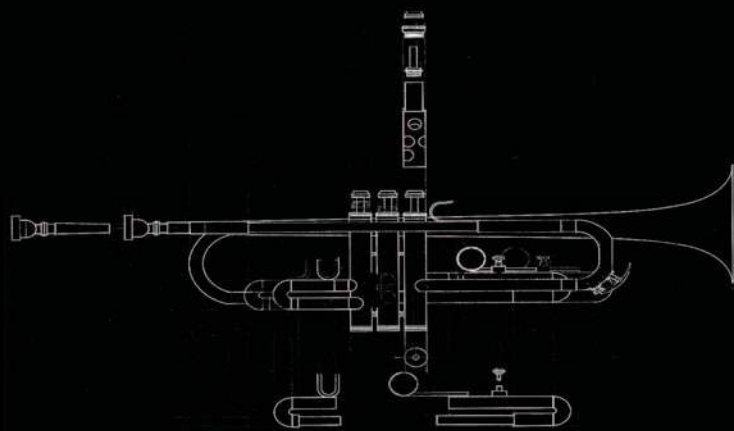


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of burning out the condenser and having to replace it prematurely.

A clean condenser is a happy condenser

When your A/C runs, air is drawn into the condenser through its coil. Outdoor contaminants such as dust and plant matter including grass clippings, cottonwood seeds, small leaves and bits of landscaping mulch get caught in the coil. You can include pet hair and urine as well. As debris accumulates, airflow through the coil is reduced, which causes your system to run harder and harder. A condenser coil can be completely clogged in just one season of operation.

This is why routine maintenance is so important. The higher temperatures generated by a filthy coil will cause premature failure of the capacitors, fan motor and

eventually the compressor within the condenser. A thorough cleaning of the condenser coil can prevent this. Not only will keeping the coil clean improve the efficiency and capacity of your entire system, it will extend the life of your A/C system as a whole.

As a homeowner, take your garden hose and thoroughly spray about six inches from the condenser's fins to clear them of dust and leaves. This will go a long way in keeping your condenser running efficiently.

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 his new email at mitchw@airwisehouston.com or write to 1590 Sue Barnett Drive, Houston, TX 77018.



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GO KIDS UPDATE

by Sarah Heath

It's summer! Be sure to keep up with GO Kids for fun ideas to beat the heat the next few months.

Why should the kids have all the fun this summer? Please join us for a very fun game night Moms' Night Out. Catlin Harlow will host on Tuesday, June 14, at 7 p.m. at 403 West 32nd Street. Contact Brandy Groth (brandy.groth@yahoo.com) or Jessica Padilla (needhamjessica@

hotmail.com) for more information.

Don't forget that GO Kids hosts several playgroups throughout the month. GO Baby is for the little bits up to age three and GO Buddies is for all our "big" kids. Check out our BigTent calendar for dates and join in on all the fun! Contact Kristin Jordan (kriki@me.com), Emily Garcia (emigarcia13@hotmail.com) or Morgan Shields (morganbshields@gmail.com).

Are you or someone you know an overwhelmed, sleep deprived new parent? Don't worry 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.



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PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Principal Meilin Jao flanked by some of the more than 120 supporters who turned out at the May 12 HISD Board meeting in support of designating Frank Black Middle School as a Vanguard campus. In response, HISD will make FBMS a Vanguard school as early as this Fall if enough incoming 6th graders qualify for the program.

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Full Page Back Cover	\$225.00	\$1125.00	
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1. Placement of the ad is at the discretion of the editor.
2. Camera-ready artwork must be submitted by the 15th of each month for publication the following month and emailed to: gazette@gardenoaks.org
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CRITTER CORNER

by Casey and Dorothy Dan Farris

Critters 101: Spring Orphans

Reports of abandoned baby animals during spring are so common that they have their own term: Spring Orphans. They have either been deliberately left behind by their parents or separated from them. Most survive and grow up to be healthy adults. They may appear helpless, but rescuing them is the wrong thing to do. Here are a few important tips to help you should you find one of these orphans.

If you see a baby bird in your backyard, don't pick it up and try to feed it. Let it do whatever comes naturally. If they are in desperate need and you feel compelled to help, the best thing you can do is to keep your pet cats and dogs leashed or inside the house. They could accidentally hurt these new spring babies.

Feral animals are fearful of humans and will bite if provoked. If you need to come in contact with one, hold the animal firmly but gently by the scruff of the neck while supporting its rear end with your other arm. They want to feel ground underneath them, so let them sit on your arm rather than hold onto their legs. Be aware of sharp claws and hold the animal away from your face at arm's length. Squirrels have a vicious bite.

Dehydration is probably the biggest killer. Offer water but only rehydrate manually if you know to do. Birds, for example, can drown if you pour water into their mouths.

Stress kills more mammals than the initial injury, so avoiding contact is vital. Sometimes it is not possible,

so be careful. Do not make eye contact with an animal because that is what predators do. Avoid full-on facial contact if possible, and face away from them as you approach. Cover them with a blanket if you can. Darkness can soothe them, and the blanket will help keep them warm.

If the animal is hard to deal with, do not take it inside your home. Call our local animal rescue service (Texas Wildlife Rehabilitation Center 713.468.8972 or www.TWRC-Houston.org) or transport them to a veterinarian as soon as possible.

Injured animals are difficult to deal with, so the first thing you should do is find a secure box to transport them. Even injured animals will attempt to escape, possibly at the risk of their own health. Driving to your vet with a feral animal thrashing around your car could cause a serious accident. Using a typical cat or dog carrier is ideal. Cardboard boxes are not ideal unless the animal is very docile.

If you have a "problem" with wildlife appearing in your yard, then you have an attractive spot for them. Even if you are able to remove one critter, it won't stop the next animal from moving in. If you want to prevent other animals from making their home in a certain spot be humane. Sticky traps are cruel because they force the animal to struggle for its life. It may catch the wrong animal like a family pet. Poisons are inhumane and may cause problems where none are needed.

More than half of the animals that are trapped and then released elsewhere are female. With a little

care you can help even the most helpless case see the next spring.

Pet of the Month: "Mr. June" is Brady Browning (black Lab mix) who lives in Section V with Raylena Browning. Brady is a 5-year-old SPCA rescue. He was brought home when he was six-weeks old as a five-pound bundle. Raylena says she fell in love with him the second he crawled into her lap. At 85 pounds he still thinks he is a lap dog. He is full of energy but such a sweet boy at the same time. Brady enjoys going to the dog park and loves to snuggle with his mom for a good movie. Brady greets visitors at the door with a toy in tow and lots of kisses and keeps a keen eye on the squirrels, birds and other wildlife in his yard. His favorite activity is splashing in water or mud puddles, and he tolerates the bath that goes with it. See a photo

of Brady watching the wildlife at www.godogusa.com/PetOfMonth.

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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			1	2	3	4
5	6	7 Civic Club mtg 7:00pm, GOES	8	9 Garden Club mtg 7pm	10	11
12	13	14 MNO, Harlow home, 403 West 32 nd Street, 7pm 	15 GOMO mtg, 7pm	16	17	18
19 Father's Day	20	21	22 Central Northwest Super Neighborhood Council, 6:30 pm, 1245 Judiway	23	24	25
26	27	28 	29	30		

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