

GARDEN OAKS GAZETTE

VOLUME 35

ISSUE 07

GARDEN OAKS OLD FASHIONED PICNIC A HOT SUCCESS

It was a warm windy Sunday afternoon May 22, with balloons flying high as area residents gathered for the 3rd Annual Garden Oaks Old Fashioned Picnic at the SPARK Park. Shade was popular and so were the ice cream and icee pops provided by picnic sponsor and organizer Terry Jeanes (RE/Max Metro). Everyone enjoyed their own picnic, then joined in



for fun and games. First was the inaugural debut of the GO Diaper Derby. Those toddlers were amusing and fast. Additional games included egg toss, sack and balloon races and more. The game of washers was on going.



JUL 2011

UPCOMING CIVIC CLUB MEETING

July 5, 7pm

Featuring a speaker from Texas Wildlife Rehabilitation Coalition, Inc. (TWRC), and a special guest animal 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.

SAVE THE DATE

3rd Annual Wine Walk October 22nd

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CITIZENS' PATROL PROGRAM

by Carl Waters, Jr.

The past month brought about some changes in the command staff for the HPD North Division, which services the Garden Oaks area. Captain Victor Rodriguez retired to become the new Chief of Police for Metro. Captain D. T. Runyan, who previously was in charge of the HPD Air Support Division, will replace Captain Rodriguez.

Last month I reported to HPD a group of homeless people living under the railroad overpass on Shepherd just north of 34th St. At the end of May, the area where these folks seemed to be living had been cleaned up and they no longer seem to be there. Please keep an eye on this area and if you see them return, contact HPD at the non-emergency number

of their storefront on W. 43rd at 713.956.3140 and request they be moved out of the area.

In addition to the statistics listed below it appears thieves targeted at least one Garden Oaks resident for the wheels on his truck. It was reported on the Garden Oaks Yahoo Web site that a neighbor in the 700 block of W. 42nd awoke in late May to find the tires stolen off of his truck. I believe they were 20" rims, which are popular with thieves around the city. If you own a vehicle with 20" rims you might consider investing in wheel locks for your car.

Crime Statistics: 10

Theft: 10

800 block of W. 42nd St. on Monday, May 2 at 9:30 a.m. (street).

2900 block of N. Shepherd Dr. on Tuesday, May 3 at 2:00 p.m. (restaurant).

900 block of Sue Barnett Dr. on Monday, May 9 at 3:15 p.m. (school).
400 block of W. 32nd St. on Tuesday, May 10 at 9:00 (residence).

300 block of W. 32nd St. on Friday, May 20 at 6:40 p.m. (driveway).

300 block of W. 32nd St. on Friday, May 20 at 6:40 p.m. (driveway).

300 block of W. 32nd St. on Friday, May 20 at 6:40 p.m. (driveway).

200 block of W. 31st St. on Friday, May 20 at midnight (residence).

800 block of W. 41st St. on Tuesday, May 24 at 3:00 p.m. (street).

900 block of Sue Barnett Dr. on Wednesday, May 25 at 3:00 p.m. (school).

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.

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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HEARD UNDER THE OAK TREE

by Terry Jeanes

Welcome, New Neighbors!

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

- 203 West 33rd
- 842 West 41st
- 747 West 43rd
- 1010 West 43rd
- 1063 West 43rd
- 819 Azalea

July Birthdays

- Caroline McLean – 1
- Matthew Knauth – 2
- Claire Elizabeth Balance – 2
- Alexander Zugheri – 2
- Jessica Jarvis – 7
- Kaplan Martinez – 12
- Sterling & Sean Walden – 16
- Jason Cunningham – 27
- Sally McDaniel – 27

Happy Anniversary
Sarah & Corey Heath – 26

Congratulations

Welcome to the world **Nicolas J. Marruffo**, born to proud first-time parents, **Olga & Eric Marruffo**, on April 26, 2011.

Out and About

George Appling was off to Rochester, New York, and **Amy Shaughnessy** paid a visit to Chicago.

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

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Terms expire October of year in parentheses.

GO CIVIC CLUB MEETING MINUTES

June 7, 2011

Welcome: President Mark Klein called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. City Council Candidates Brian Cweren and Karen Derr attended the meeting and spoke briefly about their campaigns.

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

President's Announcements:

July Meeting: The Texas Wildlife Rehabilitation Center (TWRC) will give a neighborhood wildlife presentation at GOCC's July meeting. Families are encouraged to attend and meet a guest animal. Another wildlife organization, The Wildlife Center of Texas, is similar. GOCC is not promoting one over the other but rather seeking to provide a fun educational opportunity for the community.

September: There is usually a GOCC candidate forum in September but because the filing deadline is after the GOCC's Tuesday meeting, the Central Northwest Super Neighborhood Council may host a larger forum with another super neighborhood group.

34th Street Quiet Zone: No additional progress has been made on this effort and the community will need to be more vocal to get attention on the matter. The noise and frequency of the trains near 34th has increased due to the closed train routes. A family on 34th may leave the neighborhood due to the disruption the noise is causing.

Host Families: Molly's Mutt House is coordinating families to host foreign exchange students from France who will be here in July. You do not need to speak French to host a student.

Gazebo Rebuilding Vote: The estimated budget is \$18,000. It was recommended to allocate \$19,000 in case of any incidentals. The design of the Gazebo is back to 13' as anything

above 13' will require an engineering study. The Gazebo should last for 15-20 years. To date, \$330 has been collected from donations for the Gazebo. It was recommended that GOCC advertise in the *Gazette* to try to get additional donations from the community. Brenda de Alba issued a challenge saying that she will match the first \$500 that is collected. After additional discussion, a motion to allocate \$19,000 to rebuild the Gazebo was made and carried.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Phil Ramirez reported that we have a current deficit of approximately \$5,200 but that does not include the *Gazette* payment. Since March, expenses for lawn maintenance have been incurred. The Constable program needs an additional \$20,000 to fund the \$75,000 target for 2011.

GODAT Update: Heather Leverett reported that since the last meeting, the data model for the Constable Program and Civic Club is completed. Sample data from the Constable Program is being used for the initial data set. We temporarily are using the same hosting service as the website. The development on the reporting needs for the Constable Program has started. Next steps include the integration of the payment/banking information. Once the Constable and civic membership functionality is completed, we will begin testing in late June. The *Gazette* functionality has not yet been started. The final decision on where to host GODAT will be made later.

Standing Committee Reports:
GO Citizens Patrol: Carl Waters, Jr. reported 10-11 thefts in May. All the thefts occurred on weekdays. One involved 20" truck rims. Three were in the 300 block of West 32nd. The constable and police were notified about the homeless around the railroad area along Shepherd, and those individuals seem to be gone. Please let the Constable know if you see

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

additional homeless near Carter's Grove. Volunteers are needed for the Citizens Patrol; please contact Carl Waters to volunteer for what police call one of a neighborhood's best crime prevention tools.

Constable Program: Terry Jeanes reported that we are losing about 10 hrs/week of coverage due to the impact of the furloughs on the Constable Program. We will not have a cost savings due to the terms of the contract. Schedules have been adjusted to lessen the impact on the program and when possible, to leverage the presence of officers in nearby communities. If, for any reason, you need the Constable and one is not in the immediate area, your call will be forwarded to HPD that is standard procedure. An officer will be dispatched by HPD.

Membership: Dian reported that we have approximately 300 members.

Beautification: Kimberly Horowitz was not present but there was discussion about dead trees. The dead trees in the City parks should be taken care of by the city but in other areas GOCC will need to address them. If you notice dead trees or any other problem, please let Kimberly know as the dry weather has impacted many areas. There is also an area where the sprinklers are not working that will be fixed.

Gazette: No Update

GardenOaks.org Website: Joe Muscara reported that he has updated some of the officer information and *Gazette* information on the website.

GOMO Update: Tim Weltin reported that five plans were reviewed this

month. GOMO meets 6:30 p.m. the first Tuesday of each month at the Garden Oaks Elementary School, prior to the GOCC meeting, and also 7 p.m. the third Wednesday of each month at GOMO's offices, 4001 N. Shepherd, Suite 216.

Other Announcements:

2012 Home Tour and 2011 Wine Walk: Champions are needed to coordinate the GOCC Wine Walk and next year's Home Tour. After the GOCC meeting, Vice President Dea Larson volunteered to head the Wine Walk committee. Volunteers are needed for both events, which are major fundraisers for the GOCC.

Old -Fashioned Picnic: Terry Jeanes, who sponsored and organized the event, said it was a success even though the day conflicted with Houston's art car parade.

Fourth of July Bike Parade:

Registration starts at 9:30 a.m. Monday, July 4, for the neighborhood's traditional, patriotic-themed bike parade.

President Mark Klein adjourned the meeting at 8:07 p.m.

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Special thanks to Brandy Stoez Photography for the Old Fashioned Picnic photos found throughout this month's Gazette.



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BLOCK CAPTAIN OF THE MONTH

And block captain changes/opportunities

by *Dian Austin*

Congratulations to our Block Captain of the Month, Grant Holt, who lives in the 800 block of W. 43rd. Grant volunteered to join the *Gazette* team several months back when we needed a block captain for Section One; Grant faithfully has been delivering that route for many months and will now start delivering closer to home, handling both the 700 and 800 blocks of W. 43rd.

Grant and his wife, Julie, moved to Garden Oaks in 1994. They heard that Garden Oaks was a "close, good neighborhood to look into." 2001 brought a rebuild, but they kept their home's original footprint,

added an upper elevation for more space and were mindful to preserve many trees. Unfortunately, Hurricane Ike came along and took six or seven of them.

Grant and Julie are civic club supporters and volunteer in the "Relay for Life" that celebrates the lives of those who have battled cancer. Grant helps with the Bayou Trash Bash (White Oak), the Art Car Parade and the yearly Montrose Beer & Gun Club Cook-Off benefiting the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

Grant and Julie enjoy the near-constant company of visiting family, friends and their three dachshunds. Julie is a licensed massage therapist, and Grant has worked in marketing/advertising for 20+ years, primarily with locally owned and/or run companies.

For his dedication, Grant receives his choice of a \$25 gift card to Tony's Mexican Restaurant, Starbuck's, Home Depot or Lowe's, courtesy of O.D.'s Printing (Oscar Ochoa). Thanks, Grant!

This month we say goodbye to three of our long-time *Gazette* block captains:

The Prince Family, who have been delivering the 700 block of W. 43rd Neal Ferguson, who has been delivering the 800 block of W. 43rd Joan Tracy, who has been delivering the 900 block of W. 43

Thanks so much to all these volunteers for their many months of service.

These changes open up several block captain opportunities:



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- The 200/300 blocks of W. 32nd (38 homes)
- The 900 block of W. 43rd (44 homes)

If anyone can handle either of these routes on a permanent basis, let me know. The *Gazettes* are delivered to the block captains each month. The block captain's job is to hand deliver them door to door in a timely manner.

If interested in becoming part of our delivery team, please 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. But remember, if you don't volunteer, don't complain too loudly!

CONSTABLE PROGRAM RESOURCES

With summer and vacation season in full swing, remember you can find the vacation watch form at 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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OFFICER HIGHLIGHT

Vice President Dea Larson

by Jessica Jarvis

The Garden Oaks civic club is served by a number of very talented and dedicated individuals willing to volunteer their time and talents to our neighborhood. One of those individuals is Dea Larson who is serving her first year as vice president.

Dea and her husband, Al Thomas, moved to Garden Oaks exactly five years ago, in July 2006. They had been living in west Houston in a house large enough to accommodate their blended family with four teenagers. Once the children went off to college, they wanted to live closer to downtown Houston where both worked and were lucky enough to find Garden Oaks.

"I love the total ambience of

Garden Oaks - the big lots, lovely trees, diverse architecture and welcoming neighbors," Dea said. "Now that we found Garden Oaks, I can't imagine living anywhere else

in Houston."

This year she decided to volunteer as Vice President of the Civic Club out of a desire to get to know



Dea shown with a local on one of her photography trips taken to Antigua, Guatemala back in October of 2010.

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more of our neighbors and have an opportunity to "give back" to this wonderful neighborhood.

But this won't be Dea's first effort in that area. A year after moving to GO, she started the GO Sisterhood to meet more women in the neighborhood. After three fun years, the group decided to take a break but will hopefully resume in the months ahead. Dea is also chairing this month's Wine Walk slated for October 22.

When not serving her Garden Oaks community, Dea is an estate planning attorney and works downtown at Bank of America in its private banking division - US Trust. In her free time, she enjoys photographing people in unusual places around the globe and working in the gardens surrounding their house. She also enjoys quilting. In fact, one of her quilts was recently accepted in a competition in the

Houston International Quilt Festival and she is really excited about that!

Al and Dea's four grown children are scattered across the country - L.A., NYC, Little Rock and Dallas. "They love to visit us in Garden Oaks because of its proximity to downtown, the Galleria, and the airports," she said. Their "fifth" child, Millie is a wonderfully sweet Jack Russell terrier mix.

Thank you Dea, for the time and talents you bring to our neighborhood as a valued volunteer!



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2011 GARDEN OAKS WINE WALK ~ SAVE THE DATE!

by Dea Larson

Plans are underway for the 2011 Garden Oaks Wine Walk benefiting your Garden Oaks Constable Program. This year's theme is "Wild, Wild West" and will showcase wines from the Pacific Coasts of North and South America.

Date: Saturday, October 22

(rain date - November 5)

Time: 4-6 p.m.

Where: 744 W. 43rd St. (Ed & Brenda de Alba's fabulous garden estate)

Tickets: \$40 per adult (Must be age 21 or older) - limited to 200 tickets sold

To make this another unforgettable GO event, we are looking for sponsors, table hosts and volunteers. Sponsorships are \$200 each and your name/company will be featured prominently during

the event. If you have passion for wine (or maybe you just like drinking it!), have a creative spark and love people, consider hosting a table. It is a great way to meet your neighbors and have an unforgettable evening of fun.

Here are the table host details:

- Each table receives two free tickets including two tasting glasses. Individuals or groups of friends/neighbors may staff your table.
- Each table supplies at least one case of the same wine costing no more than \$20 per bottle.
- Each table host supplies (1) a spit bucket, (2) water for rinsing glasses, (3) cocktail napkins, (4) table decorations and (5) information identifying themselves and their wines
- Hors d'oeuvres and/or palate cleansers are optional.

As a courtesy, preference will be given to those who hosted tables in 2010. Fortunately, we have already received early commitments from some of the previous table hosts but we still need more. If you would like to be a 2011 table host, contact Shelley Rogers at 713.880.0503 or srogers@sheehyware.com. Due to space constraints, we must limit the number of host tables to 12.

Many thanks to Terry Jeanes of ReMax/Metro – head of our GO Constable Program. Once again, she has graciously offered to underwrite the cost of wine tasting glasses.

The GO 2011 Wine Walk promises to be the highlight of the season! If you would like to be a sponsor or help with this event, please contact Dea Larson at 713.695.3634 or dealarson@aol.com.

Check the August GO Gazette for more information on this year's Wine Walk including how to purchase tickets. So stay tuned!

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BEAUTIFICATION UPDATE

by Kimberly Baughman

In case you haven't noticed, we are in a drought. Ed de Alba has been working very hard on all of the neighborhood sprinkler systems. He has replaced the batteries and reprogrammed the controllers in the green spaces the neighborhood irrigates. Things were beginning to look a little crunchy! A few of the parks have had more serious issues, but Ed has been working diligently to get everything in working order. We owe him a big thank you.


Another thank you goes out to Wayne Forster who has been gracious enough to water the trees in Graham Park for the past few weeks. I cannot express enough appreciation to everyone who is active in keeping our neighborhood beautiful.

A few people have expressed concern over the Art Park's current condition. It is getting browner by the day. Unfortunately, the park was not adopted by the neighborhood and, therefore, does not have an irrigation system installed. The spigots in the park have been cut off by the city, and we cannot water it. If anyone has a suggestion, please contact me.

On a more positive note, Harry James' construction crew has begun work on the new gazebo, which is progressing every day. The neighborhood will soon have a new and improved park.


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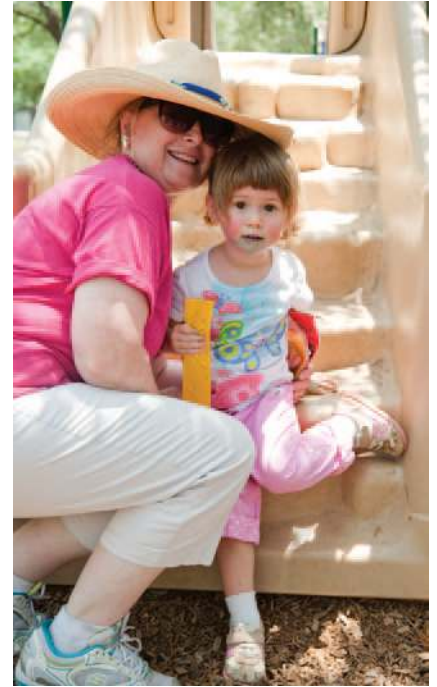
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Thanks to the following who helped with this event: Patrick Kelley, Alisha Cunningham, Jay and Read Tatum. Ray Trantham, Lynn Sievers, Linda Sparks, Nancy Childers, Becky Jeanes, Shelley Rogers, Victor Seghers, and of course Ms. Pollock, Garden Oaks Elementary principal, for use of school P.E. equipment and restrooms.


Additional thanks go to Brandi Stoesz Photographer, Arts Alive - Tina Sabuco for the sound system, and all the neighbors who joined in the fun and a little friendly competition.



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**AIR CONDITIONING TIPS
FOR THE SUMMER**

by Mitch Weigand

**Tip No. 15: A/C Facts - True or
False?**

Part One

With our record-breaking
temperatures so far this year, it
has become even more crucial to
know what's fact and what's fiction
regarding the largest single energy
consumer in your home, the central
air conditioning system.

**It's more efficient to let your
A/C run throughout the day at a
higher temperature than to turn
it off and then re-cool your home
once you arrive in the evening.**

TRUE: If you shut your A/C off when
you leave home during the day, it
costs more and takes longer to cool
once you return in the evening. The
answer is to keep it on but raise the

temperature.

I recommend no higher than
five degrees above your normal
operating temperature when you're
home. For example, if your comfort
level is 75 degrees, you should set
the thermostat no higher than 80
degrees. This also ensures that the
humidity levels within your home
do not rise to a point where mold or
mildew can occur.

**Installing any size energy-
efficient air conditioner
automatically will save you
money.**

FALSE: Installing an energy-efficient
A/C can help, but only if it's sized
right. Bigger is not always better. If
your A/C is too big for your home, it
will not remove humidity effectively
and you wind up with air that's
cool but also damp and clammy. If
the A/C is too small, it will struggle
to keep your room cool and never

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Your A/C's thermostat can influence energy consumption.

TRUE: If you don't have a programmable thermostat, consider purchasing one. It's worth the investment because it keeps energy usage during the day to a minimum. You also can set it to begin cooling right before your arrival so it's perfectly comfortable when you get home. Also, avoid placing heat-generating devices such as a lamp or television near your thermostat. It will sense the heat and cause your A/C to run more than needed.

Leaving a ceiling fan on while you're gone will help cool a room.

FALSE: Ceiling fans cool people, not rooms. They circulate the air, thus creating a draft that makes you feel cooler by evaporating the moisture on your skin. However, this won't lower the temperature of

the room. During the summer, set your fan to run counter-clockwise so it directs air downward to create a breeze.

Join my wife Nancy and me at the 2011 Garden Oaks Red, White and Blue Bicycle Parade on Monday, July 4. We are helping with the photography and judging plus providing some homemade refreshments. Hope to see you there!

Please visit my new website at www.airwisehouston.com. All of the previous A/C tips from the Garden Oaks Gazette are archived there as well as some very informative videos. 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 email at mitch@airwisehouston.com or write to 1590 Sue Barnett Drive, Houston, TX 77018.



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Joe C., Section 3, Garden Oaks

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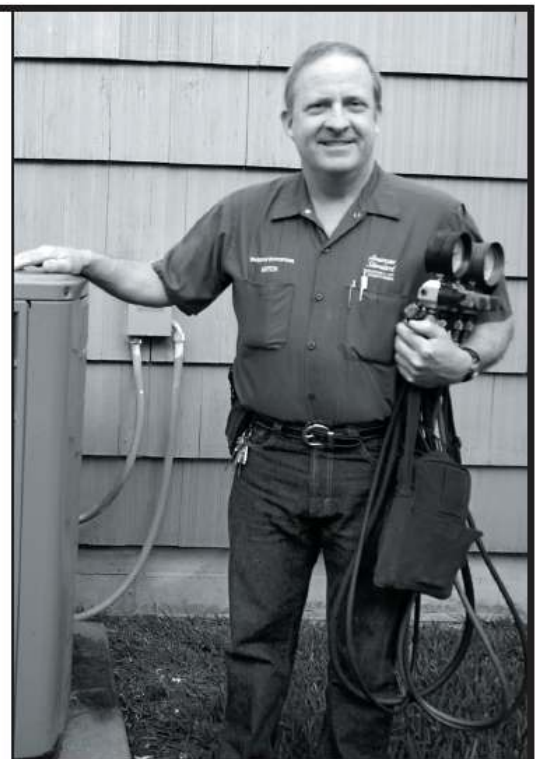
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Mitch Weigand, Garden Oaks resident and Civic Club member



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.

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

Do you have any changes or ideas you'd like to see implemented to GO Kids? Please come to our fun and fabulous Annual Meeting of the Minds. Bring your thoughts and ideas to the Petrol Station on Thursday, July 28, at 7 p.m.

Kids home from school driving you crazy yet? Take a well deserved break and join us for Moms' Night Out. Join us at Petrol Station at 7 p.m. Tuesday, July 12, at 985 Wakefield Dr. Please contact Brandy Groth (brandy.groth@yahoo.com) or Jessica Padilla (needhamjessica@hotmail.com) for more information. See you soon.

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. For more information please 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



The new Garden Oaks gazebo is rising. The GOCC approved funding the new gazebo at its June meeting. Harry James is donating his craftsmen Rick Wozniak's (shown above) time and providing the materials at cost.

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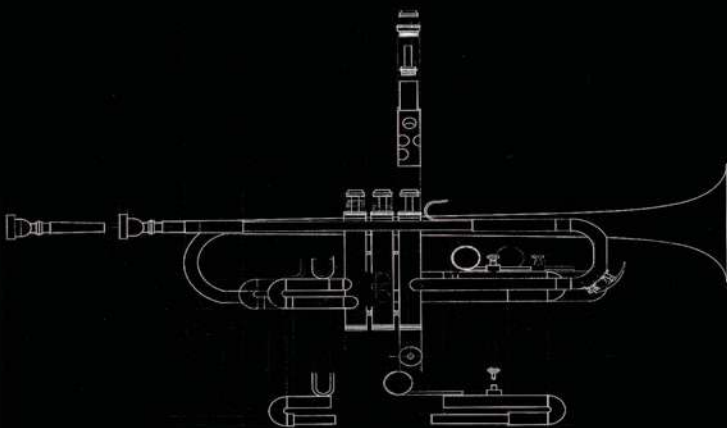
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LEARNING FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

By Lindsey Pollock, Principal, Garden Oaks Elementary

By all accounts, the world we live in today is radically different than the world in which I grew up. As a child, my TV was black and white and a stay at my grandparents usually ended with us sitting on the front porch listening to broadcasts on the radio.

I had never been in contact with a computer until I attended courses on a college campus and heard about programming languages for a machine that occupied a very large room. We carried stacks of cards in trays in to feed into that machine and woe to us who had the misfortune of dropping the tray or changing the sequence of those precious bits of information. This was my introduction to computers.

Children today carry more computer power in their hand-held games than the computer housed in that room. As the world rapidly changes, they will no doubt look back at this time and reminisce about their technological history, the part it played in their life stories and the changes over time.

We know that change is inevitable. The question is, how do we prepare today's children for advances that we haven't yet imagined? I am part of a Texas Education Agency initiative called Catalyst that strengthens school leaders' skills and competencies to support changes in schools to help prepare for these challenges (www.youtube.com/user/CATALYSTLeadership).

Corporate and non-profit leaders in the field of education have developed a Framework for 21st Century Learning to identify the core skills and subjects that

children will need to be successful in the workforce and in their daily lives. The key thinking skills include creativity and innovation, critical thinking and problem solving, communication and collaboration. These skills are embedded in cooperative learning classroom environments and inherent to Montessori philosophy. Furthermore, these skills are driving the shift in the design of standardized assessments such as the 2011-12 release of the State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness (STAAR) that replaces Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS).

While it will be important for children to continue to learn the fundamental core subjects (reading, math, science and social studies), much of the basic information no longer requires memorization because quick access is available electronically. Instead, children will

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need to connect knowledge across disciplines and collaborate with others including people around the globe. This will require a new global awareness and understanding of themes such as economics, civics, health and environment.

Of tantamount importance will be the effective use of technology and media as tools to access, evaluate and create information for and with others. This access to technology is critical for our children and the focus of the Garden Oaks Elementary Parent Teacher Organization for 2011-12. In the coming months, I will share with you strategies to create and seek learning opportunities to enhance and reinforce skills for 21st Century success with your child(ren)! For more information go to www.21stcenturyskills.org



Happy Fourth of July

"You have to love a nation that celebrates its independence every July 4, not with a parade of guns, tanks, and soldiers who file by the White House in a show of strength and muscle, but with family picnics where kids throw Frisbees, the potato salad gets iffy, and the flies die from happiness. You may think you have overeaten, but it is patriotism."

Erma Bombeck



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GAZETTE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

by Jessica Jarvis

August marks my third year of involvement with the *Gazette*. While the time has flown by in what has been an incredibly fun and rewarding volunteer activity, I recognize the need to formally expand my team in order to continue to serve as editor. Because the *Gazette* requires publication on a fairly strict deadline in order for it to hit your doorsteps before the Civic Club meeting each month, there are some months where work or life interferes with that schedule. If I am unable to arrange for assistance in the following two key areas, I'll need to

resign my duties as editor.

Assistant Editor: Responsibilities include assistance with editing, layout, and publication of our monthly newsletter. Interested in adding your own personal touch to the *Gazette*? Assistance in editing, layout and publication is needed. In looking back at many previous publications it seems I'm one of the few editors that has not benefited from having an assistant editor and it's clear I need to rectify that situation. Training and support will of course be provided as needed; however no real experience is necessary. While I personally believe in spreading out volunteer workloads as a healthy practice, I'm happy to completely pass the torch if you'd rather make the *Gazette* all your own.

Proofreader: Responsibilities include formatting, proofreading/editing all submissions once reviewed by the editor. Editing and layout not your thing? The position of proofreader also needs to be filled. Each month, I read and edit submissions before handing them off to my most trusted right-hand woman, Carol Smith, who puts her hand to polishing all submissions. While she leaves big shoes to fill, I have no doubt that just the right talented individual is ready and willing to take over.

If neither of these is quite your thing but you'd still like to be a part of the team, there are other tasks that would ultimately help spread the workload a bit.

As editor, I've learned a ton about Garden Oaks and our neighbors and met some of my now very favorite people. I'm sure you'll find the same. For more information, contact gazette@gardenoaks.org.



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CRITTER CORNER

by Casey and Dorothy Dan Farris

Did you know that more pets are lost on July 4th than at any other time of the year? This month we talk about proper precautions for your pets this July 4th.

Critters 101: 4th of July Precautions for Pets

During 4th of July festivities, more animals are lost than at any other time of the year. Loud noise from fireworks frightens animals due to their heightened senses of hearing, and they may be willing to do anything to escape the noise. This behavior usually is unpredictable and out of character and may include such things as chewing through a leash, jumping through screens and windows, digging under a fence, jumping over a wall, bolting away from the owner or running into traffic. The good news is you can do many things to help ensure your pet is protected. Follow these simple guidelines to make July 4th a great holiday for

both of you.

1. Don't bring your pet to a fireworks display. The boom of the fireworks sounds loud to the human ear so imagine how loud it sounds to your dog who can hear three times greater than humans.

2. Keep a collar and ID tag on your pet at all times. Make sure the tag contains legible and up-to-date information. To lessen the chance that a dog slips his collar, be sure you can put no more than two fingers between the collar and the pet's neck.

3. Indoor/outdoor cats are recommended to be brought indoors on July 3 and remain inside till the July 5. This is because fireworks are legal to buy in many areas and often individuals set them off on more than one evening during the holiday week.

4. Keep your pet indoors in a cool, quiet room. The windows should be closed and the shades or

curtains pulled. Often the sound of soft music or the low rumble of a television will help to calm your pet. Remember to leave a light on for your pet, too. These things will help the animal feel safe and secure.

5. Don't leave your pet outside in the yard on a leash or a chain. Many animals get tangled up in their attempts to flee and end up injuring themselves and dogs often escape their yards and get lost.

7. If you find an animal that is lost, take it to your local animal shelter right away. The quicker you do this, the sooner the frantic owner will be reunited with his or her beloved pet.

Pet of the Month: Our Pet of the Month for July is a kindle of cats named Travis, Lexi and Kee-Kee. Their human can openers are Robert and Karen of Section I. Travis is a 13-year-old tabby, (with white around his eyes) that adopted his humans at first sight. As a stray in

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the Heights, Travis was looking for a new home and he sure found a good one with this family. He enjoys kissing his daddy's ears and napping to the sounds of Miles Davis. He loves people and never shies away from greeting guests. His pet sitters call him Romeo because he is so affectionate. Lexi is a 7-year-old grey short hair that was adopted out of the Houston SPCA. She was picked out by her daddy because she chased her tail as a kitten. Even today, she loves to play; her latest favorite game is to watch videos on her momma's laptop. She likes the one of birds eating seed or other cats playing.

Kee-Kee is a 1½-year old feral cat from a long line of ferals. Mr. Socks was the first, then came Gunther and his family, then Kee-Kee. Karen had TNR'd Kee-Kee's mother, not realizing that Mama had kittens (she was so tiny), and during the harsh January winter of 2010, Mama vanished, leaving

a very tiny Kee-Kee under the house. As temps plummeted into the 30s and below, Karen felt that TNR and a prolonged stay indoors was in order for the tiny kitten. After several months of trying to socialize Kee-Kee, she was let out to the back yard. Socialization was continued, until the following winter of 2011 where she was forced indoors (tuna always works). This time, she was much friendlier but still not ready for prime time. She is a sweet outdoor kitty that is happy to be petted. Socialization works with those who are patient!

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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3	4 Red, White and Blue Bicycle Parade, 9:30am registration	5 Civic Club mtg 7:00pm, GOES	6	7	8	9
10	11	12 MNO, Petrol Station, 985 Wakefield, 7pm 	13	14 Garden Club mtg 7pm	25	26
17	18	19	20 GOMO mtg, 7pm	21	22	23
24/31	25	26 	27 Central Northwest Super Neighborhood Council, 6:30 pm, 1245 Judiway	28 GO Kids Annual Meeting, Petrol Station, 7pm	29	30

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