

GARDEN OAKS GAZETTE

VOLUME 35

ISSUE 09

SEPT 2011

MEET YOUR CITY COUNCIL CONTENDERS AT THE CANDIDATE FORUM

Wednesday, September 7, 6:30 p.m., Garden Oaks Elementary

by GOCC President Mark Klein

Join us Wednesday, September 7, at 6:30p.m. when the Garden Oaks Civic Club hosts a City Council Candidate Forum at the Garden Oaks Elementary School. This forum is scheduled for the day after our regular civic club meeting on Tuesday.

Now part of the newly formed District C, Garden Oaks residents have an unprecedented opportunity to influence City Hall during this upcoming election.

District C joins Garden Oaks, Shepherd Park Plaza, Oak Forest, the Heights, Timbergrove, parts of Mid-town, the West End and other neighborhoods into an area with many shared concerns and demographics.

The GOCC Candidate Forum is your chance to meet the contenders for District C, ask questions, and challenge them to support the needs of our neighborhood.

Recent redistricting, mandated by the United States Justice Department, means that our current District A Council Member Brenda Stardig will no longer represent Garden Oaks after the fall election.

District C Council Candidates Ellen Cohen, Karen Derr, Brian Cweren and Josh Verde will be on hand to discuss their campaign platforms. Cohen, Derr and Cweren have all taken time to attend recent GOCC meetings. If you've missed our GOCC meetings lately, this is your chance to meet the neighborhood's future representative at City Hall. In addition, we may have some At-large Council Candidates present.

When it comes to politics, you can make a difference on a local level. It's an indisputable fact: Neighborhoods that get involved during local elections garner more attention from elected officials. Don't miss this opportunity to make sure the people who govern Houston pay attention to Garden Oaks.

UPCOMING CIVIC CLUB MEETING

September 6, 7pm

at Garden Oaks Elementary School

UPCOMING EVENTS

City Council Candidate Forum
Wednesday, September 7, 6:30pm
at Garden Oaks Elementary School

SAVE THE DATE

National Night Out October 4, organize or join your block party and get to know your neighbors.

3rd Annual Wine Walk October 22,
purchase tickets using the form in this month's publication.

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CITIZENS' PATROL PROGRAM

by Carl Waters, Jr.

National Night Out - October 4

Y'all might recall that back in 2008 the National Association of Town Watch, the founding agency for National Night Out, agreed to allow southern states to move National Night Out later in the year since its original August date is usually so hot. Here is a bit of the program's history.

National Night Out, 'America's Night Out Against Crime,' was introduced by the National Association of Town Watch in 1984. The program was the brainchild of Executive Director Matt A. Peskin. In an effort to heighten awareness and strengthen participation in local anticrime efforts, Peskin felt that a high-profile, high-impact type of crime prevention event was needed nationally. At that time, he noted that in a typical 'crime watch community,' only 5 to 7% of the residents were participating actively. Due to the growth and success of these programs, he felt this percentage was too low. Subsequently, he proposed a national

program which would be coordinated by local crime prevention agencies and organizations - but that would involve entire communities at one time. The first National Night Out was introduced early in 1984 - with the event culminating on the first Tuesday in August. That first year, 400 communities in 23 states participated in National Night Out. Nationwide, 2.5 million Americans took part in 1984. The event has since grown to involve more than 34 million people in over 10,000 communities from all 50 states, U.S. territories, Canadian cities, and military bases worldwide.

Please let me know if you are planning a block party so I can pass the information onto the Community Service Unit at HPD. They will try to have an officer stop by your party.

July Crime Statistics: 9

Assault: 2
 3500 N. Shepherd Dr. on Sunday, July 3 at 6:10 p.m. (street).
 300 block of W. 30th St. on Wednesday, July 13 at 7:15 p.m. (street).
Robbery: 1

500 block of W. 34th St. on Sunday, July 31 at 11:40 p.m. (park).
Burglary: 1
 1400 block of Sue Barnett Dr. on Thursday, July 7 at 5:03 p.m. (residence).
Theft: 4
 800 block of W. 41st St. on Tuesday, July 12 at 10:00 p.m. (construction site).
 700 block of W. 42nd St. on Tuesday, July 19 at 1:20 a.m. (residence).
 1000 block of W. 41st St. on Friday, July 22 at 12:30 a.m. (residence).
 800 block of W. 41st St. on Saturday, July 30 at 11:00 p.m. (residence).
Auto Theft: 1
 700 block of North Loop West on Sunday, July 3 at 11:00 p.m. (restaurant).

The crime activity over the past two months has now increased vs. the number of crimes reported through July 2010. We now have four more reported crimes than 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 713.864.1992.

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

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

951 Althea	931 Lamonte
967 Lamonte	3303 Lawrence
1563 Sue Barnett	236 West 31st
826 West 31st	335 West 32nd
742 West 38th	725 West 39th
738 West 41st	806 West 41st
1006 West 41st	1062 West 41st
1079 West 41st	843 West 42nd
858 West 42nd	947 West 42nd
1043 West 42nd	946 West 43rd
958 West 43rd	982 West 43rd
1046 West 43rd	1055 West 43rd
1071 West 43rd	

Congratulations

Welcome canine **Riley Ray Rascal** to the **Austin/Altman** household with an extra thanks to **Deborah** and **Vic Seghers** for rescuing him before he found his forever home. And to **Ken, Mel,** and **Elizabeth Johnson** who added twin felines to the family.

September Birthdays

Janice Walden - 4
John Beddow - 22
Mark Swick - 26

August Birthdays

Elizabeth Klein and **Katherine Knauth**- 4
Rick Knauth and **Gracie Marie Mulry**-9
Warren Walden-14
Elizabeth Siobhan Johnson – 20
Matt Veech -22
Isabella Ramirez, Tony Padon and **Trent Salch** –23
Bridgette Martinez –26
Emma Kathryn Carvell and **Debbie Padon** – 28

Happy Anniversary

Trent and **Megan Salch** – 5
Phil Ramirez and **Gina Pecoraro** - 7
Rick and **Tonya Knauth** - 22
Belated Anniversary wishes to **Pat Buron** and **Shelly Rogers** August 5.

Neighborly Thanks

To **Wayne Forster** for watering all of the trees in Graham Park so that none are lost in this drought and to **Sandra O'Guynn & Shannon Hugetz** for blowing the debris off the tennis court at Graham Park. No good deed goes un-noticed.

Out and About

Pamela Gebhardt Anderson was spotted at the famous Rendezvous in Memphis. **Caroline McLean and children** enjoyed 60 degrees and plenty of rain in Scotland and France. **Tina Rowe** and **Jim Dicola** enjoyed a trip in New Orleans, with Port of Call and The Coffee Pot as some of their favorites. New Orleans was also a hot spot for **Terry Jeanes** and Patrick Kelley who missed **Robert Deveau** there by a day. **Kari Noser** had a last minute road trip to take daughter **Megan** to Gruene.

Robert Deveau has been all over the place: Boston, Maine, New Hampshire, Connecticut, New York, and even had a surprise stop to see his mom. Also trips to Nashville and Utah.

Dian Austin recently went to England and Finland to seek some cooler climes during the hot summer. Fellow neighbor **George Appling** made a visit to Finland as well.

Martha Kennedy was spotted in Lunenburg, Nova Scotia. **Becky** and **Mike McCullough** recently vacationed in Maui. **Adrian** and **Carey Berry** just returned from a week in Oregon where **Eric** and **Jessica Jarvis** also enjoyed a long weekend.

Condolences

To the family of **Louis Getz**, Garden Oaks neighbor who passed away in June. Also to the family of **George Paul**, former longtime Garden Oaks neighbor whose wife **Kay** had been Civic Club president. And to **Chris Schmidt**, who recently lost his father.

To highlight an event, celebration, or other tidbit, contact Terry Jeanes at 713-812-9154 or terry@terryjeanes.com.



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Terms expire October of year in parentheses.

GO CIVIC CLUB MEETING MINUTES

Garden Oaks Civic Club Minutes
Location: Garden Oaks Elementary School
August 2, 2011

Welcome: Vice President Dea Larson called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. Three candidates for City Council were introduced: Elizabeth Perez, Ellen Cohen, and Brian Cweren.

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

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Phil Ramirez reported that the GOCC has a \$24,168 deficit this month largely because of \$16,200 paid for the new gazebo, with the remaining balance of \$2,800. Funds exist for this month's Constable payment but there are not enough to cover the next month. The payment will likely be drawn from the reserve funds. *Of the 1400 households which benefit from the Constable program, only 30% make contributions. Please encourage your neighbors to actively support the Constable program.* There was additional discussion about fundraising ideas. Funds from the Wine Walk, which will support the Constable program, will not be received in time to cover next month's payment.

GODAT Update: Secretary Heather Leverett was not present. Vice President Larson gave an update on status which included the following.

Back Office/Database: Initial reporting is completed. The reports need to be reviewed by Constable and Membership and then we can incorporate changes. About a day's work is left on the mail merge functionality which allows users to create letters and e-mails automatically. The back office part of campaign/event/calendar feature is expected to be completed by August 10. Data will have to be updated with changes that have occurred in the past month.

Web Interface: The database will be connected to the website this month and hosting decisions finalized. Minor changes will need to be made to accommodate the campaign/event/calendar feature. PayPal is already set up for payment so no additional work is needed. The developer will need to review workflow with the core users so we can work out how to share the application and support everyone. Security also needs to be reviewed but it is not critical path.

Standing Committee Reports:

GO Citizens Patrol: Carl Waters reported nine crimes in July. Through June we were below last year's number but after nine in this month, there is one more in 2011 than 2010.

Constable Program: No update

Membership: No update.

Beautification: Kimberly Horowitz reported that the Gazebo is finished. The Gazebo Park was trimmed and a dead tree removed for fear it would fall on the new gazebo.

Gazette: No update.

GardenOaks.org Website: No update.

GOMO: No update.

Other Announcements: Wine

Walk: Tickets go on sale at \$40/each on August 14. There will be more information in the September Gazette about the Wine Walk.

Vice President Larson adjourned the meeting at 7:32 p.m.

Emergency Numbers

Emergency Services 911
HPD Non-Emergency Services
713.884.3131
Constable Dispatch
713.755.7628
All Other City Services 311

GOMO Review Meetings

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

2012 GARDEN OAKS HOME TOUR TO BE HELD

APRIL 22, 2012

Primary Civic Club Fundraiser Supports Neighborhood's Constable Patrols

by Mark Klein, GOCC President

The 2012 Garden Oaks Home Tour – the Civic Club's most significant fundraiser and a growing draw as a fun Houston attraction – is set for noon to 6 p.m. Sunday, April 22.

Every home tour seems to gain momentum. The 2010 Home Tour, led by Co-chairs Sue Schmidt and Dian Austin, was a smashing success, raising more than \$30,000, most of which goes to help sustain the neighborhood's constable program.

Every two years, dedicated volunteers spend months driving forward the primary money-maker for our neighborhood's Civic Club. Previous tours pulled in \$20,000 to \$30,000. Just as important, the event is an entertaining showcase, introducing Houstonians and future Garden Oaks residents to one of the city's most livable gems. Plus, it's a great way to meet your neighbors and new folks.

Best of all, the Home Tour is a great opportunity for residents to help their own neighborhood while having fun. It takes loads of volunteers to make this event a success – and the neighborhood needs your help.

There's something for nearly every person living here:

- Event Chair and Co-chair
- Docents for both homes and gardens (three hour shifts);
- Trolley captains to ride the buses and entertain our visitors;
- Set-up for tables and chairs at each Home Tour house;
- Ticket and t-shirt sellers;
- Volunteers to support the Home Tour Preview Party;
- People to help with the party's live auction (also a significant fundraiser);
- Concessions help;

- Home and garden captains.

All volunteers get a free ticket to the home tour, plus the satisfaction of helping the Civic Club accomplish its goal to protect and beautify our community. After all, Garden Oaks just wouldn't be what it is today without all the amazing folks who've stepped up to make this place special.

Corporate sponsors have discovered the Home Tour is a great way to connect their brands, products and services with customers in a meaningful way. There are lots of opportunities to connect beyond the good public relations, including signage and your brand's name on every ticket. See a home or garden you think should be on the tour? You can nominate a place by sending the address, owner's name, and what makes it special. Home and garden nominations can be sent to Susan Kostelecky, skdesigns@mind-spring.com.

So mark your calendar, stay tuned for more news, suggest your favorite local company to sponsor the Home Tour, and then consider stepping up to help keep Garden Oaks amazing. To become an event leader, volunteer or sponsor, email president@gardenoaks.org.



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THANKS TO THE ENTIRE GAZETTE DELIVERY TEAM

by Dian Austin

This month we have a few more changes to our delivery team. First, farewell to Ray Trantham, who has faithfully delivered *Gazettes* to the 900 block of W. 41st for several years. He will be moving from Garden Oaks and we hate to see him go, but congrats on his new home purchase. James Richard, who lives in the 800 block of W. 42nd, offered to take the route. Welcome to our team, James!

Also, farewell to Marlene Caldwell, who has delivered *Gazettes* to the 1400 block of Sue Barnett for quite a while; she needs a respite for a bit. Jim McDaniel, who lives in the 1500 block of Sue Barnett, offered to take over Marlene's route. Thanks so much, Jim!

I want to recognize our entire *Gazette* Delivery Team. It takes a big crew to get these newsletters delivered timely to

the 1400+ homes in Garden Oaks. Each of these residents volunteers his/her time each and every month to get our newsletter hand-delivered to your door. Please take a minute and give them the well-deserved thanks they have earned!

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Delivery Coordinator: Lynda Spinks
 Block Captains:
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 Carl Waters, Jr.
 Mary Lynn Porter
 Lorie Reno
 Tiffany and Brad Alexander
 Mary Martinez (two routes)
 Mark and Jackie O'Brien
 Lisa Peters and Jim Capfer
 John and Gina Greenslate
 Mark and Susan Saranie
 Al Jasso
 The Roberts Family
 The Klein Family

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Delivery Coordinator: Sue Schmidt
 Block Captains:

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 George Taylor
 Joe Muscara and Lori Kennedy

Section 3

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 Block Captains:
 The Zamora Family
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 Lewis Goodkouski

Section 4

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The Zugheri Family

The McLean Family

Ken Tomchesson

Trey Kuchar

Shelley Ragsdale

We can always use additional people to help. 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. But remember, if you don't volunteer, don't complain too loudly.

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PUPS ON PARADE

by Tina Sabuco

Garden Oaks neighbors celebrated Seymour and Elvis's eighth birthdays and welcomed their new brother Mahoney at a recent Puppy Parade and Party. Tina Sabuco, Shellye Arnold, and Shawn and Bill Spear hosted approximately 20 pups and their parents for an Azalea-Sue Barnett block walk and garden party. The party featured doggy games and prizes, a cool down puppy pool, a hot dog birthday cake, and snacks for 2 and 4-legged participants. Felix Pacheco generously surprised the hosts and set up shop offering photography for the dog guests and their parents. Featured here are some of his photos.

Why the big celebration? Elvis and Seymour turned eight on 8/8, a golden birthday and good reason for a party. Also, Tina and Shellye wanted to give Mahoney, whom they recently adopted from Dachshund Rescue of Houston, a warm welcome. Most importantly, they wanted to raise funds for Dachshund Rescue of

Houston, who saves dachshunds from kill shelters, cares for them and finds them forever homes. Dachshund Rescue of Houston can be found at www.dachshundrescueofhouston.org if you would like to consider adopting or help support this great organization with your talent, time or your dollars.

Tina, Shellye, Shawn, Bill, Elvis, Seymour and Mahoney thank everyone who participated in the parade and party.



Pictured above are the birthday boys and puppy parade and party hosts, Mahoney, Tina Sabuco, Elvis, Shellye Arnold, Seymour, and Shawn and Bill Spear.



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Autumn is hummingbird season in Texas, as thousands of these tiny creatures move through the state on their southward migration to Mexico and Central America. Nature enthusiasts welcome them with old-fashioned Texas hospitality, readying their gardens of nectar-producing plants and putting up special feeders filled with fresh sugar water. "Essentially, all the Ruby-throated Hummingbirds that breed in the eastern half of the United States and Canada—estimated at 7.3 million—migrate along the shores of the Gulf of Mexico each fall," says John Arvin, the Observatory's Research Coordinator.

The male hummers grab your attention with their striking throat feathers, which act like a prism to bend light

into a shimmering red spectrum. Females and juveniles lack the scarlet throat - though juvenile males often show red dots on the throat. But they all have one purpose - engorging enough nectar to bulk up their body fat so they'll have enough fuel for their migratory flight.

Many Ruby-throats will travel 600 miles straight across the Gulf to the Yucatan Peninsula, and some will fly around the edges of the Gulf to points in Mexico. All will ultimately wind up in southern Mexico and Central America, as far south as Costa Rica, for the winter.

You can watch the thumb-sized hummers at the Observatory dart in and out of nectar-producing flowers like lantana, trumpet-vine, and honeysuckle, or you'll spy them sipping nectar at feeders hanging from tree limbs and building awnings. Better yet, you'll enjoy seeing a bird-bander hold a tiny hummingbird while taking measurements of the bird, weighing it, and clamping a thin, number-coded band on one of its teensy-weensy legs. *(Adapted from "Hum's the Word," by Gary*

Clark, Texas Highways Magazine, July, 2006)

Come on out and watch the banding, adopt a hummingbird, browse the Nature Store, walk the nature trails, or buy a plant to attract hummingbirds and butterflies. Each week will include an informative lecture:

September 10 - Gardening for Hummingbirds - Barbara Burkhardt
September 17 - Bird Photography - Mike Gray and Dick Barrett

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW and join us in September!

Go to www.gcbo.org for a printable map to our Sanctuary or call 979.480.0999 for directions. Your attendance will support coastal bird conservation.

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AIR CONDITIONING TIPS FOR THE SUMMER

by Mitch Weigand

Tip No. 16: A New Era in Freon - How the Evolution from R-22 to R-410a Refrigerant Affects You

If you've had to repair or replace your air conditioning system this year, there's a good chance you've probably heard about the new alternative refrigerants (commonly known as freon) in use today. These new products generate fewer chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and are designed to have less impact on the earth's ozone layer. While some of them go by different names such as Prozone or Puron, no matter what the name, they are all R-410A. R-410A is the new generation refrigerant which will play a crucial role in our future systems.

In 2010, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) enacted policy requiring all A/C and heat pump manufacturers to no longer produce systems which use ozone-depleting R-22 refrigerant. R-22 refrigerant has been the standard in the HVAC industry for decades.

While this may be good news for the environment, what does it mean for you, the homeowner?

What does the R-22 phase-out mean for consumers?

If your A/C system develops a leak, replacing the freon may be necessary. If it uses R-22 refrigerant, your system can be recharged using R-22 up to January 1, 2020. After that date, refrigerant manufacturers must cease all production of R-22 refrigerant and produce only the more environmentally friendly R-410A refrigerant.

The Clean Air Act does not allow any refrigerant to be vented into the atmosphere during installation, service, or retirement of equipment. Therefore, R-22 refrigerant must be recovered and reclaimed to be processed to the same purity levels as new R-22 or destroyed. After 2020, the servicing of R-22 systems will have to rely on recycled refrigerants. This means prices of R-22 will very likely increase as manufacturing slows and supplies dwindle over the next nine years.

Should I switch to an R-410a system now?

If you need to purchase a new A/C or heat pump system, consider one that uses the more environmentally friendly R-410A refrigerant. R-410A has a higher cooling capacity compared to R-22 and better heat exchange properties. This results in greater efficiency overall, with a smaller system that use less refrigerant compared to current R-22 equipment.

In Houston, most A/C systems have a life span of 10 years, so even if you purchase a new A/C system today which uses R-22 refrigerant, you may be buying it at just the right time to replace it again around 2020. However, if you purchase a system using R-410A, you'll be helping the environment and won't have to worry about any of those government policy changes.

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 which is mitch@airwisehouston.com

“What other company would make a 1:00am service call on Memorial Day weekend?”

Juan M., Garden Oaks

After Air Wise replaced one of my A/C's, I noticed a water stain on the bathroom ceiling. Although the leak was not A/C related, Mitch arrived at 1:00am, put a pan under the leaky pipe and returned the next morning with his plumber to repair it. What other company would do that on Memorial Day weekend?

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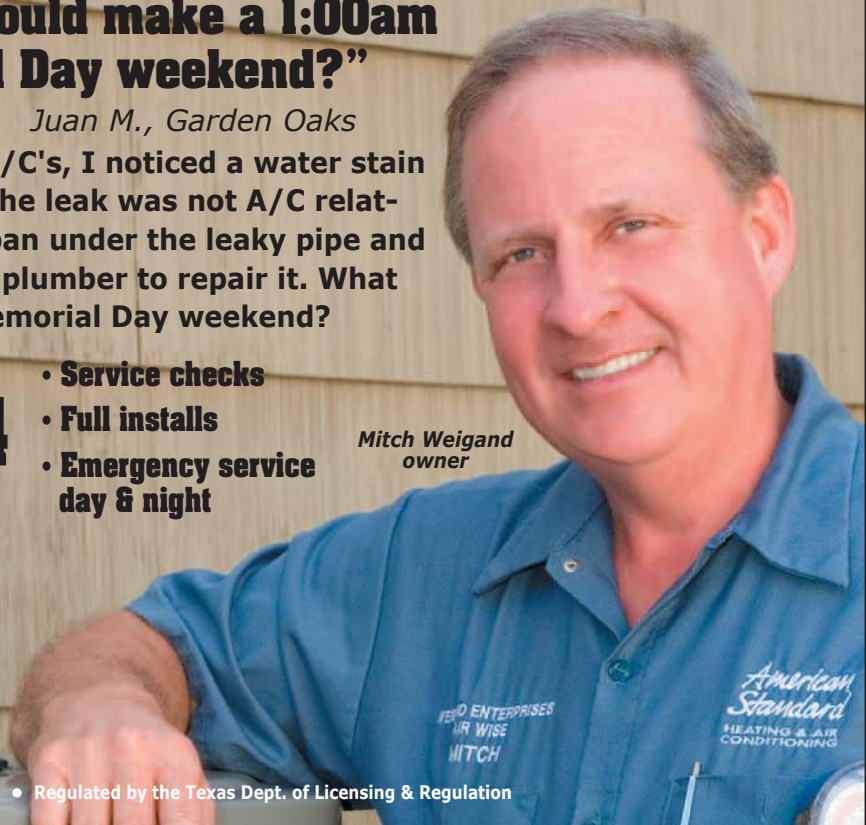


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THIRD ANNUAL WINE WALK TICKETS NOW ON SALE

by Dea Larson

Want to attend autumn's best event in Houston – the Garden Oaks 3rd Annual Wine Walk? Then mail in your check along with the form accompanying this article or download the form at www.gardenoaks.org. Don't hesitate to buy your tickets as we expect this great event to sell out again this year. Only 200 tickets will be sold!

We currently have twelve generous neighbor groups and supporters who

are serving as table hosts, each providing at least one case of wine. And we have room for more. Interested? Please contact Shelley Rogers at srogers@sheehyware.com



Our theme this year is "Wild, Wild West", and each table host will be pouring a wine from the western regions of North or South America. Various hors d'oeuvres and other tasty nibbles will round out the offerings.

What: Garden Oaks 3rd Annual Wine Walk with wines from the western regions of North and South America. Tickets are \$40 each, which entitles you to admission, a souvenir wine tasting glass, five voting tokens, and two hours of fun!

When: Saturday, October 22 (rain date November 5) from 4 to 6 p.m.

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

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

Rules: This is a private adults-only gathering. No one under 21 years of age is allowed and no pets.

Once you have purchased tickets, you will receive a confirmation by email. Ticket purchasers' names will be on a list at the check-in table. Upon arrival, you will receive a souvenir wine glass and may freely meander about the beautifully landscaped backyard, view the koi pond, visit with your neighbors, and taste some wonderful wines.

Many thanks to our generous Wine Walk underwriters and supporters:

- Terry Jeanes, ReMax/Metro for providing commemorative wine glasses for the event

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- Harry James Building and Design for underwriting the portable toilets/hand washing station
- Leslie Saunders for providing our Wine Walk graphics

Our \$200 cash sponsors include:

- Oak Forest Veterinary Clinic
- Pat Walker, Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate
- Georgia Lister & Hal Bowman, Section 3 neighbors
- Linda Sparks, Section 4 neighbor
- Jennifer Langdon and Joe Crownover, Section 3 neighbors
- Irma's Restaurant (Irma Galvan, Section 2 neighbor)
- Ellen Cohen - Candidate Houston City Council District C
- Brian Cweren - Candidate Houston City Council District C
- Mi Sombrero Mexican Restaurant

2. Heidi and Stuart Arouty
3. Facundo Home Builders (Miguel Facundo)
4. Kimberly and Daniel Horowitz and Karie and Alyn Goad
5. "Aged to Perfection" (Peggy Smith, Pamela Parks, and Teresa Coleman)
6. Solution Builders (Dara and Laura Childs) and Leslie Dabney Photography
7. Garden Oaks Vineyards/The Renos
8. Tina Sabuco and Shellye Arnold
9. GO Kids Group
10. Chavonne and Trent Slovak
11. Daniel T. Ramelow, Financial Advisor, Edward Jones (GO Shopping Center)

12. La Fuente Winery

And as we did last year, attendees will be "voting" on their favorite wines. Each attendee will get five free voting tokens along with their ticket but you can also vote with cash. The three tables with the most tokens/cash will be our winners. Prizes collected to date include contributions from Miller's Café, and Kroger's Signature Store on W. 43rd. Much, much more to come!

Don't miss this fun event. All proceeds benefit the Constable Program. Buy your tickets before we sell out!

We are so very grateful to our generous table hosts:

1. Tina Rowe and Jim DiCola & Artesa Vineyards and Wineries



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2011 Garden Oaks Wine Walk
Saturday, October 22nd, 4-6 PM, 744 W. 43rd St.

___ Yes! Reserve ___ tickets @ \$40.00 ea. for a total of \$ _____

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

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

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

Pick up your souvenir wine glasses at the venue when you arrive.
We will acknowledge your ticket order via e-mail or by phone.
Rain date is Saturday, Nov. 5. Sorry, no refunds.

Thank you!

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2011 GO WINE WALK

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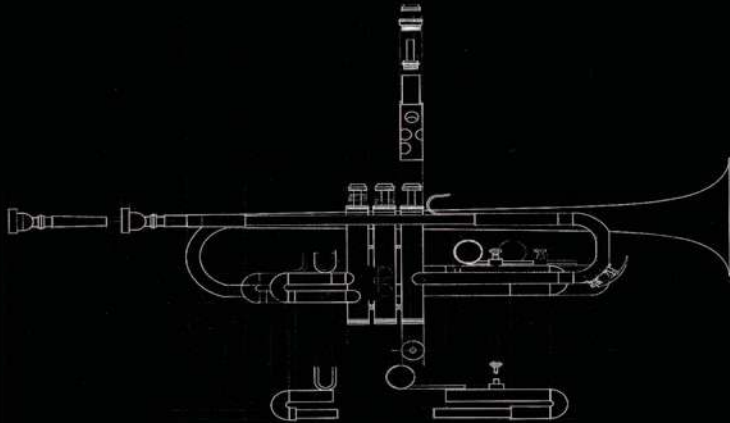
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PHOTO OF THE MONTH



The new Garden Oaks gazebo is now complete. The GOCC approved funding the new gazebo at its June meeting. Harry James donated his team's time and efforts. Many thanks to Harry and his fabulous Gazebo team!



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PREPARING OUR CHILDREN FOR THE CHALLENGES OF THE 21ST CENTURY

By Lindsey Pollock, Principal, Garden Oaks Elementary

As we start the new school year at Garden Oaks Elementary, we will continue to focus on strategies to support our children in preparation for the challenges of the 21st Century. According to the Partnership for 21st Century Skills, the 4 C's of education will soon replace the 3 R's. The 4 C's are **creativity** and **innovation**, **critical thinking** and **problem solving**, **collaboration** and **communication**. This month's focus is **critical thinking** and **problem solving**! Critical thinking is defined as:

- Exercising sound reasoning in understanding
- Making complex choices and decisions
- Understanding the interconnections among systems
- Identifying and asking significant questions that clarify various points of view and lead to better solutions
- Framing, analyzing and synthesizing information in order

to solve problems and answer questions

Sounds pretty complex for elementary children, but these are skills that we can introduce with even preschool children and continue throughout life. Critical thinking is really a habit of mind grounded in fair mindedness. It is the ability to see a situation from many angles in response to a situation and is self-directed, self-disciplined, self-monitored, and self-corrective thinking. In a Montessori setting, critical thinking is fostered through the child's exploration of the materials in the classroom and the independent nature of the work cycle in which children learn at their own pace. This provides opportunities to make decisions in learning as early as three years old. Further, the community of learners provided by the multi-age grouping, also encourages exchange of ideas among children at various developmental levels.

Both at school and at home, adults can stimulate critical thinking skills through conversations with children. **Analysis**, **synthesis**, and **evaluation** require more abstraction and are known as

critical thinking skills. These skills can be used to solve problems and consider possibilities. When talking with your child(ren) use the following strategies suggested by Family Education:

Analysis involves breaking down information into parts, or examining (and trying to understand the organizational structure of) information. Use words and phrases such as: what are the differences, analyze, explain, compare, separate, classify, arrange, etc., to encourage your child to break information down into parts.

Sample questions:

- ▶ What is one difference between eggs laid by a frog and a chicken?
- ▶ Compare and contrast some significant contributions made by presidents during the 1800s.

Synthesis involves applying prior knowledge and skills to combine elements into a pattern not clearly there before. Use words and phrases such as: combine, rearrange, substitute, create, design, invent, what if?, etc., to encourage your child to combine

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elements into a pattern that's new.

Sample questions:

- ▶ What might happen if a cow laid eggs? Knowing what you know about egg-laying animals, what could you say about animals that don't lay eggs?
- ▶ What if Abe Lincoln lived today? What problem might he solve?

Evaluation involves judging or deciding according to some set of criteria, without real right or wrong answers. Use words such as: assess, decide, measure, select, explain, conclude, compare, summarize, etc., to encourage your child to make judgments according to a set of criteria.

Sample questions:

- ▶ What do egg-laying animals have in common?
- ▶ What might have happened if Abe Lincoln never lived? What are some ways that history might be different?

The use of critical thinking is one of the most valuable skills we can pass on to our children. **Gifted children**, especially, tend to take mental leaps and you might notice that they use synthesis and evaluation without

teaching or prompting. Supporting and nurturing these skills is crucial to the development of strong academic and lifelong problem-solving skills. Remember, the most important thing is to have fun with these skills. When kids enjoy discussions with their parents and teachers, they'll love to learn.

Read more on Family Education: <http://school.familyeducation.com/gifted-education/cognitive-psychology/38660.html#ixzz1V5F6jy3v>

GO KIDS UPDATE

by Sarah Heath

Back to school time! Hope everyone had a fantastic summer and is settling into their new routine.

GO Kids is growing everyday. If you have any ideas or changes you'd like to see implemented, please share them. I can be reached at sarahmheath@gmail.com or feel free to share your ideas with the entire group on the listserv. Thanks for all the fabulous support.

Laissez les bons temps rouler! Join us for some Cajun food and fun at

Moms' Night Out. We will be meeting at BB's Cafe in the Heights on Tuesday, September 13, at 7 p.m. BB's Cafe is located at 2701 White Oak Dr. Please contact Brandy Groth (brandy.groth@yahoo.com) or Jessica Padilla (needhamjessica@hotmail.com) for more information. See you soon!

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 NEW Dinner Drop coordinator, Angelica Sullivan, at angelicapuerto@hotmail.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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CRITTER CORNER

by Casey and Dorothy Dan Farris

I recently heard Frank Sinatra's recording of "September of My Years." This is a bittersweet song about love and aging. September is often used as a metaphor for aging which got me to thinking about senior citizens and senior pets. These two go very well together and one organization called the Silver Paws Program is dedicated to matching senior citizens and senior pets together. This month we talk about the benefits of pets for senior citizens.

Critters 101: Senior Citizens and Senior Pets Make Perfect Pairs

Pet ownership can open up a whole new world for senior citizens. A growing number of seniors are stepping forward to adopt older dogs and cats. Not interested in taking on the challenge of housebreaking and training a puppy or keeping a kitten out of mischief, seniors would rather have a pet that has an established personality and knows the rules about good behavior.

These adoptions are a win for the senior, who benefits from the companionship of a pet. They are also

a win for the pet, which gets to spend his or her years in a loving home, rather than a shelter.

Over time, the specific benefits of seniors adopting senior pets are becoming better known. Studies have shown that, aside from having a constant companion that is always there when you wake up or put the key in the door, seniors who adopt senior pets seem to:

- Have a buffer against loneliness



- Maintain a clear sense of purpose
- Derive a profound sense of satisfaction from living with an animal
- Be more likely to exercise
- Have lower blood pressure and a decreased likelihood of depression

In addition, pets appear to provide a sense of consistency in a rapidly changing world, and may reinforce feelings of self-sufficiency, dependability and optimism with their owners. Above all, pets offer their owners unconditional love and attention, regardless of how old the owner is, how grey his or her hair is, or how wealthy or poor the individual might be.

Pet ownership among seniors can also act as a therapeutic agent that allows individuals to escape stress and concentrate on something other than the challenges that face them in their daily lives. This release can have a considerable impact on overall health and well-being. A 1990 UCLA study showed that pet ownership could actually improve overall health and reduce the time a senior individual

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spends in a doctor's office.

Pets can also act as "social lubricants" for seniors, who may not be outgoing individuals by nature. Pet owners are often attracted to one another, and the topic of their pets frequently breaks the ice and starts discussions.

Adopting a senior pet can often open a new world for seniors. To find out how to adopt senior animals in our area, contact your local animal shelter.

If an elderly person needs help caring for their pet you can find help with a pet sitter. Pet sitters can provide daily dog walks, in-home cat care, pet taxi service to and from vets or the groomer, as well as plant and home care. For most pet sitters, it doesn't matter if the elderly person lives in their own home, or in an assisted living facility or nursing home.

Pet of the Month

"Mr. September" is Milo Edwards (orange/white domestic cat). He was born in late April 2001, in Dickinson, Texas. His parents, Bill and Jennie Edwards adopted him when he was about eight weeks old. They named

him Katy but when they took him to the vet to make sure he was healthy, a name change was in order so he became Milo. He was so tiny and could fit in your pocket back then. Now Milo is a whopping twenty pounds. He never had a tail so when he was a kitten, he would chase his leg which made everyone laugh. Milo and his parents live in Section 1 of Garden Oaks and Milo has made some really good friends in the neighborhood. Clarisse, a wild bird, and Rocco, a squirrel, visit the Edwards' home almost every day where they eat and visit with him. Milo also loves his pet sitter, Miss Mo, who comes by to visit when he has to be home alone. If Milo could talk he would probably say "Life is good - life is fine; life is tremendous all the time!"

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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Full Page 7 ½ W x 9 ½ H	\$180.00	\$900.00	\$1745.00
Half Page Back Cover	\$150.00	\$750.00	
Full Page Back Cover	\$225.00	\$1125.00	
Inserts (full page only, single sided)			\$180.00
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CONSTABLE PROGRAM UPDATE

by Terry Jeanes & Susan Love Saranie

National Night out for Houston is Tuesday, October 4. If you are hosting a gathering on your block, casual or large, please notify Terry Jeanes (terry@terryjeanes.com) so that constables and HPD may stop in and visit.

Deputy Rene Sosa reminds neighbors to make sure you remove items like your GPS from your vehicles. A number of late night auto break ins were attributed to the visual invitation by such devices in cars.

Also remember to notify the constable dispatch office when solicitors are working the neighborhood. Deputy Lane has noted, anyone can make a badge on a computer and look official. If they do not have the correct City of Houston permits they should not be going door to door. Let the deputies check them out. If they are legitimate they are welcome. If not they will be asked to move along.

Download the vacation watch form at: www.gardenoaks.org/Resources/VacationWatch.pdf

To become a supporter visit: www.gardenoaks.org/Resources/2011Constable.pdf

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JUNE 2011 Statistics
Miles Patrolled...3423
Court Citations...19
Alarm Responses...5
Written Warnings...0
Vacations Watches...44
Suspicious Vehicles...27
Park checks...76
Criminal Offenses...2
Arrests...13

JULY 2011 Statistics
Miles Patrolled...3953
Court Citations...27
Alarm Responses...6
Written Warnings...3
Vacations Watches...9
Suspicious Vehicles...26
Park checks...66
Criminal Offenses...5
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Garden Oaks Civic Club

2011 Constable Patrol Contributor Application & Contact Information

(Please remit by March 31, 2011 for our 2011 contract • All information is held strictly confidential)

[] New Member or [] Renewal

Property Address : _____ Phone at this address: _____	
Member 1 Information Name: _____ Email: _____ Work Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____	Member 2 Information Name: _____ Email: _____ Work Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____
Emergency Contact Information Name: _____ Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____	Emergency Contact Information Name: _____ Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Payment Options

- [] Enclosed find my payment for 2011 of \$200. (Make checks payable to Garden Oaks Civic Club)
 [] I/We cannot contribute \$200 now; however, enclosed please find my/our check for \$_____.
 [] I/We will participate via bank draft. (Complete Draft Authorization Form below only if NEW)

Many of our neighbors live on limited, fixed incomes. Are you willing to adopt a neighbor?

- [] Yes! Please accept my additional gift of \$_____ for the year (enclosed) OR \$_____ per month (bank draft option only).

Draft Authorization Form *(Attach voided check if completing this form)*

I, _____, hereby authorize **Chase Bank** to begin Direct Debiting of my Bank Account Number _____ at _____ Bank and Bank Routing Number _____ for my participation.

This monthly authorization remains in effect until written notice is given to the **Constable Chair of the Garden Oaks Civic Club**. If any changes occur to my bank account, I will promptly notify the **Constable Chair of the Garden Oaks Civic Club** so that my Constable Program dues can be directly debited from the correct account.

- Please take \$20 out of my account monthly for the Garden Oaks Constable Patrol Program.
- This authorization includes a debit for an additional \$_____ monthly gift to the program.
- This authorization includes permission for a \$20 cancellation fee.

Printed Name



Date

Signature

Telephone

Mail to Garden Oaks Constable Program PO Box 10273 Houston TX 77206

SEPTEMBER 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6 Civic Club mtg 7:00pm, GOES	7 City Council Candidate Forum 6:30pm, GOES	8	9	10
11	12	13 MNO, BB's Cafe, 2701 White Oak, 7pm 	14	15 Garden Club mtg 7pm	16	17
18	19	20	21 GOMO mtg, 7pm	22	23	24
25	26	27 	28 Central Northwest Super Neighborhood Council, 6:30 pm, 1245 Judiway	29	30	

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Texas Monthly in partnership with FIVE STAR Professional set out to find which real estate agents most consistently impressed their clients. Through a rigorous selection process, buyers and sellers as well as Texas Monthly subscribers, and mortgage/title companies were surveyed for their recommendations and feedback based on nine criteria: customer service, communication, finding the right home, integrity, negotiation, marketing the home, market knowledge, closing preparation, and overall satisfaction. Finally, qualifying agents were reviewed by a panel of industry experts. The resulting and highly select group, represents less than 2 percent of all licensed agents in the Houston region.

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