

GARDEN OAKS GAZETTE

VOLUME 35

ISSUE 10



The Wine Walk is Here

by Dian Austin

Once again, tickets to the Wine Walk sold out quickly. All 200 tickets are gone! Those who are lucky enough to have a ticket will really enjoy some fabulous

wines this year. We have 13 generous neighbor groups and supporters as table hosts, each providing a sample of a different wine (or wines, in some cases).

What: Garden Oaks 3rd Annual Wine Walk, featuring wines from the "Wild, Wild West," the western regions of the Americas.

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

Where: 744 W. 43rd, the gorgeous backyard of Ed and Brenda de Alba

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

This is a private, adults-only gathering. No one under 21 years of age will be admitted. No pets, please. Also, there is very limited parking on W. 43rd, so try to "walk the walk" and either walk or bike over for the event. If you park on neighboring streets, please be respectful of driveways and property, as you always are. (Female attendees-you are encouraged to wear flat shoes to better navigate the winding flagstone pathways.)

Please do not arrive before 4 p.m.

If you purchased tickets, you should have received a confirmation email. If you did not receive an email, please contact FallingwaterT@yahoo.com or call 713-691-6505.

Ticket purchasers will have their names on a list at the check-in table. You will be given a souvenir wine glass along with 5 voting tokens to use in voting for your favorite wines. (Each voting token represents \$1, but we accept cash too!) This year we have two separate entrances into the event, to better handle the traffic flow.

continued on page 5

WATER RESTRICTIONS

Due to persistent drought conditions, the city has implemented Stage Two Water Conservation Measures.

Outdoor watering is limited to the hours between midnight and 10 am, and between 8 pm and midnight, on NO more than TWO days per week according to the following schedule:

- Sundays and Thursdays for customers with even-numbered street addresses
- Saturdays and Wednesdays for customers with odd-numbered street addresses

However, any resident can use a bucket, watering can or handheld hose with or without a nozzle at any time. The crucial distinction here is that the resident must be holding the hose throughout the duration of watering. They are not allowed to turn the hose on, place it on the ground, and walk away.

OCT 2011

UPCOMING CIVIC CLUB MEETING

NO OCTOBER MEETING

Next meeting November 1, 7pm at Garden Oaks Elementary School

Join us as our guest speaker discusses the \$2.3 million, year-long city waterline project that is taking place in Garden Oaks

OCTOBER EVENTS

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

3rd Annual Wine Walk October 22

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CITIZENS' PATROL PROGRAM

by Carl Waters, Jr.

October is the month we celebrate National Night Out, so don't forget to get together with your neighbors on Tuesday, October 4, to help keep crime out of Garden Oaks. If you are hosting a party, please contact Civic Club President Mark Klein, Terry Jeanes or myself to share your information. At press time these are the parties I know about:

- The Peoples will be hosting a party in the 1500 block of Sue Barnett Dr.
- Dian Austin and Susan Gavin have organized a gathering at the Gazebo Park on Sue Barnett Dr which should be an interesting location due to the recent renovation of the Gazebo.
- Flanagan and Bartos families will be hosting a party in 800 block of Azalea.

If you decide to host a party it can be as simple as just meeting with your

neighbors for a cold beverage in someone's front yard or as fancy as a luau themed event. In any event, this is a good time to exchange contact information with your neighbors in case an emergency arises while you are away from home.

August Crime Statistics: 2

Theft: 2

700 block of W. 34th St. on Wednesday, August 10 at midnight (residence).
200 block of W. 33rd St. on Friday, August 19 at 3:10 a.m. (residence).

The number of reported crimes in August was the same number reported in August last year. Year to date, we have four more crimes reported in 2011 than 2010.

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.

WANTED - GARDEN OAKS RESIDENTS 18 YEARS OR OLDER TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CITIZEN PATROL PROGRAM. VOLUNTEERS MUST BE ABLE TO PASS A BACKGROUND CHECK BY THE HOUSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT AND BE WILLING TO COMMIT TO AT LEAST ONE HOUR OF PATROLLING EACH MONTH.



Emergency Numbers

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

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.

- 1011 Althea
- 1011 Gardenia
- 1502 Sue Barnett
- 202 West 32nd
- 235 West 34th
- 1047 West 41st
- 1034 West 42nd
- 1038 West 43rd

Additional Welcome

To **Fenway, Michael Beard's** new addition, who loves the new Beck's Prime in the Heights and made a recent road trip to Alabama.

October Birthdays

- Dian Austin - 1
- Sue Schmidt, 3
- Tania Chaix - 6
- Carey Berry - 8
- Tina Sabuco - 9
- Michael Padon - 12
- Rita Donaldson, 15
- Mark Saranie, Linda Reichle, and Pene Carter - 25
- Layne Heath - 27
- Jack Runge - 28
- Chuck Fleming - 31

Happy Anniversary

- Debbie & Tony Padon - 6
- Elizabeth & Mark Klein - 7
- Gig & Betsy Runge - 9
- Jim & Sally McDaniel - 12
- Holly & Matt Veech - 14
- John & Tina Beddow - 21

Out and About

John Beddow along with members of the Rice Business School closed the NASDAQ on August 19. **Georgia and Hal Lister** headed to cooler temperatures with the kids to Roswell and Ruidoso!

Robert DeVeau recently visited San Diego and heard he is up for the Paris Marathon next April.

Good news for **Brian O'Leary and**

George Appling and Sherwood Forest Faire which remained safe during the Bastrop area fires.

Condolences

To the **Cunningham** family who recently lost their cat Kiwi. To adoptive parents **Sheree'** and **Ron Peoples**, and former parents **Cindy and Shawn Jorgensen**, on the loss of their dog Zoe. Also to **Liz Terrell** who recently lost her dog Molly.

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



Got a Winning Theme for the 2012 Garden Oaks Home Tour? There's a \$100 Gift Card with Your Name on It

Civic Club Fundraiser Supports
Neighborhood's
Constable Patrols & Beautification

The 2012 Garden Oaks Home Tour needs a theme – and the winning idea will earn its creator a \$100 gift card.

Themes or taglines should play off an attribute of Garden Oaks. Accompanying graphics are welcome, too. Recent GO Home Tour themes include Something Old, Something New, Beyond the Garden Gate, and Pathways Thru the Oaks.

The Garden Oaks Civic Club's major fundraising event is set for Sunday, April 22, 2012.

Send your ideas, themes and, if you've got them, graphics to president@gardenoaks.org. And, if you'd like to sponsor the 2012 Home Tour or volunteer for this popular event, please email and let the GOCC know. We need the help.

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Terms expire October of year in parentheses.

GO CIVIC CLUB MEETING MINUTES

Location: Garden Oaks Elementary School
September 1, 2011

Welcome: Treasurer Phil Ramirez called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

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

President's Announcements:

President Klein was not present. In his absence, Treasurer Ramirez reminded everyone that **District C Council Candidate Forum** would be on Wednesday, September 7 at 6:30 p.m.

Water Restrictions are now in effect. Odd numbered homes can water only on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Even numbered homes can water only on Sundays and Thursdays. On the specified 2 days per week, homeowners should limit watering to the hours between midnight and 10 AM, and 8PM to midnight. Hand watering is allowed at any time but the hose must be held by hand.

The City has created a **Department of Neighborhoods (DON)**. DON's purpose is to support and manage issues impacting neighborhoods. It includes the City of Houston Inspections & Public Services, the Mayor's Anti-Gang Office, Mayor's Citizens' Assistance Office, Mayor's Office of Education Initiatives, Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities, Mayor's Office of Immigration & Refugee Affairs, and the Mayor's Volunteer Initiatives Program. The **2012 Home Tour** still needs an overall chairperson(s) and a theme. Sue Schmidt is coordinating the Preview Party and Susan Kostecky volunteered to head up underwriting. The 2010 Home Tour raised over \$36,000. GOCC is using some of those funds this month to fund the Constable Program. **No October Civic Club Meeting** in honor of National Night Out.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Phil Ramirez reported that the GOCC is

using funds from the reserve to cover the September Constable Program payment for October service. Funds from the Wine Walk should support the Constable Program for an additional month. With donations, the net cost of the Gazebo was \$15,870.

GODAT Update: Secretary Leverett reported that GODAT has made significant progress and is almost complete. Hosting decisions have been finalized, the data scrub has been completed, and mail merge/email functionality is completed. Workflow review and training on how to use GODAT has started. Some minor changes to the web interface will occur this month.

Standing Committee Reports:

GO Citizens Patrol: Carl Waters reported two crimes in August, which were burglaries in sections 1/1a. There are four more crimes in 2011 than this same time last year. The Citizens Patrol needs some new volunteers or we may need to consider canceling the program. Please consider donating some time to help with the safety of the neighborhood.

Constable Program: Lawn Crew Burglary: Terry Jeanes reported a security alert related to a burglary where the burglars were posing as a lawn crew. As the truck was parked in the driveway and the lawn was being worked on, no one noticed that part of the crew was breaking in the back of the house. **30th/Lawrence Police:** On Sunday, September 4, around 9p.m. there were police around 30th and Lawrence. A police chase coming in off the feeder was stopped and the suspect apprehended. It was not related to a crime in our neighborhood. **Solicitors:** Our neighborhood does not have a non-solicitation clause. If solicitors come to your door, you can acknowledge that they are there without opening the door and send them on their way. You can also use a camera phone to take a

GOMO Review Meetings

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

picture and/or call the Constable if you are not comfortable. **National Night Out:** October 4 is National Night Out. If you know of a block party, please let Terry know so she can have the deputies attend. There was additional audience commentary about the lack of availability of police officers given City budget cuts.

Membership: Dian Austin reported that we have hit a plateau with 308 members.

Beautification: No update.

Gazette: No update.

GardenOaks.org Website: No update.

GOMO Update: The annual meeting is scheduled for October. In the neighborhood, there are mainly smaller renovations underway with one new construction. The house at 30th and Shepherd has been torn down.

Treasurer Ramirez adjourned the meeting at 7:42 p.m.



WINE WALK

continued from pg 1

Thanks to our very generous underwriters:

Harry James Building and Design, for the portable toilets and washing station
Terry Jeanes, ReMax/Metro, for the souvenir wine glasses

Thanks also to our generous \$200 cash sponsors:

- 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

Thanks to our generous table hosts:

- Tina Rowe and Jim Dicola & Artesa Vineyards and Wineries
- Heidi and Stuart Arouty
- Facundo Home Builders (Miguel Facundo)
- Kimberly and Daniel Horowitz, Karie and Alyn Goad
- "Aged to Perfection": Peggy Smith, Pamela Parks, and Teresa Coleman
- Solution Builders/Dara and Laura Childs and Leslie Dabney Photography
- Garden Oaks Vineyards/The Renos
- Abundance Retreat and the Abundance Retreat Goddesses, Tina Sabuco and Shellye Arnold
- GO Kids Group (Amber Berend, Brandy Groth, Sarah Heath, Deanna Zugheri, Brooke Whisenhunt, Jenny Odinet, Selena Crochet, Kerry Taylor, Ashley Henke, Laura McKenna, and Catlin Harlow)
- Chavonne Slovak, Carmen Busceme, Desiree Guillory, and Liz Terrell
- Danyel T. Ramelow, Financial Advisor, Edward Jones (GO Shopping Center)
- La Fuente Winery
- GO Red Hot Chili Peppers (Ron and Sheree' Peoples and Emilio and Patti Chemali and Francisca and Jeff Webster)

Thanks also to these folks who have donated prizes to date for the "favorite wine contest" (awarded to tables collecting the most voting tokens and/or cash):

- Miller's Café
- Kroger Signature Store on W. 43rd
- Pink's Pizza

Thanks everyone for the continued support of our Constable Program. And here's hoping for some good fall weather!

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GAZETTE DELIVERY BLOCK CAPTAIN OF THE MONTH

by Dian Austin

We continue to have more changes in the *Gazette* delivery team. Just a few months ago we welcomed Brad and Tiffany Alexander, only to find out they are now moving from the neighborhood. Gretchen Dreher stepped up to deliver the 400/500/600 blocks of W. 30th. Thanks, Gretchen!

Also, we wish farewell to Bryan and Paula Motzel, who have delivered the newsletter for several years in the 900 block of W. 42nd. They, too, are moving from the neighborhood, and we are sorry to see them go. Katie Swick lives in the same block and offered to take over the route. Welcome, Katie!

This month's Block Captain of the Month is Lucy Gilmore. She lives in the 1500 block of Sue Barnett with husband Jerry, and has faithfully delivered *Gazettes* to the 1000 block of W. 43rd for 6-7 years. Lucy says her *Gazette* delivery counts as part of her exercise program! Lucy and Jerry have lived in Garden Oaks almost 19 years, moving here

because they loved "the older homes with character". Being closer to her work at an office interiors company was a big plus too. When she's not delivering *Gazettes* or working, you may find Lucy at garage or estate sales, at the movies, baking, or playing cards.

For Lucy's continued dedicated service, she will receive a \$25 Kroger gift card, courtesy of OD's Printing (neighbor Oscar Ochoa).

Thanks, Lucy for all your volunteer hours!

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.



NOVEMBER CIVIC CLUB MEETING \$2.3 Million, Year-long Waterline Project

A city waterline project about to break ground in Garden Oaks will be the focus of the next Garden Oaks Civic Club meeting, 7 p.m. Tuesday, November 1, at the Garden Oaks Elementary School.

The \$2.3 million City of Houston Public Works & Engineering Department project will affect several Garden Oaks streets, including W. 42nd, Gardenia, Lamonte, W. 43rd, Azalea, and portions of Sue Barnett, Apollo, Golf and Alba – along with part of Oak Forest and the Heights. The GOCC is working with Public Works & Engineering to have a representative available at our November GOCC meeting to discuss the project and answer questions. Council Member Brenda Stardig's office is also facilitating with the guest speaker.

The entire project, including the neighborhoods out of Garden Oaks, is anticipated to take 335 days.

BE sure to join us in November as the GOCC skips the October meeting to support National Night Out.

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SHELDON LAKE STATE PARK HAPPENINGS

by Stacy Gross

For the 4th year in a row, Sheldon Lake State Park and Environmental Learning Center is hosting its Natural Halloween event on Saturday October 22 from 7p.m. - 9p.m. If you're looking for something different, fun and educational for the kiddos, this is a must-attend event. You can catch a few stories and roast marshmallows around the campfire, take a guided night hike through the park that ends in an optional "spooky trail" or tempt your fate at the "fear factor" table where, if brave enough, you blindly reach into boxes to feel out things found naturally in the park, see skins and skulls, learn about bats and many other fun activities. The recommended ages are 5-14 and those young at heart. Each year it seems that more is added to the event. It's great to come in costume and learn about the nocturnal animals found in the park. You won't be disappointed! Parking is limited so call 281-456-2800 x221 and make your reservations! There is a \$3 donation for the event that benefits Friends of Sheldon Lake (FOSL), a great group that works directly with the park staff to help with

improvements.

The fall guided walk tours started again in September and are given the third Saturday of each month through May. This is a fantastic opportunity to see the park and learn more about the vast variety of feathered friends found throughout the many natural habitats there. I'm sure a stop at the new six-story observatory is bound to be on the agenda, but don't worry if you can't make the flight of stairs - it's ADA-equipped and has an elevator!

<http://www.foslsp.org>

SECURITY ALERTS VIA EMAIL

Are you interested in receiving SECURITY ALERTS and other key community notifications electronically?

Send your name and email address to secretary@gardenoaks.org to sign up.

With the new advancements in our community's technology (GODAT project), we will be able to provide you with emails about CRIME and NEIGHBORHOOD ISSUES so that you are easily and quickly informed.

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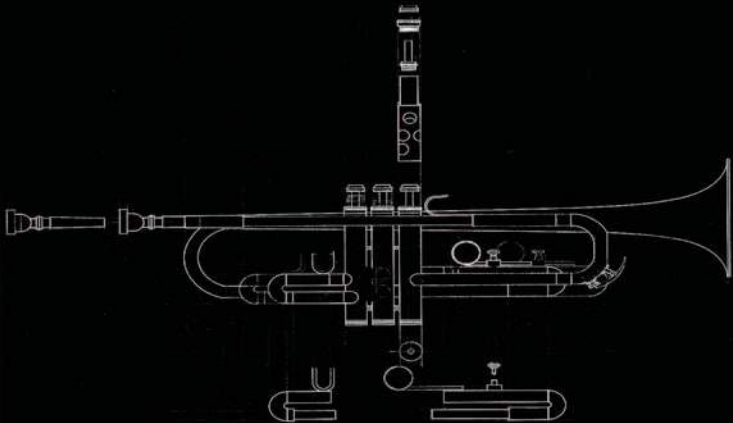
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HAWK WATCH

by Cindy Bartos

One of the many advantages of living in the Upper Texas Coast is its location in the Gulf Coast Flyway – a bird migration route that is part of the larger North American Central Flyway and the Mississippi Flyway. Fall migration can begin as early as July and last until the end of November. The exact routes of migration flyways can vary year to year based on a variety of factors such as food and water source and weather patterns.

Hawk migration begins in August and it's not uncommon to see several Mississippi Kites soaring over Garden Oaks as they pursue and feed on airborne insects. Later in the season a few Broad-winged Hawks may be spotted passing through. However, to fully appreciate hawk migration a visit to Smith Point in Chambers County (on the eastern shore of Galveston Bay) just might provide one of the great spectacles of nature. The 'point' of Smith Point separates Trinity and East Bay and serves as a natural gathering spot for thousands of migrating raptors,

specifically the Broad-winged Hawks, as they prepare to make the water crossing on their way to Central and South America.

From the 30 foot tower at the Candy Abshier Wildlife Management Area at Smith Point the kettles of Broad-winged Hawks can be spotted in the distance as they approach; masses are so dense they are observed on NEXRAD. It's not until the kettles get closer that you realize there are layers and layers of *thousands* of hawks, swirling and wheeling in the thermal updrafts. Everyone on the tower is looking skyward, watching and waiting until the decision is made to make the water crossing and then, heads turn to follow the stream of hawks as they disappear near the horizon.

The tower is staffed by talented volunteers from the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory (www.gcbo.org/default.aspx/MenuitemID/167/MenuGroup/Research.htm) responsible for the daily counts of all the species observed from the tower. The volunteers and the other observers are quite knowledgeable with bird identification and will call out the different species as they arrive.

The Broad-winged Hawks are the most abundant (60 to 80% of the total) but other species may include Mississippi Kites, Sharp-shinned, Swainson's and Coopers Hawks and American Kestrels.

The chart on the right (from the site www.enature.com/outdoors/hawkwatch/hw_chart_06.asp) shows the time periods when each species is most abundant. The data is based on past records, and the passage of birds can vary greatly from year to year.

As mentioned earlier, the flyway pattern can be affected by several factors and with our drought, the availability of food and water and the weather will all play major parts. In 2010 the total number of Broad-winged Hawks was 16,686. In 2009 the total was 85,210 – with 18,810 just on September 26. My husband, John and I have been going to the Hawk Watch for several years and about half the time we see the large kettles I've described and the other times we will see a variety of birds, but not in those numbers.

You don't need to go early in the day – the hawks try to catch the thermals which develop as the sun warms the



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GARDEN OAKS

land. The odds of seeing the migrants will improve greatly following a cold front so go as close to the shift in winds as possible. GCBO will post on the TEXBIRDS listserv a daily report which can be accessed through their archives <http://lists.texbirds.org/texbirds.html> or you can be adventurous and just make the drive – the Gulf Coast takes on its own beauty in the fall and there are lots of places to explore in this relatively unknown side of the Bay.

Suggested supplies if you go:

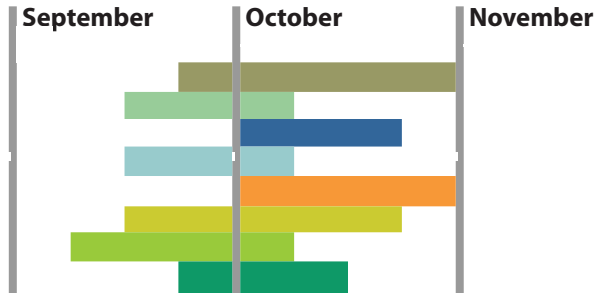
- Sunscreen/hat/sunglasses
- bug stuff
- drinking water
- snacks or a lunch (not many eating establishments in the area)
- binoculars

- field guide (not a necessity but handy to have as a reference)

To reach Smith Point from Houston (about 1 ½ hours), take I-10 east to the Texas Hwy 61 exit. Turn south (right) on Hwy 61. In a few miles it changes number to FM 562 and continues south to Smith Point. At the intersection of FM 1985, which branches left at a Y intersection, continue right to Smith Point. Once in Smith Point continue on 562 past a small store/gas station (now closed) on the right. Hawkins Camp Road, another half mile farther on, leads to a boat ramp on the Bay. The hawk tower is just past the intersection of 562 and Hawkins Camp Road where a sign directs you to the left and into the large parking area.

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GO KIDS UPDATE

by Sarah Heath

Happy Halloween to all the friendly ghosts and goblins in the neighborhood!

Be sure to stop by the GO Kids table at the Wine Walk on October 22. We are back to reclaim our first place title. You can bet we have a fun theme and fabulous costumes again this year!

Join us for a SPOOK-tacular Moms' Night Out. We will be meeting at Los Cucos at Magnum and Hwy 290 on October 11 at 7p.m. There will be cheap

margaritas and karaoke. What could be better? 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 Dinner Drop coordinator, Angelica Sullivan, at angelicapuerto@hotmail.com and she'll set you right up.

GO Kids is growing everyday! Thanks for all the fabulous support. 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 listserve.

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.

PREPARING OUR CHILDREN FOR THE CHALLENGES OF THE 21ST CENTURY

By Lindsey Pollock, Principal, Garden Oaks Elementary

Collaboration and communication are the final "c"s in our look at 21st Century Learning skills. As citizens in our ever-changing world, we have opportunities to work with people from diverse backgrounds both in person and via electronics. This diversity of viewpoints makes it even more important that we work together to understand varied perspectives and maximize the expertise that each person brings to the group. Working collaboratively allows for such interactions.

In a classroom, group work gives children a chance to practice these skills by thinking through tasks and discussing alternatives. In a Montessori environment, these interactions are enriched by the layers of multi-age groups, as each classroom is comprised of children at three age levels. Such diversity within the classroom



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allows a classroom community to emerge as children grow in a safe and nurturing atmosphere where children start as beginners and grow into the role of the expert!

Communication is the ingredient in collaboration that makes any group successful at task. While research shows that encouraging conversation in class helps improved reading, writing and the acquisition of English for second language learners, it also contributes to increased levels of motivation and improved student outcomes on tasks. Therefore, authentic conversations are key to building 21st-century skills for our children. What, then, can we do to extend these experiences?

Encourage your child to participate in group activities such as scouts, team sports and volunteer projects. As a family, get involved in community events such as neighborhood picnics, trash bash and other activities where you will work together with your child in a group to make a difference

in your community. Opportunities to meet other people, work together and exchange ideas in the community with you as an example are powerful experiences that your child will emulate in their life. At home, set aside time for your family to engage in activities that encourage teamwork and collaboration. Talk through a project in advance and encourage your child to share his or her perspective. A simple task such as planning the menu for the week and talking through the preparations and division of responsibilities allows children to feel the importance of their role in the family and the contributions they have to make. Whatever you decide, remember that collaboration and communication will continue to increase in value as children navigate the demands of the 21st century. Get ready for the future together!



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PAY IT FORWARD

Join the Be the Match Registry

by Becky McCullough

A local police officer was diagnosed with CML (chronic myelogenous leukemia) and was in need of a bone marrow transplant. With no one in his family matching, the family turned to the Be the Match Registry, run by the National Marrow Donor Program.

Currently there are more than 9 million potential donors and more than 100,000 cord blood units on the registry; however, not every one finds a match. This police officer was one of the lucky ones – he had a match. During his search for a match, his wife was tested, knowing that if she didn't match her husband, there was a chance she would match someone else in the world. Less than one year after her husband's life-saving transplant, she matched a young woman in Wales and donated her marrow. It had come full circle: her husband's life was saved because of an unselfish stranger's donation and she was able to save a stranger's life half-way around the world.

Every year more than 10,000 patients in the U.S. are diagnosed with life-threatening diseases such as leukemia or lymphoma, and their best hope of a cure is a transplant from an unrelated adult donor or umbilical cord unit. Even though 60,000 new potential donors are added monthly, there are still patients who cannot find a match.

Most stem cell donations do not require surgery. About 75% of the time, donors give peripheral blood stem cells (PBSC) which is a non-surgical, outpatient procedure, similar to donating blood or platelets. About 25% of the time, marrow is requested. This donation is a surgical procedure in which the marrow is extracted from the pelvis. General or regional anesthesia is always used and the donor generally is released the same day. Most of these procedures take place on a Thursday or Friday, and the donor returns to work on Monday.

Joining the registry is simple. A donor can go into any local blood donor facility (www.giveblood.org to find the closest) or go online to BeTheMatch.org. You need to be

between the ages of 18-60, willing to donate to any person in need, and be in general good health. Registration involves completing a health history form and giving a swab of cheek cells.

There is a strong Garden Oaks connection to the Be the Match Registry. Besides myself, residents Martha Kennedy and Susan Gavin work tirelessly for the local donor center and many more neighbors volunteer as couriers for the National Office. Marrow or stem cells need to be delivered almost immediately after being collected, and the couriers fly all over the world to deliver to the patients waiting for the life-saving cells. Many residents have already registered – have you?



Becky McCullough is a Garden Oaks resident and the Director of the Marrow Donor Program at the Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center.

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TREE TIPS

by Nolan Strange

A.E. Housman wrote "Give me a land of boughs in leaf, a land of trees that stand: Where trees are fallen there is grief, I love no leafless land." With sentiments Houstonians surely share, unfortunately, we are beginning to understand the grief of fallen trees as we look into the ugly face of a drought the likes of which Houston has not seen in its 175 year existence. Hopefully, it will soon be over. Until then what do we do?

Throughout Garden Oaks we have big mature beautiful trees. Trees that are old and in the latter part of their life expectancy are just like older humans – they can't take much abuse. Unfortunately for trees the required care is often

overlooked until it's too late. If you are starting to see symptoms of a dying tree it's time to get to work!

Insects love trees that are old and vulnerable. Most wood boring insects attack the tree trunk just above head height down to the root flares (the area of the trunk in contact with the soil). This area should be sprayed with an insecticide for a barrier of protection and should be done so about every three months until you see improvements.

Tackling drought conditions

Under normal rainfall conditions, a regular sprinkler system keeps soil moist enough for trees to have a little extra. However in the absence of any rain your trees will need special attention. Remember that many associated landscape plants are low cost and easily replaceable. If these plants are damaged or lost to drought, the landscape can be corrected quickly and relatively cheaply. Large, drought-killed trees can not be replaced in two human generations

Roots of a tree are typically 8-16 inches beneath the soil and that is where the water is needed. The easiest way to give your tree a good, deep soak is with a soaker hose or sprinkler system. A soaker hose should be placed 6-8 feet from the tree trunk in a circular pattern around the tree, not against it. It doesn't have to be a complete circle. Connect it to a hose and connect that to a timer. Set the timer to water the tree at night first starting with 2-4 hours a night for two nights a week. You can either bury the soaker hose just barely under the grass where a lawn mower doesn't affect it, or leave on it top of the grass or soil.

Watering with a sprinkler isn't a bad option either unless the water beats up against the side of the tree, keeping the base wet for long periods of time. This can cause root rot and other diseases. If using a sprinkler to keep trees watered, follow these rules: 1. Water deeply rather than frequently. If the roots get sufficient water, this can last the trees for several weeks depending upon the type of the tree. 2. Stop watering when runoff starts to occur. Water infiltration is slow with compact soils. 3. Don't saturate the soil for long periods. If in doubt, probe the area or dig and make sure the soil isn't soggy below the surface.

There is a third watering option: you can use 5 gallon buckets with several holes punched

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in the bottom, and space the buckets around the canopy of the tree. This can be effective only as long as there is enough water to ensure it's getting down into the layer of the soil where the roots are and adhering to the rules above. In view of our current water restrictions, this option can be used at any time. You can only water on your assigned 2 days per week using a sprinkler or a hose (unless you are holding the hose the entire time).

The "correct" amount of water can vary by species of tree, but for the most part, just be keen to the leaf of the tree for guidance. Have your trees shed a lot of leaves lately? Notice if they are starting to curl up or inward or if they are changing shades of green. These are signs that the tree needs more water. On the other hand, trees can drown so it's important to stay on top of the watering cycle and make sure that attention is paid to the leaf. When leaves start to uncurl, for example, it's time to back off on some of the watering.

Mulch is a wonderful product if used correctly. Unless your tree is uliginous, keep mulch from being stacked up against the trunk. Even then just like

ground cover, jasmine, etc., it can be a habitat of unwanted insects. Right now I would encourage a mulch circle if you keep it off of the root flares, typically 1 1/2 to 2 feet from the trunk. Periodically spray this mulch circle keeping it wet for additional water.

If you haven't fertilized your trees in over two years, do so. Fertilizing your trees does wonders. For starters, it adds moisture, much needed moisture, on top of the supplemental benefits. Tree spikes are not recommended. Some of you have large lots with many trees so pick out the trees you favor the most and fertilize those.

Lastly, pruning of a tree, if done correctly, is important. Pruning rejuvenates older plants, improves overall health and structure and can prevent personal property damage.

Incorporate these tips into your tree maintenance and your trees will have a fighting chance!

Nolan is the owner of Ace Tree Specialist. You can email Nolan with any tree questions at his email which is treepro@acetreespecialist.com

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AIR CONDITIONING TIPS FOR THE FALL

by Mitch Weigand

Tip No. 17: Home Heating Energy Myths Debunked

What you think you know about heating and energy efficiency may be costing you money. It's time to set the record straight regarding common home energy myths.

Fiberglass insulation in your attic alone keeps cold air out of your home.

FALSE Fiberglass actually does a better job at keeping heat in than keeping cold out. If you have cracks and air leaks anywhere in your house, the cold air will seep in no matter how much insulation you have. Air sealing is the most important thing you can do to plug these holes and gaps to keep the chill from creeping in. Weather strip that door or window. Remember, wherever you see light is where you have leakage.

Having an energy efficient furnace installed will automatically reduce your energy bill.

FALSE Even the highest efficiency-rated heaters can cost you more money than necessary if they are improperly sized or installed. According to the Department of Energy, shoddy installation and improper sized equipment can waste as much as one-third of your energy consumption.

The higher you set your thermostat, the faster the furnace will heat up your home.

FALSE Furnaces deliver heat at the same rate no matter how high the thermostat is set. If you set your thermostat at the desired temperature, it will reach that point just as quickly as if you set it higher than you truly want.

Adjusting your thermostat to a lower temperature at night or when nobody's home can save you money.

TRUE Research shows that the longer your house stays at a reduced temperature during the fall and winter, the more energy and money you will save. This is because heating cost depends mostly on the difference between indoor and outdoor temperature. When you lower the temperature, you are reducing this

temperature difference. In fact, setting the temperature back 10 or more degrees for eight hours while you sleep or go to work can reduce your energy bill by five to 15 percent. A programmable thermostat can do this automatically for you.

Energy efficiency increases the initial cost of a home.

FALSE There is little if any correlation between energy efficiency and a home's purchase price. In some instances, efficiency can even reduce the initial cost when smaller, high-efficient furnaces are installed. Energy efficient appliances can also be a plus point when selling your home.

I have teamed up with a new partner, Brad Skotak, a master plumber with his own company, Essential Plumbing. Beginning next month, Brad will be sharing column-writing duties with me. If you have any plumbing questions, send them to mitch@airwisehouston.com or write to 1590 Sue Barnett Drive, Houston, TX 77018, and I'll make sure he gets them.

Mitch is the owner of Air Wise™ and a member of the Garden Oaks Civic Club.



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CRITTER CORNER

by Casey and Dorothy Dan Farris

October is Pet Health Insurance Month, so we will discuss that a little bit and our pet of the month is a pair from Section III.

Critters 101: Pet Health Insurance

October is Pet Health Insurance Month and pet owners are spending more on health care for their furry friends than ever before. It is estimated that Americans will spend \$12.2 billion on veterinary care this year. There have been major advancements in the sophistication and cost of veterinary medical and surgical services.

Procedures once reserved for humans, such as ultrasound, chemotherapy and blood transfusions, have become increasingly available in the care of pets. Along with these advancements have come specialists, including veterinary neurologists, cardiologists, surgeons, ophthalmologists, dermatologists and dentists.

As a result, vet bills of \$1000 or more are becoming commonplace. I suggest that all pet owners assess their financial

situation, and consider the ability to meet unexpected expenses that may be incurred for veterinary care. For many people pet health insurance is becoming an increasingly attractive option.

The good thing about pet health insurance is that it can prevent owners from being faced with having to euthanize their animal because they don't have the money to treat it. Insured pets receive more care since the insurance is paying the majority of the cost. Pet owners respond to symptoms much faster when the pet is insured, providing the veterinarian with a better opportunity to diagnose and treat an illness earlier.

Unlike human insurance, pet insurance is primarily a reimbursement type insurance policy. Pet owners are expected to pay their bills at the time of service, in accordance with the clinic's usual billing practices. The client files a claim with the insurance company, which then reimburses the policyholder according to the terms of the policy.



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It is best to start pet health insurance while your pet is young and healthy and there are no pre-existing conditions. You can get more information and compare pet insurance companies at www.petinsurancereview.com.

Many people feel that pets are like their children. They are important members of the family and owners want the best treatment possible when the need arises. Pet health insurance provides the financial help needed to afford excellent medical and surgical care.


Pet of the Month: Our pet of the month family is the Shamblens from Section III. David, Carrie, and little Morgan Shamblen share their home with their two big dogs, Hogan (Bull Mastiff) and Ellie Mae (Redbone Coon Hound.) Bull Mastiffs are very large dogs but are docile and affectionate. They are natural guardians but do not bark much and surprisingly do not need a lot of exercise. Ellie Mae's breed is the ultimate hunting dog, as the Redbone Coon Hound can hunt anywhere; in woods, mountains or water. They are known for their "drawling" bark or bay. This breed is

known to be stubborn, but sensitive, and this is the dog that was featured in the famous book *Where the Red Fern Grows*. Both dogs are five years old.

When Morgan was born, both Hogan and Ellie Mae had a hard time adjusting. The first week, whenever Morgan cried Hogan would cry. Now Hogan and Ellie Mae are both overweight because Morgan loves to give them cookies all the time.

Hogan really loves to sniff and chase possums and squirrels while Ellie Mae, the "hunting dog," doesn't even notice them. She is always hungry and just wants to be inside out of the heat. Their favorite treat is a KONG with goodies stuffed inside. Both dogs are family-oriented and love affection. The best thing about big dogs is the big hugs they give, so the Shamblen family is doubly blessed!

Casey Farris is owner/operator of Bone Voyage Pet Sitting Services and Go Dog USA. Dorothy Dan 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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CITY OPENS NEW WASTE DEPOSITORY NEAR GARDEN OAKS

by R.D. Kissling

Are you tired of looking at the pile of tree limbs or other debris in your front yard waiting on our monthly heavy trash pickup? Well now you have a great solution to the problem.

The City of Houston has opened a new Neighborhood Depository / Recycling Center at 9003 North Main just north of the Crosstimbers intersection. The center is open Wednesday through Sunday and is free of charge to any Houston citizen.

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10 a.m. to 7 p.m. (Daylight Savings Time)

Drive in and show both your drivers license and a recent copy of your water bill. The staff will then direct you to the appropriate waste / recycling bins and will even help you unload if you need some assistance.

They will take any of the heavy trash that is normally picked up street-side including tree and yard debris, construction debris, appliances, old furniture, tires (in limited quantities) and recyclables such as paper, cardboard, plastics, glass and metals. You can drop off items there up to four times each month. For additional information visit www.houstonsolidwaste.org or call 3-1-1.

So load up your car or truck and go pay them a visit. They are less than a 5 minute drive away from any home in Garden Oaks. You will be amazed at how good it feels to throw that pile away as opposed to looking at it every day.

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KLEB WOODS NATURE PRESERVE

Kleb Woods Nature Preserve, some 30 miles from Garden Oaks, has a lot to offer for birders, hikers, photographers, and nature lovers. The county purchased it in 1991 as a nature and wildlife park. The woods are the product of Elmer Kleb, who was born on this prairie farm property in 1907 and died in the woods he created in 1999.

The woods are dominated by Loblolly Pine. Other trees include Eastern Red Cedar, Water Oak, Shumard Oak, Live Oak, Sugarberry and Pecan. The areas with higher diversity of oaks and other broadleaf trees are favored by migrating songbirds. Yaupon dominates the understory and is favored by wrens, thrushes, robins, and waxwings. There is a remnant prairie near the entrance to the Nature Center. The park has several wetlands frequented by herons and egrets. The pines at wetland edges are good places to find Brown-headed Nuthatches. The open areas along Draper Road are favored by mockingbirds, shrikes, sparrows and other open-country species. The entrance path to the nature center and Draper Road are the best areas for Greater Roadrunner.

The original section, opened in 1994, has a covered picnic area, 10 picnic sites, restrooms, paved parking, a walking trail and 10 camp sites where overnight camping by organized, supervised scout groups is permitted by reservation only. More information is available at (281) 496-2177.

The park and trails are open from 7:00 a.m. to dusk daily. The Nature Center has weekly Wednesday bird walks, 1st Saturday of the month bird walks and a Hummingbird Festival the 3rd Saturday in September. The Nature Center also offers classes and other bird-related activities.

Elmer Kleb was born on this farm and lived here his entire life. But he never was a farmer. When Elmer inherited the farm, he stopped the farming and let

the place go back to nature. He enjoyed the company of the birds and small animals. He planted trees to encourage them. Elmer Kleb never concerned himself much with mundane things like taxes. Eventually he had a very large tax bill. He probably would have been put through a forced sale but his plight attracted a lot of attention and Judge Jim Scanlan put him in receivership. The judge appointed an attorney to manage Elmer's affairs. His property was worth a lot more than he owed. Precinct 3 Commissioner Steve Radack was interested in it as a nature preserve. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and The Trust for Public Lands worked with the Commissioner and Elmer's attorney/guardian to find the money to buy the farm. The proceeds cleared the tax debt and provided a trust fund to take care of Elmer Kleb's needs for the rest of his life.

A small part of the property, well removed from the Kleb house, was opened as Kleb Woods Nature Preserve in 1994. The purchase arrangement allowed Elmer to continue living in the house and he lived there until he died. He was buried with the rest of this family in the nearby Roberts Cemetery.

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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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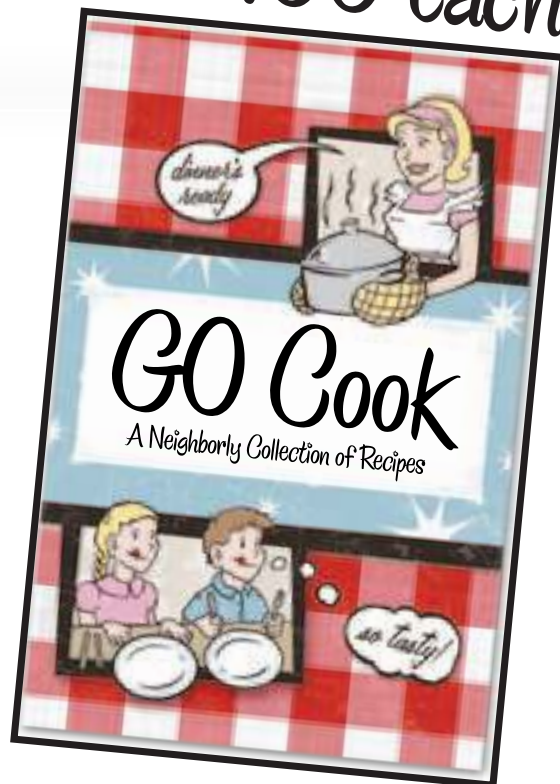
Recipe of the Month

HOT AND SPICY HAWAIIAN SANDWICHES

Lissa Hutchison

- 2 pkg. of Hawaiian Sweet Rolls (12 count each)
- 1 stick Parkay (or butter)
- 1 T. Poppyseeds
- 12 slices Pepperjack Cheese (cut each slice in 4 squares)
- 1 T. garlic salt
- 1 T. Worcestershire Sauce
- 1 lb. slivered or shredded Black Forest Ham or Turkey

Melt butter and mix last 3 ingredients; Slice bread in half and build sandwiches; On each mini sandwich layer 2 squares of cheese and ham (or turkey) twice. Place in Pyrex casserole; drizzle liquid over top of sandwiches. Bake approximately 15 minutes at 350. Very easy to half this recipe if you only need 1 doz. sandwiches. BE CAREFUL NOT TO EAT ALL OF THEM AT ONCE! haha... Enjoy!



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1050 W 42ND ST

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OCTOBER 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4 National Night Out - no Civic Club meeting	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 MNO, Los Cucos at Magnum and Hwy 290, 7pm 	12	13 Garden Club mtg 7pm	14	15
16 Deena Moore Benefit, Jimmie's Ice House, 2803 White Oak Dr. 12 pm	17	18	19 GOMO mtg, 7pm	20	21	22 3rd Annual Wine Walk, 744 W. 43rd, 4 -6 pm
23/30	24/31 Halloween	25 	26 Central Northwest Super Neighborhood Council, 6:30 pm, 1245 Judiway	27	28	29

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