

GARDEN OAKS GAZETTE

VOLUME 35

ISSUE 11

JOIN YOUR COMMUNITY AND CLEAN UP NORTH SHEPHERD

by Kathryn van der Pol

Help your neighborhood on Saturday, November 12. The North Shepherd Area Business Association (NSABA) is organizing its first community event—a cleanup of the N. Shepherd area coupled with an adopt-a-tree campaign.

The first goal will be to pick up litter on N. Shepherd, 43rd street, 34th Street, and Oak Forest. The second is for volunteers to pledge to water a tree from November 12 until spring. There are five parks and various schools and esplanades where volunteers can adopt a tree. NSABA's goal is to have 400 volunteers turn out for the 9:00 to 12:00 pm event.

Students from nine local schools, volunteers from NSABA businesses, and Greater Heights Chamber are participating.

Volunteers will assemble at the Sears parking lot at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday morning. Volunteers are asked to bring gloves, wear comfortable shoes, and bring gallon jugs of water for trees. The City of Houston is providing trash bags and grippers. NSABA business owners are providing bottled water for the volunteers and transportation to the different starting points. Many local businesses will be open too and some are donating gift cards for raffles for the volunteers. Other businesses are setting up booths in the parking lot of Sears as a community outreach.

NSABA started 18 months ago in the garage of Adolf Hoepfl & Son and now boasts more than 50 businesses, schools, and churches. They are united in making our area cleaner, safer, brighter, and

cooler for business owners and residents!

The organizer of this event is Deborah Hines from Texcast, a local business owner and resident, assisted by Nancy Adkins from Adolf Hoepfl Garage. For more information about our neighborhood clean-up or NSABA, call Nancy Adkins or Kathryn van der Pol at Adolf Hoepfl Garage, 713 695-5071.

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

Curious about the orange chalk on your driveway? 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.

NOV 2011

UPCOMING CIVIC CLUB 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

December 6, 2011

Save the date and plan to join us as we close out the year and celebrate the holiday season. Location TBD

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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.

CITIZENS' PATROL PROGRAM

by Carl Waters, Jr.

Thanks to all who participated in National Night Out on October 4. We had quite a turnout at our block party. I hope your event was equally delightful.

Several crime-related emails were on the Garden Oaks List Serve in the past month and I received one report through the Citizens Patrol email. A resident in the 700 block of W. 38th St. reported two plant urns were taken from their front porch on October 11. On the Garden Oaks List Serve two burglaries were reported in Section 1, one in Section 2 and a possible third attempt in Section 1 where two black males came to the home looking for someone who does not live there.

Please remember you do not have to open your door to strangers, but it is a good idea to acknowledge them as they may be checking to see if someone is home before going to the back of the house to break-in. Please report any suspicious activity to the Houston

Police Department or the Precinct One Constable's office.

September Crime Statistics: 2

Burglary: 1

4200 block of Apollo on Wednesday, September 14 at 8:00 a.m. (residence).

Theft: 1

1000 block of Gardenia Dr. on Wednesday, September 7 at 2:40 a.m. (street).

Inquiries about joining the Citizens Patrol Program or about other community safety issues can be directed to me via neighborhood website GardenOaks.org or to the COP email account at GOCOP77018@AOL.com or by phone at 713-864-1992.

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.

Gazette Contacts

Jessica Jarvis—Editor

1551 Sue Barnett 713.446.6440
gazette@gardenoaks.org

Dian Austin—Delivery Coordinator

733 W. 42nd 713.691.6505
gazettedelivery@gardenoaks.org

Elizabeth Klein—Advertising Director

713.320.7252
gazetteads@gardenoaks.org

Dian Austin—Proofreader



Civic Club Officers

Mark Klein—President

846 Azalea 281.536.6063
president@gardenoaks.org

Dea Larson—Vice President

823 Lamonte 713.695.3634
vicepresident@gardenoaks.org

Phil Ramirez—Treasurer

975 Lamonte 832.794.1221
treasurer@gardenoaks.org

Heather Leverett—Secretary

319 W. 31st 832.455.6254
secretary@gardenoaks.org

Standing Committee Chairs

Kimberly Horowitz—Beautification

1006 Sue Barnett 713.824.0435
beautification@gardenoaks.org

Carl Waters Jr.—Citizens' Patrol

821 W. 31st 713.864.1992
gocop@gardenoaks.org

Joe Muscara—GardenOaks.org

750 Sue Barnett 713.691.6833
webmaster@gardenoaks.org

Dian Austin—Membership

733 W. 42nd 713.691.6505
membership@gardenoaks.org

Terry Jeanes—Constable Program

922 W. 41st 713.812.9154
constable@gardenoaks.org

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.

- 962 Althea
- 867 Lamonte
- 962 Lamonte
- 511 West 34th
- 727 West 43rd
- 1334 Sue Barnett

Congratulations and Welcome

To **Chayton Wicks Berry** born October 14 to proud parents **Carey** and **Adrian Berry** and to **Margie & John Hesse** on the recent arrival of two new grandchildren.

Additional congratulations to **John and Cindy Bartos** on their newest addition, **Buddy Bartos**.

November Birthdays

- Adelaide Leonard** - 1
- Stacy Collins Gross** - 2
- Katie Swick** and **Gina Pecoraro** - 4
- Holly Veech** - 8
- Anthony Neiser** -10
- Caroline Padon** -12
- Sheila Briones** -14
- Maggie Veech** -18
- Susan Saranie** -19
- Kit Schoenfield** -23
- Lucy McLean** -25
- Cheryl Cohorn** -28
- Megan Salch** -29

Happy Anniversary

- Mark & Katie Swick** -10
- Mel & Ken Johnson** - 20

Out and About

Mitch and **Nancy Weigand** recently returned from an Alaskan cruise. **Cat Theriot** enjoyed a weekend outing with fellow girlfriends. **Dian Austin** and her mother took a trip to Nashville for niece's CD release party, and Dian added a quick trip to Canada to her travel log. **Robert de Veau** was off for his last work trip of the year to Phoenix, and **George Appling** visited New Jersey, and Denver. **Terry Jeanes** and

Patrick Kelley enjoyed a weekend of LSU celebrations in Baton Rouge: the 10 yr anniversary of the alumnae hotel and the LSU whipping Florida game. **Blake Woods** was off to his 30th High School reunion while **Georgia Lister** enjoyed her 25th reunion from HSPVA. **Michael Beard** and **James Flowers** visited Chicago and the Houndstooth Saloon, home of the 2009 National Champions Crimson Tide.

Condolences and Special Thoughts

To **Marlene Caldwell** on the recent loss of her cat Ivy.

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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Section 1:

Sheila Briones (2011)
412 W. 34th
Home: 713.861.8091
Cell: 281.685.8133
sbriones@hotmail.com

Mark Saranie (2012) **Vice President**
235 W 33rd
Home: 713.861.7994
Cell: 713.724.1271
msaranie@comcast.net

Melissa Haselden Zepeda (2013)
320 W. 34th Street
713.459.5339 or 713.426.6413
melissahaselden@gmail.com

Section 2:

Adrian Berry (2011) **Secretary**
737 W. 42nd
Home: 713.692.0408
adrian.berry@yahoo.com

Ed de Alba (2013)
744 W. 43rd
Cell: 713.628.7008
ferrocem@yahoo.com

Gale Gorman (2012)
742 Sue Barnett
gale_gorman@mac.com

Section 3:

Jerry Butler (2011)
871 W. 41st
Home: 713.822.3175
jbutler1982@att.net

Daniel Horowitz (2012)
1006 Sue Barnett
dhorowitz@abrahamwatkins.com

Kelly Mathews (2013) **Treasurer**
855 Lamonte Lane
Home: 713.640.5225
rkmathews1@gmail.com

Section 5:

Tim Weltin (2011) **President**
1567 Sue Barnett Drive
Home: 713.540.5315
timweltin@mycase.info

Luke Fatheree (2012)
1034 W 43rd St.
713.888.4743

Teresa Coleman (2013)
1003 Gardenia
713.686.7728
teresa.coleman@pobox.com

Terms expire October of year in parentheses.



2011 WINE WALK

Another hit for the neighborhood *by Dea Larson*

Due to our wonderful Wine Walk sponsors and underwriters, the hard work of the neighborhood volunteers and committee members, our 13 generous table hosts, the beautiful gardens of Ed and Brenda de Alba, and the sold out ticket sales, the 2011 Third Annual GO Wine Walk was a fabulous success!

The event netted in excess of \$10,000, all of which will go to our underfunded Constable Program. Thanks to all who attended and supported the Wine Walk in a number of ways. Our neighborhood will be safer with the constable patrol. And..we even got to taste about 25 great wines while we raised all this money...but who's counting? Thanks also to the GO Cookbookers crew who provided lots of tasty morsels from the cookbook to supplement the wines.

Homeowners Ed and Brenda de Alba were gifted with a fabulous birdhouse made of wine corks with a roof of foil wine tops; the birdhouse was donated and crafted by GO resident Stacy Gross.

During the event, several of our constables stopped by and were introduced to the crowd by

Terry Jeanes. Also stopping by to say hello was Mayor Annise Parker; she and partner Kathy Hubbard sipped a little wine and visited with the attendees. City Council candidates

Ellen Cohen and Brian Cweren (both of whom were Wine Walk sponsors) were in attendance as well.

First prize in the "favorite wine contest" went (again) to the GO Kids moms who did a fabulous

job with their tribute to "Gilley's in Garden Oaks; their featured wine was a 2009 Purple Cowboy Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Rosa, CA). Second place went (again) to the Renos, aka Garden Oaks Vineyards; their winning wines were a GO Vineyard Merlot (Washington) and a GO Vineyard Cabernet (California). And third place



was taken by "Aged to Perfection", a group shepherded by Peggy Smith, Teresa Coleman, and Pamela Parks. They poured a 2007 Cougar Crest Dedication Four (Washington).

Be sure to thank our many sponsors, underwriters, and neighbors for their contributions to the GO Wine Walk .What a great neighborhood we have of fun and supportive people!



GAZETTE DELIVERY TEAM THANKS

by Dian Austin

Thanks to Oscar Ochoa (Section 4 neighbor and Gazette printer) for providing everyone on the Gazette delivery team with a free Dr. Gleem car wash coupon. Thanks, Oscar! You are the best.

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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GO KIDS UPDATE

by Sarah Heath

Happy Thanksgiving! We are so thankful to live in such a wonderful neighborhood. I am grateful for the community spirit and friendliness Garden Oaks offers.

Congratulations to the GO Kids Wine Walk table on their FIRST PLACE victory at the Wine Walk. The *Gilley's in Garden Oaks* table was a hit and the talk of the Wine Walk. Amber Berend, Deanna Zugheri, Jennifer Osowski, Kerry Taylor, Jenny Odinet, Brooke Whisenhunt, Sarah Heath, Brandy Groth, Laura McKenna, & Catlin Harlow all looked wonderful in their cowgirl gear and did an awesome job two-stepping through the crowd. We are all looking forward to next year.

I know that we are all thankful to be moms but sometimes you need a Moms' Night Out to keep the momentum going. Join us on November 8 at Cedar Creek at 7p.m. We will be collecting canned food to help area food banks this holiday season. Please contact Brandy Groth (brandy.groth@yahoo.com) or Jessica Padilla (needhamjessica@hotmail.com) for more

information. See you there!

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.

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**GARDEN OAKS AMERICAN
LEGION POST 560
CELEBRATES MARINE CORPS
BIRTHDAY**

by Jim Acker

Garden Oaks American Legion Post 560 is celebrating the 236th birthday of the United States Marine Corps Thursday November 10 starting at 1800 hours - 6 p.m. Anyone who wants to join in is invited and all former Marines, Navy Corpsman attached to Marine units and active duty Marines are encouraged to attend and be honored.

The Marine Corps traces its roots to Tun Tavern in Philadelphia in 1775 when the first recruits were sworn in to provide marksmen for the Continental Navy. November 10th is special anywhere there are a few Marines. All around the world where there are American embassies, the

birthday is celebrated by all of the military attaches and their ladies. One can see kilts, bearskin headgear and swords as various military groups wear their most formal uniforms.

Our celebration will be more modest with wild hog BBQ and cake. Social hour is from 1800 - 1900 and the ceremony is from 1900 - 1930. There will be a display of weapons used by and against Marines in various wars. A K-bar fighting knife will be raffled off. All for \$10. If you have a toy for Toys for Tots, there is a collection box at the post.



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SPECIAL TROOP OF GIRL SCOUTS ATTRACTS SPECIAL NEW LEADERS

by Jessica Jarvis

When Houstonians heard a very special troop of Girl Scouts needed a new leader to replace one retiring after 34 years, about 100 interested volunteers with good hearts and unique skills offered to step in.

The troop, comprised of a dozen special needs members living at The Center, had been meeting monthly for decades when its long-term leader, Charlotte Sewell, retired last spring. Not wishing to disband the troop, Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council sought a solution from volunteers both in and beyond the organization.

Two of those volunteers, Garden Oaks' very own Tina Sabuco and Shellye Arnold, saw the news story about the

troop losing Charlotte, whose daughter is one of the original members, and offered to help.



Shellye Arnold and Tina Sabuco were two of the people who stepped up to be the new leaders for this very special troop of Girl Scouts.

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"When we saw the story, we both had tears in our eyes and knew that they had found their new leaders," said Tina.

The new leaders come from all over the city. They are "more than we could have possibly hoped for" as they have not only Girl Scouting experience but also special needs related backgrounds, said Kathleen Fenninger, GSSJC's registrar for the Bending Bayou service unit. Since selected for leadership, they have trained both with scouting guidelines and with those of The Center, including use of vans for field trips. September 18 marked their first meeting.

"I love the joy that each troop member exudes when we are there," said Tina. "I love doing my Arts Alive! activities with them and seeing them move and groove and dance and sing and have FUN!"

By forming a leadership group, the troop members will benefit from the diverse talents, interests and love the new leaders bring. The overlap of leadership also means continuity for the girls, regardless of the volunteers' schedules.

In addition to Tina and Shellye, the co-leaders include: Carol Wiggs, Cheryl McManus of the Memorial area, and Lisa Moore of Pasadena.

Their first meeting was a theme to foster and celebrate friendship, Friends Forever, and the Girl Scouts earned their Friendship badge. Each meeting the troop will enjoy art projects, dancing, singing, saying the pledge of allegiance and the Girl Scout pledge and thematic snacks. Soon they will all have new vests to display the additional badges they will earn at each meeting.

"I love seeing the excitement on their faces and their spirits soar. I have at least as much fun as they do in our time together," said Shellye of their first meeting.

The "girls" of Troop 21, are middle-aged but mentally equivalent to being in elementary school. Most live at the Center but others interested in joining are welcome.

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MAGNET AWARENESS MONTH

By Lindsey Pollock, Principal, Garden Oaks Elementary

November is Magnet awareness month in Houston ISD. For many families, this is the beginning of the magnet application process as parents visit many of the district’s magnet programs and start filling out the applications for the 2012-13 school year. Garden Oaks Elementary is now a magnet school focusing on Montessori education with a special emphasis on Environmental Sciences. Next year, all classes through grade 2 will be Montessori.

This year marks the second year of Garden Oaks Elementary’s transition to an all-campus Montessori program. This transition is made possible by a Federal Magnet School Assistance Program Grant which has provided the financial means to purchase

the specialized materials for the new school emphasis. Additionally, the grant provided funding for teachers to pursue Montessori credentialing and take courses in Environmental Sciences.

According to the Magnet Schools of America (MSA), magnets are public elementary and secondary public schools of choice. Magnet Schools plan and develop programs using local, state, and federal funds, specifically the Magnet Schools Assistance Program (MSAP). MSAP supports school districts to develop new and/or significantly revised magnet schools that provide students with a valuable educational and personal experience, prepares them to function in a diverse society, and helps to eliminate, reduce or prevent long-standing patterns of racial isolation. Magnet schools serve as models for school improvement.

MSA states that benefits in Magnet Schools include: improved academic achievement; diverse student enrollments; innovative curriculum; specialized teaching staff; higher attendance rates, graduation rates, and lower drop-out rates. Magnet schools generally have more parental and community involvement, more personalization through theme-based education, and specialized programs, providing a sense of a safer environment for learning. Teachers are “highly qualified” through specific theme-based training and professional development. At Garden Oaks, for example, teachers have both the Texas teaching certification and a credential in Montessori education.

If you are interested in touring Garden Oaks, please call 713.696.2930 and ask for Stephanie Acosta to arrange a time. Magnet applications for 2012-13 are now available at the school office or at the website www.houstonisd.org



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GOES PTO NEWS

by Stephanie Acosta

This year in lieu of fundraising sales, the newly formed PTO chose to hold a "Stuff the Bus" fundraiser. Goals this year are to raise \$44,000: \$19,000 for improving classroom technology, \$13,300 for student enrichment, \$6,700 to be used for student field trips and on campus events and \$5,300 for teacher grants and appreciation. "Stuff the Bus" funds will be supplemented by our Fall Festival on October 29 (11am-3pm) and our annual Community-Wide Pancake Breakfast and Silent Auction (February 4, 2012 8am-10:30am).

Additional funding will come from PTO t-shirt sales and our Annual Spaghetti Dinner (generously donated by Snapper Jacks Seafood and Grill) and Talent Show on May 24, 2012! If you or your business, would like to sponsor any of our upcoming events, please contact Stephanie Acosta at sdubroff@houstonisd.org.

A HUGE thank you to all of our neighborhood businesses who have, and continue to, support our wonderful school!




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NATIO





2011 ANNUAL NIGHT OUT



GARDEN OAKS WINERS AND DINERS

by Sue Schmidt

Seems this year has flown by with restaurants opening daily in the Heights and Washington Ave. areas. Restaurant Row, as I like to call Washington Ave., continues to draw new and inspiring concepts to the foodie scene in Houston. Our own Garden Oaks locale is flourishing with the opening of Shepherd Park Draught House, now open, and Brothers Pizza soon to follow.

With all this activity, keeping up with all the new players is no small feat! To recover from the stress of it all, a small group of Garden Oaks winers and diners took advantage of a generous auction donation by the Bell Tower on 34th during the 2010 Home Tour auction and party. A wine dinner for eight was one of the sought after items during the Home Tour auction and after spirited bidding went to Chris and Sue Schmidt. The intimate setting for the dinner was in the Wine Room, also known as The Foundry, at the Bell Tower. The room, with gorgeous brick

barrel ceiling and walls of filled wine racks, provided the perfect backdrop for a wine and food gathering. To celebrate with fond memories of the 2010 Home Tour, the "Welcome to Garden Oaks" poster used during the Home Tour party was once again set up to greet guests upon entering the high ceilinged, stone foyer of the building. A fabulous table of wine, antipasto, cheeses and cured meats was set up for guests to partake while mixing, mingling and enjoying the romantic setting. Wine representative, Monique Bossett, of Glazer Wines, started us off with Barone Fini pinot grigio to enjoy with the appetizers. Many in the group had not seen the building so the relaxing introduction to the venue with such a varied selection of appetizers was the perfect start.

Next the dramatic black table cloth and stark white table settings were once again adorned with the brightly colored paint cans filled with Gerber daisies that greeted guests at the Home Tour Party 2010. The sight of the table décor brought back many memories of our first adventure to the Bell Tower,

a premier Houston event destination so close to home. The diners were seated and started the evening off with baby greens stuffed tomato salad with enoki mushroom and peppercorn parmesan dressing. It was almost too pretty to eat! Monique paired the salad with a great chardonnay by Crème de Lys. Conversation was spirited in the candlelit setting of the wine room. No attention to detail had been spared.

Executive Chef Gilbert Buyher joined us table side to describe his delicious entrée selection. A stunning surf and turf presentation of hard shell Nova Scotia Lobster and certified Angus filet mignon with lobster butter and port wine cherry demi-glaze was served. My mouth is still watering just thinking of this delectable dinner. Table service was impeccable with just the right timing by the staff. Monique of Glazer Wines once again introduced the selected wines which were the Crème de Lys chardonnay or Apothic red, a blend, and a fantastic choice with the entrée.

And who could pass up dessert of port wine poached bosc pear topped with

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strawberry cheesecake ice cream with oreo crumbles? Seriously, need I say more? I think I may have to drop by to visit Chef Gilbert for more. I think all the diners were completely blown away by the wonderful selection of food and wine chosen by the culinary team of the Bell Tower. But wait! There is more. After dinner, Zonin Prosecco, an Italian sparkling wine, was served, and Chef Gilbert led a private tour of the entire Bell Tower venue including the newest addition of the Candela room added just this year. The sheer size and elegance of the facility took many in the group by surprise. It definitely is the perfect setting for a wedding or corporate event. Our final stop of the tour was the fabulous lighted water wall. What great memories of the Home Tour Party came alive once again seeing the illuminated, colorful water wall! This truly was the perfect ending to a perfect evening. Samples of each wine served were awaiting the host and hostess prior to ending the magical evening.

To say the Bell Tower on 34th provided an amazing wine dinner long to be remembered is an understatement.

I think the winers and diners would agreed the staff showed why they are in the business of making dreams come true at many special events. It is with deep appreciation that the Home Tour committee thanks such dedicated neighbors as the Bell Tower for their generous support of our community, but personally Chris and I would like to thank the ownership and culinary team for a night we will never forget.

Hopefully, The Bell Tower on 34th will once again be the location of the Preview Party and Auction for the 2012 Garden Oaks Home Tour. Should a certain wine dinner once again be auctioned off, there is no doubt bidding will be lively!



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GARDEN OAKS AND THE INTERNATIONAL QUILT FESTIVAL

Founded in 1974, the Houston International Quilt Festival, held November 3 to November 6, has become the largest festival of its kind. Filling the George R. Brown Convention Center, over 60,000 quilt enthusiasts come to Houston each year from all over the world to see this vast collection of quilts, take classes on quilt techniques, buy specialty fabrics, notions and quilting machines, and to share ideas.

This year one of Garden Oaks own residents, Dea Larson, was selected as a finalist and will be exhibiting one of her quilts in the Festival. This year the Festival held a competition in the category - *Festival Gallery of Quilt Art: Good for You*. In order to be considered, the quilt had to visually embody the phrase "good for you." You can see Dea's entry along with over 1000 other quilts in numerous categories ranging from antique to contemporary and hand-quilted to hand-painted works of art along with 100's of vendors from all aspects of quilting notions.



Dea's winning entry is entitled "Fruits + Vegetables = Good for You & Your Heart!"



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AIR CONDITIONING AND PLUMBING TIPS FOR THE FALL

by Mitch Weigand

Tip No. 18: Plumbing Tips for the Fall Holidays

The upcoming holidays are a wonderful time to be with family and friends.

When you host holiday parties and have multiple guests staying in your home, these events can put a serious strain on your home's plumbing system.

Your home experiences clogs because of gradual buildup of grease, hair, soap and food waste in its pipes. All it takes is one major overload such as a house full of guests to elevate the situation to a plumbing crisis. Some preventative measures will help avert an emergency call to the plumber.

Take care in the kitchen

Big holiday meals mean lots of activity in the kitchen. This can put an extra strain the kitchen's garbage disposal with an excess of grease and food scraps. Avoid pouring liquid fats or used cooking oil down the disposal because

when they solidify, clogs are created in the pipes. Just allow fats to congeal and dispose of them in the garbage.

Never put hard-to-grind, stringy waste into the disposal such as poultry skins, celery and pumpkin pulp. They won't be sufficiently ground down and will clog your sink drain.

For your garbage disposal to run properly, turn it on before adding food scraps and run cold water down the drain for about 15 seconds before and after to properly flush waste down the main line.

Also, run your dishwasher and washing machine at night or during non-peak times to conserve hot water and maintain adequate water pressure for your guests.

Ensure bliss in the bathroom

Holiday guests translate into more showers and baths in addition to lots of extra toilet flushes. This all can add up to potential plumbing emergencies.

Plan ahead by spreading showers

out throughout the day. It's best to wait at least 10 minutes between showers rather than taking one right after another. You can turn up the temperature on your water heater slightly so it will retain more hot water. However, do not exceed 125°F so that no one - especially children and the elderly - will be accidentally scalded.

Here's a helpful hint to do prior to guests arriving. If water pressure in the shower is weak, pour a cup of vinegar into a plastic bag, attach it to the shower head and allow to soak overnight. In the morning, remove the bag and take an old toothbrush to gently scrub off the mineral deposits. This will help restore good water flow.

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 mitch@airwisehouston.com or write to 1590 Sue Barnett Drive, Houston, TX 77018. All of his previous columns from the Garden Oaks Gazette can be found at www.airwisehouston.com.

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CRITTER CORNER

by Casey and Dorothy Dan Farris

Critters 101: Getting to Know the Coyote

Recently coyotes have been spotted in Garden Oaks, Garden Oaks Plaza, and Shepherd Park Plaza. Coyotes are one of the most adaptable animals on the planet and have adapted to living near humans in urban areas. With the increasing spread of the coyote, it has become critical for all of us to gain better understanding of everything about the coyote – habitat, diet, hunting behavior and group dynamics.

The coyote and the wolf are natural enemies since they compete for the same resources in the same habitat. The wolf has disappeared over time so the coyote population has spread. The coyote diet is varied and this has also prompted the animal to seek new territories without concern about finding any one kind of prey. Their habitat determines what they eat and they are both predators and scavengers. The coyote will hunt for rodents, rabbits, birds, fish, reptiles, amphibians, insects, fruits, berries, other plants, food left outside for pets, birds or squirrels, and they will also forage through human trash. **They will definitely hunt cats and small dogs.** Many well meaning humans have promoted an unnatural boldness in coyotes by intentionally or unintentionally feeding them. This activity has encouraged coyotes to become accustomed to the sights, sounds, and scents of humans, and consequently, lose their fear of humans. Coyotes may come up on porches and decks if food is regularly present.

Coyotes are nocturnal and are most active early evening and again before dawn. They usually hunt in male/female pairs. Most of the time they move around by trotting or loping, but they will gallop if chasing prey or being chased.

The coyote is about the size of a medium-sized dog – about 25 – 42

pounds. Look for its long, thin legs, a tapered muzzle, yellow eyes, and large pointed ears. It also has a bushy, black-tipped drooping tail. They range in color from dull yellow to gray and their fur is thick.

Coyotes mate between late January and March. A litter of 5-7 pups is born during April. The mom stays with the pups for the first two months so the male will be hunting alone during this time. By the end of the summer, the pups are ready to find their own territory. Typical coyote dens would be storm drains, culverts, sheds, under houses or porches, parks, golf courses or any dry area. Their home range depends on the food and water availability but can be 5 – 10 square miles in size.

Check out real coyote videos on YouTube, especially *Coyotes Howling in Suburban Houston*.

A useful tip for distinguishing the coyote from a dog or a wolf is to watch its tail – the coyote runs with its tail down, while the wolf has it straight out and the dog has it pointing upwards.

Pet of the Month: “Miss November” is a brindle Boston Terrier mix named Celie Bell. Celie was a drifter until five years ago when she came to live with Mike Bell who lives in Section 1. She had four previous families before finding Mike. Mike agreed to foster Celie for his best friend whose landlord said she had to go. Rather than going to the SPCA, she came to Mike’s house to wait for a loving family to respond to an ad in the newspaper. Mike got hooked so the ad was canceled and she has kept him smiling ever since. Celie has made it her mission to make sure he doesn’t throw anything of interest in the garbage. Her buddy and pet sitter, Miss Mo, devised a way to stop her rummaging ways. (Thank you Mo!) While Celie has energy to spare (just ask the squirrels) she has made an art of napping that cats could take a lesson from. She even has a snore that sounds like a purr. Celie and Mike love to curl up on the sofa and watch

movies and, come bed time, they share the pillows and covers. Celie's name was inspired by the movie *The Color Purple*. Remember the line? "Miss Celie you sho is ugly!" Of course, she is anything but ugly; the word precious suits her well.

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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Size	Single	Six Months	Twelve Months
2 ¼ W x 2 3/8 H	\$60.00	\$300.00	\$580.00
2 1/4 W x 4 1/4 H	\$90.00	\$450.00	\$870.00
Half Page 7 ½ W X 4 ½ H	\$110.00	\$550.00	\$1065.00
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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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
3. Artwork must be emailed in the following formats: JPEG (.jpg) or GIF (.gif)



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The program is an effort to keep potentially harmful materials such as mercury, cadmium, lead and cathode ray tubes from entering the waste stream and causing damage to the environment.

CompuCycle is the first locally owned company to be awarded the [Responsible Recycling Practices](#) or R2 certification. The company, founded in 1997, has evolved from an electronics scrap business to a full service electronics recycling operation.

"If residents are worried about personal data being found on their PCs, they can be assured that their computers will be properly handled for recycling or refurbishing," said [Clive Hess](#), CompuCycle president.

"In addition to rigorous audits, the R2 certification requires that all hard drives are either destroyed through the industrial strength hard drive shredder or undergo a standard three pass wipe through the [United States Department of Defense](#) compliant data erasure software that removes all partitions, tables and drive formats," Hess said.

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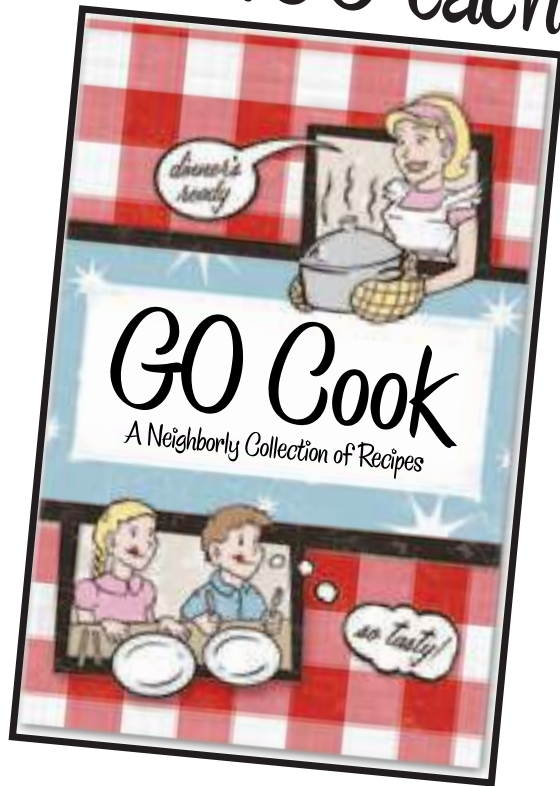
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Garden Oaks Civic Club

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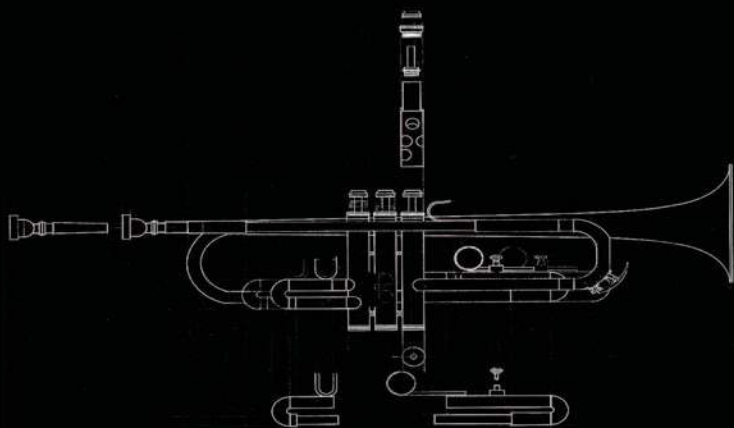
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NOVEMBER 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Civic Club meeting 7pm, GOES	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 MNO, Cedar Creek, 7pm 	9	10 Garden Club mtg 7pm	11	12 North Shepherd Area Business Association clean-up, 9 - 12
13	14	15	16 GOMO mtg, 7pm	17	18	19
20	21	22 	23 Central Northwest Super Neighborhood Council, 6:30 pm, 1245 Judiway	24 Thanksgiving	25	26
27	28	29	30			

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