

GARDEN OAKS GAZETTE

VOLUME 35

ISSUE 12



DEC 2011

CIVIC CLUB MEETINGS

December 6, 2011, 7pm

Save the date and plan to join us as we close out the year and celebrate the holiday season. 701 Garden Oaks Blvd.

UPCOMING MEETING

January 3, 2012

Officer election and budget approval. Nominations will be taken from the floor.

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CIVIC CLUB HOLIDAY POTLUCK

by Mark Klein, GOCC President

Garden Oaks Civic Club's Annual Holiday Potluck, Party & Constable Toy Drive, 7 p.m. Tuesday, December 6

Get in the holiday mood with the Garden Oaks Civic Club at Brian O'Leary and George Appling's charming home, 701 Garden Oaks Blvd. Join your friends and neighbors 7 p.m. Tuesday, December 6, for a brief Civic Club meeting, followed by a potluck supper and festivities.

There will be sliced turkey, a tasty spiral-carved ham and soft drinks, courtesy of the GOCC. We ask that residents with the last name beginning with A-H bring a



side dish; I-Q a dessert; and R-Z an appetizer or bread. And feel free to B.Y.O.B.

It's also a chance to bring smiles to those less fortunate. Just bring an unwrapped, new toy for the Precinct One Constables' Cruising for Smiles Toy Drive – held yearly to give deserving, needy children within precinct one a little holiday spirit.

Come join your friends and neighbors as we celebrate the holidays!

7p.m. Tuesday, December 6.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

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.

- 319 West 34th 729 West 38th
- 971 West 41st 947 West 42nd
- 1058 West 42nd 803 West 43rd
- 923 West 43rd 1003 Lamonte

December Birthdays

- Terry Jeanes - 11
- Ian and Julia McDaniel - 12
- Jim McDaniel - 15
- Brian O'Leary - 17
- Sandy Altman - 24
- Katie Cunningham - 30

Congratulations

Sue Wahmsley, (Section 1) and **Tina Beddow** (Section 3) both played on the Ladies Senior's 4.0 Tennis Team Footwork Fanatics. Footwork Fanatics won their local Houston Division and advanced to State Sectional Playoffs, September 16-18 in Tyler, Texas. The team placed second in State losing to

Austin in the Finals. Their team plans on competing again in 2012.

Jacqueline Debien, Garden Oaks native and daughter of **Suzanne Debien**, was married to Stephen Emery Leamer from upstate New York, in Houston on Saturday November 12.

Out and About

Terry Jeanes traveled to Austin for a huge surprise 30th birthday weekend for daughter Becky's birthday on 11/11/11. **Caroline McLean** is at it again, this time in Los Angeles for the Breaking Dawn premiere. **Michael Beard** traveled to Tuscaloosa for the Alabama- LSU game. **Brian O'Leary** and **George Appling** were thrilled when Sherwood Forest Faire was featured on the National Geographic Channel's Kings of Mayhem.

Bill and Karen Morris recently returned from Europe; a vacation to celebrate Karen's remission from stage three breast cancer. They enjoyed visiting Prague, Budapest, Vienna and Paris. Besides Prague, Karen says the most

memorable part of the trip was the day spent in Givenchy touring Monet's home and gardens (lily ponds included).

The place to have been on Halloween was at **Tina Sabuco** and **Shellye Arnold's** home. Many neighbors were in the crowd along with 1500+ trick-or-treaters, an all time record. Also featured in the 2011 ASID TGCC Kitchen and Bath Tour were **Blake Woods'** designs at his home and at the home of **Ed and Brenda de Alba**; the home of **Pamela Parks and Teresa Coleman** was also featured on the tour.

Condolences and Special Thoughts To **Tom and Trish Mehrkam** and family, with the passing of longtime Garden Oaks resident, Tom's mother, **Lucille Clepper Mehrkam**, on 10/29/2011. Lucille was an original member of the Garden Oaks Citizens' Patrol. And to **Ron and Sheree' Peoples** on the loss of Ron's youngest sister Annie.

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

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

CITIZENS' PATROL PROGRAM

by Carl Waters, Jr.

I open this month's article with sad news. In late October I learned of the passing of one of the last original volunteers to start the Citizens' Patrol Program back in 1991. Lucille Mehrkam along with her husband Woody and over 100 volunteers responded to concerns about rising crime in the neighborhood to start the Citizens' Patrol program. Together Lucille and Woody logged approximately 2000 hours of patrol time before stopping in 2007. My condolences to the Mehrkam family.

As you may be aware, our neighborhood along with Shepherd Forest, Oak Forest, Lazybrook and Timbergrove has been targeted for a string of kick-in burglaries. The thieves knock on the front door of the home. If no one answers the door, they go around and kick in the back door and ransack the home for pawnable items and gold jewelry or coins. An internet blog based in the Heights provided the following vehicle descriptions associated with these types of crimes: a tan 1995 Buick Sedan, license plate CB7-N725, a gold 2005 Ford F-150, a very light blue older model Toyota Camry BKH-079 and possibly a Black Chevrolet Tahoe (no plate information).

Several vehicles have been seen in Garden Oaks around the time of recent break-ins: First, a black older model Volvo sedan with either paper plates or yellow plates on it was spotted, and reportedly had two black males as occupants. The second car was a white Mitsubishi Gallant occupied by two white/Hispanic males. The Mitsubishi had Texas tags DG1-F709. If you see any of these vehicles in the area please call the Constable's Office at 713-755-7628.

October Crime Statistics: 11
 Assault: 1
 200 block of the North Loop West on
 Wednesday, October 26 at 3:55 p.m.
 (convenience store).

Burglary: 4

800 block of Lamonte Ln. on Tuesday,
 October 11th at 9:00 a.m. (residence).
 800 block of Lamonte Ln on Tuesday,
 October 11th at 9:30 a.m. (residence).
 800 block of W. 41st St. on Tuesday,
 October 25th at 8:30 a.m. (residence).
 400 block of W. 32nd St. on Monday,
 October 31st ST 11:30 a.m. (residence).

Theft: 4

400 block of W. 30th St. on Sunday,
 October 16th at 8:00 p.m. (residence).
 200 block of W. 33rd St. on Monday,
 October 24th at 8:00 a.m. (driveway).
 200 block of W. 34th St. on Thursday,
 October 27th at 9:30 a.m. (vacant
 home).
 1000 block of Althea Dr. on Tuesday,
 October 25th at 11:30 a.m. (residence).

Auto Theft: 1

1000 block of W. 43rd St. on Sunday,
 October 9th at 10:00 p.m. (residence).

In closing - a reminder to all the good citizens of Garden Oaks who will be receiving many wonderful presents from the mysterious gift giver from the far North: please be careful when you dispose of the boxes left behind. Cut them down and place them in the city recycling containers so the ne'er do wells driving through the neighborhood aren't able to see all you wonderful gifts and make them theirs.

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

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GOMO Board of Directors

Section 1:

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

Sheila Briones (2014)
412 W. 34th
Home: 713.861.8091
Cell: 281.685.8133
sbriones@hotmail.com

Section 2:

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

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

Adrian Berry (2014) Secretary
737 W. 42nd
Home: 713.692.0408
adrian.berry@yahoo.com

Section 3:

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

John E Arnett (2013)
806 W. 42nd
713.692.1648
jeannett@sbcglobal.net

Joan Harmon (2014)
827 Lamonte
713.818.9683
joanharmon827@yahoo.com

Section 5:

Jim Willburn (2012)
1583 Sue Barnett Dr.
713.812.0564
jimwillburn@yahoo.com

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

Tim Weltin (2014) President
1567 Sue Barnett Drive
Home: 713.540.5315
timweltin@mycase.info

Terms expire October of year in parentheses.

GOCC MEETING MINUTES

Garden Oaks Elementary School
November 1, 2011

Welcome: President Mark Klein called the meeting to order at 7:09 pm. A motion was made and carried to accept the September minutes as published in the *Gazette*.

President's Announcements:

Carter's Grove at Shepherd and 34th has been purchased by Bridgeview Real Estate. The developer requested an off-street parking variance, which the city approved. The developer says it has begun negotiations with the Texas Department of Transport to purchase a piece of Old North Shepherd Drive, which abuts the eastern end of the property. That would be used, if purchased, for additional parking. Bridgeview plans to renovate the property to rent at market rates. Bridgeview will focus more on 1- and 2-bedroom units versus Carter Grove's emphasis on 3-bedroom apartments. The **2012 Garden Oaks Home Tour** has selected the Bell Tower venue for its preview party and put down the deposit. **Quiet Zone:** A question was asked about the 34th Street Quiet Zone during the meeting. Garden Oaks is still high on the list but the project is not funded. President Klein encouraged the community to continue to push politicians to make this happen. City Council Candidates Brian Cweren and Ellen Cohen, who were attending the meeting, both voiced support for the Quiet Zone.

Guest Speaker: Public Works and Engineering, City of Houston.

Engineers Masek and Lincoln attended the meeting to explain the Garden Oaks water line replacement project, the areas impacted and the timeline. Current lines are 2" and over 60 years old. The new lines will be 6-8" and meet new standards. The work will begin in Garden Oaks on November 7 with a completion date currently scheduled for January. Work will be done from 7 am to 7 pm, six days per week. Restoration of the area

will occur after the line replacements are completed. The contractor, Collins Construction, will give two weeks' notice prior to being in an area. Any water outages will last 2-4 hours. The orange marks on your driveway designate existing cracks so the contractor can be aware of pre-existing damage. Trees will be protected. The contractor takes a tree count and has a list of what the potential impact is as well as having an arborist on staff.

Treasurer's Report: President Klein reported that the 2011 Wine Walk yielded \$10,000. It was a great event thanks again to the generosity of everyone involved, especially Brenda and Ed de Alba, who donated the use of their lovely backyard.

GODAT Update: Secretary Leverett reported that GODAT technology is completed. The numbers need to be finalized but the project is expected to be completed under budget. The next step is training on the functionality for the core users and to begin use of the new system in November for neighborhood communication. We need email addresses from neighbors who want to be aware of what is going on in more timely fashion, including security alerts.

Standing Committee Reports:

GO Citizens Patrol: Carl Waters made an impassioned plea for volunteers. The program only has 4-5 people actively volunteering. Meanwhile, crime increased significantly in October, with 11 incidents reported. They included 4 burglaries, 4 thefts, 1 auto-theft, a robbery at Taco Cabana, and the arrest of a naked homeless man in the Exxon Car Wash at Yale/30th. Please call the Constable, HPD, or 911 if you witness anything unusual. Mr. Waters also paid tribute to one of the original Citizens' Patrol volunteer patrollers, Lucille Mehrkam, who recently passed away. Ms. Mehrkam started patrolling the neighborhood in 1991 and continued her efforts throughout the decade. Her spirit of community and volunteerism will be missed.

continued on page 23

2012 GARDEN OAKS HOME & GARDEN TOUR HOMES AND GARDENS ANNOUNCED

by Susan Kostelecky

The Tour's Selection Committee has finalized the homes and gardens to be featured on the April 22, 2012 tour, and we are very excited about the variety of styles of the featured homes. Our goal was to find a great mix of homes that would reflect the diversity of our neighborhood. We are happy to share with you the selections for the 2012 event:

424 W. 32nd – This home is a new construction in Section 1. The homeowner has had two other Garden Oaks homes featured on previous home tours, and this one showcases wonderful collections in a Texas/lodge themed interior, chockfull of design ideas and creative accents.

224 W. 34th – This complete remodel with a surprising interior features modern touches and extreme focus on detailed finishes. The exterior's mitered corners as well as the outdoor spaces, interior soaring ceilings and well-

planned finishes will be visually exciting for tour attendees.

802 W. 42nd – Near the Gazebo Park, this home with its original stone exterior offers a hint of the creative colors, collections and inspired use of imported doors. Featuring a soaring ceiling in the added space which utilizes original windows from the home, this tour home showcases many ways to use original or vintage pieces.

811 W. 42nd – Just across the street from the stone house, this home was purchased and fully remodeled by existing Garden Oaks residents. The lovely, appealing sunroom offers soothing views of a backyard filled with pathways, covered porches and cool shade. Several seating areas throughout the home showcase the three fireplaces in addition to exquisite custom stained glass windows. Enjoy the walk through this shaded garden after touring the home.

811 W. 41st – This newly remodeled home features an open plan family room and kitchen and vivid wall finishes and colors, along with fine finishes

in lighting and the expanded kitchen and breakfast area. An added feature is the backyard casita which continues the use of great color and showcases stunning custom built doors shipped to Houston for this project.

1071 W. 41st – This original 2 bedroom/1 bath home has been expanded creatively to provide functional and well-designed space for a young family. A new master suite, family room and kitchen and heightened ceilings, along with creative use of windows make this house a perfect tour home for new ideas on maximizing space and light. Bonus idea: the original living area at the front door was divided to provide a proper entry as well as a study.

858 W 41st - This garden features bright colors and thoughtful plantings that have survived the recent Houston drought – a testament to the care, planning and experience this homeowner has invested in creating a visual feast for gardeners and non-gardeners alike. Come and be inspired by this cornucopia of color!

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GARDEN OAKS CIVIC CLUB PROPOSED 2012 BUDGET

	REVENUES	EXPENSES	NET
Civic Club Membership	\$9,000	\$1,550	\$7,450
Gazette	20,000	17,100	2,900
Home Tour	35,000	20,000	15,000
Wine Walk	3,500	350	3,150
Constable	79,000	79,000	-
Beautification, Improvements & Maintenance	20,000	20,000	-
Garden Club	200	200	-
Interest Income	10	10	-
Friends of Montessori-Pancake Breakfast		500	(500)
Community Events		1,000	(1,000)
Santa at Gazebo Park		500	(500)
Website & GODAT		1,000	(1,000)
Citizen Patrol		500	(500)
Bank Fees		250	(250)
Rent-Aztec Rental		1,260	(1,260)
Utilities		1,400	(1,400)
Insurance		500	(500)
Accounting Fees		300	(300)
Miscellaneous		1,500	(1,500)
TOTALS	\$166,710	\$146,710	\$20,000

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THE 2012 HOME AND GARDEN TOUR THEME ANNOUNCED: FOOTPRINTS AND BLUEPRINTS

Footprints & Blueprints – a tribute to both our gardens and our homes – is the winning theme for the 2012 Garden Oaks Home Tour. The entry earns Sandy Altman and Dian Austin a \$100 gift card.

Thanks to all who took time to submit some very creative themes. There was even a logo submitted, which made the selection more challenging.

The 2012 Garden Oaks Home Tour – set for Sunday, April 22, 2012 – is the major

fundraiser for the Garden Oaks Civic Club's efforts to provide a constable patrol and beautification of our neighborhood parks and green spaces. Prior themes included Something Old, Something New, Beyond the Garden Gate and Pathways thru the Oaks

There are many ways to get involved in the 2012 Home Tour and your help is needed. Learn more by contacting Mark Klein, president@gardenoaks.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.

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JANUARY 2012 MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Officer Election, 2012 Budget
by Mark Klein, GOCC President

Annual GOCC Budget & Officers
Election Slated for January 3 Meeting

The Garden Oaks Civic Club will elect officers and vote on its annual budget during its monthly meeting 7 p.m. Tuesday, January 3, 2012, at Garden Oaks Elementary School.

Current GOCC President Mark Klein, Treasurer Phil Ramirez and Secretary Heather Leverett have volunteered to serve another year-long term. There is a vacancy for the Vice President position to replace Dea Larson, who served this past year. Nominations for all positions will be taken from the floor during the January meeting. Also, anyone interested in serving as a GO Civic Club Officer can notify

neighbors ahead of time by emailing elections@gardenoaks.org with the position sought, and then an announcement will be posted prior to the meeting.

CONSTABLE PROGRAM

by Terry Jeanes & Susan Love-Saranie

First a huge thank you to the Garden Oaks Wine Walk committee, table hosts, sponsors, attendees, and homeowners Ed and Brenda de Alba for another successful event which raised \$10,000 for the community's constable program. Way to go!

Need a great holiday gift? You can support the Constable program through your purchase of a copy of the Garden Oaks Cookbook. For more information or to place an order contact Lacey Marek at lacymmerek@gmail.com. To date the effort has raised approximately \$3,000 for the program.

2012 constable supporter forms have been mailed along with the civic club

ACE TREE SPECIALIST

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dues statements. We appreciate your prompt response and support of our neighborhood. Many thanks to the mail-out helpers: Sandy Altman, Dian Austin, Terry Jeanes, Sue Walmsley, Martha Kennedy, Julie Gomez, Robin Gorman, Isela J Villarreal, Lucy Gilmore, and Leslie Ryan.

Due to the increase in burglaries and other incidents throughout the areas of Timbergrove, Heights, Oak Forest, Shepherd Forest, The Plazas, and Garden Oaks, neighbors are encouraged to stay on their toes. Please call in anything you feel does not fit the norm. Allow the deputies to check it out anytime of the day by calling the Constable dispatch at 713 755 7628.

For more information and discussion on these recent events visit: http://blogs.houstonpress.com/hairballs/2011/11/rogelio_martinez_police_seekin.php

December Cruising for Smiles Toy Drive

Help the Deputies with this year's toy

drive benefiting deserving children of Precinct One by bringing an unwrapped new toy to the December Civic Club meeting (Holiday Party on December 6) or to the Annual Car Wash at Dr. Gleem on Ella Blvd on December 14 where you get a free car wash with a toy donation.

Should you travel this holiday, remember that you can find the **vacation watch form** at <http://www.gardenoaks.org/Resources/VacationWatch.pdf>

To become a supporter: <http://gardenoaks.org/Resources/2012Constable.pdf>

**PRECINCT ONE CONSTABLE DISPATCH
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OCTOBER 2011 Statistics

- Miles Patrolled...2827
- Court Citations.....30
- Alarm Responses....8
- Written Warnings.....0
- Vacations Watches....19
- Suspicious Vehicles....29
- Park checks...44
- Criminal Offenses...4 Arrests....2

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THE SHIFT

By Lindsey Pollock, Principal, Garden Oaks Elementary

The year 2012 has been all over the media as speculation regarding the end of the Mayan calendar has linked this to imminent doom. On the other hand, there are folks in the world who believe that this change in the calendar is indicative of the opportunity we have to shift our focus on new paradigms and create an even better world. As we enter the holiday season of fun and frenzy, we have an opportunity to shift experience of the celebrations with our families to an emphasis on giving not only to others but to a lasting legacy of sustainability for our world.

The shift in focus can start by simply spending more time together with our families and friends. A gift of time with people who



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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

might otherwise be alone at the holidays is a memory that will stay with your child for the rest of their lives. Visit your elderly family members and plan an outing to stay and be fully present. Take along games including a deck of cards to engage everyone. A family album of pictures including electronic pictures on a laptop encourages conversation and storytelling. Take a notebook or tape recorder with you to capture the history you can learn. This is a treasure that is priceless.

Sustainability for our earth can also be supported through an emphasis on the gifts of one another. Make a plan to spend a special day as with your child playing, cooking and taking those outings to area parks and outdoor spaces. Encourage your child to use a digital camera to snap photos of your day and work together to make a memory book. Add captions and artifacts from the day for extra special touches. Each year, this collection of memory books adds to the family history and creates an indelible memory of the times you spent together.

By shifting our emphasis to relationships and away from the focus on toys, games and all the other "stuff" that takes from our planet's resources and crams our closets, drawers and landfills, we can impact change in positive and environmentally friendly ways. Happy Holidays!

Emergency Numbers

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

RIVER OAKS SHOPPING CENTER'S BARNES & NOBLE HOSTS BOOKFAIR TO BENEFIT GARDEN OAKS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

By Stephanie Acosta, GOES Special Projects Coordinator

Support Garden Oaks Elementary School at Barnes & Noble at 2030 W. Gray Street. In an effort to raise funds for their school library, Garden Oaks Elementary School is working together with Barnes & Noble Booksellers by hosting a Bookfair at the River Oaks Center's Barnes & Noble store.

On Saturday, December 3 and Sunday, December 4, from 10am-6pm, Barnes & Noble will contribute a percentage of every sale made with a special Bookfair voucher to Garden Oaks Elementary School. Vouchers will be available online at Garden Oaks Elementary School's website <http://schools.houstonisd.org/GardenOaks> and in hard copy at Garden Oaks Elementary School. You can also shop in support of Garden Oaks Elementary School by shopping online at www.bn.com/bookfairs from December 3 though December 9 and include the Bookfair voucher ID **(10615920)** on the payment page during checkout.

Garden Oaks Elementary School's events and programs will be held at Barnes & Noble on Saturday and Sunday, December 3 and 4 beginning at 10 a.m. On Saturday, events include a book signing with, Shubhra Ramineni, award winning author signing her newest book, *Entice with Spice*. Also on Saturday is story-time with the Houston Ballet's Nutcracker Performers! The performers will read from the classic tale, and they will arrive in costume – a great opportunity for holiday photos! On Sunday, Garden Oaks Elementary School Student Art Work will be on display. There will be multiple story-times with the school's teachers as well as a performance from our music director's Holiday Program!

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4th ANNUAL WINE WALK SLATED FOR OCTOBER 2012

by *Dian Austin*

When we held the first Wine Walk in October 2009, we had no idea how much interest we'd have from the neighborhood. It was an inaugural event, and it sounded like fun to a committee of about seven people. So we put the word out...and slowly people responded. Eventually we sold out of tickets. Each year we sell out faster and have a waiting list for table hosts. Who knew we had tons of wine lovers in our midst and so many generous neighbors to donate wine? While the first year's Wine Walk was a smashing success, each successive year has been even more stellar.

This year the event attracted more fun-loving neighbors, garnered more monies from neighborhood businesses and residents, and netted even more revenues for our constable fund than any previous year. We made just a bit more than \$10,000, which will go 100% to the constable program.

It's great to have a fundraiser for a common cause – our constable program – and one that benefits everyone in the neighborhood. And it's even better when it's a really fun event to participate in. It just doesn't get much better than tasting wines and foods in a gorgeous outdoor setting, visiting with friends and neighbors, and all right here in our very own neighborhood.

Neighbors Ed and Brenda de Alba have already agreed to host the event again, in October 2012. Several veterans also have indicated that they want to host tables again for the next event. So stay tuned for more details to come.

Each year we are indebted to the generous table hosts who donate at least a case of wine, spend time preparing foods, decorate their tables, pour wine, and have a good time. Without them, there is no Wine Walk! These fine neighbors made it happen this year:



2011 2N



Photos courtesy of Debbie Bass

1. Tina Rowe and Jim Dicola & Artesa Vineyards and Wineries
2. Heidi and Stuart Arouty
3. Facundo Home Builders (Miguel Facundo)
4. Kimberly and Daniel Horowitz & Katie and Alyn Goad
5. Peggy Smith, Pamela Parks, and Teresa Coleman ("Aged to Perfection")
6. Solution Builders/Dara and Laura Childs & Lesli Dabney Photography
7. Garden Oaks Vineyard (John and Lorie Reno)
8. Abundance Retreat and the Goddesses of Abundance (Tina Sabuco & Shellye Arnold)
9. 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
10. GO Grapeslingers (Chavonne Slovak, Carmen Busceme, Desiree Guillory and Liz Terrell)
11. Danyel T. Ramelow, Financial Advisor, Edward Jones, GO Shopping Center
12. La Fuente Winery
13. GO Red Hot Chili Peppers (Ron and Sheree' Peoples, Emilio and Patti Chemali, & Francisca and Jeff Webster)

Many of these neighbors have hosted one or more times already!

2012 ANNUAL WINE WALK



Pat Walker, Better Homes and Garden Real Estate
 Ellen Cohen for City Council District C
 Linda Sparks, section 4 neighbor
 Jennifer Langdon and Joe Crownover, section 3 neighbors
 Georgia Lister and Hal Bowman, section 3 neighbors
 Irma's Restaurant (Irma Galvan, section 2 neighbor)
 Brian Cweren for City Council District C
 Mi Sombrero Mexican Restaurant

A big thanks to Ed and Brenda de Alba who have the perfect backyard for this event, and who spend many, many hours getting and keeping their yard in such gorgeous shape. We are thankful that they are so willing to share their space with us.

And finally, there's a wine walk committee that spends time pulling all this together. This year's event was chaired by Dea Larson. Others on the committee include: Shelley Rogers, Tina Rowe, Terry Jeanes, Sheila Briones, Dian Austin, Sandy Altman, Carey Berry, Brenda de Alba, Leslie Saunders, and Susan Gavin.

A special thanks to Leslie Saunders for the fabulous artwork. And also to Stacy Gross for donating the wine-themed birdhouse as a gift for the de Albas.

Just to clarify the constable program funding: Garden Oaks currently has 3 constable patrols. This year, two of the patrols were paid entirely by GOMO funds (and this was approved again for 2012). The third patrol is paid for by the \$200 yearly contribution from neighborhood residents. In previous years (and this year) we have not received enough in contributions to fully fund the third patrol. Thus, we have fundraisers, such as the Wine Walk, to generate more monies. Less than 25% of GO homeowners pay the annual \$200 constable fee. The \$10,000 raised by the Wine Walk will pay for about 1 1/2 months of the 3rd constable patrol. Please consider sending in your contribution for the 2012 Constable Program. You should have received your contributor form in the mail and one is included in this *Gazette*.



Monies donated by our generous sponsors and underwriters help cover event costs, and of course add to the revenues generated. This year we were fortunate to gain some new sponsors, and welcome back others who have been with us since the first year:

Terry Jeanes, ReMax/Metro, and section 4 neighbor Harry James Building + Design
 Oak Forest Veterinary Clinic



THANKSGIVING THIS YEAR

by JaneAnn Roberts

Since Steven was lucky enough to get tickets to the A&M – UT game, we postponed our day’s feast to Saturday this year. What a great idea! This allowed Chris to share his day with his girlfriend, Morgan, and her family. It also gave us an opportunity to share our Thanksgiving with friends and family that would otherwise be busy with others. And this freed us up to do what I have always wanted to do – volunteer with the Big Feast at the George R. Brown Convention Center.

Marc, Emily and I arrived at the Feast site at 7:30 with the requested can goods, household items and new toys to donate. Emily was so cute carrying the three stuffed bears she brought to donate. It was clear there were two lines that had formed outside the convention center – one for those waiting to be served and those that were there to serve. Our line was being admitted and was moving fast. It was clear there were so many people giving up their morning for this event. But it wasn’t

until we went up two escalators into one of the large convention halls that what we were about to experience was going to be amazing. Hundreds and hundreds of people from all walks of life, old and young, every color, religion, even places of origin were there to serve. In a world of negativity, was a room full of unconditional kindness.

3500 turkeys had been cooked and 20,000 guests were to be served. Amazing!

With so many people eager to help, people were almost competing for a job. Our first job was to don a plastic apron, hair net and blue rubber gloves to roll plastic forks in “Class of 2011” napkins. I worked alongside a man from Nigeria by way of Ohio – great guy. Having the day to be there, we signed up for the 1:30 shift to serve the food. Then we set out in different directions to find a job. I found myself wondering about the first shift to serve at 10:30. I found a line of volunteers that were allowed to serve first and I worked next to a woman who had driven in from Wharton and another group of

beautiful women from New Caney.

Then the guests arrived – some who had been in line since 5:30 that morning. It was easy to see that this was a free meal for anyone whether homeless, down on their luck, alone in the world, or even the Grand Marshal from the parade. As I served rice, I found myself smiling, moved, and happy to greet each one with a “Happy Thanksgiving, so glad you are here today!” When the toothless, old homeless lady looked up at me and said “So am I” with tears in her eyes, I just wanted to reach across the serving area and hug her. When the children who seemed ashamed to be there heard I was so glad they were there today and to make sure they played in the moonwalks, their little heads came up, smiled, and eyes lit up. There were the single moms with kids in tow and babe in arms looking so sweet and thankful. And then there were those who were dressed in their finest just happy with a place to go and eat. I could have just stayed there in my hairnet serving all day, but there were others eager to do the same.



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Reuniting with Emily and Marc, we set out to help our guests with their plates. You see they did not carry their plates thru the line. A volunteer with a big tray with their plates escorted each group, individual, or family thru the line and then to a table in the hall. Again I met and talked with amazing people each with a different story. We continued to do this or fetch drinks for the guests. I was having a blast.

When the line of guests dwindled down, the volunteers were then able to partake in a meal. At this point I was back to escorting people with their food. The volunteers were to take care of themselves. But I was there with my tray and took one of the first volunteers through the line telling him that I wanted to wait on him. He was an old fashioned gentleman who held himself proudly and comfortably. Even the gentle touch in the small of my back like a protector gently leading the way was endearing. After meeting volunteers from all over the place, I asked him what part of Houston he was from. He proceeded to say he was living in a shelter on Main Street. I then

clarified "you came to volunteer?" After over five hours of volunteering, his reply was simply, "One should give before he receives." What an incredible moment!

And at that moment, I looked up and heard one of the guest singers beautifully belting out Whitney Houston's "The greatest love of all, is happening to me....." I looked again around the vast room of kindness and joy - and found myself so ever thankful.

JaneAnn and Marc Roberts live in Section One with their daughter Emily. Sons Chris and Steven are in college at Texas State, and A&M, respectively.



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-Hebrews 3:4

PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Garden Oaks Elementary School students and other friends attend *The Seuss Odyssey* to see Sarah Klein perform on stage at Main Street Theater, November 11-13.

(l-r) Matilde Acosta, Bruer Gilkey, Sarah Klein, Quinn Charlton, Isabelle Hugetz, Cade Klein, Miguel Hugetz.

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AIR CONDITIONING AND PLUMBING TIPS FOR THE WINTER

by Mitch Weigand

Tip No. 19: More Plumbing Tips for the Winter

Although it's mid-November and 82 degrees outside as the finishing touches are being put on this month's column, we all know it CAN get cold in Houston. Here are a few simple preparations which will help prevent unnecessary and costly repairs throughout the winter months.

Take care of your outside plumbing

If left attached to an outside faucet, water within a garden hose can expand while it freezes, causing the faucet and connecting pipe inside your home to freeze and break.

Make sure outside faucets aren't dripping or leaking, and all necessary repairs should be completed before freezing temperatures arrive. No matter if your pipes are made of plastic, copper or steel, when water within them freezes, pressure builds and causes

cracks. However small, these cracks can unleash enough water to cause serious flooding. If your home is equipped with interior shut-off valves leading to the outside faucets, close them and drain the water from the outside lines.

An easy but very effective precaution you can do is to cover your exterior faucets using a Styrofoam faucet insulation kit. These can be found at any home center. Equally effective as the kit is wrapping the faucet with an old towel and securing it with duct tape. Not as pretty but it works!

Also, be sure to insulate pipes in unheated areas, such as garages or crawl spaces. Although indoors, they can be affected by really cold temperatures as well.

Your indoor plumbing needs attention too

During winter, your water heater is forced to work harder. A common problem in Houston, calcium buildup in the water heater causes corrosion, reduces the tank's efficiency and shortens its life span. A way to prevent

this is connect a hose to the faucet located near the bottom of the tank and drain several gallons into a nearby drain.

Check the temperature setting on your water heater's thermostat. For best results, it should be set at 120 degrees.

If you are planning to leave on vacation for an extended period of time during the winter, consider shutting off the main water valve and drain your pipes by opening faucets at the highest and lowest points in your home. Make sure the heat is left on and set to at least 55 degrees. These steps will protect the pipes should there be a hard freeze.

Happy Holidays to all my customers, friends and neighbors in Garden Oaks.

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

Season's Grrrrrrreetings! I love having a fresh Christmas tree in the house but my cats love it more! For 25 years I have been pulling cats out of my tree and while this may seem comical believe me it is not. This month we offer suggestions to cat-proof your Christmas tree. Our highlighted pets have Christmas spirit all year long.

Pet of the Month:

"Mr. and Miss December" are Socks (Border Collie) who is eight years old and Sydney (Chihuahua/Dachshund mix) who is four years old. They live in Section IV with the Andrews family: Robert, Gisele, Galen, and Abby.

When the Andrews decided it was time to get another pet they decided that a Border Collie was a good fit for their family. Robert found a family out in Tomball that raises Border Collies. He brought Socks home and walked into the house with Socks in a box. Everyone was elated and because of his white legs he was named "Socks." He is very smart and loves to chase birds and squirrels in the back yard, and go for long walks. He also likes to play "hide and seek" with Abby.

Sydney is real sweet and loves to be close to people all the time. Gisele brought her home from the hair salon where someone brought her in to find a home for her. Gisele said she would hold her for a while. Sydney fell asleep in Gisele's lap. When it came time to go home she had to bring Sydney home with her. She walked in with this tiny little puppy in her purse and said "Guess what I did?!" She sleeps with Abby at night to stay warm.

Sydney and Socks bonded quickly and are best friends. They love to wrestle and when they do Sydney looks like Yoda from *Star Wars* because she jumps and twirls in the air. These dogs bring so much love and happiness to the Andrews home there is no doubt they will top Santa's "Nice" list. Merry

Christmas to all!

Critters 101: Cat-Proof Your Christmas Tree

Cats love to climb! And as you begin to set up your Christmas tree, they sit there watching you decorate the new "climbing tree", gleefully clapping their paws with a grin on their cute little faces. I imagine that as they walk contently around your feet, they are so grateful that their humans are putting up the tree again and they are just doing a "happy" dance.

So, you put up a lovely Christmas tree and hang all those bright and dangly items on it. And you can't keep your cats out of the tree! One thing you know for sure, your kitties love their new cat-tree that you were nice enough to put up for them!

Unfortunately, you are not nearly as happy as your cats. Here are a few things you can try to discourage your cat from scampering up your Christmas tree.

- Place orange peels around the base of your tree. Cats do not like the smell of orange.
- Spray your artificial tree with some Citronella oil that is mixed in a spray bottle with water. Again, cats do not like the citrus smell.
- Spray pine cones with the Citronella oil/water spray. Spread the pine cones under your tree.
- Use an artificial tree. Maybe your cat will not be tempted to climb the metal branches. (Note: my cats did not care that I had an artificial tree when they were younger!)
- Use a spray bottle with water. Yes, it sounds cruel...but it works. When you catch your kitty in or near the tree, you have to spritz them. It does not take much. After spritzing a few times, all you have to do is shake the bottle at them. They learn fast!
- Place bells around the bottom of your tree. No, the sound of the bell does not frighten the cats, but it

does sound an alarm for you! Once you hear the bells, you get the water bottle. Before you know it, the kitties learn the connection.

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.



HOLIDAY DONATION OPPORTUNITIES at the AMERICAN LEGION

The Garden Oaks American Legion post 560 has drop off boxes for new toys (unwrapped). Marines from the 1/23 recently back from their deployment come by on a regular basis for pickup. The Post also has a drop box for the Houston Food Bank. Both programs make Houston a better place to live and helps the American Legion fulfill its mission to be of service to the community.

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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	
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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 Greater Houston Preservation Alliance (GHPA) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation founded in 1978. Their mission is to promote the preservation and appreciation of Houston's architectural and cultural historic resources through education, advocacy and committed action, thereby creating economic value, developing a stronger sense of community.

On the second Sunday of every month at 2 p.m. (6 p.m. June through September; there is no tour in December), GHPA presents a docent-guided walking tour of an architecturally and/or historically significant area of Houston. The cost is \$10 per person (\$7 for GHPA members and students), with a \$2 discount if you walk, bike or ride public transportation to the tour. Reservations are not required unless otherwise noted.

Upcoming Tour – January 8, 2012: Warehouse District

The Walking Tours Program will kick off the new year by visiting one of Houston's oldest industrial districts: the Warehouse District, a reminder of the days when trade and transportation centered on Buffalo Bayou downtown. Originally a residential neighborhood, the Warehouse District was transformed into an industrial area because of its location where rail lines intersected the old Port of Houston at Allen's Landing. Some remnants of the old residential neighborhood survive — the 1883 Henry Henke Fifth Ward Grocery Store, for example — but the area today is better known for its fascinating collection of warehouses, factories and freight terminals. In recent years, many of these have been restored and converted to residential and office space by urban pioneers, including the Erie City Iron Works building (1909) and the former James Bute Co. Warehouse (1910).

The tour will begin at another interesting neighborhood landmark: the Willow Street Pump Station, which was built in 1902 as the centerpiece of the city's first effort to clean up its bayous. After being abandoned for years, the University of Houston-Downtown restored and re-purposed the complex in 2005 as a conference center and exhibition space. Tickets will be sold beginning at 1:30 p.m. in front of the Willow Street Pump Station, 811 N. San Jacinto St. Tickets are \$10 per person
Gazette

(\$7 for students with valid ID and GHPA members). Children 11 and under are admitted free, and tour participants who walk, bike or ride public transit to the tour will receive a \$2 discount on admission.

Street parking is free on Sundays and is available along North San Jacinto, but please pay close attention to the parking signs and meter details. Paid parking is available in several lots in the vicinity. The tour start point is a short walk from MetroRail's Preston Station.

Also, GHPA, in partnership with Glenwood Cemetery, offers public docent-guided walking tours of the cemetery four times a year. These tours are available by reservation only. The next tour is scheduled for 10 am on February 25, 2012. You can find out more information about these and other upcoming tours at www.ghpa.org/tours.

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CC minutes continued from page 4
 Constable Program: Terry Jeanes reported that the mail-outs to support the Constable program will be going out. Please support the program and send in donations. There has been no increase in the cost of the Constable contract for 2012. Burglaries: The burglaries in the area have been reported to be "grab and go" type robberies. In one instance, however, \$15,000 worth of belongings, including firearms, was taken. The alarm at the house was not set, giving the burglars more time. An older model, black four-door sedan, possibly a boxy Volvo, has been reported with two black males involved. There are also reports of a woman walking the area with a cell phone and reporting where the constables are patrolling. Additional concerns include the yard crew robbery scam and a white van posing as a plumbing crew vehicle. Another issue is people being followed from the shopping centers to their homes to be robbed. Warnings/Tickets: If you are local to the area and pulled over for running stop sign, you will likely get a warning on your first offense.

The second time, you will get a ticket. Neighbors are complaining about the stop signs being run and are concerned about safety of children. Membership: Dian Austin was not present. The annual membership drive for 2012 has started. Beautification: Kimberly Horowitz was not present. No update. Gazette: Jessica Jarvis was not present. Elizabeth Klein has volunteered to be the Gazette advertising manager. GardenOaks.org Website: Joe Muscara did not have an update. GOMO Update: No update was reported.


Other Announcements: The North Shepherd Business Association will be working on beautification of the area November 12. The American Society of Interior Designers is featuring three Garden Oaks homes and one Shepherd Park Plaza home in its Kitchen & Bath Tour 2011.

President Klein adjourned the meeting at 8:02 p.m.



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DECEMBER 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6 Civic Club meeting 7pm, 701 Garden Oaks Blvd. 	7	8 Garden Club mtg 7pm	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20 Hanukkah begins 	21 GOMO mtg, 7pm	22	23	24
25 Merry Christmas	26	27	28 Central Northwest Super Neighborhood Council, 6:30 pm, 1245 Judiway	29	30	31 New Year's Eve

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