

# GARDEN OAKS GAZETTE

VOLUME 36

ISSUE 05

## The Blue Skies, Big Smiles Shine on the 2012 GO Home Tour

by Mark Klein

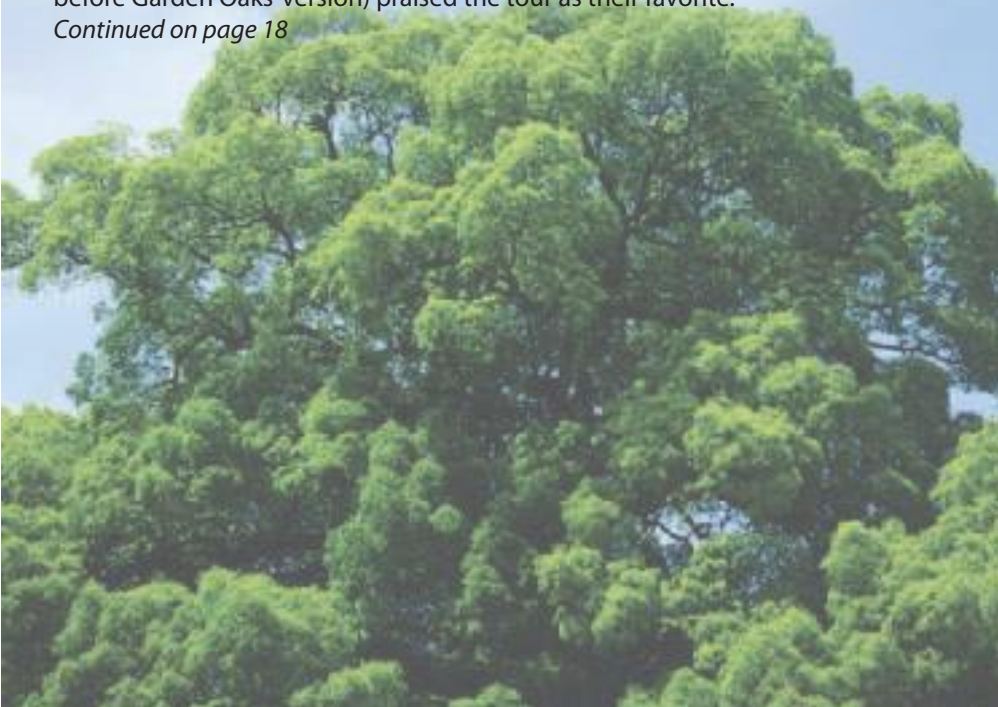
With a canvas of sapphire skies and verdant yards, a picture-perfect weekend unfolded for the Garden Oaks 2012 Home Tour, Footprints & Blueprints, April 21-22.

Hundreds of visitors toured the narrow streets of Garden Oaks with free shuttle buses, cars, bicycles and on foot to tour six remarkable homes and three superb gardens in the starring roles for the Tour. But it was the supporting actors who may have stolen the show, as dozens of volunteers became neighborhood ambassadors, greeting visitors enthusiastically and causing many to proclaim newfound love for Garden Oaks.

Final numbers are not in, but it looks like \$26,000 was raised to support the Garden Oaks Civic Club and its programs for neighborhood protection, beautification and other projects. From generous sponsor support to a successful auction during Saturday's Preview Party gala to ticket sales, Footprints & Blueprints raised a good portion of the funds needed for GOCC's annual initiatives.

Some 140 volunteers came together – many working over several weeks and months – to make the tour one that numerous visitors called the best-run home tour they'd been to recently. Even visitors to the Heights home tour (held the week before Garden Oaks' version) praised the tour as their favorite.

*Continued on page 18*



## MAY 2012

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Civic Club Meeting**  
**May 1, 7 p.m. Civic Club Meeting**  
Garden Oaks Elementary School

### UPCOMING CIVIC CLUB MEETING

**June 5, 7 p.m. Civic Club Meeting**  
Garden Oaks Elementary School

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Garden Oaks Old Fashioned Picnic

Sunday May 20, 2012

Competitive races begin at 1:30pm

### VOLUNTEER NEEDED!

Gazette Editor  
Please contact Jessica Jarvis at  
713-446.6440 or  
gazette@gardenoaks.com

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**HEARD UNDER THE OAK TREE**

by Terry Jeanes

**Welcome New Neighbors**

- 951 Althea
- 211 West 31<sup>st</sup>
- 219 West 31<sup>st</sup>
- 215 West 33<sup>rd</sup>
- 235 West 34<sup>th</sup>
- 419 West 34<sup>th</sup>
- 508 West 34<sup>th</sup>
- 725 West 38<sup>th</sup>
- 862 West 41<sup>st</sup>
- 1034 West 41<sup>st</sup>
- 827 West 43<sup>rd</sup>
- 1034 West 43<sup>rd</sup>
- 986 Gardenia
- 1479 Sue Barnett

**May Birthdays**

- Christopher Knauth – 5
- Linda Sparks – 8
- Susannah (Susie) Heath – 8

**Gareth and Gaia O’Leary-Appling** – 21  
**Riley Tatum** – 22

**Happy Anniversary**  
**Jason and Alisha Cunningham** – 16

**Out and About**  
**Robert Deveau** after 18 weeks of training participated in the 42.195 km Marathon in Paris.  
**Terry Jeanes** joined daughter Becky in Miami and then cruised via convertible the entire Florida Keys - (a haven’t done marked off the list)  
**Gina Greenslate** visited Antigua and Tortola.

**Congratulations**  
 To proud parents **Alice and Mark Sarmiento** and siblings **Rowan** and **Olivia** who welcome brother **Nathan Grey** born on March 26, weighing 6 lbs. 2 oz. and 19” long.

To **Eric Jarvis** on being elected as the next President of the Texas Chapter of the Recording Academy (the Grammys).

**Special Thoughts and Condolences**  
 To **Jane Ann Roberts and family** on the passing of Jane Ann’s mother in February.

To highlight an event, celebration, or other tidbit, contact Terry Jeanes at 713-812-9154 or [terry@terryjeanes.com](mailto:terry@terryjeanes.com).

**Emergency Numbers**

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

**CITIZENS’ PATROL PROGRAM**  
 by Carl Waters, Jr.

In the middle of March, an email from HPD was shared on the GO List Serve. The Lieutenant who wrote the email stated HPD felt they were making progress on the residential burglaries in the neighborhood. It would appear to be true as only one burglary was reported during the month. However, there sure were plenty of other crimes reported during the month.

**March Crime Statistics: 9**  
**Assault: 3**  
 3200 block of N. Shepherd Dr. on Saturday, March 10th at 3:15 p.m. (bank).  
 800 block of W. 42nd St. on Tuesday, March 20th at 7:45 p.m. (residence).  
 3000 block of N. Durham Dr. on Wednesday, March 28th at 1:00 p.m. (street).

**Robbery: 1**  
 2900 block of N. Shepherd Dr. on Saturday, March 17 at 8:30 p.m. (bar).

**Burglary: 1**  
 500 block of W. 33rd St. on Friday, March 16 at 9:05 a.m. (residence).

**Theft: 4**  
 900 block of Althea St. on Wednesday, March 7 at midnight (residence).  
 400 block of W. 34th St. on Sunday, March 11 at 8:00 p.m. (residence).  
 4300 block of Apollo St. on Monday, March 19 at 2:45 p.m. (residence).  
 700 block of W. 31st St. on Friday, March 23 at 3:30 p.m. (residence).

There have been 27 crimes reported through March. Last year only 5 crimes had been reported through March.

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](mailto:GOCOP77018@AOL.com) or by phone at 713-864-1992.

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**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 15<sup>th</sup> 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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Terms expire October of year in parentheses.

**GO CIVIC CLUB MEETING MINUTES**

by Secretary Heather Leverett

**Location: Garden Oaks Elementary School April 3, 2012**

**Welcome:** President Mark Klein called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. A motion was made and carried to accept the March minutes as published in the *Gazette*.

**President's Announcements:**

**Brother's Pizzeria:** A big thank you to the new Brother's Pizzeria in the Garden Oaks shopping center. A family owned business, Brother's donated dinner for the Civic Club tonight and their NY-style pizza is the best. Encourage your neighbors to support local businesses.

**Precinct One Constable Candidates:** President Klein introduced Cindy Vare-Leija and Jaime Tellez. Both candidates spoke briefly about their backgrounds and qualifications.

**Shepherd/34<sup>th</sup> St. Apartments:** President Klein met with Council Member Ellen Cohen and the developers of the complex, formerly known as Carter's Grove, and reported that the apartments will be mainly one-bedroom apartments offered at market rates. The apartments are being remodeled to the studs.

**GO 2012 Home Tour Update:** Publicity is going well. Ticket pre-sales are available at eight locations. Tickets are for sale for the Preview Party. The

**GOMO Review Meetings**

take place prior to Civic Club meetings at 6:30p.m. on the first Tuesday of the month and on the third Wednesday of the month.

Meetings are open to anyone interested in attending. Additional information about the Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization is online at GardenOaks.org. Property owners in Sections 1, 2, 3 and 5 are all members of the Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization.

auction is shaping up to be incredible with great donations including tickets, dinners, classes and vacations. We already have \$20,700 in sponsorships. Volunteer opportunities have been filled. A big "thank you" to everyone who has been handling the coordination effort! **North Shepherd Business Association:** President Klein introduced Kathryn van der Pol from Adolf Hoepfl Garage. The business association represents 135 area businesses and is meeting 1x/month. They are currently seeking volunteers for a summer leadership program for 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders. **City Council Member Ellen Cohen:** A representative from Ellen Cohen's office was in attendance to answer questions. Questions with regard to the Quiet Zone and the Waterline replacement project were addressed. The office can be contacted directly to help with any questions or issues with regard to city projects.

**Friends of Black Middle School:** The 6<sup>th</sup> grade incoming class is twice the size of other classes. Over six million dollars have been spent on campus improvements. Parents in the areas have demonstrated a strong level of commitment to the school.

**Standing Committee Reports:**

**GO Citizens Patrol:** President Klein reported that crime is down significantly from January and February.

**Constable Program:** Terry Jeanes reported that one of the Constables has moved and we have a new Constable. Crime is down in the area for several reasons. Multiple plainclothes officers have been on our streets. Neighbors have been reporting suspicious activities. One of our constables did arrest an alleged burglar in Garden Oaks. The homeowners, however, did not want to ID the criminal. Please keep in mind that there are ways to ID criminals without them knowing who you are.

**Membership:** Joe Muscara won a gift card in the GOCC attendance drawing.

**Beautification:** No update.

**Gazette:** No update.

**GardenOaks.org Website:** Joe Muscara reported that the website has been continually updated with Home Tour information.

**GODAT Update:** Secretary Leverett reported that GODAT is working to address the timeliness and accuracy of the information. The process needs work in order to get out information consistently to the community. In addition to the security information, GODAT will begin work on financial reporting. There was discussion around the different forms (facebook, email, yahoo groups) of communication and the quality versus speed of the information shared.

**Treasurer's Update:** Treasurer Ramirez reported that the budget is status quo for this time of year and running about an \$8,000 surplus. He did note that the Constable donations appear low compared to this time last year.

**GOMO Update:** No update.

**Garden Oaks Elementary:** Principal Lindsey Pollock reported that the magnet process has been completed.

There is a waiting list for every grade. Zoned students do have first priority for kindergarten so please tell neighbors. The school is currently waiting on HISD Board approval to finalize the components of the environmental science initiative.

President Klein adjourned the meeting at 8:12 p.m.

**SECURITY ALERTS VIA EMAIL**

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

In order to be included in our email distributions please send in your name, address 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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**MAY GAZETTE TEAM UPDATE**

by Dian Austin

We've had some changes in our Gazette Delivery Team:

Welcome to Mel Johnson, the new delivery coordinator for Section 2.

She replaces Sue Schmidt, who was delivery coordinator for many months and was also a block captain. Thanks, Sue for all your help for so long, and we're glad to have Mel on board so quickly.

Replacing Sue as block captain for the 700 block of W. 38<sup>th</sup> is Doug Mischlich. Welcome, Doug!

Opportunities: the block captain for the 900 block of W. 42<sup>nd</sup> is going to be out of pocket for a few months, so I need a replacement to deliver that block.

If you are interested in joining the great *Gazette* Delivery team, email me at [FallingwaterT@yahoo.com](mailto:FallingwaterT@yahoo.com), or call me at 713-691-6505. As always, if you are getting your newsletter routinely late (or never), please let me know....but if you don't volunteer, don't complain too loudly.

**3<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL GARDEN OAKS OLD FASHIONED PICNIC MAY 20**

**Calling All Garden Oaks Neighbors**

By Terry Jeanes



The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Garden Oaks Picnic Sunday is set for May 20 at 1p.m. at Garden Oaks SPARK Park. Bring your own picnic, drinks, chairs and blankets. Games, ice cream and fun will be provided. Come and participate in games such as whiffle baseball, washers, tetherball, and races, or just relax and enjoy yourself. Not to be missed is the Garden Oaks diaper derby.

Competitive races start at 1:30p.m. and include egg races, balloon races, and sack races for all age divisions and teams. So join with folks from your block or other family members. Ribbons will be awarded on all contests.

For additional details or to volunteer, contact event sponsor and coordinator Terry Jeanes at 713.812.9154 or [terry@terryjeanes.com](mailto:terry@terryjeanes.com).

**2012 HOME TOUR SPONSORS**

**Tour Sponsors Exceed Underwriting Goals!**

We would like to thank the many generous sponsors for supporting the Home & Garden Tour! The Tour was a huge success, largely due to participation these businesses'. Our final sponsorship donations totaled \$20,750, far surpassing expectations and past tour commitments.

Please consider patronizing these businesses when you need services or products for yourself or your home. Sponsor contact information is available online.

Thank you to all of our participating sponsors!

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**HOME TOUR AUCTION WRAP UP**

by Missy Always

The Garden Oaks Home Tour is a wonderful way to highlight and show off the amazing Garden Oaks neighborhood. The tour is also a terrific way to raise money to continue improving the neighborhood. In an effort to honor the owners of the homes and gardens highlighted during the tour and show our appreciation for the sponsors, the Garden Oaks Home Tour Gala is held the night before the tour. This year's gala was held at The Bell Tower on 34<sup>th</sup>, a great local neighborhood venue for parties and events.

The auction team set goals to acquire unique auction items to help raise more money for the Civic Club during the Saturday night event. We would like to recognize and give our sincerest appreciation

to Isela Villereal, Jennifer Osowski, and Jeremy Robinson for all of their efforts leading up to and including the night of the gala. A special thanks to our auctioneer Tina Sabuco too.

Listed below are the donors to this year's auction. Please thank your neighbors for participating and give extra thought to supporting the businesses that offered their support for the neighborhood's biggest fundraiser.

- Ace Tree Specialist
- Adrian & Carey Berry
- Aramark
- Bell Tower on 34th
- Brandy Stoesz Photography
- Brent & Joanne Austin
- Chick-fil-A
- Chili's
- City of Arlington CVB
- Clean as a Whistle Carpet Cleaning

- Clear Channel Radio
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- Houston Museum of Natural Science
- Houston Symphony
- Houston Texans
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- Theater Under the Stars
- Tony's Mexican Restaurant
- Uchi Restaurant
- Unique Outdoor Texas
- Whataburger
- Yoga Collective

**COME JOIN THE "A GO-GO'S" Support Group for family and friends with loved ones who have Alzheimer's Disease or Dementia**

Come Join the "A Go-Go's" The newly formed Support Group for family and friends with loved ones who have Alzheimer's Disease or Dementia will be having their first meeting Monday, May 7. Please arrive between 6:30 and 7:00 as the meeting will begin promptly at 7:00. The meeting will be held at 859 Azalea Street, at the home of Tina Sabuco, who is also the foundress of the group.

The group, consisting of seven members so far, will be meeting monthly on the FIRST MONDAY of each month. In Tina's words, "We are calling our group "A Go-Go" which stands for Alzheimer's Group of Garden Oaks. I liked how A Go-Go sounded and then I looked up the definition and this is what I found 'A gogo, often Anglicized as A Go-Go, is a French expression meaning "in abundance, galore". I thought, isn't it nice to think that we all are "in abundance, galore" re: so much - - the support that we'll be getting and giving; the love that we get and give from our family and friends; etc. I'm sure we'll be able to think of even more "a go-go"s as our group grows!"

If you are interested in joining us, feel free to just show up. Or, if you'd like to RSVP or have any questions, contact Tina at goddess@abundanceretreat.com or 713-692-6778.





**GARDEN OAKS NEWS**

Timely information about information and events can be found on the Garden Oaks Yahoo group which can be found at [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Houston\\_GO](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Houston_GO).

Also join us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/groups/35914307130/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/35914307130/)

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**HOME TOUR FLORIST THANKS**

by Shana Tatum

For every home and garden tour, florists donate their time and their creativity to make sure that each of the homes dazzle with beautiful floral arrangements. We were fortunate to have another amazing group of florists this year. Some of these florists have been sponsoring for many tours. Please remember that each of these businesses supported our neighborhood. Next time you're looking for a good florist, please try one of these!

Our big thanks to:

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**GAZETTE EDITOR NEEDED**

by Jessica Jarvis

*Needed: A willing volunteer to take over the position of Editor for the Garden Oaks Gazette.*

Over the last couple years I have put out some calls for help to see if perhaps I could get an assistant editor to relieve me from time to time. Absent of any real takers I have decided that June 2012 will be my last month as editor. At that point, I will have been editor for exactly five years, yes five! And while this is far from the longest tenure of anyone serving in our wonderful community it seems to be a logical end to my season in this capacity.

*The only requirement is a willingness to learn how to edit, layout, and publish a monthly Newsletter and coordinate closely with the Ad Manager to service our ever growing list of advertisers.*

While no real experience is necessary, some exposure to a design and layout program would be helpful but can very easily be learned and a program of your choosing could certainly be provided if needed. While I have a design

background, when I began I had no layout experience except literally laying out my high school paper by hand many many years ago. I currently use Adobe InDesign which revolutionized my editing efforts. Other editors have used PageMaker and there are many more software options available.

*While being the Gazette Editor is a volunteer position in service of the Civic Club you can make it your own.* One of the nice things that you'll find when you take over as editor is that the publication is all yours. Looking back at issues by previous editors, you can see that the Gazette has grown and changed with each editor and they have all imparted their unique "touch." How the Gazette will look and what articles you choose to solicit when you are the editor will be entirely up to you.

Being Gazette editor has been a wonderful opportunity for me. It began my involvement with the civic club, and led me to meet many of my neighbors here in Garden Oaks and form lasting friendships with so many of them. I enjoyed growing with the Gazette and

putting out what I always endeavored to be a quality publication and one that I hope most all of you enjoyed. Thanks to all who have supported me throughout the years. I couldn't have done it without you!

For more information on the Gazette Editor position please contact me at [gazette@gardenoaks.org](mailto:gazette@gardenoaks.org) or 713.446.6440.



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Home Tour 2012  
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*footprints & blueprints*



Special thanks to Kari Noser for the Preview Party photography. More photos can be viewed and ordered at: <http://lotfivestudios.zenfolio.com/f473496959>



**LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

**Garden Oaks and Golf – a Follow-up**

In the February newsletter, we had tied golf and Garden Oaks together with the establishment of Pine Forest Country Club just east of Shepherd after World War II. We had speculated that perhaps Pine Forest was built on the site of a nine-hole facility, in that the oral history of the neighborhood contained stories of a nine hole facility actually in the neighborhood.

Wrong.

There was an 18 hole course at least partially in the neighborhood, or what would become parts of Garden Oaks and Oak Forest, before Pine Forest was even a concept. Ever wonder where the street name "Golf" came from? Neighbor Bill Bishop provided the information to track down the answer.

Bill and his dad used to play the Heights Golf Course. He indicated the clubhouse was located at the southwest corner of Wakefield and Golf, across the street from where the

Petrol Station now stands. The first hole headed generally north, with the course itself laying out generally north and west of the clubhouse. Bill's dad hit a hole in one there, and Bill played in the Houston High School Golf Championships on the course in the mid-1940s.

Bill did not remember the course crossing Ella. There is good reason for that. Ella did not extend through the area at the time. Its current location would put the street crossing four east-west holes, right in the middle. Heights Golf Course, 1104 Wakefield Road, is listed in a 1943 "History of Houston"

as one of five public courses in Houston, joining Hermann Park, Memorial, Glenbrook and Lindale. An eighteen-hole round cost 45 cents; if you had a little extra money to spend, you could play

Memorial Park for 50 cents, or Glenbrook on the weekend for 75 cents.

The layout of the course can clearly be seen on Google Earth. Search "Golf at Wakefield, Houston, Texas" as a location, then select the 1943 photograph (also shown below). A lesson in explosive urban growth can also be seen. By the time the 1954 photo was taken, there is absolutely no trace of the former golf course.

So Garden Oaks has not one, but two "lost" golf connections.

Al Thomas



**AIR CONDITIONING TIPS FOR THE SPRING**

by Mitch Weigand

**Tip No. 24: How to Prevent a Clogged AC Drain Line**

When your home is equipped with a central air conditioning system, you may have noticed a drain line on the home's exterior which drips water near the a/c's outside unit. As the a/c dehumidifies the indoor air, the resulting condensation (in the form of water) drains from the inside air handler/evaporator coil to the outside via the drain line. If this line gets clogged, it can cause serious water damage and potential health hazards such as mold inside your home.

**How to prevent a clog from occurring**

Keeping the drain line clean is actually quite simple. In the attic, there's a drip pan beneath your air handler/evaporator coil which collects possible condensate overflow. Connected to the drip pan is a pipe which needs to be clean and free of algae so that the water can flow without obstruction.

To keep this line clean, pour about one-quarter cup of bleach into the pipe once

a month. Instead of bleach you can use vinegar and water instead.

**How do I know if there is a problem?**

This is a problem which is not always easily detected. It's not because it's tough to spot. If the drain pan beneath the air handler/evaporator coil in the attic is filled with water, you know you've got a problem. The problem is because attic temperatures can soar to 120 degrees or more during our hot Houston summers, we don't normally hang out in our attics. This prevents a visual diagnosis from taking place.

Usually, the secondary drain line can be seen at your home's eave above a bedroom window or above the sink in a bathroom. When this line begins to drip, it means that the primary drain line is clogged. Get this handled quickly before the dripping stops by calling a licensed a/c service technician.

Also, the secondary line may be improperly installed or capped off or you may simply miss the dripping altogether. In any case, when that dripping stops is when the problems really begin. This allows the drain pan to fill up and

eventually overflow, causing water stains on the ceiling and costly repairs for you, the homeowner.

**A yearly check-up is the best prevention**

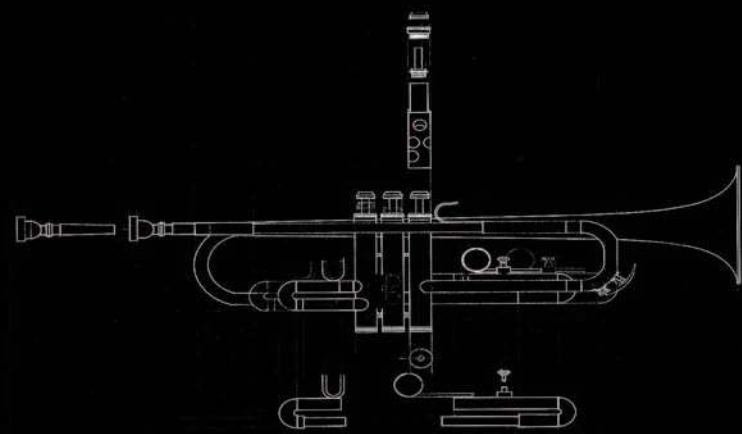
I recommend having a check-up on your air conditioner and furnace once a year. The expense is minimal compared to the cost of repair once a problem has occurred. While this check-up will not guarantee that problems won't arise, it will keep your system running smoothly and efficiently throughout the year.

**Free A/C filter for Garden Oaks residents**

My company, Air Wise, will install a pleated air filter at no charge during a Spring A/C check. This offer is exclusive to Garden Oaks residents only and lasts until May 31, 2012. One free air filter per household please. Just let us know what size filter you will need when you schedule an appointment.

*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](mailto:mitch@airwisehouston.com) or write to 1590 Sue Barnett Drive.. All of his previous columns from the Garden Oaks Gazette can be found at [www.airwisehouston.com](http://www.airwisehouston.com).*

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**REACH FOR THE STARS!**

by Lindsey Pollock, Principal, Garden Oaks Elementary

This month, students at Garden Oaks Elementary are working on developing project ideas to send to the International Space Station. Thinking back to the days of my youth, I remember the moment my family sat around our black and white TV and watched with fascination as Neil Armstrong set foot on the moon. What a different world we live in today! Children today are surrounded by technology and information that only a few years ago was unknown. As our knowledge base and technological savvy continue to multiply exponentially, how do we maintain our sense of interconnectedness to one another? How do we fulfill our responsibility to nurture and sustain a sense of wonder and innocence in our youngest members of society? Here are a few suggestions from my colleagues here at Garden Oaks:

1. Monitor what your child is watching on the television. Preview what your children watch when possible and stay in the room when your children are watching TV. Talk to your child about what they view and ask clarifying questions. If the program is objectionable, turn it off, even if your child protests.
2. Set limits on technology usage and maintain a healthy balance. Set aside one day a week to "unplug" and spend time talking with your children.
3. Turn off your phone in the car, at the grocery store and spend time talking with your child.
4. Respect the ratings of the film industry. PG13 is really for older kids. Please don't take your little ones.
5. When you see or hear unkind or impolite behavior, explain to your child that sometimes even adults forget the rules of politeness and not to replicate the behavior.
6. Remember, you are your child's most influential and admired

- example.
7. Be present and available for them and keep up with the latest technology so you can be a step ahead!
  8. Teach your children to dream about possibilities and to persevere. In the words of Susan Longacre, "Reach for the stars, even if you have to stand on a cactus!"



**GO KIDS UPDATE**

by Kristin Jordan

Thanks to all who made it to our annual Eggstravaganza and to the Zugheri's for hosting such a fun, family event. We are looking forward to another family events coming up: **Garden Oaks Old Fashioned Picnic May 20** at the Garden Oak Elementary Spark Park.

**Upcoming Events**

**Mom's Night Out – May 10 – El Gran Malo 7:30pm - ?**

2307 Ella Boulevard

Join us for a fun ladies night out and tasty margaritas.

**Friday Fun Day – May 25 – Jaycee Park 10am – 1pm**

Come join us at the Jaycee Park Splash Pad and Playground! What a better way to start the weekend than a playdate at the splash pad on a hot day? Children of all ages are welcome!

**Playgroups – GO Babies** will have their next playgroup on April 27 from 3-5 pm. Gretchen and Stella Dreher's House 423 W. 32nd. They are hoping to have a playdate every two weeks, so watch your calendar for some fun mommy and baby

time!

**GO Buddies** will also be scheduling a playgroup during May. Watch your emails for dates and times.

**All-Ages Playgroup-Saturday May 12 - 10am – 11am** at the Garden Oaks Elementary Spark Park.

**Group Information**

**Cookbook** –Order today at GardenOaksCooks.com. All proceeds go to the Garden Oaks Constable Program

**Bouncy House** – We are still collecting bouncy house money. It is a \$30 donation. Payment by mail (check or cash): Kristin Jordan 4223 Apollo Street Houston, TX 77018 Payment By Paypal (credit/debit): gardenoakskids.com

**Website / Communication –**

[www.gardenoakskids.com](http://www.gardenoakskids.com)

Our website continues to grow; now offering information on contributing to our annual bouncy house fund, and purchasing your Garden Oaks Cookbook. Check it out and share with your friends.

**Dinner Drops**

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](mailto:angelicapuerto@hotmail.com) and she'll set you right up.

*GO Kids was started by a group of parents who wanted to build a family friendly neighborhood where children and parents know each other and grow together. All Garden Oaks families are welcome. Not on the GO Kids list serve? Want more information about GO Kids? Contact Kristin Jordan ([kriki@me.com](mailto:kriki@me.com)) or Ashley Henke ([ashleymariehenke@gmail.com](mailto:ashleymariehenke@gmail.com)) for all the details.*

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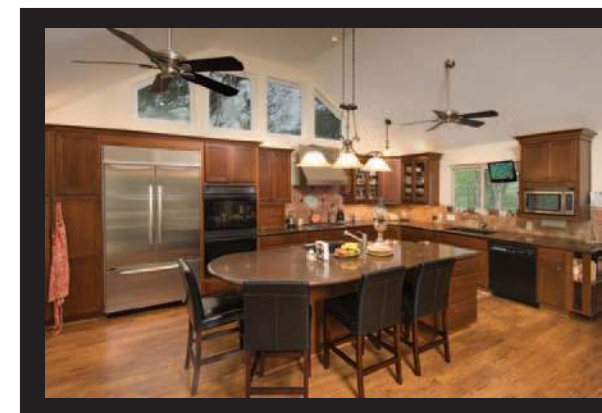


**YARD OF THE MONTH: 708 Sue Barnett**



This homeowner at 708 Sue Barnett takes water conservation and providing a bird and butterfly habitat to a whole new level. The natural grasses and native flowers provide nourishment for butterflies and birds, as well as the gravel driveway allowing for drainage during our infrequent rains. This means no flooding, no watering, and no grass cutting and fertilizer consumption to nourish St. Augustine grass! EXCELLENT! I love it when water is conserved and there is no fertilizer runoff that kills birds and insects. Plus, when the wind blows, the grasses move like your own personal ballet!

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**HOME TOUR continued from page 1**

Those 140 people worked the home and garden tour locations; rode the buses as docents; ran the Command Center; put up posters everywhere; organized ticket pre-sale locations; hung banners and dug in signs; hauled tables, chairs and sponsor signs to each location; managed the Preview Party at the Bell Tower; collected a bevy of auction items and ran the auction; obtained magnificent, donated floral arrangements for each home; brought water to every location; pitched the story to local media; did marketing and graphics; enlisted three critically acclaimed food trucks to serve up food; spread the word in social media and on gardenoaks.org; recruited volunteers; published articles in the *Gazette*; and got sponsors on board. No question about it: the volunteers for Footprints & Blueprints were a dedicated, resourceful and remarkable lot.

Of course, the featured home and garden owners were an amazing group. By opening their homes and gardens – and a part of their lives – to everyone, they

helped make Footprints & Blueprints a special tour. It's no easy commitment to be on a home tour. The home and garden owners spent weeks meticulously preparing their homes and gardens as shining stars for hundreds of visitors to admire.

Sponsor support was incredible this year, as area businesses invested back into the community they serve to make this fundraising effort possible. The Garden Oaks neighbors who support and champion our sponsors are encouraging future donations.

As the sun lowered in that azure Sunday sky, preparations actually began to make the next home tour even better. Be a part of the fun and volunteer, nominate your home as a tour location, be a sponsor, donate an auction item and – above all – thank those who contributed money and hard work to make the Footprints & Blueprints weekend a memorable one.

**AMERICAN LEGION  
UPCOMING EVENTS**

The American Legion Post 560 is having a Community Yard Sale and BBQ fundraiser on Saturday, May 5 starting at 8:00a.m. We have table for rent \$5.00 outside, \$10.00 inside or bring your own for \$3.00. Bring your yard sale items and appetite plus spend the day with us. Help support the Ladies Auxiliary. The basic brisket plate with sides and all the fixings is \$10 or brisket, chicken, sausage, and ribs at \$10 by the pound.

The monthly steak night is Friday, May 18. Entertainment will be provided by "Donna B, The Ebony Cowgirl" singing Country music from traditional to modern from 6 – 10PM. Plan to eat one of our famous steak dinners and take a swing around the dance floor. Come and enjoy the food, dance and comradery, all for \$13.00. Steak night is an important part of the revenue used to support our favorite charities.

The American Legion Post 560 is located at 3720 Alba Road next to the F4 Phantom Jet of Vietnam fame.

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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  
 Inserts (double sided) \$225.00

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](mailto:gazette@gardenoaks.org)
3. Artwork must be emailed in the following formats: PDF, JPEG (.jpg) or GIF (.gif)

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**CRITTER CORNER**

by Casey and Dorothy Dan Farris

Pet of the Month: May's Pet of the Month family is The Hewetts from Section I. Kelly and Jeff Hewett have five pets. That's a lot of commotion; that's a lot of love!

Mr. Bigglesworth (Persian) is now 12 years old but lately has found his second kittenhood. As a kitten, Cubby (American short hair) looked like a little bear cub, hence the name. Cubby is also 12 years old and she and Mr. Bigglesworth are the best of friends.

Bonnie (American Bulldog) is 9 years old and getting gray around the snout. She likes to keep her parents in shape and is insistent on her nightly walks. Orek (Pit Bull Terrier) is six years old and the most expensive pet in the family. He was a sickly puppy and it took a bit to get him to good health.

Trooper (Tabby) was found in a drainage ditch after a big rain storm. She was about four weeks old and she was trying her best to climb out any way she could. the vet said if she had not been found, she likely would not have lived much longer. Now, she is out of the ditch and has taken over the house!

**Critters 101: Why Love a Snake!**  
(excerpt reprinted from the Houston Audubon Society)

There are 68 species of snakes in Texas and some of them live in Garden Oaks. Lately, there has been a sighting discussed on the GO Yahoo! group. Snakes live in brush piles, stacked wood, trash piles, mulched beds, ditches, and swampy areas. Like it or not, snakes are important to our ecosystem. There are several companies who will come out and humanely remove wildlife from your property – just Google animal control or wildlife removal.

- Snakes fill an important ecological niche and help maintain balance in

the natural food chain.

- Many are beneficial predators of garden and suburban pests, including rats and slugs.
- Snakes possess natural beauty and grace.
- The vast majority is non-aggressive and only bite if handled.
- Snakes are victims of a bad press which often conveys false and misleading information.
- Their streamlined locomotion is a fascinating example of evolutionary adaptation.
- Snakes possess certain chemical compounds which have been found to be very beneficial to mankind and are being used to develop new medicines and chemicals.
- Checklist of Scientific and Common Names of Texas Snakes, maintained by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

**Just remember - they're much more scared of you than you are of them!**

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](mailto:Casey@GoDogUSA.com) or call 713-688-6363.



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**Nonvenomous Snakes**

Small Burrowers	
<b>Flathead</b>	Tiny salmon-colored snake, 3" to 10" long. A friend of gardeners, it eats cutworms and centipedes. Found in flower beds and compost heaps. Egg-bearing.
<b>Rough Earth</b>	Solid brown in color. Eats grubs, earthworms, slugs, etc. Commonly found in gardens. Normal adult size about 12". Live-bearing.
<b>Marsh Brown</b>	Another brown snake, but this one has lighter brown stripes along its back. Eats similar food to rough earth snakes. Normally up to 12". Very common in gardens and lawns. Live-bearing.
Woodland Snakes	
<b>Eastern Hognose</b>	Blotchy, variable coloring - best identified by very stocky shape and upturned nose. Mainly eats toads. Seldom bites. Normal adult size 33". Egg-bearing.
<b>Rough Green</b>	Slender bright green snake, usually arboreal but may be seen on ground. Prefers caterpillars, spiders and grasshoppers. Normal adult size 32". Egg-bearing.
<b>Texas Rat</b>	Most common long snake (up to 72") in our area. Dark squarish blotches on lighter colored skin. Good climber (may be found in attics). Very aggressive and bites readily though bites usually result in only shallow scratches. Eats birds, rodents and other small mammals. Egg-bearing.
<b>Eastern Yellowbelly Racer</b>	Olive-gray above with yellow belly, a slender snake up to 54" long. Insects are its principal food but it also eats smaller vertebrates. Egg-bearing.
<b>Speckled Kingsnake</b>	Shiny chocolate scales with pale yellow spot on each scale and yellow belly. Normal maximum size 36". Prey is all sorts of smaller vertebrates. Will bite readily if picked up. Egg-bearing.
<b>Eastern Garter</b>	Uncommon in Harris County. Variable in coloring but always has a prominent light yellowish green stripe down center of back. Normal adult size 26". Live-bearing.



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Many thanks to all the 2012 Home Tour volunteers for the contribution of their time and talents!

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| Ashley Henke      | Ed de Alba       | John Myrick        | Michelle Jankowski | Shelley Rogers   |
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| Carol Walton      | Gretchen Dreher  | Judi Gilmore       | Pat Walker         | Sue Schmidt      |
| Carrie Shamblen   | Gloria Hooley    | Kelly Gorski       | Patti Bloomer      | Susan Kostelecky |
| Casey Farris      | Gloria McKay     | Kelly Mathews      | Paula Neumann      | Susan Raposky    |
| Catherine Glaze   | Greg Billman     | Kevin David        | Ray Wilkins        | Susan Saranie    |
| Cathy Wahren      | Heather Leverett | Kraig Jankowski    | Rebecca Duran      | Susan Sloan      |
| Chad Modad        | Isela Villareal  | Laura Morgan       | Read Tatum         | Suzanne Debien   |
| Chavonne Slovak   | Jacob Morgan     | Leslie Saunders    | Riley Tatum        | Terri Tharp      |
| Cheryl Cohorn     | James Tatum      | Lindsey Pollock    | Rita Donaldson     | Tina Beddow      |
| Cheryl Pressley   | Jan Forster      | Lisa McBee         | Rita Hartman       | Tina Nieto       |
| Chris Lindsay     | Janet Cones      | Lisa Stout         | Robert Carlin      | Tina Sabuco      |
| Christina Nichols | Janice Abraham   | Liz Terrell        | Roxie Purpich      | Tony Padon       |
| Cindy Bartos      | Jay Tatum        | Lori Kennedy       | Sabrina Innocenti  | Tonya Knauth     |
| Cindy Schumacher  | Jayne Maltbie    | Lynn Sievers       | Sandra O'Guynn     | Trent Slovak     |
| Clare Bell        | Jennifer Osowski | Malcolm Taylor     | Sandy Altman       | Vic Seghers      |
| Corey Wilson      | Jennifer Weaver  | Maria Aimone       | Sarah Aguirre      |                  |
| Darla Englert     | Jeremy Robinson  | Mark Klein         | Scott Easterly     |                  |
| Dea Larson        | Jerry Butler     | Mark Saranie       | Shana Tatum        |                  |



ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES STATEMENT

GARDEN OAKS CIVIC CLUB

January - December 2012

DUE DATE: January 1, 2012	TOTAL CONTRIBUTION: \$ _____
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Membership is open to all residents whether you own or rent. Please choose the level you feel most comfortable supporting. **While all memberships are voluntary, you must contribute a minimum of \$25 (or \$5 for Seniors 65 years+)** in order to be eligible to vote on civic club matters. Membership dues are for the calendar year.

Fill in Amount

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ CREPE MYRTLE: \$25.00 (\$5.00 for Seniors)  
 • Basic Household Membership

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ THE MAGNOLIA: \$50.00 (\$10.00 for Seniors)  
 • Intermediate Level – Household Membership

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ THE GOLDEN OAK: \$75.00 (\$15.00 for Seniors)  
 • Patron Level – Household Membership

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP: \$50.00 (non-voting membership)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ CONTRIBUTION TO BEAUTIFICATION (area green spaces)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ CONTRIBUTION TO GARDEN CLUB

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL

Membership dues support all Garden Oaks Civic Club Activities: Beautification, Citizens' Patrol, the Gazette, Home Tour, Membership Committee, and Website.

Please mail this completed form along with your check payable to:  
 Garden Oaks Civic Club, P.O. Box 10273, Houston, TX 77206. THANK YOU!

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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-Hebrews 3:4



# MAY 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Civic Club mtg 7:00pm, GOES	2	3	4	5
6	7 A Go Go's support group 7pm, 859 Azalea	8 	9 GO Sisterhood 826 Lamonte, 7pm	10 Garden Club 7 pm MNO 7:30 pm El Gran Malo	11	12 GO Kids all ages playgroup Spark Park 10am
13 Mother's Day	14	15 Gazette Deadline	16 GOMO meeting, 7pm	17	18	19
20 Old Fashioned Picnic SPARK Park, 1pm	21	22 	23	24	25 GO Kids Friday Fun Day - Jaycee Park, 10am - 1pm	26
27	28	29	30	31		



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