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
Garden Oaks Gazette
The Garden Oaks Gazette is the official publication of the Garden Oaks Civic Club and is published on a monthly basis. Submission deadline is the 15th of each month for publication the next month unless otherwise noted.

No exceptions.

Publication of any article not related to the Civic Club does not imply endorsement by the Garden Oaks Civic Club and is solely the opinion of the author.

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

Special Thoughts and Consequences
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 terryjeanes.com.

Welcome New Neighbors
Ginny L. Remmel
1005 W. 31st  713.863.7471

—

To proud parents Alice and Mark Sarmiento and siblings Rowan and Olivia who welcome brother Nathan Grey born on March 25, weighing 6 lbs. 2 oz. and 19” long.

May Birthdays
Christopher Knauth — 5
Linda Sparks — 8
Susannah (Susie) Heath — 8

GARDEN OAKS

GARDEN OAKS

Early Under the Oak Tree
by Terry Jeanes

Welcome New Neighbors
951 Althea
211 West 31st
219 West 31st
215 West 33rd
235 West 34th
419 West 34th
508 West 34th
725 West 38th
862 West 41st
1034 West 41st
827 West 43rd
1034 West 43rd
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922 W. 41st
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constable@gardenoaks.org
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constable@gardenoaks.org

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. (Bar).
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).

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 or by phone at 713-864-1992.

BEAUTIFICATION

By Terry Jeanes

March 16 at 9:05 a.m. (residence).
March 19 at 2:45 p.m. (residence).
4300 block of Apollo St. on Monday, March 12 at 2:45 p.m. (residence).
700 block of W. 31st St. on Friday, March 23 at 3:30 p.m. (residence).

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Discounts are available if you sign up as a member of www.HOUSEANDLAWN.com (it is free to join)
GO CIVIC CIVIL 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 Varleija and Jaime Tellez. Both candidates spoke briefly about their backgrounds and qualifications.

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 6th 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 compared to this time last year. He did note than the Constable donations appear low without them knowing who you are. He wants to ID the criminal. Please keep in mind that there are ways to ID criminals without them knowing who you are.

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 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 4th-6th 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.

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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. 38th is Doug Mischlich. Welcome, Doug!
Opportunities: the block captain for the 900 block of W. 42nd 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, 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.

GARDEN OAKS
3rd ANNUAL GARDEN OAKS OLD FASHIONED PICNIC MAY 20
Calling All Garden Oaks Neighbors
By Terry Jeanes
The 3rd Annual Garden Oaks Picnic Sunday is set for May 20 at 1 p.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 1:30 p.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.

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 Alwais

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 34th. 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 Stoess Photography
Brent & Joanne Austin
Chick-fil-A
Chili’s
City of Arlington CVB
Clean as a Whistle Carpet Cleaning
Clear Channel Radio
Cram Crew
Criders’ Cabins
Donnette Hansen
Eden Craig Professional Services
Enterprise Rent-A-Car
Florascapes Garden Design & Installation
Gail Bell Designs
Gretchen Dreher
Haak Winery
Haven Seasonal Kitchen
Health Museum
High Meadow Ranch Golf Club
Houston Astros
Houston Museum of Natural Science
Houston Symphony
Houston Texans
Irm’s Restaurant (Irma Galvan)
Janet Cones
Jennifer Klein Physical Therapy & Pilates
Jimmy Loyd Photography
John & Cindy Bartos

COMING SOON! The Auction Team:
John Williamson Ballroom Dance Instruction
Kiki Neumann
Magic Box Solutions
Martha & Jerry Kennedy
Messina Hof
Mike & Becky McCullough
Missy Alwais
Molly’s Mutt House
More Hands Maid Service
Oak Forest Veterinary Clinic
Osowski Family
Pedal-Party.com
Peggy Smith
Petrol Station
Rainbow Lodge
Reef Restaurant
Reliant Dog Show
Keith & Susan Kostecky
Shipley’s Donuts
ShoutHouse Advertising
Silver Eagle Distributors
SpaceMan Home & Office
SPIvacation.com
SSQQ Dance Studio
Stark Carpet
Studio Fitness
Tangled Hair Salon & Spa
Texas Original Pits
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 founder 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: ‘À 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 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.

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*One client only with regular repeat schedule. Cannot be combined with any other offer or discount. New clients only.
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 or 713.446.6440.
GARDEN OAKS 2012 HOME AND GARDEN TOUR

Garden Oaks
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? Ever wonder where 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

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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 drains 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 drain pan beneath your air handler/evaporator coil which collects possible condensate overflow. Connected to the drain 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 or write to 1590 Sue Barnett Drive. All of Mitch’s previous columns from the Garden Oaks Gazette can be found at www.airwisehouston.com

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Confirm filter size when making appointment
Limit 1 free filter per household

Garden Oaks residents only • Offer expires May 31, 2012
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 savviness 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 children.
4. Respect the ratings of the film by technology and information that
5. When you see or hear unkind or impolite behavior, explain to your children.
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 Zughers’ 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 – 7 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
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 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 (kjordanme@gmail.com) or Ashley Henke (ashleymariehenke@gmail.com) for all the details.
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 magnifi-cent, 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 dedicat-ed, 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 encour-aging 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.

The American Legion Post 560 is located at 3720 Alba Road next to the F4 Phantom Jet of Vietnam fame. Look no further. Having one special person for your car, home and life insurance lets you get down to business with the rest of your life. It’s what I do.

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American Legion Upcoming Events

The American Legion Post 560 is having a Community Yard Sale and BBQ fund raiser 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 appetizer 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 comradere, 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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3. Artwork must be emailed in the following formats: PDF, JPEG (.jpg) or GIF (.gif)

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Advertising Rates, Sizes, and Submission Guidelines

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GARDEN OAKS

State Farm

FATHER OF EIGHT FATHER OF EIGHT seeks energetic lady. Must love kids, be fit and ready to jump in and do the fun. Money would be helpful.

ADVENTUROUS CAT LOVER ADVENTUROUS CAT LOVER seeks adventurous cat owner. Please be employed and willing to relocate. Especially fond of black and white tuxedo cats. All responses will be answered. looking for that Purrr-fect match.

GRANOLA EATING, CAMP LOVING GRANOLA EATING, CAMP LOVING, WORLD TRAVELER seeks woman of my dreams.
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!

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

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.

Checklist of Scientific and Common Names of Texas Snakes, maintained by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nonvenomous Snakes</th>
<th>Small Burrowers</th>
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<tr>
<td>Flathead 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.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rough Earth Solid brown in color. Eats grubs, earthworms, slugs, etc. Commonly found in gardens. Normal adult size about 12” Live-bearing.</td>
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<td>Marsh Brown 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.</td>
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Woodland Snakes


Rough Green Slender bright green snake, usually arboreal but may be seen on ground. Prefers caterpillars, spiders and grasshoppers. Normal adult size 32”. Egg-bearing.

Texas Rat 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.

Eastern Yellowbelly Racer 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.

Speckled Kingsnake 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.

Eastern Garter 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.
GARDEN OAKS CIVIC CLUB

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES STATEMENT
January - December 2012

DUE DATE: TOTAL CONTRIBUTION:
January 1, 2012 $__________________

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 due 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!

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-Hebrews 3:4
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<td>A Go Go’s support group 7pm, 859 Azalea</td>
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<td>Old Fashioned Picnic SPARK Park, 1pm</td>
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<td>25 GO Kids Friday Fun Day - Jaycee Park, 10am - 1pm</td>
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As a resident for 20 years, Deanna Zughieri delivers a great deal of passion when discussing her neighborhood!

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