

# GARDEN OAKS GAZETTE

VOLUME 36

ISSUE 11

## N. SHEPHERD

### COMMUNITY CLEAN UP DAY

*Make the N. Shepherd area a better place to live and work!*

HOUSTON – (September 24, 2012) – Save the date and plan to volunteer with the North Shepherd Area Business Association (NSABA) as it organizes a community cleanup day for the entire area coupled with a plant-a-tree campaign. Help the N. Shepherd, Ella, 34<sup>th</sup>, 43<sup>rd</sup> and Pinemont area to be a better place to live and work on **Saturday, November 10**. Contact Katheryn van der Pol at [Katheryn@AdolphHoeph.com](mailto:Katheryn@AdolphHoeph.com).



#### **PAY YOUR DUES AND BE ELIGIBLE FOR A \$100 GIFT CARD!**

Crime is up in neighboring areas, but Garden Oaks has been calm. If you appreciate the additional support provided by the Constable Patrol, please send in your 2013 contribution. The Civic Club provides Garden Oaks residents an opportunity to participate and vote on neighborhood activities and 2013 contributions are also being accepted. See the Constable Patrol insert and the Civic Club form on page 23, or try going green by using the new GODAT system to pay electronically (see pg 6). This year anyone who pays before February 1, 2013 will be entered into a drawing for a **\$100 gift card**.



The 2012 Wine Walk is sold out with all funds raised going toward the Constable Patrol Program. See article on **page 15** for an update.

## Nov 2012

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### **November Civic Club Meeting**

November 6th, 7pm  
Garden Oaks Elementary School  
Nominations for 2013 GOCC officers will be accepted. 2013 GOCC budget will be reviewed. Guest Speaker: City Attorney's Office

#### **December Civic Club Meeting December 4, 2012**

Holiday Celebration and vote on GOCC Board and the GOCC Annual Budget.

### VOLUNTEER NEEDED

#### **Gazette Delivery Coordinator**

See page 5 for more information.

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## HEARD UNDER THE OAK TREE

by Terry Jeanes

### Welcome, New Neighbors!

Congratulations on joining us. We hope to see you at a civic club meeting soon.

955 Althea	1535 Sue Barnett
1039 West 43 <sup>rd</sup> .	1419 Sue Barnett
215 West 34 <sup>th</sup>	834 Azalea
412 West 32 <sup>nd</sup> .	327 West 33 <sup>rd</sup> .

### November Birthdays

Adelaide Leonard 1st  
 Stacy Gross 2<sup>nd</sup>  
 Katie Swick 4<sup>th</sup>  
 Gina Pecoraro 4<sup>th</sup>  
 Holly Veech 8<sup>th</sup>  
 Anthony Neiser 10<sup>th</sup>  
 Caroline Padon 12<sup>th</sup>  
 Sheila Briones 14<sup>th</sup>  
 Maggie Veech 18<sup>th</sup>  
 Susan Saranie Nov 19<sup>th</sup>  
 Kit Schoenfield 23<sup>rd</sup>

Lucy McLean 25<sup>th</sup>  
 Cheryl Cohon 28<sup>th</sup>  
 Megan Salch 29<sup>th</sup>

### Happy Anniversary

Mark & Katie Swick 10th  
 Mel & Ken Johnson 20<sup>th</sup>

**Congratulations** to Margaret McNutt and the recent ribbon cutting and opening of Heritage Oaks School.

### Out and About

Stephanie and Edgar Acosta enjoyed oysters during oyster week in New York City Bar.  
 Brian O Leary made a trip a to Louisiana Renfest; then accompanied George Appling to New York City.  
 The McLean family traveled to Scotland for a family wedding  
 Shreda Paire enjoyed a recent European trip for her birthday.

Terry Jeanes relaxed in Wimberley at Shellye Arnold and Tina Sabuco's Abundance Retreat.  
 Kristin Jordon celebrated her birthday with participation in the Dirty Girl Mud Run.  
 Condolences to Holly Veech and family on the passing of Holly's mother in September. Also special thoughts for Clare Bell whose father passed in September as well.

To highlight an event, celebration, or other tidbit, contact Terry Jeanes at [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

## 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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**CITIZENS' PATROL**

By Carl Waters

Thanks to everyone who participated in National Night Out by hosting or attending block parties. Party Hosts included Peggy and Craig Kramer, Bill Amy and Claire Shaughnessy, Victor and Deb Seghers, John and Cindy Bartos, Bill and Kristen Flanagan, Liz Terrell, Alisha Cunningham, Will and Deanna Zugheri, Robert and Amanda Carlin, Johnny and Cindy Murphy, Ron and Sheree Peoples and Eric and Jessica Jarvis.

In case you have not received this information from the computer message boards, residents in the Oak Forest area were being robbed at gun point in early to mid October. The victims were exiting from the vehicles in their driveway when armed intruders approached them. It was speculated the victims were being followed home from the store

or other location. Please be aware of who is around you when you arrive home. If you think you are being followed go to a well lit area and call the police (911) or the Constable (713-755-7628) for assistance.

September Crime Statistics (1)

Theft (1)

1500 Block of Sue Barnett on Saturday, September 8, at 1:00 a.m. (street).

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

**Terry Jeanes**  
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Terms expire October of year in parentheses.

## CIVIC CLUB MEETINGS

*by Heather Leverett, Secretary and Mark Klein, President*

As is tradition, the October Garden Oaks Civic Club did not meet in October in order to support the numerous National Night Out events held throughout our neighborhood.

### UPCOMING MEETING

**November 6, 2012, 7pm** at Garden Oaks Elementary. Nominations for 2013 GOCC officers will be accepted.

The 2013 GOCC budget and the September minutes will be reviewed.  
**Guest Speaker: The City Attorney's Office.**

### December 4, 2012

Save the date for December 4 and plan to join us as we close out the year by celebrating the holiday season. We will also vote on the 2013 GOCC board and 2013 GOCC annual budget.

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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.

GARDEN OAKS CIVIC CLUB, INC.			
PROPOSED BUDGET			
2013			
	<u>REVENUES</u>	<u>EXPENSES</u>	<u>NET</u>
Civic Club Membership	9,000	1,550	7,450
Gazette	20,000	17,100	2,900
Home Tour	-	-	-
Wine Walk	3,500	350	3,150
Constable	79,000	79,000	-
Beautification, Improvements & Maint.	20,000	20,000	-
Garden Club	200		200
Interest Income	10		10
GOES-Pancake Breakfast		500	(500)
Community Events		1,000	(1,000)
Santa at Gazebo Park		500	(500)
Website & Hosting		500	(500)
Citizen Patrol		500	(500)
Bank Fees		250	(250)
Rent-Aztec Rental		1,260	(1,260)
Utilities		3,500	(3,500)
Insurance		500	(500)
Accounting Fees		300	(300)
Miscellaneous		1,500	(1,500)
TOTALS	\$131,710	\$128,310	\$3,400

**Presidents Note**

Mark Klein, President

**Special November GOCC Meeting:**

Please join us for our Garden Oaks Civic Club meeting 7 p.m. November 6, when the City of Houston’s Attorney Office will be on hand to discuss deed restrictions – what the City looks for and what influences enforcement decisions. Also, the GOCC will accept nominations for the 2013 board and review the proposed 2013 GOCC annual budget. Both matters will be voted on at our December 4 meeting.

For our November meeting, please note that the City Attorney representatives will not and cannot discuss specific cases. Our guest speaker will focus on how the City enforces deed restriction violations. GOCC meeting attendees are asked not to inquire about specific cases, and the meeting will be directed to serve that purpose.

That said, this meeting provides two excellent opportunities for our neighbors who are interested in enforcing Garden Oaks’ deed restrictions. First, it is an opportunity to learn what the City looks for when enforcing deed restrictions in Section 4, the sole section that is not part of the Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization (GOMO continues to enforce deed restrictions in Sections 1, 2, 3 and 5). Second, engaging city and other government officials directly is an effective way to gain their attention and to let them know that Garden Oaks cares about issues that affect the character of this neighborhood.

Brother’s Pizza at 3820 N. Shepherd will graciously provide New York-style pizza pies to get the meeting started (while slices last). Special thanks to the Brother’s crew for helping the GOCC during this year. **Gazette Delivery Team**  
by Dian Austin

Welcome to the **Hugetz family - Michael, Shannon, Miguel and Isabel**, who will take over delivering *Gazettes* on Lawrence, in Section 1. And farewell and thanks to the Renos for all their help in many previous years. It’s volunteers like both these families who keep Garden Oaks great!

A note from the Renos:  
*After 7 years, the Reno family would like you to join us in expressing thanks to the Hugetz family for kindly stepping forward to share their time and service delivering the GO Gazette to our Lawrence Street neighbors. We have enjoyed delivering to you and ask that all of you welcome them yourselves as you meet them along the route every month.*

**We are still in need of a Gazette Delivery Coordinator to shepherd the whole delivery process.** *Cont. on Page 7.*

*Continued on page 7 -*

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**GO Green Initiative***By Heather Leverett*

By now, many of you have received an email inviting you to support the 2013 civic club and/or constable program, either by paying online or by printing off the forms and mailing them in. The data will be imported or entered into our new GODAT (Garden Oaks Data Acquisition Tool) to allow for better organization.

If successful, this online annual membership drive will replace the traditional paper mailout that is both costly, labor intensive, and environmentally wasteful.

If you have not received an email, it is because we do not have your correct email address. If you wish to be part of our GO Green Initiative, please send your name, physical address, and email address to [secretary@gardenoaks.org](mailto:secretary@gardenoaks.org).

Both the 2013 constable and civic club membership forms will continue to be in each month's *Gazette*. We accept snail mail too!

We encourage you to support both the civic club and the constable program, and to submit your data early.

If you have ANY issues or questions when using the forms or trying the online process, please reach out to [secretary@gardenoaks.org](mailto:secretary@gardenoaks.org) or call at 832-455-6254. As this is our first time having an online drive for support, we want to make sure we address any issues so that the process is as easy as possible.

**GOMO UPDATE***By Jessica Jarvis***Annual Meeting Held October 17.**

The GOMO annual meeting was held Wednesday, October 17. The business transacted included the election of several directors and the voting on the spending of surplus funds.

**New Directors Elected**

The directors for Sections 1, 2, 3 and 5 were elected by acclamation. Mark Saranie was re-elected for Section 1; his term runs through October of 2015. Ann Best was elected to fill the vacant position in Section 1; her term expires in 2013. Gale Gorman was re-elected to represent Section 2 and his term runs through October of 2015. Lori Kennedy was elected to fill a vacant position with that term running through 2014. In Section 3, Dea Larson was elected to a three-year term; her term ends in 2015. In Section 5, Jim Willburn was re-elected with his term expiring in 2015.

**Surplus Funds Voted**

Both funding measures passed. The first measure, the funding of one evening and one daytime Constable passed 241 to 17. The second measure, funds for the purchase and installation of four speed feedback signs on 43<sup>rd</sup> also passed, 150 to 107.

**Pizza Party Voting**

In addition to its regular business, the GOMO Board held an informal taste-test of three of our neighborhood pizza parlors: Brother's Pizza, Pink's Pizza and That Pizza Place. Two pizzas from each were provided and attendees voted on their favorite. The winner by a narrow margin was Brother's Pizza.

**November Meeting Date Change**

In consideration for the Thanksgiving holiday, the **November meeting date was changed to November 14** from the regular third Wednesday of the month date or November 21.

**Open Invitation to our Meetings**

All GOMO Members are invited to attend our meetings. Democracy works best in an open environment – and that is as true at the neighborhood level as it is at the Federal and State levels. There is no better way for the people of our community to see for themselves how we evaluate the building plans brought to us and how we reach consensus.

It is also the best way to get your questions answered. The GOMO Board is made up of 12 people and the Board doesn't have an "opinion" about a topic unless a majority of a quorum forms a consensus view. So no one Board Member is able to tell you what GOMO "thinks" about an issue or idea until we have an opportunity to deliberate and form a collective opinion. The formation of GOMO policy and opinion takes place at 7 p.m. every third Wednesday of the month at our business meeting held at the GOMO Office, Garden Oaks Professional Building, 4001 N. Shepherd, Suite 216. You are very welcome to attend, make suggestions, propose ideas, ask questions, clarify rumors, or simply observe the process.



**CONSTABLE PROGRAM**

By Terry Jeanes & Susan Love Saranie

There have been numerous at-gunpoint robberies on several Oak Forest driveways. Note the following : white Jeep Cherokee, small blue Nissan sedan, and an SUV, no other details. Culprits were black males in their 30's.

Be alert, watch for anyone following you, and have your cell handy. Call 911 and constable dispatch...713 755 7628.

Also remove packages from your car; it is an invitation of opportunity to thieves.

AGAIN a Deputy Request: FULL stops at area stop signs. Deputies have been flagged by walking and biking neighbors pointing to traffic that runs stops signs. The safety

of our neighbors is their utmost concern, in addition to deterring violators for break-ins. Traffic stops you can control. Help curb this traffic concern and be mindful of FULL stops.

Many thanks to the supporters of the Garden Oaks Wine Walk in their contribution to the program.

SUPPORT the Garden Oaks Constable Program. Supporter form is enclosed here for 2013 or online at <http://gardenoaks.org/constableform>.

Note in an effort to be more environmentally friendly, past supporters will be emailed in the month of October the 2013 form vs a hard mailed copy. Please expedite upon receipt.

For all neighbors to receive more

timely notices on crime alerts please provide your name, email and street address to [secretary@gardenoaks.org](mailto:secretary@gardenoaks.org). Also contact your surrounding neighbors and encourage them to do so.

REMINDER to contact your alarm monitoring company to contact constable dispatch for prompt response to alarms. REMINDER you can find the vacation watch form at <http://www.gardenoaks.org/Resources/VacationWatch.pdf>

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**Gazette Cont. from page 4.**

Time is drawing nigh if anyone wants to continue receiving their newsletters monthly delivered door to door. If interested in volunteering, please contact me at [FallingwaterT@yahoo.com](mailto:FallingwaterT@yahoo.com) or call me at 713-691-6505.

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**CALLING ALL MARINES**

*By Jim Acker*

Garden Oaks American Legion Post 560 is celebrating the 237th birthday of the United States Marine Corps Saturday November 10th starting at 1800 hours (6PM). We encourage all former Marines, Navy Corpsman attached to Marine units and active duty Marines to attend and be honored. Anyone who wants to attend is invited. There will be some heroes and VIPs present.

The oldest Marine will be honored by cutting the cake with a Marine Corps NCO sword (1857 Calvary model) and serving the first piece to the youngest Marine on deck. The oldest Marine will be Earl Schrader who was a platoon sergeant in the battle for Okinawa 1945.

Unfortunately his wife, Helen, passed on a couple of years ago.

Earl met Helen at Camp Pendleton shortly before shipping out. They had 5 dates in 6 days and she waited for 2.5 years for him to return. Earl always says, "Helen was a better Marine than me". The youngest Marine is undetermined at the present time.

The Marine Corps traces its roots to Tun Tavern in Philadelphia in 1775 when the first recruits were sworn in to provide marksmen for the Continental Navy. Anywhere a few Marines are gathered, November 10th is celebrated. American embassies around the world host the birthday ball that is attended by



Helen and Earl Schrader

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Earl Schrader in Okinawa

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

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

The birthday celebration falls this year on the same day as the American Legion Chili Cook-off, an all day event open to everyone. There will be raffles, games, memorabilia for sale along with chili produced by cook-off teams from all over SE Texas. The Marine Corps League will have a team there as well.

The ceremony will be conducted by GySgt Mike Campbell. Mike served 13 years in the Corps as a scout

sniper through four deployments and as a drill instructor. We encourage anyone who wants to see this inspiring ceremony to attend. In particular we would like to meet and honor all of the former Marines in the area. The event is free.

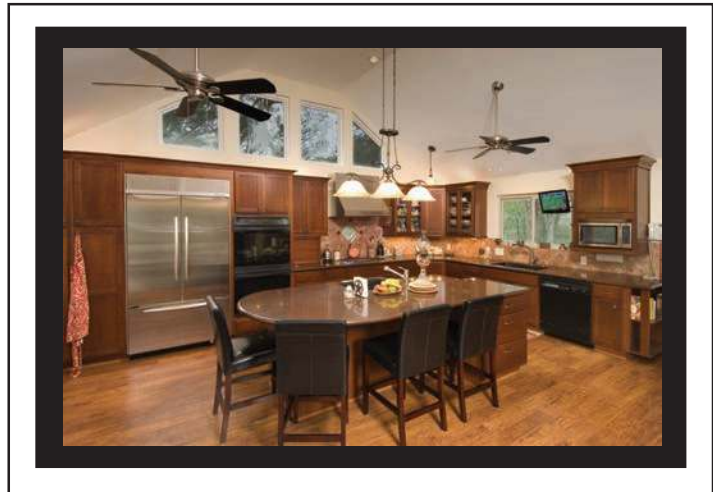
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**A GO-GOs SUPPORT GROUP**

by Tina Sabuco

The "Alzheimer's Group of Garden Oaks" (aka "A Go Go") -- a support group for family and friends with loved ones who have Alzheimer's Disease or Dementia, has been meeting on the first Monday of the month since May. We welcome anyone to join us, be it for a single meeting or on a regular basis.

The November meeting date will be Monday, November 5th. Our meetings are from 7:00 – 9:00 at 859 Azalea Street, the home of Tina Sabuco, who is also the foundress of the group. Please make a note of our final 2012 meeting: **December 3<sup>rd</sup>**.

If you are interested in joining us and would like to rsvp to an upcoming meeting or if you have any questions, contact Tina at [goddess@abundanceretreat.com](mailto:goddess@abundanceretreat.com) or 713-692-6778.

**REPORTING STREET LIGHT OUTAGES**

If you notice any street lights that are out, please report them to CenterPoint Energy as they are responsible for maintaining the street lights.

The reporting process is:

Record the 6 digit number located on the street light pole (if possible). Report the problem to CenterPoint Energy online ([CenterPoint Report Street Light Outage](#)) or by phone (713.207.2222).

A well-lighted street is essential to the safety of all of us.



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**Yard of the Month: 1321 Sue Barnett Drive**



By Shaun Spear

The Garden Oaks Garden Club November Yard of the Month is 1321 Sue Barnett Drive. This yard is full of Texas native plants including verbena, sage, salvia and many more! Much of the yard is in full bloom. Although not as showy as cultivated plants, these native plants are much more attractive to local wildlife such as birds and butterflies. Additionally, since they are acclimated to local conditions, they do not require the use of pesticides and fertilizers and require less water to thrive! Congratulations!



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# GARDEN OAKS



GARDEN OAKS  
2012

# GARDEN OAKS



**APPLICATION FOR GARDEN OAKS MONTESSORI MAGNET PROGRAM**

By Stephanie DuBroff-Acosta

Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet is one of three public Montessori programs in Houston Independent School District. Here is a bit of information to help guide you through our Magnet Process.

Applications for students 3 years old through 6<sup>th</sup> grade are available November 3<sup>rd</sup> (both online at [Houstonisd.org](http://Houstonisd.org) or at the school office). All applications must be for the 2013-2014 school year; those on waitlist and applications from previous years are no longer valid. Completed applications (with ALL of the required forms) are due back January 11<sup>th</sup> to be included in the lottery. Please be sure to apply on time! Those who turn in complete applications by January

11<sup>th</sup> are considered Phase 1 and are included in the lottery. Those who turn in incomplete applications or applications after January 11<sup>th</sup> are considered Phase 2. Only after all of the applicants from Phase 1 are called off the waiting list will Phase 2 applicants be called.

**Age Guidelines:**

PK3 Students must be 3 years old before September 1, 2013 (only HISD Montessori Magnets accept 3 year olds into their PK programs). PK4 Students must be 4 years old before September 1, 2013 (not all schools accept 4 year olds into their program). Kindergarten Students must be 5 years old before September 1, 2013.

**Zoned and Non Zoned**

It is mandatory for zoned and non-zoned students to fill out an application and return all requested documentation. K-5 Zoned students

who apply by the deadline will have priority. PK Zoned students are in the lottery. THERE IS NO GUARANTEE.

Notification Letters will be postmarked March 22.

Acceptance of spot must be received by April 5.

Tours of the school are held on Thursdays at 9:30am through April 4<sup>th</sup>. Please contact the school (713-696-2930) to arrange a tour. Once applications are turned in parents are asked to attend one of our new applicant orientations, either January 29<sup>th</sup> at 7pm or February 9<sup>th</sup> at 9am (during the Pancake Breakfast). Thank you for considering Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet as your school of choice for your children! We look forward to seeing you in the near future!

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**SOLD OUT WINE WALK**

by Dian Austin

As we go to press, we are counting down the days until our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Wine Walk, our constable program fundraiser. And as in previous years, we have sold all 200 tickets. This year's "Mediterranean Magic" themed event should promise even more fun than before. We will have a detailed wrap-up in the December Gazette.

We have two new Wine Walk sponsors since our last article: **Cottonwood**, the new restaurant at 3422 N. Shepherd at the \$500 level, and Section 1 residents **John and Lizabeth Saracho** at the \$250 level.

We have gained more sponsors in total this year, and are hopeful to generate at least \$13,000+ funds

for the constable program. We currently have 3 constable patrol contracts (each costing a bit less than \$75,000 annually), which give us increased constable presence throughout all five sections of Garden Oaks. GOMO has covered the cost of two of these contracts in the past. The third contract is funded by contributions from Garden Oaks residents. Currently less than 25% of the households support the constable program, which benefits all of us. Please utilize the 2013 Constable Membership form in this newsletter and donate whatever you can.

In the December Gazette, we'll publish pictures from the event and a list of all who made this fun time possible. Thanks to everyone who supports the constable program in any way.



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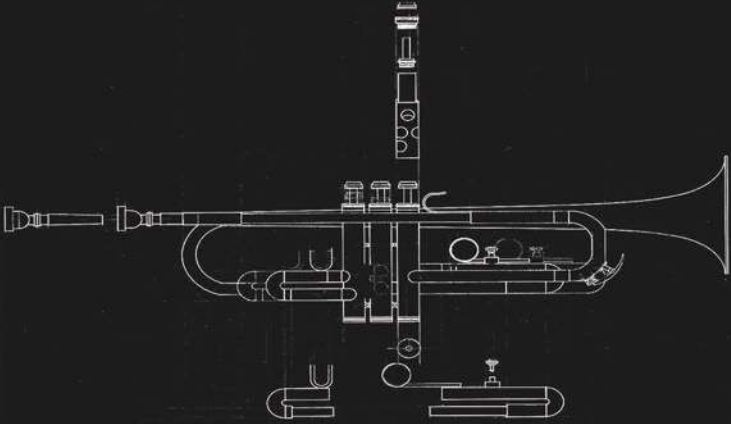
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[mmcnutt@heritageoaksschool.org](mailto:mmcnutt@heritageoaksschool.org)

**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/](http://www.facebook.com/)

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## GO KIDS UPDATE

by Kristin Jordan

### Garden Oaks Kids

Garden Oaks is a vibrant and friendly neighborhood in Houston, TX. With over 300 families, GO Kids has age-based playgroups, a Moms' Night Out, new parent dinner drops, a book club, a babysitting co-op, potlucks, and many other scheduled activities. The ages of kids in the group range from newborns to school-aged--- all Garden Oaks families are welcome.

### Current GO Kids Monthly



## PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Photo by Nicole Compte Photography

**Group Outings: Look for more details on [bigtent.com](http://bigtent.com)**

### Friday Fun Day Playgroups –

**GO Babies – 0-2 Years**

**Go Buddies – 2-5 Years**

**GO Babies & Buddies** are having playdates every two weeks, so watch your calendar for some fun mommy and kiddo time!

### Weight Loss Challenge:

We need a new coordinator for the Garden Oaks weight loss challenge. Please contact Devin at [devin@provishr.com](mailto:devin@provishr.com) or 832-647-9405 if you are interested in taking on the fun role.

### Running Club:

Running club meets every Tuesday at 8:30pm in Section 1. Interested in joining? Contact Devin at [devin@provishr.com](mailto:devin@provishr.com) or 832-647-9405.

**Cookbook** – Order today at [GardenOaksCooks.com](http://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](http://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 details.*



## THE LEADER IN ME IS AT GARDEN OAKS!

By Lindsey Pollock

*The Leader In Me* is a curriculum that is based on Dr. Stephen Covey's work around *the 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*. Thanks to a grant written by Ms. Blanco, the funding for this wonderful undertaking was awarded to our school!

This past summer, I received a grant alert from the HISD Magnet Department alerting us to apply for a Covey Foundation Grant for *The Leader In Me*. Ms. Blanco and I had discussed *The Leader In Me* for the past year, but the cost to implement was prohibitive (\$25,000 for year one). Therefore, when the chance arose, Ms. Blanco immediately flew into action! Because of her dedication and team spirit, she quickly put together a grant team and submitted the paperwork and video produced by Chad and Miles Modad.

Once we passed the application phase, Ms. Blanco and I participated in a phone interview and site visit from the Covey Foundation representatives. When the news was announced that we had won the grant, everyone on campus was elated! Teachers, staff and parents participated in a week of 7 Habits Signature training the week before the official start of school. Thanks to the dedication of our school staff, we were able to spend a week learning how to apply the philosophy of the 7 Habits into our personal lives. The 7 Habits are:

**Habit 1:** Be Proactive - You're in Charge

**Habit 2:** Begin With the End in Mind - Have a Plan

**Habit 3:** Put First Things First - Work First, Then Play

**Habit 4:** Think Win-Win - Everyone Can Win

**Habit 5:** Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood - Listen Before You Talk

**Habit 6:** Synergize - Together Is Better

**Habit 7:** Sharpen the Saw - Balance Feels Best

For Garden Oaks, *The Leader In Me* will provide a common language for teachers, students, parents and community members based on the proven leadership skills of the 7 Habits. These skills will be introduced and emphasized through a "ubiquitous" approach. Instead of adding one more thing for teachers to "teach", the 7 Habits will be integrated into everything we do on campus! By working with parents, too, we can help our children gain life-long skills for success in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

The grant will cover materials, professional development and coaching for the next 3 years. According to the Covey Foundation the first year consists of:

TEACHER EXPERIENCE (Year 1)  
Establish a Guiding Vision, Common Language, and Culture

Through facilitated peer-to-peer discussion, videos, and learning exercises, teachers and administrators will:

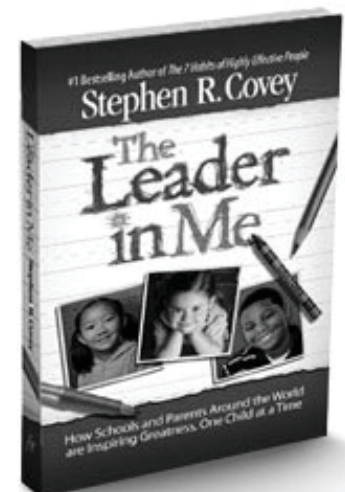
- Explore and create a guiding vision for what "greatness" means within the culture of their school.
- Learn and internalize *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People* and understand

how to apply the principles in their classrooms.

- Study other schools that have integrated the 7 Habits and other leadership and quality tools.

On-site facilitators will be certified to deliver *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People* training as a means of ongoing professional development.

To date, in addition to the first week of 7 Habits Signature training, teachers also spent a Saturday in September dedicated to training to support integration into the school setting. On October 13<sup>th</sup>, our team of 8 school and parent representatives will spend the day working with our Lighthouse coach learning about our path to becoming a Leader In Me Lighthouse (model) school. This team will also attend a 2-day training in November to support this goal. In the meantime, your children will be learning about the 7 Habits and bringing home the knowledge and skills from this unique leadership model. Copies of *The Leader In Me* are available in the Garden Oaks front office – stop in and get your free copy!



**CRITTER CORNER**

by Casey and Dorothy Dan Farris

I am so glad that Thanksgiving will soon be here. This is a day set aside to give thanks for our blessings. Giving thanks is a powerful tool that can dramatically improve your life and the lives of those around you. Start by embracing gratitude's special day, and then make it a habit! Our pet of the month is a very special Blue Heeler.

**Critters 101: Reasons to Give Thanks for Your Pet**

Think about the animals that have given you joy: Dogs that love you with every inch of their hearts, cats that think your lap is the best place to nap in the whole world, birds whose songs uplift your spirit, squirrels whose antics put a grin on your face and so many others. What animals and pets add to your lives is good. Here are some reasons to be thankful for your pet.

*Love* – If there is one thing you know, it is that your pet loves you. If you love your pet then that love comes back to you tenfold.

*Companionship* – Your pet keeps you company, and that company helps you to feel less lonely and isolated, especially if you live alone. Coming home to your pet gives you something to look forward to. If you leash up your dog or cat and stroll through the neighborhood, more than likely someone will talk to you. Studies show that people walking with a dog talk to new people far more often than if the dog wasn't with them.

*Physical contact* – Studies show that cuddling and stroking your pet is good for you. It makes you calmer and can even lower your heart rate and your blood pressure.

*Someone to Talk to* – Talking things out relieves a lot of internal pressure. Talk about anything – your pet will listen. Even better, he won't disagree, interrupt, or tell anyone your secrets.

*Motivation to exercise* – Most pets need exercise every day. Whether it's walking your dog, riding your horse or playing with your cat, you will be getting exercise too. Physical exercise helps you to deal with stress and sometimes gives you the opportunity to get outside and breathe some fresh air.

*Security* – Some pets promote a feeling of safety. Your dog barks when he hears or smells something out of the ordinary, and your cat wakes you if there is smoke in the house. Sometimes just having your pet nearby is enough to make you feel less anxious and more secure.

**Pet of the Month:** "Ms. November" is La La Bloomer. La La is a Blue Heeler and lives in Section IV with her mother Patti Bloomer. La La started at the city pound but was quickly fostered out to the Weeks family in Section II. Patti and puppy La La soon got together and now La La turned six in August.

La La is a petite Heeler and goes to work every day with her mother at Tiddies Sandals. Remember those? Patti bought this Houston Company six years ago and has expanded the inventory. La La chewed a few pairs of sandals but now focuses on greeting customers and herding the staff. She prefers if they all work close together. When La La is not working she likes to play Frisbee and ball. La La is so cute and sweet; she is a good eater and plays well with other dogs and cats. La La is short for "ooh la la" which means too good for words.

Casey Farris is owner/operator of Bone Voyage Pet Sitting Services which has been servicing Garden Oaks for 11 years. 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.

*Heritage Oaks School*  
Upcoming Events

**Annual Holiday Market**  
December 1, 9AM-1PM

**Community Sing-along and Silent Auction**  
December 21, 10:30 AM



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**AIR CONDITIONING TIPS FOR FALL**

by Mitch Weigand

**Tip No. 30: Choosing a Home Generator: Portable vs. Stand-by Part Two of Three**

In last month's column, we discussed the possibility of choosing a portable generator. The pros for this kind of generator can be found in its name. It's portable so you can use it while camping, operating power tools outside or after a weather emergency when electricity is temporarily unavailable. Another plus is portable generators use a variety of fuel with propane being the most convenient and easiest to obtain.

What are the cons? Well, it creates a lot of noise while running and the fumes can be toxic. A portable generator also requires constant monitoring and fuel refilling. Let's

now examine our other choice.

**What is an automatic stand-by generator?**

An automatic stand-by generator is a back-up electrical system which operates whether you are home or away. It literally stands at the ready, and within seconds of an electrical outage, automatically supplies power directly to your home's circuit breaker box. Once electricity is restored, the generator shuts itself off and waits for the next outage.

Stand-by generators operate on natural gas or liquid propane (LP) gas and sit in the yard just like your central A/C systems outside condenser. The American Red Cross recommends the stand-by generator over a portable generator as the superior method to provide back-up power to your home. Here's why:

- With a properly installed stand-by generator, your home is free of

potentially deadly carbon monoxide that a portable generator emits.

- Using your home's natural gas fuel supply, it's less expensive to run than gasoline in a portable generator and does not need to be refilled constantly.
- It eliminates the hassle of hauling a portable generator outside or running extension cords throughout your home.
- Whether you're at home or away, a stand-by generator starts on its own automatically within seconds of a power outage.
- Stand-by generators provide protection 24/7 and turn themselves off when utility power is restored.

This topic will conclude in next month's Garden Oaks Gazette.

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).

**What a pleasure!** *Krista J. Spring Branch*

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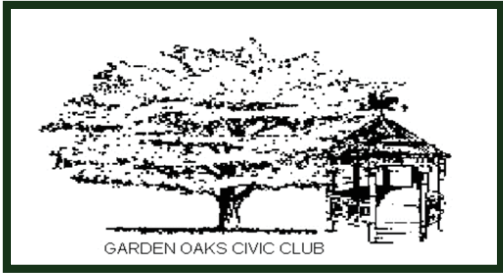
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**GARDEN OAKS CIVIC CLUB**

**January - December 2013**

DUE DATE: January 1, 2013	TOTAL CONTRIBUTION: \$ _____
------------------------------	---------------------------------

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.

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  - Intermediate Level – Household Membership
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ THE GOLDEN OAK: \$75.00 (\$15.00 for Seniors)
  - Patron Level – Household Membership
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP: \$50.00 (non-voting membership)
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- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ 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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# NOVEMBER 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 Farmers Market, 9AM-1 PM 985 Wakefield
4	5 A-Go Go Meeting 859 Azalea, 7 pm	6 Garden Oaks Civic Club Meeting GOES, 7 PM	7	8 Garden Club, 7pm	9	10 Farmers Market, 9AM-1 PM 985 Wakefield
11 Veterans Day	12	13 	14 GOMO Monthly Meeting, 7 PM GOES	15	16	17 Farmers Market, 9AM-1 PM 985 Wakefield
18	19	20	21	22 Thanksgiving Day	23	24 Farmers Market, 9AM-1 PM 985 Wakefield
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