

# GARDEN OAKS GAZETTE

VOLUME 36

ISSUE 12

## GAZEBO SANTA RETURNS!

by Tina Sabuco

Children and children at heart will be welcomed by "Gazebo Santa" on **Wednesday, December 5<sup>th</sup> & Thursday, December 6<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. in Gazebo Park.**

After a three-year hiatus, Santa's sleigh will be jingling our way again! We are very excited to reintroduce Gazebo Santa to Garden Oaks.

Santa has many little helpers this year -- GO Kids families will be providing Santa's Cookies and Georgia Lister, Terry Jeanes and Tina Sabuco will be providing the atmosphere, entertainment and elves.



### REMINDER TO PAY YOUR CONSTABLE AND CIVIC CLUB DUES!

The 2013 Constable supporter forms can be found in this month's *Gazette*. You can also pay online at <http://www.gardenoaks.org>.

Anyone who pays before February 1, 2013 will be entered into a drawing for a **\$100 gift card**.

## Dec 2012



### UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Holiday Potluck  
701 Garden Oaks Blvd.  
(See pg 7)

Vote on GOCC Board and  
the GOCC Annual Budget.

#### **January Civic Club Meeting January 8, 2013**

**Garden Oaks Elementary**

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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.

835 West 41 <sup>st</sup>	737 West 42 <sup>nd</sup>
1443 Sue Barnett	531 West 30 <sup>th</sup>
1463 Sue Barnett	818 West 43 <sup>rd</sup>
1466 Sue Barnett	304 West 32 <sup>nd</sup>
1047 West 42 <sup>nd</sup>	228 West 32 <sup>nd</sup>
1070 West 42 <sup>nd</sup>	4129 Apollo

### December Birthdays

Terry Jeanes –11th  
 Ian and Julia McDaniel—12th  
 Jim McDaniel— 15th  
 Brian O’Leary—17th  
 Sandy Altman—24th  
 Katie Cunningham– 30th

A special 1st birthday wish to

**Cameron Elizabeth Cracknell** on December 17th. Proud Parents, **Reagan and Lauren Cracknell** and proud grandparents—**Jim and Margaret Hall**.

Out and About:

**Blanche Ragsdale** was in the crowd at the fabulous Paul McCartney concert. **Stephanie Acosta** and **Kari Noser** along with their girls had a family math night out at Teotihuacan. **Trent, Megan, and Kylie Salch** headed to Disney. How much fun was that? **Caroline Mclean** and friends were recently spotted in the crowd at LA’s Nokia theatre. **Stacy Gross** was a busy gal working on the Ladies Go Texas Annual Barn Dance celebrating Miss Moo’s 20<sup>th</sup> Birthday. The place to be Halloween eve was **Tina Sabuco’s** and **Shellye Arnold’s** where over

1100 trick or treaters stopped by.

**Brenda de Alba, Jessica Jarvis, & Terry Jeanes**, enjoyed a girls night out seeing “Girls Only”, seen by many of the women in the neighborhood.

Condolences to **Janice Walden, Sean Walden, and Sterling Walden**, the family of Warren Walden, section one resident who passed away unexpectedly on a recent camping trip, doing what he dearly loved as the assist scoutmaster for his sons’ scout troop. Condolences also to **Lori Kennedy and Joe Muscara** on the loss of Lori’s uncle Duane. Also special thoughts for the **Acosta family** on the recent loss of their dear Mavis.

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

## Garden Oaks Gazette

The Garden Oaks Gazette is the official publication of the Garden Oaks Civic Club and is published on a monthly basis. Submission deadline is the 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

The holiday season is upon us once again. Here are some safety tips for your holiday shopping:

- Stay alert to your surroundings.
- Avoid trips after dark when possible.
- Go with friends or other family members (remember there is safety in numbers).
- Park in well lit areas as close to the entrance as possible.
- Use checks, debit cards or credit cards to avoid carrying large amounts of cash when you shop.
- Ladies keep your purses close to your body and gentlemen put your wallets in your front pocket to make them harder to steal.
- Keep an eye on your purchases when you stop to eat.
- Avoid carrying large numbers of packages; use a package pickup service when you can.

- Have your keys out before you leave the store.
- Place packages in the trunk of the car or in other hidden areas as you leave the mall or return to make more purchases.
- After the holidays cut up large boxes and place them in your recycling bins to make it more difficult for curious eyes to see what you received for Christmas that they may want.

**October Crime Statistics (5)**

**Burglary (4)**

- 700 block of W. 38th St., on Friday, October 5th at 2:00 p.m. (residence).
- 3100 block of Randall St., on Wednesday, October 17th at 8:15 a.m. (residence).
- 200 block of W. 31st St., on Friday, October 19th at 10:00 p.m. (garage).
- 200 block of W. 32nd St., on Saturday, October 20th at 10:30 p.m. (garage).

**Theft (1)**

900 block of Althea St., on Monday, October 29th at 1:36 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*

### Garden Oaks Civic Club Minutes

**Location: Garden Oaks Elementary**

November 6, 2012

Welcome: President Mark Klein called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

### Thank you again to Brother's Pizzeria (shopping center at Shepherd and 38<sup>th</sup>) for providing delicious New York style pizza for everyone attending the meeting!

A motion was made and carried to accept the September minutes as published in the *Gazette*. There were no October minutes due to National Night Out celebrations.

### President's Announcements:

**Wine Walk:** President Klein thanked all the volunteers who supported the Wine Walk. A big thanks to Ed and Brenda de Alba for hosting the successful event.

### Section One Proposed Closure:

A request has been made to close the 610/Lawrence cut-through in Section One. If you are interested in supporting this initiative please email [president@gardenoaks.org](mailto:president@gardenoaks.org). It will take a unanimous neighbor vote and have significant access and funding requirements. Closures such as this are very difficult to implement.

### City Solid Waste Department & Re-routing:

President Klein introduced DeMarcus Glass, Deputy Assistant Director of the Northeast Service Center. Glass spoke about the plans effective November 1<sup>st</sup> to change the solid waste disposal routes around the city. The new large trash removal policy will eliminate confusion, increase efficiency, and save dollars. Citations for large trash will be

waived for the next two months while the new plan is implemented. Specifics can be found at [www.houstonsolidwaste.org](http://www.houstonsolidwaste.org). All sections of Garden Oaks will now have their heavy trash days the same: the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month.

### Deed Restrictions and Section

**Four:** Garden Oaks continues to have complaints from neighbors about violations in Section Four. It is up to the City to enforce violations, whether they are minor or significant. Donna Edmundson, Chief of Neighborhood Service for the City of Houston, with City Attorneys Heather Cook and Mandy Prichard, spoke about the process of reporting violations and how the City reviews and enforces deed restrictions. They encouraged early reporting of issues via 311, via online form, directly to the City Attorney for District C (Heather Cook), or directly to Donna Edmundson (832-393-6268). There was discussion about when litigation is pursued and the importance of the builder's affidavit that is signed when permitting.

### Waltrip High School Band Presidential Inaugural Parade

**Fundraiser:** Jane Ann Roberts, GO Section One resident and parent of a Waltrip High School band member, spoke about a new fundraising effort for the high school band, the #1 band in Southeast Texas. The band is in the running to march in the Washington D.C. inaugural parade. They are trying to take 150 kids and will need \$140,000 to do so. The district is providing \$50,000. A motion was made and carried to donate \$1,000 of the Civic Club's community budget to support the effort.

**Civic Club Nominations:** The vote for 2013 officers for the Civic Club will be at the December 4<sup>th</sup> GOCC

meeting. If you are interested in being an officer or want to nominate someone, please do so prior to the December meeting. The current officers (President Mark Klein, Vice President Vic Seghers, Treasurer Phil Ramirez, and Secretary Heather Leverett) are up for nomination, but welcome newcomers to the board or committees.

**GOCC 2013 Annual Budget**

**Review/Treasurer's Update:** The proposed 2013 budget is published in the Gazette. It is similar to 2012's. The budget will be voted on at the December meeting.

**Standing Committee Reports:**

**Membership:** Dian Austin reported that Wine Walk had 22 sponsors this year and made \$14,000, with minimal expense. In the monthly GOCC attendance drawing, David Garver (Section 5) won a Home Depot gift card.

**GO Citizens Patrol:** Carl Waters reported 1 crime in September and 5 in October, impacting Sections 1,3, and 4. There have been 68 crimes this year. There were 49 at the same time in 2011. Please pay attention to anyone who might be following you home from the store. There is an increase in the area of people being followed home and burglarized in their driveways.

**Constable Program:** Terry Jeanes praised the Constables. There have been six arrests by the Constables in Garden Oaks. Three burglaries have been thwarted, two by the deputies and one by large German Shepherds. There have been complaints about rolling through stop signs and the cut-through traffic in Section One due to the 610 construction. There will be no increase in the 2013 GOCC Constable contract.

**Beautification:** No update.

**Gazette:** The Constable form will be in the next *Gazette*. Please support the neighborhood Constable program to help keep crime at bay. More financial support could mean more patrols and protection.

**GardenOaks.org Website:** No update.

**Garden Oaks Elementary:** Principal

Lindsey Pollock reported that the school is waiting for the vote on the HISD bond election (post meeting update: the bond passed). The Constable has been a great help with recent parking challenges, but the school is still struggling with the parking issues in that are impacting the school and neighborhood. Please encourage neighbors to turn in their magnet applications if they are interested in the school. Anyone zoned to the area has priority, but the paperwork must be in place.

**Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization (GOMO) Update:**

Ed de Alba reported that the annual GOMO meeting was held in October, with board nominations and voting on budget. There is still a three-year position open in Section 3. The vote to provide funds again for the Constable program passed. A vote also passed to pursue electronic speed feedback signs for 43<sup>rd</sup>. There are requests for other neighborhood locations as well. President Klein adjourned the meeting at 8:30 pm.



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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](http://GardenOaks.org). Property owners in Sections 1, 2, 3 and 5 are all members of the Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization.

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**CONSTABLE PROGRAM—A Shout Out For Our Deputies, Become a Supporter, and Cruising for Smiles Toy Drive**

By Terry Jeanes & Susan Love Saranie

Unfortunately unwanted activity has picked up in the area, likely due to the need for cash for the holiday season. Yet the great work of our patrolling deputies, along with HPD, led to arrests of 9 culprits in two weeks.

At 11:45 am the last Monday in October, Deputy Le stopped a suspicious vehicle, detained both individuals, discovered a screwdriver with fresh paint scrapings, and then noticed a rear window where had been an attempted break-in. Both were arrested and had prior burglaries of habitations records. Later in the wee hours of the night near 12:45 a.m , a black male knocked at a homeowner's door on W 38<sup>th</sup>. The homeowner shouted thru the door and turned to call the constable. Before he could dial the phone, Deputy Sosa along with a back up constable unit pulled up. Within minutes HPD arrived. End of story: arrests of 4 males in the stolen van with floor jacks in the vehicle.

An alert homeowner on W. 30<sup>th</sup> noted an attempted break-in and immediately called the constable. Although the culprits left, description was out on radio. An HPD unit spotted the vehicle, detained 3 individuals who were positively identified by the neighbor, leading to the arrest of all 3. Good job and work by all.

Our Constable Program Works... Won't you join and support the program? Keep our Deputies here in the neighborhood.

Please use the enclosed insert or go to the link noted below. SUPPORT the Garden Oaks Constable Program, Supporter form as enclosed here for 2013. or at <http://gardenoaks.org/constableform> Note in an effort to be more environmentally friendly, past supporters have been emailed in the month of October the 2013 form vs being mailed a hard copy. Please expedite upon receipt.

CRUSING FOR SMILES TOY DRIVE – please note Unwrapped New Toys are being collected for the Precinct One Constable's Annual Cruising for Smiles Toy Drive. Donations may be made at the December's Civic Club Meeting or dropped off to 922 West 41<sup>st</sup>. ( box on porch) Watch for emails or List serve & Facebook page notices for details on the Free Car Wash @ Dr. Gleem on Ella Blvd. for toy donation likely the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of December.

REMINDER if you are traveling for the holidays please use the Vacation Watch form: <http://www.gardenoaks.org/Resources/VacationWatch.pdf>

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

REMINDER: For your alarm company, set the constable patrol as the first responder on your account, rather than HPD. Just call your alarm monitoring service and give them the constable number: 713-755-7628.

OCTOBER 2012 STATISTICS

Miles Patrolled...3354  
 Court Citations.....92  
 Alarm Responses....4  
 Written Warnings....0  
 Vacations Watches....96  
 Suspicious Vehicles....44  
 Park checks...58  
 Criminal Offenses...1  
 Arrests....32



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**DECEMBER 2012 GOCC HOLIDAY POT LUCK AND MEETING NOTICE**

Mark Klein, GOCC President



Bring a dish, donate a toy, join the festivities at the GOCC Annual Holiday Gathering 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 4

Kicking off the holiday season, the Garden Oaks Civic Club invites the neighborhood to its traditional pot luck dinner, Constable toy drive and December meeting, 7 p.m. Tuesday, December 4, at the home of Brian O'Leary and George Appling, 701 Garden Oaks Blvd.

As is custom, the GOCC will provide a spiral-carved ham, sliced turkey and soft drinks. We ask that residents

with the last name beginning A-H bring a side dish; I-Q a dessert; and R-Z an appetizer or bread. Of course, everyone is invited to bring their favorite holiday beverage.

The night will open with a brief Civic Club meeting for a vote on GOCC board candidates, the 2013 annual budget and other neighborhood news items. For the past several years, the GOCC has held its annual holiday meeting at a delightful, festive Garden Oaks home – thanks to the generous hospitality of George Appling and Brian O'Leary.

So come join your friends and neighbors as we celebrate the holidays!

**7p.m. Tuesday, December 4.**

**HOLIDAY CAROLING**

Georgia Lister and Hal Bowman will be hosting the **12<sup>th</sup> Annual Garden Oaks Caroling Party** and Vegetarian Feast on Saturday December 22nd from 5:30 to 8:30 pm.

Location: The home of Georgia Lister, Hal Bowman, Lily and Jones- 851 Azalea

Come and feast at 5:30, then be ready to carol around the block at 6:30. Song sheets provided. Everybody welcome! Please rsvp Georgia@HalBowman.com.



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CONT. from pg 1.

**The History of Gazebo Santa**

Bill and Susan McMillian were Santa and Mrs. Claus for twenty-seven years. They retired from Santa-ing in 2009 when they moved out of Garden Oaks to be closer to family in Angleton, Texas. Bill said that when he and Susan began doing this for the kids of Garden Oaks, there was no Gazebo in the park. They had to improvise by sitting on a concrete bench in the park with lots of decorations around the huge Oak Tree that once stood in the park. Bill estimated that over the years, he gave out over 2200 candy canes to children of Garden Oaks!

**Photo Ops**

We've timed Santa's visit so you will be able to take photos with Santa and be able to use them in time for your Christmas Cards.

**Bring a Toy**

Also, if you would like to bring an unwrapped toy for the Constable's "Cruise for Smiles" Toy Drive, there will be a box available. This program benefits underprivileged children of Precinct One.



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**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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**THE 50TH ANNUAL  
CANDLELIGHT TOUR AT  
HERITAGE SOCIETY**

If you have never attended The Heritage Society's annual Candlelight Tour, a 50-year Houston holiday tradition, this is THE year to celebrate the season in the city's oldest public park!

Sam Houston Park is lit with thousands of twinkling lights, and THS's ten historic structures are

all beautifully decorated with old fashioned lights and adornments, each housing costumed characters that come to life and tell the stories of Houston's past. The event will also feature a variety of holiday musical performances from area choirs, two exhibits in THS's Museum Gallery, family-friendly activities at Santa's Workshop and delicious food from Candlelight Café—something for the whole family to enjoy.

Candlelight Tour will take place on

Friday, December 7 and Saturday, December 8 from 6:30–9:30 p.m. In honor of 50 years, we have added an additional day on Sunday, December 9 from 5-8 p.m.

Adult \$10.00 fee: \$1.54  
Student (6-18 yrs.) \$5.00 fee: \$1.27  
Senior (55+) \$8.00 fee: \$1.43  
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[www.tommievaughn.com](http://www.tommievaughn.com)**

**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 December meeting date will be Monday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

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. 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.

**HISD MAGNET APPLICATIONS DUE January 11th, 2013**

If you are interested in attending the zoned school, and your child is Kindergarten or older, to please let your zoned school know by the deadline so the school may reserve a spot for your child. Please contact Garden Oaks Elementary School at 713-696-2390 for more information or to arrange a tour.

**VOLUNTEER HOUSTON!**

Embrace the spirit of the holiday season by assisting children or families who are in need. Volunteer Houston provides a listing of organizations that are in need of assistance. Find more at <http://volunteerinhouston.org/>.

**Neighborhood Centers - Head Start/Early Head Start Adopt a**


**Family.** Head Start/Early Head Start serves preschoolers from low-income families. Volunteers can read life stories submitted by families and "adopt" one or more families for a personalized clothing, food, or toy drive. The volunteers can deliver the donations themselves or have them delivered by family service workers.

**The Salvation Army Secret Santa Warehouse**

Volunteers come to the Salvation Army's giant toyshop and help sort and package gifts for underprivileged children and seniors. Volunteers must be 16 or older. Volunteer slots are available from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday – Friday and some Saturdays November 15 - December 31. Northwest Houston - inside the Beltway.

**Mall Angel Tree**

Starting on November 20, you can visit one of six Houston area shop **CONT. on pg 22.**




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Discounts are available if you sign up as a member of [www.HOUSEANDLAWN.com](http://www.HOUSEANDLAWN.com) (it is free to join)

Yard of the Month: 815 Azalea



Congratulations!



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4th Annual Constable Program Fundraiser Wine Walk 2012



# GARDEN OAKS



Photos by Debbie Bass and Dea Larson

**2012 WINE WALK WRAP UP**

By Dian Austin

The 4<sup>th</sup> annual sold-out Wine Walk held on October 20<sup>th</sup> garnered some \$14,000 for the constable program. The theme of "Mediterranean Magic" brought out the French, Greek, Italian, and Spanish wines and foods, and one group even dressed as gondoliers, with a scenic Italian backdrop, serving homemade pizza.

This year's event was made possible by residents Ed and Brenda de Alba, who once again allowed us to use their gorgeous backyard, the perfect setting for 275 people to sip, stroll, and mingle. (Thanks to Cottonwood for providing thank you gift certificates to the de Albas!)

Wine judges included sponsors and oenophiles Chris Schmidt and Dr. Mathew Naftis, along with professional sommelier Cheryl

Wood-Fullerton. The judging team selected Garden Oaks Vineyards Barolo (Section 1 residents John and Lorie Reno) as the winner of the Best Red Wine. Best White Wine went to the GO Red Hot Chili Peppers (Ron & Sheree' Peoples, Emilio & Patti Chemali, and Francisca & Jeff Webster) for their 2011 Riff Pinot Grigio. Fabulous prizes for the winners included a Gazette photo op, top hats, bragging rights, and the admiration of all attendees.



We are very thankful for the increased number of cash sponsors:

**\$500 Gold sponsors**

- Terry Jeanes, Re/Max Metro
- Cottonwood

**\$250 Silver Sponsors**

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- Chris Schmidt, SCM Construction
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- Mutt House Relief Effort
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- Pat Walker, Keller Williams – Metropolitan

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- Deanna Zugheri – Keller Williams,
- The Metropolitan
- Houston Civic Symphony
- Mathew Naftis DDS
- Merle Norman Cosmetics & Gift Boutique
- Jennifer Klein, Physical Therapy (AATB Pilates – Heights)

And of course, the whole event would not be possible without the 13 generous table hosts who freely provided the fun, wine, and the foods. Most of these folks returned from previous years:

- Facundo Home Builders/Miguel Facundo

- Karie & Alyn Goad and Kirstin & Tony D'Amico
- Garden Oaks Vineyards/John & Lorie Reno
- Solution Builders/Dara & Laura Childs and Leslie Dabney Photography
- Tina Rowe & Jim DiCola
- Heidi & Stuart Arouty and Eric & Lisa Barrow
- Aged to Perfection – Peggy Smith,
- Pamela Parks & Teresa Coleman
- Danyel T. Ramelow, Financial Advisor, Edward Jones (GO Shopping Center)
- La Fuente Winery
- The Altheans: Chavonne Slovak, Desiree Guillory, Liz Terrell, Helen Crotak & Carmen Busceme
- GO Red Hot Chili Peppers: Ron & Sheree' Peoples, Emilio & Patti Chemali, and Francisca & Jeff Webster
- SK Designs/Susan Kostelecky
- GO Kids

And last, the WW committee

members have already gathered to get a head start on next year's event: Shelley Rogers, Brenda de Alba, Terry Jeanes, Jessica Jarvis, Tina Rowe, Dian Austin, Sandy Altman, Dea Larson, Leslie Saunders (who provided the graphics), and Sheila Briones. (And a big thanks to Sandra O'Guynn for washing tons of new wine glasses!)

If you've never attended this fundraiser, this is GO's most fun event. Next year's WW will be held in October (exact date not known just yet), but we anticipate selling out once again, as we have every year. The majority of the table hosts have already signed up for next year. Thanks also to all who purchased tickets. Please continue to support our constable program as it benefits each of us to have a constable presence in the neighborhood; they are very quick responders should you ever need them.



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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 Group Outings: Look for more**



## PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Santa with Elvis and Seymour at the Gazebo

**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** - 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.*



**WALTRIP RAM BAND GOES TO WASHINGTON-AND NEEDS YOUR HELP!**

The Waltrip High School Ram band has been invited to participate in the Inaugural Celebration in Washington, D.C. in January 2013. And they need your help!

The award-winning band, the top ranked 4A school in the region, will perform at several venues at the Inaugural Celebration, including the World War II Memorial and the Post Office Pavilion. The band is also a candidate to be the *only* representing band program for the State of Texas in the Inaugural Parade.

The expected cost to take all 150 band members for this once-in-a-lifetime-opportunity is about \$135,000. The band members have held several fundraisers, including the most recent BBQ and silent



auction. HISD has promised \$50,000 and Waltrip's principal has earmarked \$20,000 from the budget. With additional donations from the GO Civic Club and several residents about \$50,000 remains to be raised, in order to defray costs for the band members. The monies will be used to pay for transportation, lodging, and security for all the attendees.

The band needs the neighborhood's support in order to make this dream come true. Contributions can be made payable to Waltrip Ram Band and can be mailed to Waltrip Ram Band, c/o Jesse Espinosa Band Director, 1900 W. 34<sup>th</sup> St., Houston, TX 77018.

**CONT. on pg 21.**



**DEPENDABLE and KNOWLEDGEABLE agent seeks customers looking for real PROTECTION and long term RELATIONSHIP.**

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**GENERATOR SELECTION**

by Mitch Weigand

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

This is our final column on home generators and which one would be the right choice for you. Let's take a moment to compare them in several crucial areas:

**INITIAL PURCHASE**

**Portable** - Definitely the less expensive of the two. For example, you can buy one that generates 4,000 watts of electricity for under \$300. This size will run your refrigerator, some lights and a fan.

**Stand-by** - Get ready to shell out the big bucks. A stand-by generator which can supply 10,000 watts starts around \$3,000. Depending on the size of your home, you may be able to run one of its A/C systems.

**FUEL USAGE**

**Portable** - You have a variety of fuels to choose from with propane and gasoline being the most convenient and easiest to obtain. However, you will have to go out and get the fuel from a gas station or hardware store which can be a definite hardship after a major natural disaster such as a hurricane or flood. That is, if the fuel is available which it may or may not be.

**Stand-by** - Attached to you home's natural gas or liquid propane (LP) gas supply, it's always there and immediately available.

**CONVENIENCE**

**Portable** - This kind of generator requires constant monitoring and refilling of fuel. Are you willing to do that at 4:00 in the morning?

**Stand-by** - Within seconds of an electrical outage, stand-by generators automatically supply power to your home and then shut off by themselves when no longer

needed.

**NOISE AND AIR POLLUTION LEVELS**

**Portable** - Think of a lawn mower running non-stop outside your window with the noise and fumes it creates. Not an attractive thought.

**Stand-by** - They do make noise which similar to your central A/C system's outside condenser but if properly maintained, there are very little - if any - fumes.

**ECONOMY**

**Portable** - What you save in the initial purchase is quickly consumed in fuel costs.

**Stand-by** - Very economical since it runs on natural or LP gas.

**AIR CONDITIONING**

**Portable** - This is asking a lot of a portable generator. You'll need one that can provide at least 8,000 watts to keep you cool plus run your refrigerator and a couple of lights.

**CONT. on pg 20.**

**Happy Holidays**  
to our Friends & Neighbors

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1. Placement of the ad is at the discretion of the editor.
2. Camera-ready artwork must be submitted by the 15th of each month for publication the following month and emailed to: [gazette@gardenoaks.org](mailto:gazette@gardenoaks.org)
3. Artwork must be emailed in the following formats:  
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## CRITTER CORNER

by Casey and Dorothy Dan Farris

The hustle and bustle of the holiday season is upon us so remember to take a little time each day to relax and refuel and there is no better way to do that than spending a little time with your pets.

Our pet of the month is such a handsome fellow but what breed is he? This month we are having a "name that breed" contest. Read below and for more photos go to [www.godogusa.com/petofmonth](http://www.godogusa.com/petofmonth). Email your guess to me at [casey@godogusa.com](mailto:casey@godogusa.com). Contest ends December 31, 2012 at midnight. If you guess right you will win \$100 of pet sitting. Winner and DNA test results will be announced in this column in January *Gazette*. If more than one correct guess is received then we will put all correct entries on same size paper into a hat and pull out the winner. We have already

received our canine DNA test results and all we are waiting on is your guess.

**Pet of the Month:** Who's Your Daddy?



Piero Westover will be 6 years old next spring and lives in Section III with his family, Sabrina Innocenti, Fritz, Jacopo, and Luna (yellow Tabby) Westover. Fritz found a three month old Piero in the parking lot at work which is near Bear Creek Park and brought him home thinking he would find him a good home. Of course, the Westover home was the perfect home and Piero quickly settled in. Piero looks like a guard dog, and sounds like a guard dog, but when you meet him he is happy go lucky and very friendly. He likes to run long distance trails with Fritz and play Frisbee and is pretty good at jumping to catch it in the air. He loves to bark with the neighbor dogs at the fence line and snuggle on the sofa. He is a wonderful companion to his humans, especially little Jacopo, and to Luna the cat. He learns quickly and has a few tricks in his repertoire, including understanding English and Italian. He uses his sight to look for things but also uses his sense of smell so no real help guessing his breed there. His BFF is a yellow lab who loves to swim but Piero not so much. His

favorite treat is his training sausage.

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.

## GENERATORS...CONT from pg 20.

**Stand-by** - Definitely the better choice because of their superior capacity to produce the necessary wattage.

Finally, what is my opinion and which one would I choose? Hands down, if you can afford it, get yourself a stand-by generator. I have one that generates 30,000 watts of electricity which will fulfill all of my needs including three A/C systems plus have enough power left over to help my neighbors. But realistically, be ready to spend \$12,000 for 20,000 watts of power. You'll never regret it. For further information, do some research on "home generators" online or go to a home generator store.

Mitch is the owner of Air Wise™ and a member of the Garden Oaks Civic Club. Send A/C questions to [mitch@airwisehouston.com](mailto:mitch@airwisehouston.com) or 1590 Sue Barnett Drive, Houston, TX 77018.

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**WALTRIP...CONT from pg 21.**

Please help support this neighborhood school and their band members. A lot of the members are from low income families, and absorbing some of the costs is just beyond their reach. Participation in the Waltrip Ram Band has provided students with an incentive to excel academically. The band members not only work hard to keep up with band activities such as intense practices, band contests, football games, parades, concerts and fundraising activities, but are also on top of their core academic studies.

The Ram band is looking forward to marching in this year's Tomball Holiday Parade, The Houston H-E-B Downtown Parade, The Galveston Mardi Gras Parade and the Houston Cinco de Mayo Parade. These are all traditional parades they have enjoyed in the past. The Concert and Jazz bands are also scheduled to perform at a number of competitions, festivals and performances this winter and spring.

**VOLUNTEER CONT from pg 8.**

ping malls and adopt a child or senior from one of our Mall Angel Trees. You can shop while you are there and place your gifts under the tree. Locations: The Galleria, Katy Mills Mall, Memorial City Mall, Pasadena Town Square, The Woodlands, Mall, Willowbrook Mall.

**B.E.A.R. Program, Harris County Children's Protective Services**

"BEARing Gifts" Toy Drive, benefiting children served by Harris County Children's Protective Services who otherwise would have no Christmas at all. (The sponsoring program is called B.E.A.R. -- "BE A Resource for CPS Kids". Volunteers will be most critically needed at the toy drive warehouse to match gifts to children's wish lists, but volunteers will also

be needed to assist with distribution and cleanup. Volunteer shifts will be available Mondays through Fridays between 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. , December 3 through December 20. Some evening shifts may be available for organized groups of 10 or more persons.) The warehouse is on West 6th Street, near I-10 and Shepherd, in the lower Heights. Minimum age = 12, but all volunteers under 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

**Harris County Psychiatric Center  
2800 South MacGregor Way;  
Houston, Texas 77021**

UT-Harris County Psychiatric Center (HCPC) is in need of clothes for its patients. There is need of men's and women's pants, jackets and shoes (not heels) for 225 adult patients, 26 teens, and 8 younger children. HCPC is also welcoming of holiday gifts of toiletries & games for each unit.

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**Garden Oaks Civic Club**  
**2013 Constable Patrol Contributor Application & Contact Information**

*(All information is held strictly confidential)*

[ ] New Member or [ ] Renewal

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<b>Phone at this address:</b> _____	
<b>Member 1 Information</b>	<b>Member 2 Information</b>
Name: _____	Name: _____
Email: _____	Email: _____
Work Phone: _____	Work Phone: _____
Cell Phone: _____	Cell Phone: _____
<b>Emergency Contact Information</b>	<b>Emergency Contact Information</b>
Name: _____	Name: _____
Home Phone: _____	Home Phone: _____
Work Phone: _____	Work Phone: _____
Cell Phone: _____	Cell Phone: _____

**Payment Options**

- [ ] Enclosed find my payment for 2013 of \$200. (Make checks payable to Garden Oaks Civic Club)
- [ ] I/We cannot contribute \$200 now; however, enclosed please find my/our check for \$\_\_\_\_\_.
- [ ] I/We will participate via bank draft. *(Complete Draft Authorization Form below only if NEW)*

**Many of our neighbors live on limited, fixed incomes. Are you willing to adopt a neighbor?**

- [ ] Yes! Please accept my additional gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for the year (enclosed) OR \$\_\_\_\_\_ per month (bank draft option only).

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This monthly authorization remains in effect until written notice is given to the **Constable Chair of the Garden Oaks Civic Club**. If any changes occur to my bank account, I will promptly notify the **Constable Chair of the Garden Oaks Civic Club** so that my Constable Program dues can be directly debited from the correct account.

- Please take \$20 out of my account monthly for the Garden Oaks Constable Patrol Program.
- This authorization includes a debit for an additional \$\_\_\_\_\_ monthly gift to the program.
- This authorization includes permission for a \$20 cancellation fee.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone

**Mail to Garden Oaks Constable Program PO Box 10273 Houston TX 77206**

# DECEMBER 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2	3 A-Go Go Meeting 859 Azalea, 7 pm	4 Garden Oaks Civic Club Meeting 701 Garden Oaks Blvd, 7 PM	5	6 Garden Club, 7pm	7	1/8 Farmers Market, 9AM-1 PM 985 Wakefield
9	10	11	12	13	14	15 Farmers Market, 9AM-1 PM 985 Wakefield
16	17	18 	19 GOMO Monthly Meeting, 7 PM GOES	20 Heavy Trash Pickup	21	22 Farmers Market, 9AM-1 PM 985 Wakefield
23	24	25	26	27	28	29 Farmers Market, 9AM-1 PM 985 Wakefield
30	31	1 NEW YEARS DAY 2013	2 	3	4	5 Farmers Market, 9AM-1 PM 985 Wakefield

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