

GARDEN OAKS GAZETTE

VOLUME 37

ISSUE 4

GARDEN OAKS CELEBRATES EARTH DAY 2013

The April Gazette will focus on Earth Day and the environmentally friendly attitude that is part of the Garden Oaks history and culture.

A SHORT HISTORY OF RECYCLING IN GARDEN OAKS

By Ed de Alba

June 10th will mark the 24th anniversary of curbside recycling in Garden Oaks. On a hot Saturday, a sweaty procession of three pickup trucks and about a dozen volunteers collected 197 lbs. of aluminum cans, 1895 lbs. of color sorted glass, 8000 lbs. of newspaper, and 24 1/2 lbs. of car batteries to earn the Civic Club a total of \$350.31. About 150 homes participated.

This isn't to say that individuals hadn't been recycling before then. They had. But Garden Oaks was the **first neighborhood in the City of Houston to institute neighborhood-wide recycling** and offer curbside pickup.

It all began with the December 1988 Gazette where David Horsley, in his Critter Corner article, asked if there was any interest in starting a recycling project in Garden Oaks. A new City Plastic Trash Bag ordinance had gone into effect a few months earlier and David had started looking more closely at all the stuff that he had to fit in a bag instead of just toss in a trash can. The bag ordinance ended the *Continued on Page 13.*



Recyclers Bill McMillian, Rusty Day (Treasurer of Recycling Committee), Anne Kilgore, Dennis Carter, Susan McMillian, and Scott McClymonds (Vice-Chairman of Recycling Committee) display the plaque and flag received from EPA Region 6 for environmental excellence. The award ceremony was held on August 23, 1990 in Austin, Texas.

Source: October 1990 Garden Oaks Gazette

APR 2013

UPCOMING EVENTS

April Civic Club Meeting

April 2, 2013
Garden Oaks Elementary
7 PM

May Civic Club Meeting

May 7, 2013
Garden Oaks Elementary
7 PM

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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.

1034 Gardenia
615 West 30th
328 West 30th
817 West 34th
831 West 43rd
1006 Sue Barnett

April Birthdays

Kylie Salch—7th
Keith Kostecky—9th
Melissa Neiser—10th
Lily Bowman—18th
Leslie Waters—21st
Diane Morish—22nd
Robert Deveau—23rd
Nicolas J. Marruffo—26th

Anniversaries

Tina Sabuco—Shelly Arnold—6th.

Congratulations

Tent and Megan Salch as they welcomed son, Grady Frazier Salch, on February 22nd. Big sister **Kylie** is excited and filling the role well.

Hector and Randi Sandoval and grandparents Ron and Kathy Russell are the proud new parents and grandparents of Sebastian, born on March 5th.

Shellye Arnold as the newly named Executive Director of the Memorial Park Conservancy.

Billy Don Chiasson on the birth of his grandson Simon Francis Chiasson in Canada on March 14th.

Out and About

Brian O'Leary surprised **George Appling** in New York City on George's Birthday. **Terry Jeanes** visited Austin for daughter Becky's baby shower

and assisting in nursery make ready.

Spring Break Ventures:

Stephanie Acosta and family visited Lake Travis. **Stacy and Mike Gross** headed out on a road trip to Utah.

Sara Cruise and clan enjoyed a great camping trip.

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

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.

Also join us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/groups/35914307130/

Garden Oaks Gazette

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

No exceptions.

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

Gazette Contacts

Chavonne Slovak—Editor

1035 Althea 281.827.7212
gazette@gardenoaks.org

Jessica Jarvis—Interim Assistant Editor

1551 Sue Barnett 713.446.6440
gazette@gardenoaks.org

Lori Kennedy—Delivery Coordinator

750 Sue Barnett 713.691.6833
gazettedelivery@gardenoaks.org

Elizabeth Klein—Advertising Director

846 Azalea 713.320.7252
gazetteads@gardenoaks.org



Civic Club Officers

Mark Klein—President

846 Azalea 281.536.6063
president@gardenoaks.org

Victor Seghers—Vice President

733 W. 41st 713.677.0055
vicepresident@gardenoaks.org

Phil Ramirez—Treasurer

975 Lamonte 832.794.1221
treasurer@gardenoaks.org

Heather Leverett—Secretary

319 W. 31st 832.455.6254
secretary@gardenoaks.org

Standing Committee Chairs

Vacant—Beautification

1006 Sue Barnett 713.824.0435
beautification@gardenoaks.org

Carl Waters Jr.—Citizens' Patrol

821 W. 31st 713.864.1992
gocop@gardenoaks.org

Joe Muscara—GardenOaks.org

750 Sue Barnett 713.691.6833
webmaster@gardenoaks.org

Dian Austin—Membership

733 W. 42nd 713.691.6505
membership@gardenoaks.org

Terry Jeanes—Constable Program

922 W. 41st 713.812.9154
constable@gardenoaks.org

CITIZENS' PATROL PROGRAM

By Carl Waters Jr.

Neighbors in Shepherd Forest reported a vehicle break in late February. Surveillance videos at an area gas station showed a Hispanic male and female using a credit card stolen during the break-in. The couple was observed driving a red SUV (similar to a Chevrolet Blazer) and neighbors thought they had observed the couple in the area hanging business flyers on doors. Please use caution if you observe people going door to door in the neighborhood. Solicitors should be reported to the Houston Police Department or the Precinct One Constables Office at the numbers listed below.

Over the past few months I have noticed an increased number of homes placing large rocks out in the City easement in front of their homes. While I can understand wanting to protect your yard from damage caused by work crews or other driv-

ers, I am also concerned about the lack of space for walkers, bikers and others to avoid a confrontation with a distracted motorist. Lately, I have noticed the size of the rocks becoming smaller to the point where it looks like a single person could actually pick it up and move it. When your decorative item becomes this small, it becomes a possible tool for burglars to use to break into your home or vehicle. Please choose wisely if you select this option to protect your yard.

February Crime Statistics (10)

Assault (2)

700 block of the North Loop West on Monday, February 4 at 10:30 p.m. (restaurant parking lot).

3400 block of N. Shepherd Dr. on Saturday, February 9 at 11:00 p.m. (apartments)

Burglary (1)

800 block of W. 42nd St. on Monday, February 18 at 6:00 p.m. (garage).

Theft (6)

900 block of W. 42nd St. on Thursday, January 31 at 6:00 p.m. (residence).

700 block of W. 30th St. on Wednesday, February 6 at 10:00 p.m. (driveway).

2900 block of N. Shepherd Dr. on Saturday, February 9 at 11:00 p.m. (parking lot).

4200 block of Alba Dr. on Wednesday, February 20 at 10:00 a.m. (residence).

500 block of W. 34th St. on Sunday, February 24 at 12:20 a.m. (driveway).

400 block of W. 30th St. on Sunday, February 24 at 3:52 p.m. (in front of residence).

Auto Theft (1)

400 block of W. 34th St. on Saturday, February 23 at 6:00 p.m. (driveway).

Inquiries about joining the Citizens' Patrol Program or about other community safety issues can be directed to me via neighborhood website GardenOaks.org, to GOCOP77018@AOL.com or by phone at 713-864-1992.



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Ann Best (2013)
420 W. 32nd
Home: 713.861.4190
abest1@comcast.net

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

Mark Saranie (2015) Vice President
235 W. 33rd
Home: 713.861.7994
Cell: 713.724.1271
msaranie@comcast.net

Section 2:

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

Lori Kennedy (2014)
750 Sue Barnett
Home: 713.691.6833
lorikgomo@blue-funk.com

Gale Gorman (2015)
742 Sue Barnett
gale_gorman@mac.com

Section 3:

Open Position (2013)

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

Dea Larson (2015)
823 Lamonte
713.695.3634
dealarson@aol.com

Section 5:

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

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

Jim Willburn (2015)
1583 Sue Barnett Dr.
713.812.0564
jimwillburn@yahoo.com

Terms expire October of year in parentheses.

GARDEN OAKS CIVIC CLUB MEETING MINUTES

By Mark Klein, President and Heather Leverett, Secretary

Location: Garden Oaks Elementary School
March 5, 2013

Welcome: Vice President Vic Seghers called the meeting together at 7:03 PM.

A motion was made and carried to accept the February minutes as published in the Gazette.

President/Vice Presidents' Announcements:

Beautification Chair: We need a GO resident to step up to the beautification chair! The time needed is relatively little, while the payoff – seeing your beautiful efforts every time you drive through the neighborhood – is tremendous. Please contact president@gardenoaks.org to volunteer or recommend someone for the position. This Chair is vital to the neighborhood and serves a great purpose for the GOCC.

Cohen Ambassador Program Update: President Klein met with Council Member District C Ellen Cohen's Cohen Ambassadors last week, a group of representatives from District C Super Neighborhoods, civic clubs and HOAs. Council Member Cohen has some 80 such groups in District C. The ambassadors shared best practices and ideas, some of which the GOCC could implement. As a side note, CAP members were impressed with the activities the GOCC has long led in our neighborhood.

34th Street Quiet Zone Update: Area residents and business owners have recently kicked off a renewed

effort to get the 34th Street Corridor Quiet Zone implemented. The 34th Street Quiet Zone is 9th on the list of Quiet Zones for the City. Unfortunately, the City could only fund 8 such projects. We are discussing new options and alternatives to procure funding for the Quiet Zone. President Klein is in discussions with City of Houston officials regarding the options, costs and funding alternatives, if any. A Facebook page will be set up to capture comments about the Quiet Zone. If you would like Garden Oaks to help make this Quiet Zone a reality, it is time to get involved. Anyone interested can contact president@gardenoaks.org.

Cottonwood Parking and Noise:

A No Parking sign may be in place near the railroad easement by March. Residents can also call the HPD with noise complaints after 10PM, when the noise ordinance takes effect.

OurBlok Neighborhood Journal:

OurBlok is expanding its program to include other neighborhoods. If Garden Oaks joins the program, residents would be sent cards and when scanned at local participating retailers, a percentage of proceeds would be donated to the Civic Club. Vice President Seghers will be looking into additional details.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Phil Ramirez was not present to give an update but copies of the financials were available for review. If anyone has questions please email treasurer@gardenoaks.org.

Standing Committee Reports:

Membership: Brenda de Alba won the drawing for the \$25 gift card.

GO Citizens' Patrol: Carl Waters reported ten crimes in February. There

were two assaults, one burglary, six thefts, and one auto theft. In Shepherd Forest, there was a burglary of a motor vehicle where the suspects are a Hispanic male and female reported to be driving a Red SUV. The suspects used credit cards taken from the victim's wallet at Whataburger and service stations along 45 North. Neighbors thought the suspects had been putting out door flyers prior to breaking into the vehicle. There are concerns about residents using small rocks and concrete blocks to inhibit parking in front of their homes as these smaller items which can be easily lifted can be used to break into homes and vehicles or to assault someone.

Constable Program: Vice President Seghers reported on behalf of Terry Jeanes. Car Burglaries: About 3 weeks ago, there were several attempted car burglaries in section one. 3-4 SUVs had their door locks punched out, the car opened and the steering column broken. Constables thought they were either amateurs who could not get past the steering column or they were scared off.

Constable Concerns: A GO resident recently posted her concern that a constable was too busy looking for inspection and registration sticker violations when he should have been patrolling the neighborhood. The Constables are Harris County Law enforcement officers, whom we contract with for their services, paying 80% of the contract; the County offsets the other 20%. They are dedicated 40 hrs a week to our area. But, of course, they have to address law breakers or suspicious situations -- whether on our streets or on perimeter streets. What may seem like minor traffic stops often lead to drivers with open warrants for all sorts of criminal activity. Vehicle checks at area parks are not necessar-

ily about inspection stickers or plates as much as about checking for illegal activity, such as drug deals or other situations. Perimeter policing of the constables are integral to protecting the area. Visibility is the key. Please also keep in mind that the Annex for the Constables is north on Shepherd so numerous Precinct One cars travel the route and if they have someone pulled over on Shepherd it may not necessarily be our Deputy.

Beautification: Please consider volunteering to be the beautification chair.

Gazette: No update.
GardenOaks.org

Website: No update.

Garden Oaks Elementary School: No update.

Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization (GOMO): No update. Neighborhood thanks to Brother's Pizzeria who once again showed their support by graciously donating delicious pies to keep everyone who attended the Civic Club meeting well fed.

Vice President Seghers adjourned the meeting at 7:51 pm.

Terry Jeanes
Your Neighbor & Area Specialist



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CONSTABLE PROGRAM

Become a Supporter Today—

By Terry Jeanes & Susan Love Saranie

Note the following: 2 added break ins in near by Shepherd Park Plaza, were via rear entry with the detached garage. Please note any suspicious vehicles pulled up to the rear of properties.

Also several attempts of steal SUV's in section one, lock punched and steering column broken yet, culprits either scared off or were amateurs who could not hotwire. One Saturn stolen section 3, recovered after the auto gave out likely after damage to the underneath of the vehicle. Auto was totaled. Stay alert.

Reminder: Please notify constable's office of any solicitors in the neighborhood so they may be checked for proper credentials. Recent solicitor checks have resulted in findings of outstanding warrants, or parties with

priors records lacking proper solicitor credentials that were then asked to move on or escorted out of the neighborhood.

PLEASE JOIN TODAY AND SUPPORT OUR PROGRAM via the form in the *Gazette*, the link below, or the email previously sent to past supporters. Even if you are on Draft we would like your updated info.

Supporter Link / Form " <http://gardenoaks.org/constableform>

Vacation Watch form: <http://www.gardenoaks.org/Resources/Vacation-Watch.pdf>

For all neighbors to receive more timely notices on crime alerts please provide your name, email, and street address to secretary@gardenoaks.org.

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Texas Water Development Board

GARDEN OAKS RESIDENTS SELECTED FOR 2012 TEXAS RAIN CATCHER AWARD

One of the ways that The Texas Water Development Board supports and promotes innovative water conservation technologies is via the statewide Texas Rain Catcher program. In order to recognize excellence in the application of rainwater harvesting systems in Texas and to educate the public about creative ways to conserve water, a project is selected each year from each of three categories. The categories include resi-

dential, commercial/industrial, and educational/governmental entities. The 2012 Texas Rain Catcher Award-Residential Category went to Garden Oaks Section residents Michael and Shannon Hugetz at 3205 Lawrence Street.

Michael and Shannon Hugetz of 3205 Lawrence Street decided to offset their increased water use that resulted from a home addition. The rainwater collection project involved installation of two 3,000-gallon roof rainwater harvesting tanks at their residence. There are two tanks, one located at the front of the house and the other at the back. Water stored in the front tank is used to fill an outdoor pool and flush two indoor

toilets. When there is not enough rainwater in the tank to meet demands, city water auto-fills the tank. An air gap serves as a cross-connection prevention device to prevent reverse flow back into the city water supply. The tank at the back of the house abuts a large church building and collects water flowing off of the of the building. The Hugetzes were able to convince the church to allow them to harvest rainwater that would otherwise have flowed onto their property. The harvested water is used to irrigate flower beds and the landscape.

The project design and installation was provided by W.E. Gilbert Company and Sparkletap, Inc.

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**GOES NAMED NATIONAL
MAGNET SCHOOL OF
DISTINCTION**

Our very own Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet School has been named a 2013 Magnet School of Distinction by Magnet Schools of America (MSA), the National Association for Magnet and Theme-Based Schools. "The incredible work of the teachers, parents, community and staff are reflected in this tremendous honor!" exclaimed Lindsey Pollock, Principal of Garden Oaks Elementary. She explained that Garden Oaks was the recipient of a federal 2010 Magnet School Assistance Program grant which provided \$2.6M to support the campus' transition to an all-Montessori campus with an emphasis on Environmental Sciences. The school was also noted for attaining progress in 2011-12. Interest in the program is overwhelming with nearly 600 applications received for the 2013-14

school year.

"Magnet schools throughout the country are being awarded for their excellence in demonstrating student achievement, innovative and engaging instruction and curriculum, community engagement, professional development, and a commitment to diversity. This is a competitive process that awards only a small fraction of the magnet schools nationally. Schools that win our Merit Awards represent the best in education, innovation, equity and opportunity for all students in our nation." says Magnet Schools of America Executive Director, Scott Thomas.

To receive a merit award MSA member schools must submit a detailed application that is scored by a panel of educators. There are two categories of merit awards: (1) Magnet Schools of Excellence, the top award given to a select group of magnet

schools, and (2) Magnet Schools of Distinction, the second highest award of recognition. Magnet schools in the excellence category are eligible to receive monetary awards including \$1,000 for the New & Emerging Magnet School Award and \$5,000 for the Dr. Ronald P. Simpson Distinguished Merit Award, considered the top award for magnet schools in the nation.

Lindsey Pollock will receive the school's merit award plaque during an awards ceremony at the 31st National Conference on Magnet Schools in Tulsa, Oklahoma, May 5-8, 2013. To learn more about Magnet Schools of America's merit awards program, please visit www.magnet.edu. For more information regarding the GOES program, contact Magnet Coordinator **Laura Aasletten** at laaslett@houstonisd.org or 713-696-2930.

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RAISING RESILIENT CHILDREN

By Lindsey Pollock

Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet was the site of the 7th Annual Public Montessori Educators' of Texas (PMET) Conference hosted by the Friends of Montessori. We were fortunate to hear a nationally renowned speaker, Alfie Kohn, present to a packed house of parents, teachers and community members, thanks to underwriting made possible by our Magnet School Assistance Program Grant. The grant, which is in the final months of the 3 year grant cycle, has made possible the transition of the campus to an all-Montessori campus and has provided professional development, materials and support to create an outstanding magnet campus now recognized by the Magnet Schools of America as a campus of "Distinction".

This event highlighted the power of a few committed people who worked together to found a Montessori program at Garden Oaks in 1994 and to support this innovation over the years through the collaborative efforts of the Friends of Montessori. These educators and advocates for public education are at the core of the daily efforts at Garden Oaks Elementary and are exemplars of the resilience required in daily life to achieve long-term goals.

The topic of resilience is presently at the forefront of educational research. As educators and parents begin to recognize the dangers of focusing only on test scores, the importance and long term impact of developing resilience is being closely examined. Brenda Luscombe (Time, Sept 10, 2012) wrote "Resilience helps kids more than high SATs...Getting good grades has been the mantra of anxious parents but now there's a trickle of thought that says academic ability may not be all it's cracked up to be."

She went on to add that many students, even very bright students may need a little more "grit" to achieve success. Paul Tough (2012) wrote in his book, *How Children Succeed*, "While IQ is stubborn to change after age 8...the ability to persist, focus and adapt is more malleable. While IQ may be what gets kids into college, they need a whole other set of skills to graduate."

Our PMET guest speaker, Alfie Kohn also presented his thoughts on the importance of raising children who are willing to work through the difficult problems and apply themselves in cooperative learning activities guided by a genuinely interested and supportive adult. He promoted less emphasis on grades and more emphasis on values and encouraging our children as they explore the world through the "big" questions that they generate. Questions such as "Where did the world come from?" and "Who should I be when I grow up?" are examples of life-long, relevant questions to explore in depth without a grade or multiple choice test. What then can we do to support the development of resilience in our children?

- Provide open, genuine opportunities to discuss the "big" questions with your child. Make a list of the "big" questions and seek the answers together.
- Be open to your child's new ideas! They may have the answers for the many pressing issues we are facing to sustain life on earth!
- Encourage research, questions, interviews and exploration. Creativity and innovation are the keys to the future. Help your child understand that hard work has its rewards. Develop attention to tasks through activities that take time to complete such as jigsaw

puzzles and developing family plans for travel and projects.

- Support your child through practice of those harder tasks whether it is practicing reading and math skills, riding a bicycle, playing an instrument or trying something new.

When you include your child in these activities and model the process skills required, you develop the long-term skills necessary for your child's resilience and life-long success. If you'd like to borrow a copy of the book *How Children Succeed*, by Paul Tough, call us at Garden Oaks (713) 696-2930 to check one out!



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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, will have our monthly meeting on Monday April 1st. We welcome anyone to join us be it for a single meeting or on a regular basis.

Our meetings are the first Monday of each month from 7 to 9 pm at 859 Azalea Street, the home of Tina Sabuco. 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 or 713-692-6778. Please also make a note of the future meetings scheduled for May 6th and June 3rd.

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By Lisa Rentschler

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.

Garden Oaks Kids Group Membership:

- 1) Go to: <http://www.gardenoakskids.com/>
- 2) Click on "email us for an invitation"
- 3) Include some information about yourself ...
 - a) Your full name and informa-

- tion about your family
- b) Your address (include Garden Oaks section)
- c) Information on what you would like to get involved in as a new member .

GO Kids Activities:

Members check out the calendar of events at www.bigtent.com

- Contact our coordinators for specific details about upcoming events...
- GO Babies (play group for infant to 2 years) [Jami Siddiqui \(jami.siddiqui@gmail.com\)](mailto:jami.siddiqui@gmail.com) & [Brandy Nelson \(blmock17@hotmail.com\)](mailto:blmock17@hotmail.com)
- GO Buddies (play group for 2 to 5 years) [Kasia Montgomery \(kasia@lenio.net\)](mailto:kasia@lenio.net)

Mom's Night-Out
[Kerry Taylor \(kerryetaylor@gmail.com\)](mailto:kerryetaylor@gmail.com) &
[Nicole Fowler \(nefowler@me.com\)](mailto:nefowler@me.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.

Contact our Dinner Drop coordinator Angelica Sullivan angelicapuerto@hotmail.com

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 Lisa Rentschler gypsy9601@yahoo.com

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PHOTO OF THE MONTH



GREEN BUILDING TOURS

If 'Going Green' is your thing, the City of Houston's Green Building Resource Center will offer free tours of their LEED Gold level certified building. Learn about features from the raised floor system to the vegetated roof that is watered with harvested rainwater and condensate from the AC system. The facility includes water efficient plumbing fixtures, energy efficient light fixtures and AC equipment, recycled content acoustical insulation, recycled artwork and many other examples of green building.

Friday, April 19, 2013

11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

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Questions: steve.stelzer@houstontx.gov or (832) 394-9050



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GO RECYCLES... Cont from Pg 1

use of trash cans and forced all city residences to put their trash in plastic bags. It also meant that his and every other household in the neighborhood (and Houston) had trash cans that, while they no longer could be used for trash, would be perfect containers for recyclables.

By March a committee of a dozen people had formed, four of whom still live in the neighborhood, and planning accelerated. The April meeting decided on initial materials and methods. May saw the election of officers and a flyer in the Gazette and with June came the first recycling caravan and an additional collection point at Graham Park. In July brass, copper, and aluminum scrap were added and the first "disappearances" of aluminum cans and newspaper noted. By August newspaper collection increased to 13,320 lbs., glass to 2365 lbs., and aluminum, brass, and batteries to 380 lbs. net-

ting the Civic Club \$400.58. September added stainless steel showing an increase of participation to about 250 households. In October Rusty Day's motorized bottle crushing machines were set up in Graham Park to safely break bottles so they took up less space and cardboard, computer paper, and plate glass were added.

By the six month anniversary in November, all volunteer recyclers had green recycling t-shirts and there were matching magnetic signs on the "official" recycling vehicles. Theft was a bit of a problem with a "nice clean-cut white lady in a new van" collecting mostly aluminum cans ahead of the recycling crews.

In April of 1990 the City of Houston Solid Waste Department nominated the Garden Oaks Recycling Committee for an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6 Solid Waste Award. When awarded in August, Garden Oaks was the only non-com-

mercial entity to be honored.

At the one year mark 450 households were participating and 56 volunteers worked the trucks and collection center. Over the years the number of volunteers would vary as would the prices for the commodities collected. The collection center moved from Graham Park to the site of the old firehouse on W. 34th Street to the parking lot of the Garden Oaks Theater. Curbside collection ended in early 1993 and the neighborhood collection center ceased operating in mid 1996 when the City of Houston expanded its curbside recycling program to our area of the city.

For seven years, rain or shine, the 2nd Saturday of the month was recycling day for our community. A relatively small number of dedicated volunteers initiated and maintained a program that has become standard in much of our city and in the country at large.

 <p>Oak Forest Veterinary Clinic</p> <p>Monday - Friday: 7:00 AM - 6:00 PM By appointment only</p> <p>Saturday: 7:30 - 11:30 AM Walk-in's welcome</p> <p>2120 West 34th Street (Between T.C. Jester & Ella)</p> <p>(713) 682 - 6351</p> <p>www.oakforestvetclinic.com</p>	<p>Hallie Ray Moore, DVM Maggie Morris, DVM Susan Cardenas, DVM</p> <hr/> <p>Wellness Exams & Vaccinations Convenient Drop-off Service New In-house Laboratory Pet Food & Treats Radiology Online Pharmacy Ultrasound Imaging Large Boarding Facilities 24/7 Medical Record Access Surgery & Dental Procedures</p> <hr/> <p>Supporting our community since 1964</p>
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HOUSTON **B**cycle

SHIFTS INTO HIGH GEAR

Houston now boasts a new environmentally friendly, financially sustainable and affordable bicycle sharing program that has been implemented in several downtown locations. The grey and red B-cycles are specially equipped with an easy-to-use adjustable seat post to accommodate various size riders, fender and chain guards to protect clothing, and automatic lights for safety. All bikes are equipped with a lock and basket so riders can take the bike anywhere and lock it up, even if no kiosk is available.

A new partnership with Blue Cross and Blue Shield will allow the City to expedite the expansion of the downtown B-Cycle program and officially confirm Houston as a bike-friendly city. A launch day for the expanded program is planned for the City Hall Farmers Market on Wednesday April 3rd. The goal of the B-Cycle program is to develop a system robust enough that riders can check out a bike in downtown and ride it to another area of town where they would check it in and then dine, shop or visit a friend. Another bike would be available for the return trip.

The self-service B-cycle stations will be available from 6 am to 11 pm every day with costs ranging from \$5 for a day pass to \$50 for an annual membership. Bikes can be checked out for 90 minutes free of charge. Beyond 90 minutes, keeping the bike costs \$2 for every half hour.

Currently the B-Cycle program, operated by a nonprofit, offers 18 bicycles at three downtown stations: City Hall, Market Square Park and the George R. Brown Convention Center. The next




phase will expand to sixteen stations downtown, with three stations each in Midtown and Montrose and two in the Museum District. Phase 2 will increase the number of bikes to 182. Planning for Phase 3 of the project, which calls for bringing bikes to the Texas Medical Center, local college campuses and the Heights will also be completed with this round of funding.

The availability of service and stations where people want to go is crucial to developing the system, supporters said. In other cities, like Denver, where bike sharing has become popular, the variety of destinations helps drive use. "We know that with more stations and more bikes it will just take off here," said Mayor Annise Parker.

For more information see <http://houston.bcycle.com/>.

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HOUSTON'S MAYORS CHALLENGE WINS \$1 MILLION FOR RECYCLING

Thanks to your support, Houston's One Bin for All idea has been named one of the five winners in the Bloomberg Philanthropies' Mayors Challenge, a competition to inspire American cities to generate innovative ideas that solve major challenges and improve city life - and that ultimately can be shared with other cities to improve the well-being of the nation.

Houston will receive a \$1 million innovation prize to help implement its One Bin for All idea and as the winner of the Mayors Challenge Fan Favorite Selection; Houston will also receive a \$50K in-kind grant from IBM to support the implementation of its One Bin For All idea.

One Bin for All is a first-of-its kind innovation that will revolutionize the way the City of Houston handles trash, achieving high-volume recycling and waste diversion, reduced greenhouse gas emissions and lower operating costs. More information will be forthcoming as the program moves forward.

One Bin for All utilizes game-changing technology to separate trash from recyclables, allowing residents to discard all materials in one bin. The anticipated end result is a dramatic increase in the amount of waste diverted from our landfills. Implementation will be achieved through a public/private partnership and the initial focus will be on areas that have no recycling or that still use the small tubs instead of large rolling bins utilized in Garden Oaks.

Source: Mayor's Office of Sustainability at baker.goldsmith@houston.tx.gov and www.greenhoustontx.gov.

WHAT NOT TO PUT IN THE RECYCLING BIN

Excerpted from Earth911.com

Pizza boxes, soiled paper plates, napkins

Many people assume that pizza boxes are recyclable. In fact, most boxes have recycling symbols on them and are traditionally made from corrugated cardboard. They are, in and of themselves, recyclable.

Pizza boxes that are tarnished with food, or any paper product that is stained with grease or food, are not recyclable – unless you remove the tainted portions.

However, what makes parts of them non-recyclable is the hot, tasty treat that comes inside them, specifically, the grease and cheese from pizza that soil the cardboard.

Food is one of the worst contaminants in the paper recycling process. Grease and oil are not as big of a problem for plastic, metal and glass, as those materials are recycled using a heat process.

But when paper products are recycled, they are mixed with water and turned into a slurry. Since we all know water and oil don't mix, the issue is clear.

Grease from pizza boxes causes oil to form at the top of the slurry, and paper fibers cannot separate from oils during the pulping process. Essentially, this contaminant causes the entire batch to be ruined. This is the reason that other food related items are non-recyclable (used paper plates, used napkins, used paper towels, etc).

Plastic bags

When left to the machines to sort the recyclable materials the one that causes the most heartburn is plastic

bags. Plastic bags wrap themselves around the equipment, and as a result, the whole plant may have to shut down – expending time, energy and money. Repairmen often are hired to come in with knives to cut the plastic bags out of the guts of the machinery. **This applies to plastic grocery bags as well as the plastic wrap from dry cleaning and plastic trash bags.**

But this doesn't mean you have to toss your bags into the trash. The good news is that most grocery stores throughout the U.S. now offer plastic bag recycling. In 2007, more than 830 million pounds of plastic bags and film were recycled nationwide, up 27 percent from 2005. Plastic bags can be made into dozens of new and useful products as well.

Bottle caps

Polypropylene (PP), or plastic #5, often makes up the plastic caps on bottles. So, what's the big deal if the bottle is a #1 and the cap is a #5? They're both plastic right? It's not that simple.

It all comes down to the melting point, which has a difference of nearly 160 degrees Fahrenheit between the two. If a cap gets mixed in with bottles, the entire batch may be ruined because there is un-melted plastic in the mix.

A general rule of thumb is to remove all of the plastic caps and lids from your plastic bottles, jugs and tubs before recycling them.

What causes contamination

Knowing what goes in the bin is critical to ensuring the success of the recycling process. That's because recycling actually happens when materials that would otherwise become waste are turned into valuable resources.

Putting the wrong materials into the recycling bin may ruin the entire batch. The material in a recycling container is taken to a material recovery facility (MRF), where the material is separated and processed for selling to companies that buy recycled materials for making products. The higher the quality of the recycled material, the more the companies will want to buy it, and the higher the price they'll pay for it.

However, when you put materials into the recycling bin that shouldn't be there, you may (at the very least) be slowing down the entire recycling process. Here's what can happen when you put the wrong things in the recycling bin:

Machines that handle the sorting of the materials can become damaged, which means that precious time, energy and money will be needed to repair the machines.

If no equipment is available to do the job, more material in the bin that shouldn't be there makes the job far more difficult and inefficient for workers sorting the material by hand. Also, it may inhibit the materials in the bin that should be there from turning into the highest quality materials possible, or it could even send everything in the bin straight to the landfill. It may be cliché, but the expression, "one bad apple could spoil the bunch" pretty much sums up the situation.



Advertising Rates/Sizes/Submission Guidelines

Size	Single	Six Months	Twelve Months
2 ¼ W x 2 3/8 H	\$60.00	\$300.00	\$580.00
2 1/4 W x 4 1/4 H	\$90.00	\$450.00	\$870.00
Half Page 7 ½ W X 4 ½ H	\$110.00	\$550.00	\$1065.00
Full Page 7 ½ W x 9 ½ H	\$180.00	\$900.00	\$1745.00
Half Page Back Cover	\$150.00	\$750.00	
Full Page Back Cover	\$225.00	\$1125.00	

Inserts (full page only, single sided) \$180.00
 Inserts (double sided) \$225.00

1. Placement of the ad is at the discretion of the editor.
2. Camera-ready artwork must be submitted by the 15th of each month for publication the following month and emailed to: ads@tsgardenoaks.org
3. Artwork must be emailed in the following formats: JPEG (.jpg) or GIF (.gif)



This Pogo comic strip quote appeared in a 1970 anti-pollution poster for Earth Day and became one of the most famous comics created by cartoonist Walt Kelly.



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Yard of the Month: 401 W. 33rd



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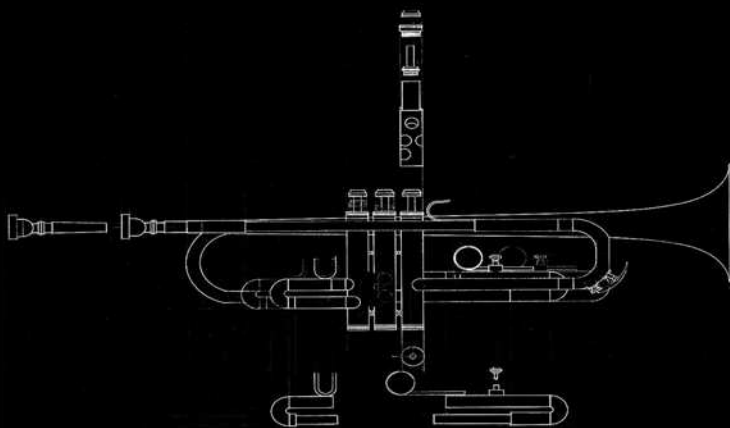
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CRITTER CORNER

By Casey and Dorothy Dan Farris

April is here which has April Fool's Day on the first of the month which is sometimes called All Fools' Day. This day is one of the most light-hearted days of the year but its origin is uncertain. Some see it as a celebration related to the turn of the seasons. April also celebrates Earth Day which is on the 22nd of the month. This is a day to increase the protection and awareness of environmental issues. This month we will be talking about ways you can get involved with your pets and Earth Day. Our pets of the month are a couple of great dogs who truly love their environment.

Pets of the Month:

This month our spotlight is on Winston and Spanky Patranella. Winston is a twelve year old Boston terrier and Spanky is an eight year old terrier mix. They live in Section V 5 with their mother, Mary, and human sister, Sarah.

Winston was adopted as a puppy but Spanky was rescued from a shelter. Winston and Spanky are good companions until they have company and then Winston needs to show everyone that he is top dog. They love to run, play chase, take walks, chew on rawhides, and bark at passersby. Spanky usually stays underfoot but Winston enjoys relaxing on the couch and cooking.

Critters 101: You, Your Dog, and Earth Day

Looking to get involved this Earth Day? Why not bring your pet along with you? Here are five suggested activities for both you and your pet to partake in together to help the environment and go green this Earth Day.



1. Attend a Pet Friendly Earth Day Event

There are plenty of events to get involved in this Earth Day, so why not bring your pet along? Events such as a beach clean up or a park clean up are great ways to volunteer to beautify the community and may also be great pet friendly events.

2. Organize a Neighborhood or Dog Park Clean Up

Take the initiative and organize your own event. A neighborhood or dog park clean up is a great event to organize as a pet owner because every pet deserves a safe and clean place to play in. Talk to your neighbors, your family and your friends in order to build a volunteer group to undertake the project.

3. Take a Walk

Going somewhere within walking distance? Skip the car, grab your pet and embark on the journey together. Not only will walking prevent the pollution caused by cars, but it is also a great source of exercise and a way to get outside and enjoy our beautiful Earth. Don't forget to keep your pet on a leash, though. Pets on a leash are less likely to go after—and possibly harm—native wildlife such as birds and they are less likely to run

away from their companions.

4. Snuggle!

Don't touch that thermostat! Instead of turning up the heat, employ snuggle power. Snuggling with your cute cats and dogs will not only keep everyone warm in potentially chilly spring weather, but it is always great to show your pets how much they are loved with a spontaneous snuggle session!

5. Adopt a Pet

Adoption is one of the best and most rewarding green options for loving pet owners! In addition to recycling your bottles, cans and newspapers, why not recycle a pet this Earth Day? Help to reduce the number of unwanted pets by visiting your local shelter and taking a new furry friend home.

Casey Farris is owner/operator of Bone Voyage Pet Sitting Services and Go Dog USA. Dorothy Dan is owner/operator of Casey. Please forward your questions and pet news to Casey@GoDogUSA.com or call 713-688-6363.

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STATE OF THE ART PRODUCTS FOR YOUR HOME: THE NEST THERMOSTAT

by Mitch Weigand

Two men who helped create the iPod and iPhone -- Matt Rogers and Tony Fadell -- injected their own brand of innovative technology into the home thermostat. At \$249, Nest is a bit expensive but I feel that it's totally worth the price.

Most homeowners leave their thermostats at one temperature and forget to change it. This clever thermostat "learns" your schedule such as when you leave for work and come home and programs itself to raise and lower the temperature accordingly. Say you would like your home to be 72°F at 6:00 am when you awake. Nest's Early-On feature will start heating or cooling so it will be 72°F when the alarm rings.

Nest can be controlled from your smartphone, laptop or tablet at your

home or miles away. It can reduce your heating and cooling bills up to 20%.

Here's what Nest can do:

- Control up to 10 thermostats in two homes from one account.
- Change the temperature.
- Check and adjust your schedule.
- See and change your settings.
- Show you a Nest Leaf if you're saving energy.

Put Nest in and out of Away mode. When it's sure you're gone, Auto-Away can turn on as quickly as a half hour after you leave the house. And if Nest doesn't detect any activity for a while but knows you're usually home at this time, it will wait longer before activating Auto-Away. Changing the temperature or schedule remotely is just like making a change directly on your thermostat, so when you turn up the temperature on your phone, it will affect Nest's learning and schedule.


Clogged filter reminders from Nest

A clogged filter can definitely reduce the system's efficiency and, in the long run, shorten the life of its coil. How about a friendly nudge from Nest? It reminds you to change your air filter based on how many hours your system has run.

Install it yourself or we can do it for you

The manufacturers of Nest claim if you can install a light fixture, you can install Nest yourself. However, if wires and electricity make you nervous, just call your A/C service technician. Here at Air Wise, we charge our normal house call fee of \$75 to install the Nest that you've purchased, usually in less than an hour.

Mitch is the owner of Air Wise™ and a member of the Garden Oaks Civic Club. You can email Mitch with any A/C questions at mitch@airwisehouston.com or write to 1590 Sue Barnett Drive, Houston, TX 77018. All of his previous columns from the *Garden Oaks Gazette* can be found at www.airwisehouston.com.



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MICKEY'S MINUTE

What wonderful weather the last few weeks, at least for the market. What you may not realize is that there were frosts out in the country, even 50 miles South of Houston and with the lack of rain and stiff breezes, a lot of plantings were knocked back a week or two. That being the bad news, the good news is that spring greens are doing very well, with stunning lettuce and other salad greens.

All the winter greens are still going, with chard, mustard, collards etc looking superb. The first of the carrots are turning up and the kohlrabi is young and tender. With the success of the market being measured by attendance, we are beginning to look attractive to more vendors, so your continued support will help the market to grow.

GREEN SOUP RECIPE

By Jeremy Goodwin

One of the biggest challenges to your good intentions when you want to start eating nutritious, fresh food rather than processed alternatives, is that until you have got the hang of planning meals ahead, you are often left with lots of green leafy vegetables that you will never get to eat. Even after years practice to the point where I don't really have to plan specific meals, just a general trend, a surprise meal out or cancelled dinner, can leave me overloaded with green leafy things that are threatening to become compost bucket components. My solution to that is a highly nutritious, quite simple, and very tasty soup and despite it having been described as "a dubious green", with the addition of croutons, edible flowers, fresh chevre or even a swirl of cream or Greek yogurt, it has become



a favorite of everyone who tastes it. The source for this recipe is an English folk standard for stinging nettles, the first greens of the Spring, and I changed it to use up carrot tops, beet greens, kohlrabi and radish leaves, or just about anything that is green, leafy and edible.

An important note here: Please do not use vegetable tops from regular store bought vegetables, as they are often loaded with pesticides. Organic is the lowest standard, but the best can be found at our local farmer market, where the vendors do not use commercial weed killers or insecticides.

Green Soup

Preparation 15 minutes
 Cooking time 40 minutes
 Hold time unlimited
 Stores for a week in the fridge and freezes well.

Ingredients:
 8-10 cups green leafy vegetables (carrot tops, chard, spinach etc.)
 2 large onions
 2 tablespoons olive oil
 4 cups stock,
 1 cup sweet wine or vermouth
 ½ teaspoon fresh ground nutmeg
 Salt and fresh ground black pepper to taste
 Garnish with fresh chopped Italian parsley

Coarsely chop the onion, and sauté in the olive oil until translucent, about two minutes. While it is cooking, wash and chop the greens and throw them in on top. Add the stock and wine, and enough water to barely cover the greens, as they will shrink during cooking. Bring to a boil and reduce the heat to simmer gently for 25 minutes.

Allow to cool before blending to avoid explosions, but if you are in a hurry, add cold water. To serve; heat the soup to a simmer for 5 minutes and add the salt and pepper to taste.

At this stage you can add butter, cream, sour cream or yogurt to the base to make a richer finished soup, but I recommend a big dollop of yogurt or fresh chevre and then sprinkle on the chopped parsley and nutmeg.

Local Farmers Market
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 rain or shine
 954 Wakefield
 Sustainably grown produce, eggs, goat cheese, prepared indian dishes, jams and jellies.

GARDEN OAKS

Garden Oaks Civic Club

2013 Constable Patrol Contributor Application & Contact Information

(All information is held strictly confidential)

New Member or Renewal

Property Address : _____

Phone at this address: _____

Member 1 Information

Name: _____

Email: _____

Work Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Member 2 Information

Name: _____

Email: _____

Work Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Emergency Contact Information

Name: _____

Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Emergency Contact Information

Name: _____

Home Phone: _____

Work 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).

Draft Authorization Form (Attach voided check if completing this form)

I, _____, hereby authorize **Chase Bank** to begin Direct Debiting of my Bank Account Number _____ at _____

Bank and Bank Routing Number _____ for my participation.

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.

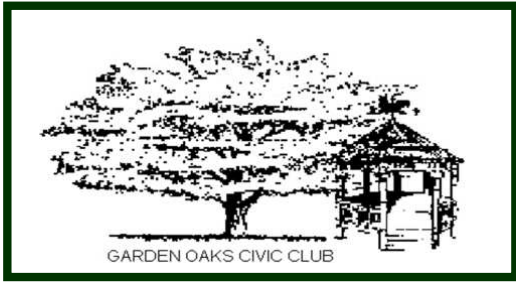
Printed Name

Date

Signature

Telephone

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



ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES STATEMENT

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.

Fill in Amount

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

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

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

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

\$ _____ CONTRIBUTION TO BEAUTIFICATION (area green spaces)

\$ _____ CONTRIBUTION TO GARDEN CLUB

\$ _____ TOTAL

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

Please mail this completed form along with your check payable to:

Garden Oaks Civic Club, P.O. Box 10273, Houston, TX 77206. THANK YOU!



Name(s) _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

APRIL 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 A-Go Go Meeting 859 Azalea, 7 PM	2 Civic Club Meeting-GOES Elementary 7 PM	3	4	5	6 Farmers Market, 954 Wakefield 9 AM-1 PM
7	8	9 	10	11 Garden Club, 7 PM	12	13 Farmers Market, 954 Wakefield 9 AM-1 PM
14	15	16	17	18 Heavy Trash- Junk Waste	19	20 Farmers Market, 954 Wakefield 9 AM-1 PM
21	22 Earth Day	23 	24 GOMO Monthly Meeting -GOES Elementary, 7 PM	25	26	27 Farmers Market, 954 Wakefield 9 AM -1 PM
28	29	30	1	2	3	4 Farmers Market, 954 Wakefield 9 AM-1 PM



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LISTINGS WANTED!

"I KNOW GARDEN OAKS AND THE VALUE OF YOUR PROPERTY."
CALL ME FOR A FREE MARKET ANALYSIS OF YOUR HOME.



One long-time client recently commented, "Deanna was a great help in the marketing of my home. She is very experienced, professional, and knowledgeable of the neighborhood. She was willing to go the extra mile to make everything run smoothly with the marketing, sale, and closing of my property."



717 SUE BARNETT

AS A RESIDENT FOR OVER 20 YEARS, DEANNA ZUGHERI DELIVERS A GREAT DEAL OF PASSION WHEN DISCUSSING HER NEIGHBORHOOD!



Deanna@GardenOaksHomes.com ~ 281.658.4514