

# GARDEN OAKS GAZETTE

VOLUME 36

ISSUE 06

## Date Set for 2014 Garden Oaks Home & Garden Tour

by Brenda de Alba

Save the date! Sunday, April 27, 2014

Your favorite neighborhood's most popular event is back and promises to be better than ever! Held in even-numbered years, the tour is the largest money-making venture we have and an opportunity to show Houston and the surrounding communities why Garden Oaks is one of the premier neighborhoods in the city. The Garden Oaks Home & Garden Tour strives to have something for everyone and it's a great way to pick up unique decorating/remodeling tips and eclectic gardening ideas. All tour proceeds directly benefit the neighborhood and surrounding community, including Garden Oaks Elementary, the Garden Oaks Constable Patrol program, the monthly Gazette, and greenspace beautification.

Our first big activity is home and garden selection with a goal to announce the tour locations in September. The success of each tour begins with the homeowners who graciously open their homes and gardens for the benefit of the neighborhood. **If you would like to nominate a home or garden, yours or a neighbor's, please forward a note to [HTSelections@gardenoaks.org](mailto:HTSelections@gardenoaks.org) and tell us what you find appealing and what would be interesting to tour goers with regard to your nomination.** Is it an original Garden Oaks home, one that has been remodeled, or new construction? Is it a formal garden, a cottage garden, or a native plant garden? This year's Selection Committee will be led by Terry Jeanes, whose involvement with Garden Oaks tours dates back to the very first one in the early '80s. **Continued on Page 9.**

## JUNE 2013

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Civic Club Meeting

**June 4, 7 p.m. Civic Club Meeting**  
Garden Oaks Elementary School

#### July 2, 7 p.m. Civic Club Meeting

Garden Oaks Elementary School

#### Red, White and Blue July 4th Bicycle Parade

Thursday, July 4, beginning at  
9:00 a.m. at Rick Englert SPARK Park.  
Registration begins at 8:30a.m  
More on Page 5

### VOLUNTEER NEEDED!

Beautification Chair  
Please contact Mark Klein at  
[president@gardenoaks.org](mailto:president@gardenoaks.org)

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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.

- 1447 Sue Barnett
- 717 Sue Barnett
- 1034 Lamonte
- 1027 Althea
- 401 W 30TH
- 1047 Althea
- 235 W 31ST
- 761 W 42ND
- 946 W 43RD
- 303 W. 33RD

**Birthdays**

- Andrew Joseph Balance-1st
- Stephen Wesley Syzdek -4th
- Rebecca Stark—5th
- Tina Parks Rowe—5th

- Shana Tatum -21st
- Antonio Ramirez.-23rd
- Allison Padon-28th
- Belated 2nd Birthday to Ryan Weltin-May 9th
- \*\*\*

Congratulations to Terry Jeanes on the April birth of her first grandchild, Bryn Leigh. Congratulations to Suzanne Debien, on the May birth of her first grandchild Bennett Lawrence.

Congratulations to Allison Bell, who grew up in Garden Oaks, and is now residing in Florence Italy. She was in town promoting a new cookbook of her mother-in-law's recipes called Graziella's Tuscan Kitchen.

**Out and About**

Tina Sabuco and Shellye Arnold visited Santa Fe. Jan and Wayne Forrester spent a week in Florida. Megan and Trent Salch were busy with Tell Your Tale Marketing at the big WBEA

conference @ Reliant. Claire and Amy Shaughnessy were spotted at Toyota Center for Taylor Swift. Alisha and Lela Cunningham were seen at the Battleship Texas. The Carlins spent Mom's Day in Galveston as did Terry Jeanes and Patrick Kelley. Lori Kennedy and Joe Muscara visited Boston for Lori's master's degree graduation ceremony from Northeastern University and got to experience a city on lockdown firsthand.

**Special Thoughts**

Condolences to the family of Ginger St. John who passed away in May. Special thoughts for husband Bill and son Ben.

Condolences also to Jessica and Eric Jarvis on the loss of their beloved greyhound, Ravi.

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

**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 PROGRAM**

*By Carl Waters Jr.*

Crime wise, things appeared to be fairly quiet in April with only 4 crimes reported to the HPD website. Last year 8 crimes were reported. So far in 2013, 28 crimes have been reported on the HPD web site for our neighborhood. At this time last year 35 crimes had been reported.

Armed robberies are still happening in the Oak Forest area. Please remain cautious if you go out at night and be mindful of vehicles behind you when you head home. If something feels wrong, don't go home; drive to a well lit area and call the police.

**April Crime Statistics (4)**

**Burglary 2**

800 block of W. 43rd St. on Sunday, April 28 @ 12:30 p.m. (residence).  
3000 block of N. Durham Dr. on Monday, April 29 @ 12:42 a.m. (restaurant).

**Theft 2**

200 block of W. 31st St. on Friday, April 5 at 11:30 p.m. (residence).  
700 block of Sue Barnett Dr. on Monday, April 22 at 1:00 a.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](http://GardenOaks.org) or to the COP email account at [GOCOP77018@AOL.com](mailto:GOCOP77018@AOL.com) or by phone at 713-864-1992.

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**Save the Date!**

2013 Wine Walk has been  
scheduled for October 19th!

More to Come.

**Emergency Numbers**

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



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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  
May 7, 2013

**Welcome:** President Mark Klein called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm. A motion was made and carried to accept the May minutes as published in the Gazette.

**President's/Vice-President's Announcements:****OurBlok Rewards Program:**

OurBlok is a new rewards program where up to 5% of the proceeds of participating retailers go to the Garden Oaks Civic Club Constable Program when the card is presented with a purchase. The cards will be distributed to households in the neighborhood. If a retailer does not support OurBlok, please encourage them to do so. **Home Tour 2014:** President Klein announced that Brenda de Alba has agreed to be the GOHT 2014 Committee Chair.

**Cottonwood Sound Update:**

Discussions regarding Cottonwood started in December. The Civic Club has been working with the City to determine what can be done regarding parking on the railroad easement. The sound issue escalated on April 27. Cottonwood hired a band from New Orleans and they had amplifiers better suited for a larger venue. When the rain impacted power and the start of the performance, the band started later and then played later than they should have. There is a sound ordinance and if you can hear/feel the sound inside your home, you can call the Houston police and ask that they come to your home to determine if the noise volume violates the City sound ordinance.

If they agree that it does, then the club could be cited. Cottonwood is licensed to play music until 10pm. The Civic Club and Cottonwood partners have discussed the sound levels and their impact on the neighborhood. Cottonwood plans to stop music at 9pm on weekends, and most likely won't hire the type of band that created the issue on the 27<sup>th</sup>. The Civic Club will continue discussions with the owner. **34th Street Quiet Zone Update:** A Facebook page has been set up to support the Quiet Zone. Please "like" the Facebook page and show your support. We need 1,000 likes. Eight quiet zones have been funded and the 34<sup>th</sup> street corridor is 9<sup>th</sup> on the list. **Beautification Chair:** We need a GO resident to step up to the beautification chair! Please contact [president@gardenoaks.org](mailto:president@gardenoaks.org) to volunteer or recommend someone for the position. **GO Family Bike Rides:** Jamie De Pujadas is an avid cyclist and has started a family bike ride every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month. All riders are welcome, especially children. This is a movement to get our neighborhood kids out and active. Bring helmets and water. Air pumps and tools are available to fix minor bike issues. The facebook link is <http://tinyurl.com/ce3rnfy>. The rides will start at 11am from the Spark Park. **Spark Park Shade Canopy:** The number of oak trees that were lost around the playground is very noticeable. Without trees the heat and sun are very strong. GO PTO reached out to the Civic Club to see if we could help make the Shade Canopy a reality. Last year, we committed 5% of the proceeds from the Home Tour to support the canopy but the City requires the Canopy to be permitted and to be at certain hurricane level certifications. The costs are greater than anticipated. The prior vote equaled approximately \$1300. A

motion was made to allocate an additional \$700 to the Spark Park Shade Canopy. The motion was seconded. The vote was made and the motion carried. An additional \$700 will be added to the original contribution.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Phil Ramirez reported that the financials were status quo. A few deposits are not yet reflected in the financials. There was discussion about Garden Oaks Garden Club managing its own funds. Currently, the Civic Club collects money on behalf of the Garden Club and then reimburses the Garden Club on a receipt by receipt basis. The Garden Club is its own organization with its own bank account. A motion was made and seconded to distribute collected funds directly to the Garden Club so that they manage their own monies. The vote was made and the motion carried. The Treasurer and the Garden Club will work out timing and process.

**Standing Committee Reports:**

**Membership:** New Neighbors were introduced. A raffle drawing for attendance gave away a Lowe's gift card. 314 members to date. 245 supporters of the Constable program for 2013.

**GO Citizens Patrol: Carl Waters** reported four crimes (two burglaries and two thefts) in April. Some of the patio thefts were likely not reported to the police. Encourage your neighbors to join the voluntary patrol program. Report anything suspicious in the neighborhood.

**Constable Program:** Terry Jeanes reported that the issues have mainly been in Oak Forest and that Garden Oaks has been fairly quiet. There have been armed robberies in Oak Forest and they are exploring implementing

a Constable Program like Garden Oaks has. Please remember that the Constables use routine traffic stops to run plates and check licenses.

**Beautification:** Please consider volunteering to be the beautification chair.

**Gazette:** No update.

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

**Garden Oaks Elementary School:** Principal Pollock is out of town at a Magnet Conference where the school is being recognized and receiving a School Of Distinction Award. Treasurer Ramirez reported that the Spark Park tiles are being added to the columns on May 11<sup>th</sup>. Saturday May 18<sup>th</sup> is Campus Beautification Day. Friday May 17<sup>th</sup> is Leadership Day at the school.

**Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization (GOMO):** No update.

Neighborhood thanks to Brother's Pizzeria who once again showed their support of the neighborhood by graciously donating pizzas to keep everyone who attended the Civic Club meeting well fed.

Vice President Seghers adjourned the meeting at 8:02 pm.

**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.

**RED, WHITE AND BLUE JULY 4<sup>th</sup> BICYCLE PARADE**

*by Will and Deanna Zugheri*

Garden Oaks 2013 Red, White, and Blue Parade is scheduled for Thursday, July 4, beginning at 9:00 a.m. at Rick Englert SPARK Park on Sue Barnett, with pre-registration beginning at 8:30 a.m. With the enormous patriotic spirit that is in this community, it is expected that anyone who is not in the parade will be on the street cheering. Bring a lawn chair and find a seat along the parade route.

First, second and third place prizes will be awarded in the following categories:

- \* Strollers & Wagons
- \* Tricycles
- \* Youth bicycles
- \* Adult bicycles
- \* Floats

Refreshments will be served after the parade.

Volunteers are needed to work the registration table, serve as judges, parade marshals and photographers. If you are interested in helping, contact Deanna Zugheri at [Deanna@GardenOaksHomes.com](mailto:Deanna@GardenOaksHomes.com) or 281.658.4514.

**CONSTABLE PROGRAM**

**Become a Supporter Today**

By Terry Jeanes & Susan Love Saranie

Although nearby area driveway robberies have subsided, please stay alert. Pay attention when you are coming home at night. Due to porch thefts recently in Garden Oaks please anchor planters and porch furniture to deter theft.

HELP WANTED: Please contact me, Terry Jeanes, 281-236-8033 cell, or via [terry@terryjeanes.com](mailto:terry@terryjeanes.com) if you have a few hours to spare each month for assisting in our program.

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://garde->

[noaks.org/constableform](http://noaks.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](mailto:secretary@gardenoaks.org).

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**GARDEN OAKS CIVIC CLUB PARTNERS WITH OurBlok TO RAISE NEEDED FUNDS**

The Garden Oaks Civic Club is excited to announce the launch of a new OurBlok Rewards Card program, developed to support neighborhood protection. When you use the Garden Oaks Civic Club / OurBlok Rewards Card at area businesses you will receive a discount on your first purchase, a reward for future visits and you will help raise money for the Civic Club. A percentage of proceeds from each purchase will be donated to the GOCC Constable Program. Please see the enclosed bulletin with your personalized rewards card. These cards have already been programmed to support the Garden Oaks Civic Club and its Constable Program. Be sure to activate your card at [www.OurBlok.com](http://www.OurBlok.com). This partnership is an exciting opportunity for Garden Oaks neighbors to save some money, while raising funds for Constable patrols. So, remember to look for participating businesses in the area. And ask your favorite place to become part of the OurBlok program. Locations are being added regularly. A free smart phone app is available for both Android and iPhone devices. Activate Here  
Install the Phone App!



Current participating retailers

- Adolf Hoepfl & Son
- Automotive
- 610 Pet Lodge
- Envoy Mortgage
- Signature Smiles
- Sign A Rama
- MBM Air Duct
- Kitchen & Bath Wizards
- Memorial Park Vision
- Shipleys Do-Nuts (Ella)
- Outlaw Daves
- Dickey's Barbecue
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**WANT HUMMINGBIRDS?**  
Summarized by Dian Austin

**Ingredients for a Hummingbird Habitat:**

- Provide energy (nectar) from some of their favorite flowering plants and maybe a few hummingbird feeders.
- Go Green - that is, avoid use of harmful sprays and poisons since hummers frequently rub up against blooms and eat insects for protein, providing food and nutrition.
- Add a water source.
- Leave spider webs and old trees with lichen on them as the hummers use these in their nests

Sounds simple enough. Here are a few details to help get you on your

way to enticing all those wonderful hummingbirds into your yard.

**Hummingbird Nectar** is made by boiling a cup of water and adding ¼ cup of sugar. Stir until the sugar melts and then let it cool before filling your feeders. Never add a dye to the solution because it can make the birds sick; the red color of the feeder is enough to attract the birds.

**Hummingbird Feeders need to be clean**, and sometimes that can be challenging in our hot weather. Glass feeders last longer and are more easily cleaned. The nectar should be changed every couple of days, so that it doesn't get moldy; hummers can get respiratory infections from older nectars and will continue to

feed, making them even sicker. It's best to wash the feeders with vinegar and water every 3 days in really hot weather. Hang your feeders in an open shady spot where the hummers will have easy access. If ants discover the feeder, you can discourage them by applying petroleum jelly to the wire that supports the feeders.

If feeders sound like too much trouble, skip them and **opt for flowers**. You'll still attract hummingbirds. Hummingbirds are drawn to red, pink, and orange flowers. For the Houston area, some of the top hummingbird attracting plants include cuphea, bottlebrush, firespike, firecracker fern, russelia, hamelia, porter weed, salvias, turks cap, shrimp plant, bee balm, lantanas, and lobelia cardinalis.

Another thing that hummingbirds love is **dripping water**. These tiny birds do not wade into a bird bath; they are much more delicate. If you can arrange a bird bath with a drip, you are likely to see a hummingbird in it.

If you can capture a photo of a hummer in your yard, send it to [gazette@gardenoaks.org](mailto:gazette@gardenoaks.org).

Happy Birding!

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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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2014 HOME TOUR ..Cont from pg 1.

A successful tour needs volunteers and I'm talking in excess of 200! Volunteering is a wonderful way for new neighbors to meet and make friends. Detailed descriptions of the various volunteer roles will be provided in next month's Gazette; however, if you have volunteered for past tours and would like to sign up early, please provide your name, contact information, and preferred volunteer role in an email to [Volunteers@gardenoaks.org](mailto:Volunteers@gardenoaks.org).

Watch for updates in future Gazettes as tour plans progress. In the meantime, I can be reached through [Hometour@gardenoaks.org](mailto:Hometour@gardenoaks.org). I look forward to chairing the 2014 tour...  
Brenda de Alba

**THE AMERICAN FLAG AND ITS PROTOCOL**

*By Trent Slovak*

The Flag of the United States of America is a symbol of freedom and liberty to which Americans pledge their allegiance. It consists of 13 alternating red and white stripes and 50 white stars on a blue field, with each star representing a state. The colors on the flag represent:



- Red: valor and bravery
- White: purity and innocence
- Blue: vigilance, perseverance, and justice

Many people proudly display the flag at their homes and businesses during national holidays such as July 4<sup>th</sup> but sometimes they may not be familiar with American Flag protocol. One Garden Oaks resident observed the disturbing sight of an American flag discarded in a trash can. Title 4 of the United States Code, Chapter 1: The Flag, states that if a flag is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, it should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning (not to be confused with burning a flag as a protest).

More information on flag protocol can be found by searching for Title 4 of the United States Code, Chapter 1: The Flag, and at the following link.

<http://publications.usa.gov/>

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## WALTRIP ROBOTICS TEAMS TO PARTICIPATE IN TWO INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

The Waltrip High School Robotics team, known as the Rambot Team, won 1st place at the regional M.A.T.E. (Marine Advanced Technologies Education) Underwater ROV (Remote Operated Vehicle) competition at NASA in April. They are now preparing to travel to the International M.A.T.E. Underwater ROV competition in Tacoma, Washington on June 20-22, 2013. They are the only Texas Ranger Division team to qualify to compete in this event with teams from all around the world! This is the fourth time Waltrip has qualified and competed in International M.A.T.E.

While at this event the team will safely operate their student built ROV, orally present their technical report and present their display board to all participants during an evening banquet. They will have the unique opportunity to network with teams from all over the world and professionals from underwater exploration industries.

The team will also be traveling to Norman Oklahoma for the Global Conference on Educational Robotics and International Botball Tournament in July. The team won a special judges award for best rookie team at the regional Botball competition in March, qualifying them a spot in the Conference and International competition. The team has also been asked to present a paper on the Games Robots Play Educational Robotics Challenge that they designed and held on April 20 at Waltrip high school. At this competition, the teams fully autonomous robots will work together to move items around a field that simulates activities robots would perform on Mars to prepare



This is the first time Waltrip has sent teams to two different International competitions.

The Rambot Team and Engineering teacher/sponsor, Stephanie "Spoony" Witherspoon were only recently invited to participate in both of these events. This has posed a challenge for these hard working students as they now have to raise a total of \$25,000 (\$16,000 for Washington and \$9,000 for Oklahoma) to cover transportation, lodging, robot transportation, and food for both of these trips. The Washington trip is coming up quickly and reservations need to be made. The students, their families and the Engineering/Technology department are all reaching out to the community to help them get there. The team needs help from companies and individuals who are concerned with the future of engineering in the United States and who are interested in helping these students experience a life changing opportunity. It will be the first time to travel outside of Texas for most of the team.

Many of the former Waltrip Robotics Team Alumni have gone on to pursue Engineering degrees. Steven Roberts, a 2010 alumni and Texas A&M Engineering Junior, was the

captain of the first team to compete at M.A.T.E. Internationals. He says of his experience, "It was really interesting to see teams and cultures from all over the world, all coming together for the exact same thing but from different perspectives. Everyone was friendly, supportive and complimentary. The experience, both at NASA and Internationals, gave me confidence and reinforced my desire to become an Engineer. Go Rambots. Good Luck in Washington." Recently, The Waltrip High School Community has stepped up to help the school and students in a variety of ways. Our wonderful community helped send the band to Washington DC for the Inauguration and also rallied to inform the district that Waltrip is destined to be the best comprehensive school in the district. Now it is time to support our engineering and technology students with experiences of a lifetime. Please spread the word and support these amazing students.

Donations can be made on <http://www.gofundme.com/2uo908>  
Or checks can be written to:  
The Waltrip Robotics Team  
c/o Stephanie "Spoony" Witherspoon  
[swithers@houstonisd.org](mailto:swithers@houstonisd.org)  
713.922.3447.

**SUMMER FUN!***By Lindsey Pollock*

Summer is a time of fun and excitement for children: no school, trips to the pool and summer camps. But all this free time can be the source of academic regression over the summer months for school-age children. As adults, we know what it's like to go back to work after a week or two of vacation. Returning, we may feel a bit disoriented and forget details about the office. Imagine if you were to take nearly 3 months of vacation! It would be like starting over for awhile. This is the same at school as the first few weeks of the year are usually spent reviewing the knowledge and skills from the year before. As parents we can help minimize this summer slide by incorporating skills practice into the summer fun. Here are a few ideas:

**Create a regular reading routine.**

Reading is a skill that improves with practice. Make regular trips to the public libraries and participate in summer book programs. Houston Public Libraries has a Millionaires Club each summer to promote reading. Library cards are free as are many of the special programs and activities offered in the air conditioned branches.

**Encourage your child to write.**

Write letters to family members, summaries of the books they read and letters to celebrities. Yes – celebrities! Most celebrity sports players, singers and politicians have fan clubs or representatives who will respond to letters. Children are thrilled to receive a letter in the mail addressed to them and it is wonderful practice.

Involve your children in planning the summer vacation. Show them a map of the planned location and work with them to budget the costs of the trip and activities. Many math

applications are included in this planning including miles per gallon when budgeting for gas costs and researching food and lodging costs. Ask your travel agent or auto club for maps and take them with you on your trip. One of the best summer adventures we had as a family was driving to New York where each child had their own map book. They highlighted the roads we took and noted what we observed along the way. This was a great introduction to symbols on the map including capitol cities, types of roads and geographic features. The names of cities and towns also provide opportunities to discuss history of each region.




**Support your child's financial savvy by involving them in planning the family budget and participating in making change.** Talk to them about cost at the grocery store and add up items as you go. Estimate the total bill before you reach the register. Work on rounding numbers and adding items as you walk through the store. If you go to garage sales over the summer, have your child pay and monitor the change back.

**Volunteer at a community food bank, animal shelter, church or retirement center.** Help your child recognize that together we make the world a better place. Volunteering


promotes a sense of responsibility, higher-level thinking, problem-solving, teamwork and utilizes many academic skills, too.

All of these ideas can be modified for the age of your child. The important point is to help your child keep their reading, math, social studies and science knowledge and skills sharp over the summer. As you experience new adventures over the summer months, help your child to see the connections to school and to utilize the skills they have practiced all year. Ultimately, we are all working together to help our children prepare for their role(s) in the world as adults and to be life-long learners, innovators and contributors to our society. Working together, we can instill the joy of learning and provide real-world applications for academic extensions, even on vacation!



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## GARDEN OAKS KIDS

By Lisa Rentschler

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 and EVENTS!

The ages of kids in the group range from newborns to school-aged--- all Garden Oaks families are welcome. As always, I would like to thank the moms who have volunteered their time to promote this group and make the neighborhood a wonderful place for our children to live and grow!

GO Kids Membership

- 1) Go to: <http://www.gardenoakskids.com/>
- 2) Select "email us for an invitation"
- 3) Include some information about yourself...

your full name, information about your family, address (GO section)

We have a special neighborhood, and want to provide additional opportunities for our mothers to meet each other and our children to grow up in a close community. We are focused on bringing more events and activities to our neighborhood this year. To help make these activities and events special, we are asking each of our members to donate \$20 per

family. Please go to [www.paypal.com](http://www.paypal.com) and enter ([jenny.odinet@yahoo.com](mailto:jenny.odinet@yahoo.com)) in the "To" field to make your donation. If you have any membership questions or would like to make a donation another way, please contact Marcia Rasmussen ([marcia2ras@gmail.com](mailto:marcia2ras@gmail.com)).

2013 Events planned:

- Movie nights at the Park
- Splash Days
- Back to School Old Fashioned Picnic
- Neighborhood Fun Run
- Christmas Caroling

### GO Kids Activities

Members check out our calendar of events at [www.bigtent.com](http://www.bigtent.com).

### June Events

**Movie Night at the Park** - Bring your blanket, popcorn and pop... we will provide the big screen movie and fun memories.

**Splash Day** - What better way to kick off the summer... snow cones, crafts and a splash in the pool.

More details on these events will be posted on BigTent.

Be on the lookout for the **local lemonade stands** as we welcome the hot Houston summer.

We had a great turn out at the **Kid-Tucky Derby Party**. A very special thank you to Julie Maddox and her

family for their time, creativity and all they did to coordinate this great event! We also appreciate the volunteers that came out to help and make it fun and memorable!



Our **GO Babies and GO Buddies** have been very active this month with such great weather in our neighborhood. You can catch them at parks in the area and other happenings around town. We would like to extend a special thank you to those moms who have decided to help host these special play dates! Your contribution to this neighborhood and the GO Kids program is very much appreciated.



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**Do you need a night out, momma??**

Join the group and join the girls!! We have a Moms' Night Out at least once a month. The last two MNO have been well attended and we are excited to see familiar faces as well as all the new mommas that are joining the group! This is a great way to have a little get-a-way from it all! We hope to see you out at this next MNO! Contact our coordinators for specific details about upcoming events: GO Babies (birth to 2) – Kori Long ([koricavanaugh@gmail.com](mailto:koricavanaugh@gmail.com)) GO Buddies (2 to 5) – Stella Stevens ([sas19@live.com](mailto:sas19@live.com)) MNO – Deborah Seghers ([debtrevino@yahoo.com](mailto:debtrevino@yahoo.com)) & Nicole Fowler ([nefowler@me.com](mailto:nefowler@me.com))

**Website / Communication** – [www.gardenoakskids.com](http://www.gardenoakskids.com)

Our website continues to grow; now offering a login portal to BigTent, information on contributing to our annual bouncy house fund, and purchasing your Garden Oaks Cookbook (which benefits our Constable Program fund).

**GO Kids 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. Please consider volunteering for this program.

**Pay it Forward**... it is a great way to say Thank you if you have benefited from this program in the past.

Contact our Dinner Drop coordinator Angelica Sullivan if you have any questions on how to sign up/volunteer for the program ([angelicapuerto@hotmail.com](mailto:angelicapuerto@hotmail.com))

**GO Kids Leadership Team**

Coordinator – Lisa Rentschler  
 Membership/Website/Fundraising – Marcia Rasmussen  
 Treasurer – Jenny Odinet  
 Mom's Night Out – Deborah Seghers/  
 Nicole Fowler  
 GO Babies – Kori Long  
 GO Buddies – Stella Stevens  
 Dinner Drops – Angelica Sullivan  
 Bouncy House – Olga Marruffo  
 Special Events – Volunteered for by  
 Event – We are always looking for volunteers to help setup/assist during event/take down at events! A list of published upcoming events can be found at [www.bigtent.com](http://www.bigtent.com).

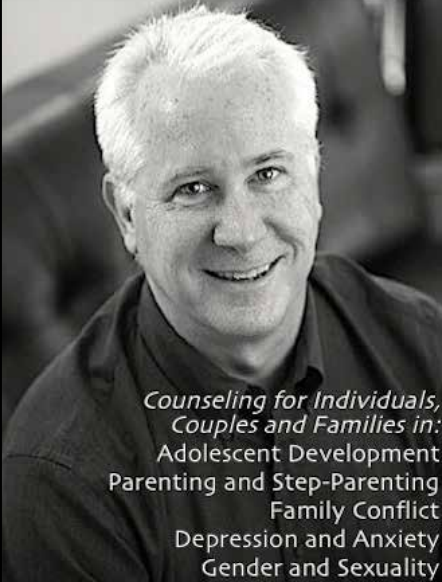
Please feel free to join us at our next meeting. Our leadership meetings are open to all active GO Kid members (invites sent through BigTent).

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. If you have questions or would like more information about the GO Kids group, please contact Lisa at [gypsy9601@yahoo.com](mailto:gypsy9601@yahoo.com).

Please understand that our organization is moderated entirely by volunteers who are also parents with hectic schedules. While we hope to answer your questions and get you through the membership process as soon as possible, we cannot guarantee an immediate response. We really appreciate your patience and understanding. We look forward to seeing you around the neighborhood!



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PHOTO OF THE MONTH



John (12) and Tom Cronin are seen on the final stretch of the MS 150 heading into Austin.

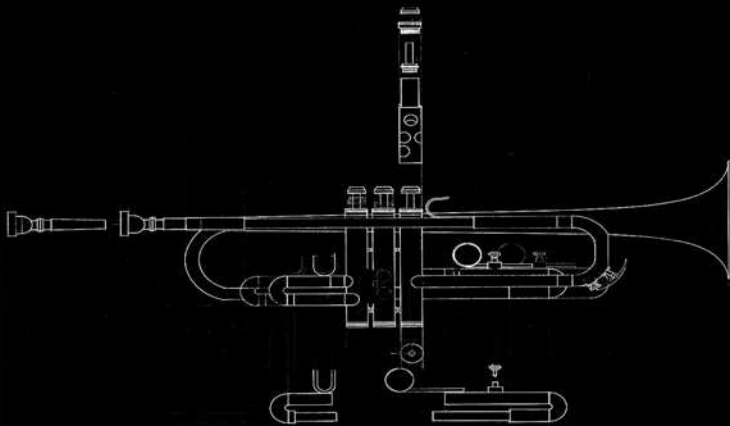
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## JUNE GARDEN CLUB MEETING

By Cathy Wahren

Beth Galiano will be presenting seasonal gardening advice to the Garden Oaks Garden Club on June 13, 2013 at 7 PM at 527 W. 33rd St. The meeting is open to Garden Oaks neighbors who rsvp with their contact information to 713-303-8136 or to [CatalinaW2@Yahoo.com](mailto:CatalinaW2@Yahoo.com) by June 7. Attendees typically bring a potluck item. The presentation is scheduled for 7:15 - 8:00, to be followed by a business meeting.

Beth is a Master Gardener (retired), former President of the Shepherd Park Plaza Garden Club, and active in many other community organizations. She currently heads up a group of volunteers that maintain the Garden Oaks Vegetable Garden. Beth's current interests also include herb gardening, exotic gingers, and tomatoes.

## GARDEN OAKS GARDEN IS BLOOMING

By August Galiano

The Garden Oaks community garden is located on Alba Street between West 43rd and Chamboard, right on the border between Garden Oaks and Shepherd Park Plaza.

The reason these folks are all excited is because the new crop is just coming in and they plan to harvest more than a hundred tomatoes (five varieties), yellow squash, zucchini, cucumbers, Kentucky wonder beans, corn, and a few potatoes.

For more than twenty years the garden has supplied fresh vegetables to families who need help, free of charge, through local church food pantries.

The garden, a joint project of Garden Oaks and Shepherd Park Plaza, was started by Garden Oaks resident Jan

Koenig with the help of Dr. Bob Randall of Urban Harvest. And, with the support of Garden Oak's Ed de Alba, the garden has continued producing food for the needy



Garden Oaks Community Garden Crew left to right: Debbie and Tim Elliott, Beth Galiano, Caroline Stender and Franz Vander Henst.

## Yard of the Month: 1022 Gardenia



With rain, spring-time temperatures and plenty of sun in the past couple of months, there are many, many beautiful Garden Oaks yards in peak form to select from! The shady and green June Yard of the Month has lovely color beds bordering its flagstone seating area. Mid-height pink/purple heather, gaura and vincas are highlighted by a bright white border of pansies and begonias that catch the eye in the dappled shade. A delicate Japanese maple serves as a focal point.



## GARDEN CLUB OFFICERS

### President

Cathy Wahren 713.686.8686  
[catalinaw2@yahoo.com](mailto:catalinaw2@yahoo.com)

### Vice President/Communications

Chris Lindsay 713.819.8412  
[Chris.Lindsay@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Chris.Lindsay@sbcglobal.net)

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**CRITTER CORNER**

*By Casey and Dorothy Dan Farris with Molly Taylor*

This month we celebrate the merger of two local pet sitting businesses. Bone Voyage Pet Sitting and Mutt House Relief Effort are now one company. Leigh Anne Marshall of Mutt House Relief Effort is the co-owner/manager. Molly Taylor of Molly's Mutt House is also co-owner. Molly has been a pet professional for many years and has a lot of experience and knowledge to share with us so next month she will be taking over this column. With the pet sitting merger and name change, Dorothy, Molly and I couldn't help but think about names in general and that led us straight to pet names. Dorothy Dan was named for the gorgeous actress of the 1950's, Dorothy Dandridge. We did a little internet searching on pet names and want to share some tips and trivia that we found. Our Pet of the month for June has a unique name.

**Pets of the Month:** "Mr. June" is Tagalong Meyer (Maltese) who is 13 ½ years old. Tag lives in Section I with his parents, Christa and Russ. Tag's full name is Amystis Lil Tagalong. The name Amystis came from the breeder while Lil was part of his

sire's name and Tagalong was part of his dam's name. Tagalong turned out to be the perfect name as he happily tags along with his parents everywhere they go. Tag's favorite activity is playing with cats. He loves treats, all treats, but his absolute favorite is freeze dried liver. He shares his habitat with Crosny (orange Tabby) age 16; Bubba (black Lab) age 7; and Gabby (Belgian Sheepdog) age 3. Crosny means red in Russian. Gabby was named for the Archangel Gabriel, and Bubba, well every southern family has a Bubba. Tagalong is a very young 13, and besides being a Daddy's boy, he also just adorable. Love and kisses to the Meyer family!

**Critters 101: Call It What You Will!**

You've got the pet; now what do you name it? Sometimes the name is so easy and just pops out at you. However, sometimes you can agonize for days over the name. Dorothy Dan and I found the neatest website [www.bowwow.com.au](http://www.bowwow.com.au) that has a ton of pet name information. They have thousands of dog and cat names in their database, along with the popularity, meanings and ratings. They have naming tips, names of the month, and paired name ideas, like Mistle and Toe, or Black and Decker. You can search for a name by type of name, such as famous people, music

or fashion. Maybe you want to use a certain first letter for the name so then you could search by letter. Or you can search by appearance traits; a white pet could be named Coconut, Igloo, or Magnolia.

The top dog names are Max, Jake, Buddy, Maggie, Bear, Molly, Bailey, Shadow, Sam, Lady, Sadie, and Lucky.

The top cat names are Tigger, Tiger, Max, Smokey, Sam, Kitty, Sassy, Shadow, Simba, Patch, Lucky, and Misty.

The top rabbit names are Bailey, Bugs, Thumper, Puddles, Midnight, Riley, Stormie, Pippin, Noel, and Piper.

The top bird names are Angel, Borgia, Jet, Me, Pumpkin, Getty, Coco, Baby, Sunny, and Skittles.

Casey Farris teaches Pet First Aid & CPR through Go Dog USA, Dorothy Dan is the boss of Casey, and Molly Taylor operates Molly's Mutt House and co-owns Mutt House Relief Effort pet sitting. Please forward your questions and pet news to [relief@mutthouse.com](mailto:relief@mutthouse.com) or call 281-300-6712.

**GARDEN OAKS  
OUTREACH**

A color version of the Gazette is published each month on the Garden Oaks Website <http://www.gardenoaks.org/involvement/gazette.html>.

Classified Ads are \$20 per run for residents, and are for personal services only (help wanted, items for sale, infant care needed, etc.).



A LITTLE MORE ON  
MINI SPLITS...*By Mitch Weigand*

A number of customers asked me recently about a small Air Conditioning unit call a "Mini Split". This is an air conditioner designed to cool just one room. It is a full heating and cooling A/C Unit. It is called a mini split because it is a full "split" system, just like most everyone has in their home, when the inside furnace and evaporator coil is up in the attic or in a closet, and the outside unit or condenser is on the outside of your house. It is a tiny "split" system, thus the Mini.

These were originally made by the Japanese, as they do not have nearly the space or power surplus that Americans typically have. They only needed a device to run one room and it MUST be energy efficient. Thus the Mini Split was created. It uses the new Freon, is fully ASHRA compliant and does not have any ducts. It sits up high on a wall, near the ceiling

and cools the whole room. Mitsubishi was the first (and in my opinion the best) manufacturer of the Mini split. Have you ever had a crafts room, sports room, game room, man cave, garage apartment, or little shed out back that was super hot in the summer, and you know you would use it more if it was just cool? Well, here is the solution. Cold, quiet, efficient, unobtrusive, just right for your space. I've put them in master bedrooms, 3rd floor attic build outs, tool sheds, actual garages (to keep the Porsche cool...) Man have I got stories...


The unit takes very little power to run, cools like the dickens, and most people rarely see their electric bill rise, even when continuously left on. Your normal A/C unit takes about 30 amps ( amount of electrons flowing through a wire) to operate, and even a little window unit will pull 12 amps. The mini split at full power uses 2.5 amps and when the space is cooled, ramps down to 1.2, and QUIET, you

better believe it. Like whisper quiet! This shows up in your electric bill as very little power usage.

I've put in about 300 so far and I love them. If the A/C industry wasn't so hard to change, there would be more of these put in. I did a whole house with mini splits. Electric bill went from \$875 to \$96, during the summer, unbelievable. I myself have three on my property for various uses.

Anyway, that is my topic for this month. Oh and one more thing which I'm sure most of you are asking... price. Average price out the door for most installations is \$3500.00 , for a single room unit.

Mitch is the owner of Air Wise and a member of the Garden Oaks civic Club. You can email Mitch at [mitch@airwisehouston.com](mailto:mitch@airwisehouston.com) or visit [www.Airwisehouston.com](http://www.Airwisehouston.com).




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**MICKEY'S MINUTE-**

*By Mickey Morales*

As I write this post it appears old man winter has finally abandoned us at last, and what a fine spring it was. However fear not, as summer is upon us and it will bring a bounty of great things to eat. As I mowed the front pasture this afternoon, preparing to move the Roussels (one of our three flocks of free range laying hens) under the fruit orchard, I marveled at the amount of fruit on the trees. We are going to have a bumper crop of everything from apples to peaches, to plums and even pomegranates, in a month or so. In the mean time you should expect to see lots of peppers, squash, eggplants, okra, beans and other summer favorites like tomatoes and basil. And maybe even some corn around Memorial Day.

Of course we will still have our prepared foods from Kristy's Kitchen and

Nisha's Quick and Easy Indian Foods, as well as recycled wood items from Matt of Stormware Creations. A few folks have asked why we aren't bigger and I tell them there is more to us than meets the eye. At last count we represent products from thirteen different vendors, and with a little luck we'll add a few more through the summer months.

On the legislative front, hopefully by the time you read this we will have had three food friendly bills passed by both houses and signed by the Governor, or maybe not. If I have learned anything in the past few years of following this process through two sessions, it is not a simple process. There are many folks who believe that they know better than we do what is safe to eat and drink and others who will sellout to the lobbyists. Unfortunately common sense has become far too uncommon. I feel that many small

producers are often overburdened with unnecessary rules, and that Big Agriculture often seems to get a free pass. So, I say vote with your dollars and support your local farmers and food producers and together we'll change the world regardless of what those brilliant thinkers in Austin can conjure up.

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Shawn Vacek - Owner

**4206 Law Street**

**Houston Tx 77005 713-666-1931**

**FRESH FROM THE FARMERS MARKET**

By *Jeremy Goodwin*

**Time**

Hands on 10 minutes  
 Total time 50 minutes  
 Stores 7 days in the fridge

**Cobbler pastry.**

1 cup all purpose flour  
 1/3 cup Turbinado sugar,  
 3 ounces butter  
 1/4 teaspoon powdered sea salt

Sift together the flour and the salt, mix in the Turbinado sugar until evenly distributed.

Rub in the butter with your fingers until it has a crumbly texture. It is made easier if you cut the butter into small pieces first.

**Cobbler fruit**

1lb fresh berries or skinless peach slices



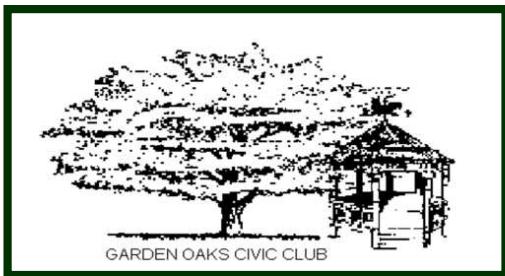
2 tablespoons Turbinado sugar (optional)  
 1 teaspoon freshly ground cinnamon (optional)  
 1/2 teaspoon finely ground black pepper (Optional)

Wash the berries well (not necessary for the peach) and pat dry. Put them in the bottom of a casserole dish. Dot the top with discs of the pastry mix-

ture and put into a preheated oven at 375°F for about 40 minutes, until the pastry turns golden brown. Allow to cool and set before serving.

You can find more of Jeremy's recipes at [www.facebook.com/singleman-skitchen](http://www.facebook.com/singleman-skitchen).

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

**GARDEN OAKS CIVIC CLUB**

**January - December 2013**

DUE DATE: January 1, 2013	TOTAL CONTRIBUTION: \$ _____
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Membership is open to all residents whether you own or rent. Please choose the level you feel most comfortable supporting. **While all memberships are voluntary, you must contribute a minimum of \$25 (or \$5 for Seniors 65 years+)** in order to be eligible to vote on civic club matters. Membership dues are for the calendar year.

Fill in Amount

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Garden Oaks Civic Club**  
**2013 Constable Patrol Contributor Application & Contact Information**  
*(All information is held strictly confidential)*  
 New Member or  Renewal

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

# JUNE 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27 Memorial Day	28	29 	30	31	1 Farmers Market, 954 Wakefield 9 AM-1 PM
2	3	4 Civic Club Meeting-GOES Elementary 7 PM	5	6	7	8 Farmers Market, 954 Wakefield 9 AM-1 PM
9	10	11 	12	13 Garden Club 7 PM	14	15 Farmers Market, 954 Wakefield 9 AM-1 PM
16	17	18	19 GOMO Monthly Meeting -GOES Elementary, 7 PM	20 Heavy Trash-Junk Waste	21	22 Farmers Market, 954 Wakefield 9 AM -1 PM
23	24	25	26	27	28	29 Farmers Market, 954 Wakefield 9 AM-1 PM
30						

**DEANNA**  
ZUGHERI

GARDENOAKSHOMES.COM

## NEW LISTING!

CALL ME ABOUT THIS GREAT LISTING IN GARDEN OAKS OR CONTACT ME FOR A FREE MARKET ANALYSIS OF YOUR HOME.

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

### 967 ALTHEA



**kw** metropolitan  
KELLER WILLIAMS REALTY

Deanna@GardenOaksHomes.com ~ 281.658.4514