

GARDEN OAKS GAZETTE

VOLUME 36

ISSUE 09



RICK ENGLERT SPARK PARK — A STELLAR EXAMPLE OF COMMUNITY, SCHOOL, GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE SECTOR COLLABORATION *By Chavonne Slovak*

First SPARK

Garden Oaks Elementary celebrated its 50 year anniversary with the October 19, 1990 opening of the new SPARK Park. The park was an effort between school districts and communities to maximize the use of school grounds when school was not in session. Initiated in 1983 by the late City Council Member Eleanor Tinsley, and now continued under the direction of Eleanor's daughter, Kathleen Ownby, the SPARK (School Park) program has funded over 200 similar projects in the Houston area, with 9 more under development. When you have a SPARK, a champion, an involved community and a motivated group of students, exciting things happen.

The initial park included playground equipment, benches and a jogging track and was funded by \$5000 from HISD and matching funds by Garden Oaks. The SPARK program then secured corporate sponsorship for about \$20,000. The Garden Oaks funds included \$1000 from the Civic Club and the Garden Oaks PTA, with the remainder financed through creative fundraising efforts by GOES and its students under leadership from Principal Jean Dodd.

In 1998 Gary Harmon, past president of GO PTA, with help from neighbor Jim Hall, raised \$2000 to plant 60 live oak trees in the park. A drought that year almost killed the trees, in spite of a huge effort to hand water. The trees were spared by another contribution from the Civic Club. **Cont. on Page 8.**

September 2013

UPCOMING EVENTS

Civic Club Meeting
Guest Speaker
Mayor Annise Parker
September 3, 7 pm.
Garden Oaks Elementary School



National Night Out
Tuesday October 1

No Civic Club Meeting
in October.

REDS, WHITES... AND THE
BLUES - Annual Constable
Fundraiser - Saturday
October 19, 4-6 pm.

VOLUNTEER NEEDED!

Beautification Chair
Please contact Mark Klein at
president@gardenoaks.org

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Constable Program Fundraiser - Wine Walk 2013

Tickets on Sale September 1
See Page 12-13 for Details and Order Form



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.

706 West 39th	1019 West 42nd
930 West 42nd	3217 Lawrence
525 West 30th	1022 Lamonte
224 West 30th	851 West 42nd
823 Azalea	701 West 32nd
721 Garden Oaks Blvd.	

Birthdays

Janice Walden - 4th
 Rita Hartman - 8th
 Jacopo Innocenti - 20th
 John Beddow - 2nd

Happy Anniversary

Trent and Megan Salch - 5th
 Phil Ramirez and Gina Pecoraro - 7th
 Rick and Tonya Knauth - 29th

Good News

Kari Noser, glad to hear the report was good.

Out and About

The **Maltbies** visited Niagara Falls. **Caroline Stender** enjoyed some relaxing time in Taos, New Mexico. **Sue Schmidt** was in Steamboat with her grandsons. The **McLeans** enjoyed some beach time in Florida. **Georgia Lister** will be missed at early a.m. YMCA classes; August was her last class after 7 years of teaching there. **Al Thomas and Dea Larson** visited Idaho Falls. **Terry Jeanes** is enjoying her small town get away in Smithville, Texas – described as Garden Oaks without the City of Houston around it. (Small coincidence on first night out to dinner, the restaurant owner went to Garden Oaks Elementary.) The **McKeown** clan enjoyed a great pre back to school time at Bolivar Peninsula and Galveston.

Well wishes to all for a great school year. Many first days of kindergarten, middle school, and onward for the children of Garden Oaks.

Special Thoughts to Chris Lindsay on the recent loss of her mother.

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

Emergency Numbers

Emergency Services **911**

HPD Non-Emergency Services
713.884.3131

Constable Dispatch
713.755.7628

All Other City Services **311**

Garden Oaks Gazette

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

No exceptions.

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

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NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

By Carl Waters, Jr.



TUESDAY OCTOBER 1, 2013

National Night Out, 'America's Night Out Against Crime', introduced by the National Association of Town Watch in 1984, is celebrating its' thirtieth anniversary on August 6. As you may be aware Texas and some of our Southern neighbors got permission to move celebration to October hoping for some cooler weather to liven up the celebrations.

The program was the brainchild of Executive Director Matt A. Peskin. In an effort to heighten awareness and strengthen participation in local anticrime efforts, Peskin felt that a

high profile, high-impact type of crime prevention event was needed nationally. At that time, he noted that in a typical crime watch community only 5 to 7% of the residents were participating actively. Due to the growth and success of these programs, he felt this percentage was too low. Subsequently, he proposed a national program, which would be coordinated by local crime prevention agencies and organizations - but that would involve entire communities at one time. The first National Night Out was introduced early in 1984 - with the event culminating on the first Tuesday in August. That first year, 400 communities in 23 states participated in National Night Out. Nationwide, 2.5 million Americans took part in 1984. The event has since grown to involve more than 37 million people in over 15,000 communities from all 50 states, U.S. territories, Canadian cities, and military bases worldwide in 2011.

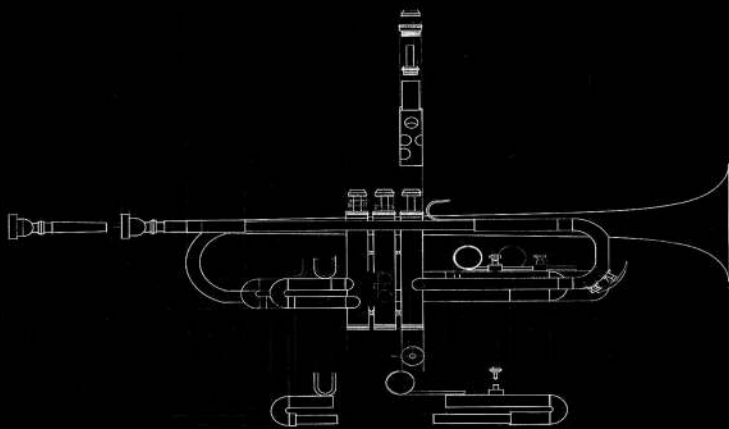
The National Night Out program suggests a 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. period, but you can adjust the start or end times to meet the needs of your block. If you are interested in hosting a party, please call me at 713-864-1992 (evenings please) or email me with your information, GOCOP77018@aol.com and I will try to get it to HPD so it can be included in the city's numbers for the program. The techies among you can also post your party information on one of the neighborhood computer bulletin board sites.

CITIZENS' PATROL PROGRAM

By Carl Waters Jr.

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

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abest1@comcast.net

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timweltin@mycase.info

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713.812.0564
jimwillburn@yahoo.com

Terms expire October of year in parentheses.

GARDEN OAKS CIVIC CLUB MEETING MINUTES

By Heather Leverett, Secretary and Phil Ramirez, Treasurer

Location: Garden Oaks Elementary
August 6, 2013

Welcome: Treasurer Phil Ramirez called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

A big thank you to Brother's Pizzeria who once again showed their support of the neighborhood by donating pizzas to keep everyone attending the Civic Club meeting well fed. Welcome to multiple new neighbors and first time attendees. A motion was made and carried to accept the July minutes as published in the Gazette.

President's Announcements: On behalf of President Klein, Treasurer Ramirez announced:

Upcoming GOCC Speaker: The Mayor will be speaking at the meeting in September. Candidate Forum, Central Northwest Super Neighborhood: In October a government specialist is organizing a larger candidate forum at the Recycling Center meeting room on Judiway. Please keep an eye out for exact date.

Wine Walk: Dian Austin announced that the annual Constable program fundraiser is in its fifth year. It is a two hour wine tasting with hors d'oeuvres hosted in the gorgeous backyard of Ed and Brenda de Alba. Thirteen wine tables are scheduled. Sponsors are still needed. Tickets will go on sale September 1st. Only 200 tickets will be sold. The event always sells out so please get tickets sooner than later if you plan to attend.

National Night Out: Carl Waters announced that October is National

Night Out and there will not be the normally scheduled GOCC meeting. The purpose of NNO (the first Tuesday in October) is to get to know your neighbors. You can host a block party or coordinate with the neighbors to meet outside. Some blocks do formal parties while others are more casual. If interested in hosting a block party, please let Carl know so he will make sure HPD or the constables come by to introduce themselves and discuss neighborhood safety in person.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Phil Ramirez reported that the financials are status quo for this time of year. The Garden Club is now getting separate checks per the earlier plan. This information is reported separately at the bottom of the financials.

Standing Committee Reports

Membership: Dian Austin announced that we currently have about 300 supporters of the Civic Club. She drew a \$25 Home Depot gift card and the winner, Principal Pollock, plans to use it for school supplies.

GO Citizens Patrol: Carl Waters reported eight crimes in July. The crimes are occurring on random days and times. Please think about joining the voluntary patrol program. You need to be eighteen years old and able to pass a background check. Report anything suspicious in the neighborhood to the Constables or call 911 if you see an emergency.

Constable Program: No update. The Constables did fingerprint children at the recent GO Kids Bash.

Beautification: Please consider volunteering to be the beautification chair.

Gazette: Chavonne Slovak reported that the Wine Walk Sponsorship contact info was omitted from the hard copy Gazette but that it is available online. The corrected Right of Way address is also updated on the [online.pdf](#) version of the Gazette.

GardenOaks.org Website: Joe Muscara reported that updates have been made to the website for the Wine Walk.

Garden Oaks Home Tour 2014: No update.

Garden Oaks Elementary School: Principal Pollock announced that school starts August 26th. School supplies are needed and they are also accepting donations of gently used uniforms. Box tops are also appreciated. Please expect an increase in traffic as school starts. Over 700 students will be in attendance this year which is a testament to the support of the community.

Treasurer Ramirez adjourned the meeting at 7:25 pm.



**MAYOR TO ATTEND
SEPTEMBER 3RD
CIVIC CLUB MEETING**

City of Houston **Mayor Annise Parker** will be the featured speaker at the next Garden Oaks Civic Club meeting, **7 p.m. Tuesday, September 3**, at the Garden Oaks Elementary School.

The September GOCC meeting is your opportunity to meet the mayor of the nation's fourth largest city, with time for questions after her presentation. Equally important, it's an opportunity to demonstrate the political strength and involvement of Garden Oaks residents. One of some 800 civic clubs registered in Houston, the Garden Oaks Civic Club has worked to maintain high awareness of the neighborhood, its needs and our residents' concerns among City Hall and local officials.

Now seeking her third term, Mayor Parker is the only person in Houston history to have held the offices of council member, controller and mayor, and only the second woman to have held the city's highest office.

Don't miss the September GOCC meeting featuring Mayor Annise Parker.



Shred Day

Saturday September 21st from
9 am-12 noon
Garden Oaks Elementary School
901 Sue Barnett

Bring all your unwanted documents for a FREE shred day! Hosted by NSABA (North Shepherd Area Business Association) and Garden Oaks Elementary.

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Correction: The email for the GOROW drainage committee in the August Gazette was in error. The correct email is GardenOaksROW@Yahoo.com.

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CONSTABLE PROGRAM

By Terry Jeanes

STAY ALERT!

Aggravated robbery near noon time Saturday 8/17 in the 900 block of Lamonte near Golf. Black male approximately 17 yrs of age, wearing white muscle type t-shirt and khaki shorts, approached two neighbors who were talking in their front yard. Pulling a semiautomatic, the culprit demanded their wallets then proceeded on foot to 43rd and west toward Kroger. HPD and Constables were notified and searched the area, but no one was detained.

Note the front porch furniture thefts have been at it again. Please secure these items if possible.

Thank you to the Precinct One Deputy Constables for providing Child Fingerprinting at the GOKids Beach Bash in August.

A big thank you to those who have supporting the Garden Oaks Wine Walk, the annual fundraiser for the Garden Oaks Constable program. Thumbs up to committee, sponsors, and attendees. If you have not purchased your tickets yet, do so as it is a sell out every year. Special thank you to hosts Ed and Brenda de Alba.

Please notify constable's office of any solicitors in the neighborhood.

Calling for volunteers to assist with the annual mailout for civic club dues and constable supporters. If you are interested in assisting please contact terry@terryjeanes.com or membership@gardenoaks.org.

REMINDER:

Check with your alarm company and put Precinct One Constable Dispatch 713 755 7628 on the list.

**PRECINCT ONE
CONSTABLE DISPATCH
713 - 755 - 7628**

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

Vacation Watch Form: <http://www.gardenoaks.org/Resources/VacationWatch.pdf>

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2014 HOME & GARDEN TOUR SELECTIONS — THE BIG REVEAL

By Terry Jeanes

I want to begin by thanking everyone who sent in nominations for 2014 tour locations and for the gracious neighbors who opened their homes to the Tour Selection Committee this summer. Thanks also to the Tour Selection Committee consisting of myself, Blake Woods, Debbie Padon, and Holly Veech. Thank each of you for taking time away from your families and busy schedules to be part of the selection process.

The tour's primary goal is to show-

case the wonderful, diverse architecture in Garden Oaks and that goal is accomplished by selecting homes and gardens representing a wide variety of styles (new and old) in as many neighborhood sections as possible. With so many wonderful homes and gardens nominated this year, deciding the tour selections was no easy task. The following six homes and three gardens, along with Garden Oaks Elementary Montessori School (pond, orchard, labyrinth, gardens) will represent all five neighborhood sections in the 2014 tour (owners' names have been withheld, by request):

Section 1:

404 W. 34th St. (garden/outdoor)

411 W. 32nd St. (home-remodel)

Section 2:

730 W. 41st St. (home-remodel)

Section 3:

807 LaMonte Ln. (home-new construction)

827 LaMonte Ln. (garden)

834 W. 41st St. (home-remodel)

Section 4:

938 LaMonte Ln (garden)

Section 5:

1003 Gardenia (home-new construction)

1530 Sue Barnett (home-remodel)

Questions can be emailed to me at

Hometour@gardenoaks.org.

XTREME HUMMINGBIRD XTRAVAGANZA

Source: <http://gcbo.org/>

On Saturday **September 14** and **September 21st**, the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory in Lake Jackson will host its annual Xtreme Hummingbird Extravaganza from **8:00 am to noon**.

Autumn is hummingbird season in Texas, as thousands of these tiny creatures move through the state on their southward migration to Mexico and Central America. Most all of the ruby-throated hummingbirds that breed in the eastern half of the United States and Canada migrate along the shores of the Gulf of Mexico each fall. Many will travel 600 miles straight across the Gulf to the Yucatan Peninsula, and some will fly around the edges of the Gulf to points in Mexico. All will ultimately end up in southern Mexico and Central America for the winter.

Join us and see hummingbirds up close and personal. Each day,



hummingbirds will be "caught" in tiny nets before one of the bird-banders carefully pulls it out. He will hold it gently while taking measurements, weighing it, and putting a thin number-coded band on one of its tiny legs; another person records all the data for entry into the main database. The hummingbird will eventually be released unharmed after he's been allowed to feed from some nectar.

Hummingbird "adoptions" are also available, with the adopter receiving

a certificate, and most importantly getting to watch the bird-banding from a front row seat. Once your own special hummer has been fed, you will be able to actually hold him in your own hand until he suddenly flies away. Hummingbird adoptions are generally \$20.

Other things to do at the Observatory include hiking over the two miles of birding trails, watching for birds at the bird feeding stations, and browsing the Nature Store.

Cont. from Page 1. SPARK

Club, SPARK and donations from local businesses that provided funds for a new water fountain that could also be used to provide life support for the trees. The SPARK Park at Garden Oaks Elementary School was officially renamed the Rick Englert SPARK Park on May 18, 2001 in memory of Rick who was a Section 1 GO resident. Darla Englert-Milk, widow of Rick Englert, now works at GOES.

ReSPARK

In 2007 the school and community reunited for a ReSPARK. A committee of parents and community members was appointed by Emily Thomas, past principal at GOES, with the directive to create a new playground. Lauren Griffith, the landscape architect who had designed the original playground, volunteered to work with the neighborhood committee to ReSPARK. Their design featured several phases including creative new play structures, new sidewalk, picnic tables, a jogging loop and the outdoor performance area and colorful artwork designed by GO students. The forthcoming covered area to provide shade during our hot summers was also included in this planning phase.

Oak Forest resident and Texas artist Carter Ernst worked tirelessly with students to create the hand painted tiles along the wall and towers that delineated the performance area. Before students could paint, Carter handmade each tile from clay. Around this time, Will Rodgers Elementary School was scheduled for demolition and SPARK arranged to have the books that now lie under the tree moved to Garden Oaks. Ms. Ernst added GO tiles to the books to welcome them into the new family at the SPARK park. The updated Rick Englert SPARK Park was dedicated Nov 13, 2007. GOMO donated



\$35,000 toward the project based on fund allocations approved by Neighborhood GOMO members from a vote in the fall of 2007.

New SPARK

At the time Principal Lindsey Pollock arrived at Garden Oaks in 2008, teacher and parent concerns around student safety on the playground coincided with HISD efforts to ensure that all playgrounds in the district were fenced and secure – “Safety Above All Else”. At the end of Principal Pollock’s first year, she consulted with Vena Golt, parent volunteer GOES beautification chair. With community input, Dr. Pollock organized a school – community Ad Hoc Committee. The committee included Civic Club Members Scott Easterly, Brenda de Alba and Jay Tatum, teachers, staff and parents and was initially focused on a visually pleasing security fence. Jay proposed the fence layout, and the wrought iron style and current height were agreed upon by the committee. In order to continue the design of the Spark Park

and enhance the beauty of the park, gate columns with decorated tiles were proposed in the design.

HISD funded \$20,000 toward the cost of the fence and the Civic Club donated \$3800 from the Beautification budget to defray the cost of the columns. Claire Bonilla, current GOES PTO Beautification Chair and Sarah Cruise, GOES PTO parent volunteer worked to sell, finish and install the tiles. Tiles and column sides were sold to the public to help underwrite the cost of the cement, tiles, paint and glaze. Sarah Cruise worked at Garden Oaks for weeks with classes to ensure that every child received a lesson about the artwork of Gaudi and participated in creating a “tree” tile. PTO parent Martha Meyers and GOES teacher Shana Steinhardt fired the tiles. The recent tile work at the columns was applied by many neighbors and community volunteers, led by GOES parent volunteers, Claire Bonilla and Sarah Cruise.

In addition, several GO families adopted and tiled gate columns as listed below:

- Greene Family**- in celebration of Pat’s 98th Birthday, Sarah Cruise’s Grandmother and the original family artist.
- Megar Family**- spelled out their name highlighting things important to the family.
- Vaughn Family**- parent and kid hand prints, art and Fleur-de-lis to celebrate the importance of New Orleans to the family.



Perry Family- focused on a Dr. Seuss quote; this one was slow to complete due to the kids stopping to read it.

Espeseth Family- on the blue gate, a wonderful celebration of family and neighborhood.

Tatum Family- completed the purple entrance that is filled with positive energy.

The other side of the purple gate includes a class project where the kids were asked to make a tile highlighting the qualities of a leader. The Mosaic on blue gate was created with painted tiles and is the work of **McGowen Family** with the help of **MT Herring**. One side is looking at the outside of a boat inside the porthole, the other looking outside a porthole, all using painted tiles. The whole project is only possible because Ms. Herring's husband **Vincent** prepared the rough columns and taught others how to tile and grout.

The SPARK Park is an example of the beautiful things that can happen when we all work together. See you at the Park!

Thanks to Dr. Lindsey Pollock, Shana Tatum, Sarah Cruise, Brenda de Alba, and SPARK Park for providing information for this article.



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MATH, MATH, MATH!

By Lindsey Pollock

I hate math! Many of us may hear someone make such a declaration out of frustration whether it was balancing a checkbook, completing a homework task with a child or studying for college calculus, math can be a source of consternation for many people while others find true delight in working through math problems and applying the concepts to daily life. Math requires students to make connections to the real world and to move from concrete to abstract representations of the world. When I told my friends I was taking an online math course through Stanford University, my friends were exasperated! They exclaimed, "Why would you want to do that if you don't have to?" Why the anxiety around math and how can we support our children and make math more enjoyable?

Many people find math challenging because there was someone in their path who made a comment that discouraged them from either attempting or persevering at pursuing math. Many of us may have heard the comment that "math is for boys" or "geeks"! Years of research have established that boys and girls are equally equipped to excel at math. The greatest indicators of math success include a positive view of math and self-efficacy and a willingness to try and persevere at new tasks. What, then, can we do to support children's interest and inquiry in math?

A child who is presented with a complex math problem may wonder, "Why do I have to learn this?" or "What difference will this make in my life?" You can integrate math into normal daily routines and activities. Keep a calculator and a notepad and pencil in your car or your purse and carry with you when you are run-

ning errands. At the gas station, ask your child to calculate the cost of the required gallons of gas you will need based on the octane level purchased. At the grocery store, your child can keep a running total of your purchases by item type or overall total, for example, what is the cost of canned goods purchased? At home many of the tried and true board games we all enjoyed as children teach children problem-solving, critical-thinking, sportsmanship and math! Candy Land, Uno, Monopoly and many other board games are fun and educational. Building projects, knitting, crochet and cross stitch all include computational skills and provide children with a product at the end to establish a sense of accomplishment.



These activities also require children to persevere and stick-to-it. Moving from place to place whether in your car, on a bus or plane also provides children opportunities to practice their math skills. License plates provide numbers for addition, subtraction and multiplication as well letters to form words – one of our favorite family games was to write down 10 license plates that were called out to everyone and then set a collective goal to make the most words and math problems with the information.

Mastery and application of math are critical skills for success in life and school. Starting in 3rd grade,

students must have a passing grade and also pass the math STAAR test in order to move to the next grade level. By making math fun, interesting and a routine part of the day, you can model a fearless attitude toward math and support your child's success in whatever endeavor they choose in life! Enjoy!

Websites and resources:
 Free resources for mathematicians of all ages: Khan Academy <http://www.khanacademy.org/>
 Stanford/MIT/Harvard OpenEdX <https://www.edx.org/>
 For beginners: www.pbs.org/parents/education/math/
 Think Through Math http://lms.tmtexas.com/users/sign_in (for all public school students grades 3-8).

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WINE WALK TICKETS ON SALE

By Dian Austin

If you want to attend one of Garden Oaks' most fun events and support the constable program at the same time, send in your ticket order form and check for the upcoming 5th Annual Garden Oaks Wine Walk. Tickets are now on sale! But do it soon.

This Wine Tasting Fundraiser will be held on Saturday October 19th, from 4-6 pm in the fabulously landscaped yard of Ed and Brenda de Alba. Featured on the 2012 home tour and this year's city-wide pond tour, the yard is worth the price of admission alone.

Tickets are \$50 and only 200 tickets will be sold. We have sold out quickly every year. The ticket form should be in this month's Gazette and can also be downloaded at <http://www.gardenoaks.org>. You will receive a confirmation email of your ticket purchase (or phone call, if no email address is listed) and your tickets will be awaiting you at the check-in desk on the day of the event. Please note that this is an adults only event.

The theme of this year's fundraiser is "Reds, Whites....and the Blues", featuring wines from the US and a tribute to Blues music.

Thanks to these generous table hosts, we will be serving at least 13 different wines (some tables serve more than one wine) and some wonderful foods as well. You will note that many of these folks are returning from previous years:

1. Karie & Alyn Goad, Daniel & Kimberly Horowitz, and Kirstin & Tony D'Amico
2. Tina Rowe and Jim DiCola
3. SK Designs/Susan Kostelecky
4. "Aged to Perfection" – Peggy Smith,

- Pamela Parks, Teresa Coleman, Elisa Cuellar, and Knox Wright
5. Heidi & Stuart Arouty
 6. Solution Builders (Dara and Laura Childs) & Lesli Dabney Photography
 7. Garden Oaks Vineyard/The Renos
 8. Facundo Home Builders/Miguel Facundo
 9. Danyel T. Ramelow, Financial Advisor, Edward Jones- Garden Oaks Shopping Center
 10. "GO Red Hot Chili Peppers" – Ron & Sheree' Peoples, Emilio & Patti Chemali, and Francisca & Jeff Webster
 11. Harry James Building + Design
 12. GO Kids
 13. Scott Miller

Thanks also to many area businesses and generous residents who agreed to sponsor this year. Be sure to tell them how much we appreciate their continued support of our constable program:

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Yard of the Month: 850 Lamonte Lane



Congratulations Ray Wilkins and Cheryl Cohorn. Beautiful begonias, white caladiums, and potted purple potato vines populate this stunning yard. The lush landscaping is an inspiration at the end of a long, hot summer.



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Vice President/Communications

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Chris.Lindsay@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer

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Mary Lynn Porter

2013 GARDEN OAKS WINE WALK

Saturday October 19, 4 - 6 pm
 744 W. 43rd

Yes! Reserve _____ tickets @ \$50 for a total of \$ _____

Name: _____

(Note: this is the name in which your tickets will be held at Will Call.)

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

_____ No, I cannot attend, but enclosed is a donation of \$ _____ to be applied to the Constable Program

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

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

We will acknowledge your ticket order via email or phone. Rain date is November 2. Sorry, no refunds.

**REDS,
 WHITES,**



and The Blues

Featuring wines from the US and a tribute to Blues music

Ticket sales limited to the first 200 to respond. This is an ADULTS only event (age 21 and older).

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. We look forward to seeing you around this great neighborhood!

I would like to thank the moms that have volunteered their time to promote this group and make the neighborhood a wonderful place for our children to live and grow.

GO Kids Sponsorship

Garden Oaks is a special neighborhood and the following sponsors are a very special group of people who have helped GO Kids bring great kid oriented events to our neighborhood. THANK YOU SPONSORS!! Please strongly consider supporting these local businesses that support GO Kids as well as the greater community we live in!

Kiddo Level

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Aitu Taube - State Farm
Deanna Zugheri - Keller Williams Realty
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Adolf Hoepfl Garage - Auto Repair
Manning Pool Service
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Sue Schmidt - Keller Williams Realty
Terry Jeanes - RE/Max Metro
Will Zugheri - Envoy Mortgage

Infant Level

Mark Rafail - Farmers Insurance

If you would like more information about how to be a sponsor, please contact Marcia Rasmussen (marcia2ras@gmail.com).

GO Kids Activities

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



GO Kids Picnic

Thanks to everyone who made it out and participated in this year's GO Kids Picnic - Beach Bash. We would like to extend a HUGE enormous GREAT BIG THANK YOU to Allison Polka for all her creativity and hours of effort to make the event one for the memory books. We appreciate all the volunteers who helped to plan the event and work the event. The potluck was a huge success and we appreciate the sweet time you put in to making this event special for the children of Garden Oaks. Please support our sponsors who helped to fund this wonderful event... They each put a huge smile on our babies' faces!

Upcoming Events

Halloween Bash

Come out and join us for some Spooktacular fun at the trick-or-treat block party. RSVP through BigTent. We will have a spook house, bouncy houses, fall festival games, prizes for best costumes, trick or treating, face painting and much more. Come take your fall photos in our very own pumpkin patch thanks to sponsors SCM Construction Services and Sue Schmidt-Keller Williams Realty. We look forward to seeing you on the block for this fun event.



Gardenia Block Party

Saturday, October 26th, 4:30 pm
More details on this event will be posted on BigTent.

GO 1K

On your mark... get set... GO!!! We are very excited about putting on our very first neighborhood 1K. Special thanks to Carrie Shamblen and her team of moms for organizing this event for us. We will see you at Spark Park November 16th, 9:00 am. More details on this event will be posted on BigTent.

GO Babies, GO Buddies and MNO

Our GO Babies and GO Buddies have been very active this month. You can catch them at parks in the area and other happenings around town. Thank you to Stella Stevens for organizing another great event at a local neighborhood park this month. We would also 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.

Moms' Night Out

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. It is always exciting 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-away 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)
 GO Buddies (2 to 5) – Stella Stevens (sas19@live.com)
 MNO – Deborah Seghers (debtrevino@yahoo.com) & Nicole Fowler (nefowler@me.com)

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. We even have an app for that! Well, Lots a Helping Hands has an app for that which is the service we use to facilitate this great 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)

GO Kids Membership

1) Go to: <http://www.gardenoakskids.com/>

2) Select "email us for an invitation"
 3) Include some information about yourself... such as your full name, information about your family, address (GO section). Please ensure that you complete all your information in BigTent (physical address and email) when you have been granted membership.

To help make our activities and events special, we are asking each of our members to donate \$20 per family. Please go to www.paypal.com and enter (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)

Website / Communication

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

GO Kids Leadership Team
 Coordinator – Lisa Rentschler
 Membership/Website/Fundraising – Marcia Rasmussen
 Treasurer – Jenny Odinet
 Moms' Night Out – Deborah Seghers/
 Nicole Fowler
 GO Babies – Kori Long
 GO Buddies – Stella Stevens
 Dinner Drops – Angelica Sullivan
 Bouncy House – Alison Salenger
 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.
 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.

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!



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.).

CRITTER CORNER

By Molly Taylor

Our **GO Pet of the Month** for August is: **Sammi**



Sammi is a 5 year old Border Collie that was adopted from the "All Border Collie Rescue" when she was 1 year old. She also has been chosen for Miss November in their upcoming 2014 Calendar. She loves toys with her Teddy Bear being her favorite. Border Collies are known as the smartest dog. They are energetic, athletic and do great at dog sports and herding. If you want a dog that likes to work that you can train and show off to your friends, this is the breed for you. www.allbordercollierescue.com

Critters 101: How to Live with a Working Breed Dog

Most doggie daycares are full of working breed dogs, just to tire

them out. We fall in love with certain breeds and cannot resist having them whether we live in the right environment for the dog or not. Some would say this is not fair to the dog, but as long as you actually work the dog, they usually live a happily fulfilled life. Otherwise, you can sometimes deal with digging, chewing, anxiety and other common boredom problems. Taking a dog for a jog at Memorial Park or spending five days a week in daycare might make the dog tired, but it does not relieve the boredom and the "Need" to work. Fortunately, there are things you can do with your dog to help them work. Get creative and have a wonderful bonding experience with your dog. You will be amazed at what your dog is capable of doing when given the chance.

If you think your dog should be the "GO" Pet of the Month, please drop us a line and tell us why we should feature your baby. Email gazette@mutthouse.com along with a picture.

Games Dogs Love to Play:

- Scent Training:** Put their food in a different room or behind furniture and send them to go hunt and eat.
- Hide & Seek:** One person has the dog in a "sit" on leash. The other person goes and hides. Then the dog is given a release command and sent to search. You can yell to the person

hiding "Call your dog" to get the dog on the right track. Then they are to stay quiet as the dog uses its senses to find them.

-**Hide the Treat:** Put a treat under a towel, under a cup and under something that makes them reach with their paws. Then tell the dog "Find the Treats" and see how long it takes them to obtain each treat.

-**Puzzle Toys:** They make them where you can put food in different compartments as well as some have little toys stuffed in holes for them pull out.

-**Take a class:** Find an agility class, a clicker class or something fun or advanced.

-**Hiking:** Walking trails will perk them right up. Help them investigate and search smells out. Reward them when they find a lizard or rabbit feces or anything that seems amazing to them.

-**Treadmills:** You might need a trainer to help you get started, but it takes the thought process to stay on a treadmill without falling off. This will make them mentally and physically tired.

Molly Taylor operates Molly's Mutt House and co-owns Mutt House Relief Effort pet sitting. Please forward your questions and pet news to gazette@mutthouse.com.

relief@mutthouse.com

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www.discoverygreen.com/dock-dogs **Sept 27-29**

AIR CONDITIONING TIPS FOR THE FALL

By Mitch Weigand

DIY: Things You Can Do to Improve Your Home and Save Money

While there are times when a professional's expertise is necessary, you can do many things on your own to create a comfortable, healthy and energy-efficient home environment. Here are some tips that really work:

- Replace your A/C filters every month.
- Insulate your home. This is the single most important step in conserving energy. R-30 (10") insulation is recommended for ceilings while R-11 (3-1/2") is best for exterior walls and floors.
- Seal air leaks in the attic, around windows and doors.
- Weather-strip doors that connect your home to the outside.
- Install storm doors at all entrances to your house.
- Install a programmable thermostat and raise the temperature while you're gone.
- Replace single-pane windows with double-pane models. This helps reflect the sun's rays.
- Install awnings over windows exposed to direct sunlight.
- Keep your curtains drawn on the sunny side of the house, especially during hot afternoon hours.
- Don't run kitchen and bath exhaust fans longer than necessary.
- Plant trees to help create shade for your home.
- Replace incandescent and fluorescent light bulbs with LED ones. They produce virtually no heat as well as use minimal electricity.
- Don't place lamps, TVs or other heat-producing devices beneath a wall-mounted thermostat.
- Set the thermostat as high as comfort permits and use ceiling fans to increase coolness.
- Keep all windows and doors closed.
- Remember that by increasing the glass area in your home, you increase the amount of heat added in summer and lost in winter.
- Make sure your fireplace has a tight-fitting damper which can be closed when the fireplace is not in use.
- Keep your outdoor condenser's fins clear of debris by spraying them with a garden hose. Also, trim surrounding foliage back at least two feet to allow for adequate airflow.
- When adjusting your clocks in the spring and fall, change batteries in smoke alarms, radon and carbon monoxide detectors.

Mitch is the owner of Air Wise™ You can email Mitch with A/C questions at mitch@airwisehouston.com or write to 1590 Sue Barnett Drive, Houston, TX 77018. Previous columns found at www.airwisehouston.com.

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Kristy P., Great Uptown

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MICKEY'S MINUTE

By Mickey Morales

It's been an interesting year so far for the good folks at the weekly neighborhood farmers' market, The Farm Stand. We've had a couple of moves, the addition of a new vendor and another on the way. We're looking forward to having Megan Rasmussen of My Chef Megan joining us after September 1st. Megan will be bringing all sorts of delectable baked goods and jars of grapefruit and loquat preserves from her own trees. This is all possible because of the newly revised Cottage Food Bill that was passed this last legislative session. A special thank you to those who contacted your state reps. and made this possible.

Speaking of the new law, we have been getting quite a few inquiries from folks wishing to join us as soon as it becomes effective and we will do our best to accommodate everyone

and still preserve the integrity of the market. We don't want to become yet another outdoor food court. If you are a backyard gardener, raising produce using sustainable methods and have extra fruits and vegetables that you wish to sell and don't want to give up your entire Saturday morning, contact us by email or face book and we will happily help you sell those items. Mickey7737@gmail.com or <https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Farm-Stand-at-Petrol-Station/297508980297449>

There will still be plenty of summer favorites throughout September and the egg producers (The Hens) and their sponsor (Farmer Cathy) want you to know that they have been working hard to crank out those Honest Eggs y'all have come to love. As a matter of fact, Farmer Cathy has been taking several dozen hens back to the farm each week and production will only increase as the days grow milder in the coming months.

As always, "Come soon; come often" and bring your neighbor.
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**FRESH FROM THE MARKET-
ZUCCHINI REVISITED**

By Jeremy Goodwin

You might think the problem with farmers' market produce is that it is so limited, and some things are only in season for a short time, or others are in abundance for far too long. A different perspective can make this a positive experience. A good example is the squash season that is now upon us with a vengeance, with so many varieties being picked right now, and more to come.

I had been waiting since I used the last of my winter squash several months ago. The sense of anticipation had built, and finally the first of the summer harvest arrived in the form of yellow squash and zucchini. Now a plethora of other squash is ripening, including spaghetti, heirloom pumpkins and 8 ball, but there are still the first summer arrivals, just bigger. After the first enthusiasm for

zucchini, the repetition begins to wear a little thin, and therein lies the stimulus for invention and variation.

As they get larger, squash seeds become more mature and less digestible. Scooping out the seeds to make the squash more palatable. So what to do with the flesh? The latest fad is spiral cutting, but for less than ten dollars you can get a hand shredder that turns softer squash into thin noodles, and adds a new dimension to the vegetable on the plate. While the cooking methods are limited to steaming, boiling and sautéing, here is a recipe that will make squash noodles a welcome addition to your meal.



Serves 4

- 1 large zucchini or yellow squash
- 1 small onion diced

- 2 small hot peppers
- 8-10 cherry tomatoes sliced in half
- 2 tablespoons olive oil or butter
- ½ teaspoon dried thyme
- Salt and pepper to taste.

Peel and remove the seeds from the squash. Stroking away from your fingers, shred the squash. Slice the peppers long ways, leaving them joined at the stem. Heat the oil and add the peppers, cooking for about 2 minutes on high. Remove the peppers and add the onion, and halved cherry tomatoes and cook for 3 minutes until the tomatoes soften and the onion turns translucent. Add the shredded squash, thyme, black pepper and salt. Toss to cover the squash well with the oil, reduce heat to low and cover with a tight fitting lid. Cook on low for 8-10 minutes, tossing occasionally.

You can find more of Jeremy's recipes at www.facebook.com/singlemanskitchen.

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Work Phone: _____	Work Phone: _____
Cell Phone: _____	Cell Phone: _____

Payment Options

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

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

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

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- 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.

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Right now is the perfect time to have your tree's deadwood, removal of weak or diseased limbs & deep root fertilize your trees. Improper tree care can take many years to correct itself & in some cases it never does.

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Call us today and let us give you a free review of the health of your trees!



Nolan Strange
AceTreeSpecialist.com
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Discounts are available if you sign up as a member of www.HOUSEANDLAWN.com (it is free to join)

THE KING OF 43RD

I am writing on behalf of my neighbor Carol and myself. There are good neighbors and there are great neighbors. We happen to be blessed to have the great neighbor. Frank Torres is his name. Frank has saved both of us too many times to count. We've both locked ourselves out, left appliances on, forgotten to turn off the water, just about anything that could have led to a disaster. Frank has always been there for us. Frank watches our houses when we're at work or away, waters our yards, mows our grass, feeds our animals. The list goes on and on and on. Frank has been there for me for the last 9 years and Carol for 15 years. We wanted our little part of the world, Garden Oaks, to know how much he means to us. I couldn't ask for a better neighbor. We've nicknamed him the "KING of 43RD STREET". So, thank you Frank for all you do for us. You make living in Garden Oaks about as good as it gets, which is great!

Sincerely,

Jan Keegan



PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Miguel Facundo and his team work on one of the million dollar listings can be seen around Garden Oaks.

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BBB MEMBER

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 at the GOMO Office (N, Shepherd @ GO Blvd) at 7 pm. Meetings are open to anyone interested in attending. Additional information about GOMO is online at GardenOaks.org. Property owners in Sections 1, 2, 3 and 5 are all members of the GOMO.

SEPTEMBER 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Labor Day	3 Civic Club Meeting-GOES Elementary 7 PM	4	5	6	7 Farmers Market, 948 Wakefield 9 AM-1 PM
8	9	10 	11	12 Garden Club 7 PM	13	14 Farmers Market, 948 Wakefield 9 AM-1 PM
15	16	17	18 GOMO Monthly Meeting -GO Professional Bldg 7 PM	19 Heavy Trash-Tree Waste Only	20	21 Shred Day GOES Farmers Market, 948 Wakefield 9 AM-1 PM
22	23	24 	25	26	27	28 Farmers Market, 948 Wakefield 9 AM -1 PM

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