

# GARDEN OAKS GAZETTE

September 2000

Volume 23, Number 9

## Nominations Sought for 2001 Civic Club Officers

*Craig Lee*

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I have been asked to lead this year's effort to help identify our Civic Club officers for 2001. I am in the process of forming the Nominating Committee. I would like to know if any of you or any of your friends or neighbors are interested in any one of the positions available. At this time we will be looking for individuals to fill the positions of President, Vice President and Treasurer. For more information regarding these positions, please refer to *Letter from the President* on page 3.

Serving as an officer of the Civic Club is one way that you can positively contribute to the neighborhood. Despite what many may believe, neighborhood civic clubs are also very visible entities to the city.

Ongoing projects that the next slate of officers will inherit include the formation of the GOMO (homeowners association); a possible push to update some of the deed restrictions; the development of the Garden Oaks website; the installation of a sound wall; Conn's use of two residential lots; and a few others to be determined, no doubt. You are also in a better position to affect changes like some that you may have read about in the *Gazette* and elsewhere (bike trails, neighborhood pool, attracting businesses to the area of interest to residents such as coffee shops and restaurants, etc). Obviously, the Civic Club officers can not control these destinies, but through positive leadership, they can be instrumental players.

Feel free to email me at [dc.lee@worldnet.att.net](mailto:dc.lee@worldnet.att.net) or call me: 713-214-4852 (work) and 713-802-0079 (home).



### **Civic Club Meeting**

*Tuesday, September 5th*

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The next Civic Club Meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 5th at 7:00 PM in the Garden Oaks Elementary School Multi-Purpose Room.

If you have never been to a Civic Club Meeting, we strongly urge you to come out and join us. You **can** make a difference! If you are a regular attendee, bring a neighbor and show them how easy it is to keep Garden Oaks great!

## Fear of Flying

*Joe Muscara*

No, I don't really have a fear of flying. Not beyond the irrational fears that I suppose many of us sometimes have. I mean, we have all seen and heard the news about those terrible catastrophes, and I imagine that some of us get those moments, wondering what would happen if....

But that's not what I'm talking about here. What I'm referring to is the fact that I simply hate to fly. I know there are some people that get a big thrill out of it, are pilots, etc. For most of us, however, our only time spent flying is on commercial planes. And there isn't a single part of that process I can stand.

Yeah, it's better than say, taking a horse and buggy to get to New York, but when you're sitting in one of those seats that's barely a notch above bleacher seating, it doesn't seem that way. If you're lucky, you can sit next to the engine and listen to it for three hours instead of your personal stereo. Then there's the kid in the seat behind you that insists on slamming the tray table open and closed every three seconds. Or, you can have the guy who's too tall behind you so when you recline your seat, you hit his knees. Of course he'll move around as much as he can, because he cares and doesn't want you to forget he's back there. Talk about comfort.

Then there's the joy of the lines. Check in, security, boarding, deplaning, luggage, taxi, rental car.... I went to college at the University of Maryland, a few hours drive from my parents house on Long Island. Once, I flew from D.C. to New York. Between the travel time to and from the airports, check in, taxiing, flight time, etc., it took about the same time as it would to drive (except Thanksgiving weekend - that's another column).

I know, flying has really changed things, but it seems like you are wasting a lot of time. Maybe that's from growing up in this non-stop culture of ours, where we feel like we always have to be doing something.

I hope most of you got a chance to enjoy National Night Out in August, and got to meet some of your neighbors. I know I did. I must say that I was very proud of the turnout we got for our block (700 Sue Barnett), especially considering that this was the first NNO party we have had, at least for the past five years. Some of us we enjoying it so much that we were discussing getting together every few months!

For those of you who I didn't get to meet that night for whatever reason, we would still love to meet you. Just come on over and introduce yourself.

### Civic Club Officers

<i>Interim President</i> Robert De Veau	713 686 6012
974 W 42nd deauxboy@msn.com	
<i>Treasurer</i> Jay Slemmer	713 695 7953
733 W 38th benslem@msn.com	
<i>Secretary</i> Amy Shaughnessy	713 957 1214
975 Gardenia amys@woodlandscenter.org	

### Committee Chairs

<i>Beautification</i> Jeff Benjamin	713 695 7953
<i>Citizens on Patrol</i> Carl Waters, Jr.	713 864 1992
<i>Constable Program</i> Jay Slemmer	713 695 7953
<i>Co-Chair</i> Terry Jeanes	713 680 8550
<i>Deed Restrictions</i> Sam Stengler	281 773 3478
<i>GardenOaks.org</i> James Cobb	713 686 4578
<i>Co-Chair</i> Sheila Briones	713 861 8091
<i>Home and Garden Tour</i> Mike Caldwell	713 697 8690
<i>Co-Chair</i> Robert De Veau	713 686 6012
<i>Membership</i> David Bell	713 694 5016
<i>Senior Helper</i> Sharon Lauder	713 862 3747

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### Garden Club Officers

<i>President</i> Brenda deAlba	713 694 5934
<i>Vice President</i> Susan Spooner	713 861 1336
<i>Secretary</i> Kim Salls	713 290 9067
<i>Treasurer</i> Tina Nieta	
<i>Yard of the Month</i> Cathey Land	
<i>Sunshine</i> Terry Jeanes	

## Letter from the President

*Robert De Veau*

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Let me begin with a point of clarification. The Minutes of the July Civic Club Meeting reported that I would serve as the interim President until a special election could be held at the September Meeting. This is incorrect. The Bylaws of the Civic Club state that in the event the President has to resign, the Vice President will assume the duties for the balance of the unexpired term. The Bylaws continue to say that one individual may hold dual offices with the exception of combining the roles of President and Secretary. As such, I will be finishing out the year as both President and Vice President.

That said, it leads me to an important matter at hand. I will be announcing the formation of the Nominating Committee at the September meeting. Craig Lee, 1998 President of the Civic Club and holder of numerous other positions, has agreed to be the Chair of this committee. He brings with him a vast knowledge of what it takes to run the Civic Club. As for myself, after having been involved as an Officer for the past two years, I have decided to not seek reelection in order that I may have time to complete my commitment to Co-Chair the Home and Garden Tour for 2001. Craig, and his committee, will be seeking individuals who could serve in the capacity as President, Vice President and Treasurer. Our current Secretary, Amy Shaughnessy, has agreed to serve another year. Terms begin January 1<sup>st</sup> and end on December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2001. The slate of officers will be presented at the November 7<sup>th</sup> Civic Club meeting and will be voted on at the December 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. So just what does it take to fulfill these obligations? All nominees must be residents of Garden Oaks and dues paying members of the Civic Club. The duties and responsibilities for each position includes:

**President:** The principal executive officer who supervises and controls all business and affairs of the Civic Club; presides at monthly meetings of the members and quarterly meetings of the Board of Directors; signs, with the Secretary, any deeds, mortgages, bonds, contracts, correspondence, etc.; visible representative of any scheduled special events sponsored by the Civic Club; fields phone calls from residents; writes a monthly column for the *Gazette*. Time spent per month fulfilling duties: 8 - 12 hours.

**Vice President:** In the absence of the President will perform the duties of the President; serve as committee and neighborhood liaison; and performs other duties as assigned by the President or Board of Directors. Time spent per month fulfilling duties: 4 - 6 hours.

**Treasurer:** Responsible for all funds and securities; receives and gives receipts for monies due and payable; performs bank deposits and account reconciliation; produces annual budget for publication in the *Gazette*; produces monthly Treasurer's Report to be given at Civic Club meetings; works closely with all committees. Time spent per month fulfilling duties: 4 - 6 hours.

The time spent on each of these positions is very minimal but the rewards are great. If you are interested in serving as an officer of the Civic Club, or if you have any further questions, please feel free to call any of the current officers (our names and phone numbers can be found on page 2) or contact Craig Lee at (713) 802-0079.

My first two months of being President have been quite uneventful, which is really a blessing in disguise. The summer heat has led to a quiet transition. On August 1<sup>st</sup>, I tried to stop at as many National Night Out block parties as I could. If I missed yours, please accept my apologies but the night just wasn't long enough to be everywhere. Carl Waters reported that there were approximately 19 block parties scattered throughout the neighborhood. That doesn't include many of the informal gatherings I happened upon during the course of my travels. We don't have to wait for a once a year event to get out and meet our neighbors. One of the unique charms of living in Garden Oaks is the small town feel we all share. With the impending cooler weather approaching, why not plan a fall block party? One sure way of preventing crime is to know who your neighbors are.

I'm looking forward to presiding over my first official Civic Club meeting on Tuesday, September 5<sup>th</sup> in the multi-purpose room of the Garden Oaks Elementary School at 7:00 PM. If you haven't attended a meeting in the past, this is a great opportunity to join us. If you're new to the neighborhood, our meetings are open to all residents. We'll have updates from our committees including the latest progress on the GOMO voting and the ad hoc committee appointed to develop the GardenOaks.org web site. I hope to see you there.

On a final note, our former President, James Flowers, was struck down with Hepatitis right after his retirement. It appears he encountered some tainted shellfish while on a business trip to San Francisco. He's almost recovered and has returned to work. Here's wishing you good health James and a complete recovery.

*Classified Ads are \$15 per run for residents, and are for personal services only (yard sales, items for sale, infant care needed, etc.). Contact the Gazette Advertising Director for more information.*

Luxury Lawns

Temple Oaks

Kaplan's Ben Hur

Terry Jeanes

## Citizens on Patrol

*Carl Waters, Jr.*

In a recent conversation with the Gazette Editor I realized that not everyone has an understanding of what Citizen On Patrol members do. I would like to take this opportunity to explain what the program does and what our current needs are.

GO COP is a volunteer group of Garden Oaks neighbors who patrol our streets in vehicles equipped with CB radios or cellular phones. Our program goal is to provide a service for our neighbors; a service you can rely upon when you go on vacation, to work everyday or simply to the grocery store. The main duty of the patroller is to act as eyes and ears for the Houston Police Department and other local law enforcement entities. Patrollers do not become involved in police activities beyond observing and reporting suspicious behavior to the appropriate authorities and, per program rules, should never leave their vehicles while patrolling. What we need is a large number of patrollers to ensure the neighborhood is well covered and also to give each other an opportunity for time off from patrolling. You can be scheduled to patrol in your area or throughout the entire neighborhood. We will accommodate your desired patrol time if possible. All you need to do is attend training which the Houston Police Department provides twice a month at the North Division Command Station located at 9455 W. Montgomery Rd. Training is offered on the second Thursday of each month at 10:00 A.M. and on the fourth Thursday of each month at 7:00 P.M. Training lasts for about an hour.

### June Crime Statistics (10)

#### *Burglary (8)*

400 W. Thirtieth St. 6/13/00 at 11:30 P.M. (driveway)  
 600 W. Thirtieth St. 6/28/00 at 9:15 A.M. (residence)  
 900 W. Forty Third St. 6/23/00 at 10:30 A.M. (residence)  
 900 W. Forty Third St. 6/27/00 at 10:00 A.M. (residence)  
 1000 W. Forty Third St. 6/26/00 at 7:40 A.M. (residence)  
 1000 W. Forty Third St. 6/26/00 at 7:30 A.M. (residence)  
 1000 W. Forty Third St. 6/29/00 at 8:00 A.M. (residence)  
 3200 N. Shepherd 6/13/00 at 6:00 P.M. (unknown)

#### *Burglary of a Motor Vehicle (1)*

1000 Lamonte Ln. 6/29/00 at 11:00 P.M. (street)

#### *Driving While Intoxicated (1)*

3100 N. Shepherd 6/10/00 at 9:50 P.M. (street)

Applications are now being accepted for patrollers over the Internet at GOCOP77018@AOL.com. Just leave a message and I will get back to you within 24 hours. You can also call me at 713-864-1992 for details.

### Emergency Contact Numbers

Crimes in progress, Fire or Ambulance	911
Houston Police Department (non-emergency)	713-222-3131
Precinct One Constable Dispatch	713-755-7628

# How to Vote for GOMO

*Sam Stengler, Deed Restrictions Committee Chair*

These are instructions for completing the ballot for the creation of the Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization (GOMO)

**Note: Only Garden Oaks Property Owners may vote.**

1. Acquire a ballot from a GO Deed restriction Committee member, by downloading the ballot from the GO List server, by calling the hotline at 713.341.3737, or by mail from 710 Sue Barnett Dr, 77018. If you own more than one property in GO, you may complete one ballot for EACH property.
2. With the ballot in printed form (three (3) pages), read through the ballot and make sure you understand both the ballot and the amendment that you will be voting on. Call the hotline, or the Committee Chair (Sam Stengler) direct at 281-773-3478 with any questions.
3. Fill in the appropriate blanks on the bottom half of the ballot (first page).
  - DO NOT fill in the Lot and Block numbers. After you turn in your ballot, the Committee will verify that you are the property owner(s), and will fill in this information at that time.
  - Verify that the ballot is for the section where your property exists.
  - Place your initials in the appropriate blank either FOR or AGAINST the amendment.
  - Sign your name at the bottom of the page above 'Signature of Owner', then PRINT your full name, and full address in the blanks provided below your signature.
  - If you are married EITHER you or your spouse may sign the form, OR BOTH of you may sign.  
  
If more than 1 person has ownership of the property, and are NOT married, than ALL owners must sign the ballot (if more than two, create a signature/address block anywhere on the front of the ballot, near the bottom.)
  - After signing, ALL signing parties MUST initial the subsequent two pages, anywhere on the front of each page.
4. Return the ballot to a GO Deed Restriction Committee member, or mail it to 710 Sue Barnett Dr, 77018.

Thank you for your Vote!

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## YMCA Begins New Facility

The Northwest Family YMCA originated in the Houston Heights section of the city in 1919. Eighteen years later, the branch was known as the West-End Heights Extension and began to grow rapidly. In 1941, the office moved from its site on Yale Street to an old Police Substation on Shepherd Drive. During World War II, the sub-station was needed to house aliens. The West End-Heights became known as the Northwest Branch in 1948 and in 1952, a capital campaign began to build five new branch buildings in the Houston Association. The Northwest Family YMCA and its present facility were born from this campaign.

The Northwest Family YMCA serves the Heights, Garden Oaks, Shepherd Forest, Timbergrove, Lazybrook, Oak Forest, Cottage Grove, Magum Manor and the entire northwest section of Houston. Last year, over 6,000 individuals participated in programs at the Northwest Family YMCA.

The New Northwest Family YMCA will allow the YMCA to better serve the community by providing improved facilities. The new facility will allow at least 1,000 more people to participate in programs such as childcare, health and wellness, and youth sports. The new 20,000 square foot facility will offer a full-court climate controlled gymnasium, a new child watch center with play stations and outside play areas, a 2,000 square foot wooden aerobics studio, a 3,000 square foot state-of-the-art cardio and strength training center, a 25 meter outdoor pool with diving well and slides, and outdoor spaces for softball, soccer, and baseball fields, play stations and picnic areas.

The Northwest Family YMCA received a commitment from the community for over \$100,000 in capital funds while the YMCA of the Greater Houston Area is committed to providing the remaining funds for this 2.5 million-dollar project.

The Northwest Family YMCA celebrated the future of the branch and its service to the community by hosting a Demolition Party on Friday, August 11. This day honored the legacy of the branch by opening the time capsule buried in 1956. There was a ceremonial turning of the dirt or ground breaking by members of the branch board. Part of the current facility was demolished as a finale to this event.

The construction of the new facility will be directly on the site of the current facility and will take approximately 9 to 12 months. During this time, the branch will operate from a trailer on site and will continue programming on the fields and in the community.

For more information on the Northwest Family YMCA please call us at 713-869-3378 or visit us on the web at [www.ymcahouston.org/northwest](http://www.ymcahouston.org/northwest).

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# Surfing the Supermarket

*Catherine Kruppa, MS, RD, LD*

Is your trip to the grocery store giving you a headache? Do you buy the same things every week? With a bit of planning, going to the grocery store can be fun and make eating healthy much easier.

First, try to go to the grocery store at least once a week. Buy things such as apples, oranges, precut fruit, baby carrots, precut celery, fresh lunchmeat, yogurts, dried fruit, pretzels and low fat granola bars. Place the precut fruit and veggies on the shelf in your refrigerator where it is the first thing you see when you open the door. This will help steer you away from high fat snacks, like chips and cookies.

Planning is the key to eating healthy. I recommend preparing a list of dinner meals for the week and shop accordingly. When you don't have something planned for dinner it is easy to go through the drive thru and consume a high fat meal with little nutritional value. Planning also helps to alleviate frustration. How many times have you started to prepare a recipe and realize you don't have all of the ingredients? Make your shopping list based on the meals you are going to prepare and do not deviate from it at all. This includes avoiding the displays and food at the checkout counter.

When you get to the store, shop the perimeter of the grocery store first. Fill your basket with the most nutritious, unprocessed, naturally low fat foods first i.e. produce, meat, dairy, and bread. Then go down the aisles for the essential processed foods. People who eat more fruits, vegetables, whole grains, low fat dairy products, poultry and fish have a lower risk of disease than those who base their diet on processed foods.

Here are a few hints to help you as you venture into the grocery store, as well as some staple items for you to keep your pantry and refrigerator stocked.

### Produce

Start your trip to the store in the produce section. Here you have an endless supply of nutrient rich foods. Strive for consuming 5 fruits and vegetables a day to help reduce your risk of disease. Try fruits and vegetables that you've never had before. You may find a new favorite food. Staple items in the produce section include: one deep green vegetable, one orange/red/yellow vegetable, raw veggies, 2 different fruits, and salad in a bag.

### Meat/ Deli

Most stores have a variety of fish in this section. If you are looking for red meat, choose lean meats such as loin or round cuts. Try substituting extra lean ground turkey for ground beef in spaghetti sauce, lasagna and stuffed peppers. Choose skinless cuts of chicken. To make life easier many stores have fajita chicken that is precooked, sliced and cut so you can heat them up inside a warm tortilla with some low fat cheese and salsa or throw into a stir-fry. In the deli section, look for lean meats such as turkey and ham.

If you like bacon, sausage or hot dogs try the lower fat turkey version.

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### **Bread/Cereal/Grain**

For the healthiest choice, choose bread with whole grain flour as the first ingredient. If wheat flour or unbleached wheat flour comes first, the bread is made mainly of refined flour, which has lost many of its nutrients during the refining process. In the cereal aisle look for a cereal that is high in fiber and low in sugar. A high fiber breakfast is a great way to get a jump start on your daily fiber intake and the fiber makes your breakfast very filling so you feel satisfied until lunch time. If you don't like the taste of high fiber cereal mix it with another cereal that you like. Oatmeal is another great low-fat breakfast item. Top it off with some fresh fruit to start your day off right. Follow the same rule with pasta and rice as you did with bread; avoid the white versions of these foods. Brown rice and whole-wheat pasta contain many more nutrients and fiber. Staple items: whole wheat English muffins, high fiber cereal – Fiber 1, Shredded Wheat, Raisin Bran, oatmeal, whole wheat pasta, bean or lentil canned soup, and brown rice.

### **Peanut Butter/Jelly/Tuna/Condiments**

Peanut butter is a great source of protein, but is also high in fat. Eating it in moderation or switching to a lower fat version is okay. Jelly, on the other hand, contains no fat but can be loaded with sugar. Look for light versions that are sugar free. When used in moderation, jelly is a great substitute for butter/margarine. Tuna is a great choice for a healthy meal, but stick with water-packed tuna. Starkist makes a tuna kit containing 3 ounces of tuna, crackers and light mayonnaise, which is a great snack or can be part of a healthy lunch or dinner. Beware of pre-mixed tuna salad, which is often high in fat due to the mayonnaise. Salad dressing can change a healthy salad into a meal that has more fat than a hamburger. Taste and portion sizes are issues when it comes to salad dressing. There are many low fat or fat free versions that taste good. If you refuse to try these, limit your portion size to 1 tablespoon. Mayonnaise can also add a lot of fat and calories to your diet: 10.9 grams of fat and 94 calories per tablespoon. Look for a lighter version that has only 2.9 grams of fat and 35 calories per tablespoon or try fat free mayonnaise. There are many yummy condiments that have little or no fat that can add great flavor to a meal. Try barbecue sauce, chili sauce, cocktail sauce, hot sauce, and salsa containing fruit. Staple items: reduced fat peanut butter, sugar free jelly, water packed tuna, fat free/light mayonnaise, fat free or low fat dressing, and salsa.

### **Snacks**

Speaking of salsa, what goes better than tortilla chips? The fat and calories in chips can add up fast. By choosing a baked chip over fried can save you up to 50% of fat per serving. Even better, try pretzels or light popcorn for an afternoon snack. Crackers are also a good alternative. However, many crackers can contain as many calories and fat as chips. Make sure you read the labels and look for a cracker low in fat and high in fiber such as reduced fat Triscuits. Dried fruit and low fat granola bars are good snacks if you are traveling or on the run. Watch out for portion sizes on dried fruit! One half cup is a serving size. Staple items: dried fruit, low fat granola bars, reduced fat Triscuits, baked chips, pretzels, and popcorn (no butter).

### **Dairy**

Many people have avoided dairy products for years because of the fat content, but dairy products are rich sources of protein and calcium and these days you

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can get lower fat versions of all of your favorite dairy products. Choose 1% or skim milk. 2% milk is reduced fat, but not low fat so it still contains a significant amount of fat. If you have a wild hair try soy or rice milk, which offer many health benefits and are also low fat. In the dairy section also fill up your basket with low fat yogurt, cheese, cottage cheese and cream cheese. Which spread is healthier, butter or margarine? Neither! Try Brummel and Brown, a yogurt based spread. It is lower in fat than butter and does not contain the hydrogenated fat of margarine. If your cholesterol level is high you may benefit from one of two new spreads on the market made to help lower cholesterol, Take Control Light or Benecol. Choosing a lower-fat alternative can make a big difference in your diet. Staple items: 1 % or skim milk, low fat cheese, low fat cottage cheese, low fat yogurt, lower fat spread (Brummel and Brown, Take Control Light or Benecol).

**Frozen Foods**

Consider giving veggie burgers a try. They are low in fat and many taste better than beef burgers. Morningstar Farms not only makes veggie burgers, but also makes many of your old favorites such as chicken nuggets and corny dogs from soy. These products taste delicious and contain much less fat. Read the label before you buy frozen dinners. Some can contain as much as 22 grams of fat or more. Aim for low-fat frozen entrees. Another option is frozen meals in a bag where you just have to add meat. This is a quick and easy way to have a well balanced dinner. Also in this section you can find frozen bags of boneless, skinless chicken breasts that you can add to a frozen meal in a bag or cook outside on the grill. Generally, stay away from ice cream and frozen treats. They are empty calories. But if you must indulge, try lower fat options such as sorbet, low fat frozen yogurt, sugar free fudgesicles or frozen fruit for a smoothie. Staple items: mixed vegetables, veggie burgers, frozen chicken breasts, low fat frozen entrees and frozen fruit.

Most importantly, do not go shopping for food when you are hungry! Eat before you go or you will end up with those high sugar and fat loaded goodies magically falling into your basket.

Before you check out, look over what you have in your basket. Fruits, veggies, low fat meats and whole grains should make up at least 80% of your basket. The other 20% can be for the indulgences such as low fat ice cream and alcohol.

By following these few simple guidelines your trip to the grocery store will be more successful. So pull out your grocery list and get started!!

[Note: Mention of specific brand names does not imply endorsement of those products. They are merely included to provide examples of products in each category.]

Contact Catherine at 713-316-2707 or cathkruppa@aol.com for more information.

**August Yard of the Month**

**Fred Clarke 1352 Sue Barnett**

for those eye-catching white vincas which seem to be even more heat resistant in their 2nd season.

Honorable mention for keeping cool-looking lawns in these dog days of summer are 839 West 42nd and 817 West 32nd

Central Bank

All Star Construction

D.J.'s Lawn Care

U.S. Tree Experts

## Beautiful Strangers

Mark Saranie

---

I have to report here that the intense heat we have had these past months has taken a toll on some of my green children. I had high expectations of most but those who have simply given up will not see my garden beds next year...maybe.

As most of you have probably read in recent garden articles in the Houston Chronicle, the dry weather has caused many plants to flower like crazy in an effort to produce seed so that there will be progeny next year. I like this because I have a stand of flowering okra that has had blooms every day that are a colorful punctuation mark against the azaleas. There is also a fair amount of crispy stuff, but these hot pink blooms bring life to my front yard. Flowering okra you wonder? Sound odd, or even strange? I like having unusual things in my garden beds because of their unique qualities and alien appearance.

Six years ago I visited the Bulb and Plant Mart for the first time. This event typically takes place the last weekend of September or the first weekend in October at the Westminster United Methodist Church on Bering at San Felipe. Be on the look out for this affair, as the many offerings there will enable you to make a home for usual and unusual plants. Be wary though. The minds' eye is so tantalized, (and blinded), by the abundance of color and the potential blooms that spring will bring that going overboard is difficult to avert. Just ask my wife...

I have mentioned here before that I love surprises. Well, another happened in August, and it has been six years in coming. But before I get to it I must tell you that in this column I will briefly go over three plants I consider beautiful and/or strange, qualities that are nice to sprinkle here and there in the garden. They are:

- **Glory Lily**- *Gloriosa rothschildiana*.
- **Night-blooming Cereus** - *Hylocereus undatus*.
- **Flowering or Argentine Senna** - *Cassia corymbosa*.

During my first visit to the Bulb Mart I made a singly and extravagant purchase, among many other bulbs and corms, of a single glory lily tuber. The glory lily is a deciduous vine that is delicate in appearance but powerful in its display of color. The blooms, my August surprise, are an upside down riot of vibrant yellow and orange petals. This vine does like full sun but will tolerate partial shade and prefers a well draining location with organically enriched soil. It will freeze

back in the winter but return in the spring. Unlike most vines, this one has no tendrils, using instead the ends of its leaves, which curl around whatever support it has been given. The effect is quite unique. It will grow up to about six feet so extensive amounts of trellis is not necessary. It looks like I have finally found its place in my garden. I have had this tuber in a well-prepared pot as well as in several places in my backyard, all being unsuccessful transplants until now.

The night-blooming cereus was a gift to me several years back from a Master Gardener co-worker who simply had too much of it. As I write, a couple flower buds are pushing their way out of the confines of its parents' arms. In a couple days the buds will explode revealing what appears to be hundreds of delicate petals. The blooms last only a day but seeing them is sheer pleasure. This cactus will grow to about three feet, needs a well draining soil and will thrive in full sun or shade. It is easily propagated from cuttings. While the blooms it has rewarded me with have been around five inches in diameter, they can get as large as twelve inches across. I have mine growing in a pot, which makes it easy to protect when winter comes around. I am testing some directly in the garden because I am curious to observe its growing habits without the root-spread restrictions of a container.

*Cassia corymbosa* is a shrub of delicate appearance and of deeply brilliant yellow blooms. I purchased this specimen several years back during a first visit to Mercer Arboretum and Botanic Gardens. Unlike the glory lily, it has remained in its original spot in the yard and has finally bloomed this year. It does have a lot of competition from pecan and magnolia trees but it looks like it has convinced its larger and more vigorous brothers and sisters that it can hold its own and deserves its own space. *Cassia corymbosa* is a butterfly host and will grow to about ten feet high and wide. It can tolerate full sun and dry conditions. As always, send suggestions or comments to [plantmania\\_2000@yahoo.com](mailto:plantmania_2000@yahoo.com).

September garden things

- Garden? What garden?
- Get the kids involved.
- Lots of lawns are sporting brown patches. Check for chinch bugs and treat accordingly.
- Keep watering lawn areas in the early morning or evening so that any bald patches will fill in.
- Good time to divide canna lilies, daylilies and Louisiana Iris if they are crowded.

## News from Garden Oaks Elementary

*Jeannie Daniels, Principal*

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Greetings neighbors, from Garden Oaks Elementary School. We are delighted to serve residents of the beautiful Garden Oaks community. We are also proud of parent and community involvement in our school. Together we are able to accomplish so much for all the children.

This year we are looking forward to several exciting upcoming events. The University of Houston Blaffer Gallery will be on campus with its rolling art museum for three weeks in October. The gallery is actually in a Mack truck! We will be sharing the exhibit with neighborhood programs and nearby schools. We also are in partnership with the Children's Museum of Houston this year through a grant with area museums and universities. They will sponsor a family night of activities at the museum for our children and parents. The grant also provides support for the teaching of science and mathematics at our school. For the first time this year, our school also has a computer technologist and teacher. Finally, we are planning after-school art and Spanish classes, a visiting children's author in October, and many cultural activities to celebrate the diversity of our student body.

Just a reminder that the School Park (SPARK) next to our campus is reserved for school use each day while classes are in session. We welcome and encourage neighbors to use the park after 3:00 p.m. on school days and during the weekends. The park is maintained by HISD maintenance crews and our school custodial staff. If you find any problems in the park, please call the school to report them and we will be happy to take care of them.

We are off to a great start with 600 students enrolled in many fine programs! Our goal this year is to be a State of Texas Recognized School. With positive help and contributions from our community, I know we can succeed!

*[Editor's Note: There apparently has been some confusion regarding the survey about the elementary school that was published in the June Gazette and elsewhere. The survey was not endorsed by the Garden Oaks Civic Club and is solely the responsibility of the author. The fee for printing the survey was paid for entirely by Ms. Folk. If you would like to send comments to the Gazette, we will print your letters so long as the author's name and address is provided. See page 2 for the editor's contact information.]*

## Friends of Montessori Board for 2000-2001

*Christine Adams, President, Friends of Montessori*

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Friends of Montessori (at Garden Oaks Elementary) has elected its Board for the 2000-2001 school year. The 2000-2001 Friends of Montessori Board Members are:

Christine Adams, Ph.D., President  
 Betsy Coe, Ph.D., Evaluation and Assessment  
 Jay Hamburger, Program Development/Fundraising  
 Rene de Luna, Finance/Treasurer  
 Brian Sherwood, Established Programs  
 Beth Stengler, Recording Secretary  
 Celeste Zamora, Communications Secretary

The newly elected Board expresses its appreciation to last year's Board and all former Board members for their hard work and commitment to having a neighborhood public school Montessori program at Garden Oaks. The Friends of Montessori Board is looking forward to collaborating again with Garden Oaks Faculty, Parents, PTA and the community to promote and strengthen the quality of all educational programs at Garden Oaks so that children in our neighborhood can readily meet the new increased standards set by H.I.S.D. Every child who is successful in school makes our neighborhood stronger and safer.

The Montessori program is one of several quality educational programs available at Garden Oaks. However, unlike other Garden Oaks programs, revenue beyond that allotted by H.I.S.D. must be raised to support the Montessori program, in part because of the Pre-K classes offered to 3 and 4 year olds. Public schools do not ordinarily offer educational programs for children this young unless they have special needs. Friends of Montessori raises funds for the Garden Oaks Montessori program and collaborates with the PTA on fundraising events for the entire school. This school year be on the lookout for fundraising events such as the annual Montessori Pancake Breakfast as well as the Garden Oaks Elementary PTA Fall Dinner and Auction. The 2000-2001 Friends of Montessori Board looks forward to the continuing support of the community for the Montessori program and all the other programs offered at our very special, neighborhood school, Garden Oaks Elementary.

# September 2000

## Heavy Trash

One Call Program  
713 956 6589

South of 38th – Sept. 6

North of 38th to  
South of 43rd – Sept. 12

North of 43rd to  
Chamboard - Sept. 19

## Recycling

North of West 43rd St.  
Wed. Sept. 6 & Tues. 19

South of West 43rd St.  
Tuesday Sept. 12 & 26

Recycling Hotline  
713 837 9130

## Directory of Advertisers

- Alisha G. Cunningham 6
- All Star Construction 9
- Arts Alive Insert
- Better Body & Fitness 7
- Central Bank 9
- Controlled Air 5
- Diane Morish's Boutique 6
- DJ's Lawn Care 9
- Esperanza School 8
- Green Green Grass  
of Home Realty 7
- Harry James 6
- J.M.S. Construction 8
- Just Doors and Windows 7
- Kaplan's Ben Hur 4
- Lauder Properties 5
- Luxury Lawns 4
- Maldonado Landscaping 8
- O.D.'s Printing 5
- Shannon & Assoc. 5
- Tanglewood Academy 7
- Temple Oaks 4
- Terry Jeanes 4
- Tree Experts 6
- Tru-lite Gas Products 8
- US Tree Experts 9

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

"Education is a better safeguard of liberty than a standing army." - Edward Everett					1	2	
					3	4	5
Labor Day		Civic Club Meeting 7:00 PM G.O. Elem					
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
					Gazette Articles Due		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
					Autumnal Equinox		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
					Rosh Hashanah Begins		
<b>Upcoming events for next month</b> Civic Club Meeting Tuesday, October 3rd  <i>Make sure your Civic Club committee meeting or event gets on the calendar!</i> <i>E-mail the editor at GOGazette@Mac.com with your information.</i>							