

CARDEN OAKS

AZETTE

March 2001

Volume 24, Number 3

## 2001 Garden Oaks Home and Garden Tour

Sunday, April 1, 2001, from 12 Noon to 6 P.M.

Garden Oaks annual Home and Garden Tour is Sunday, April 1, 2001, from 12 P.M. to 6 P.M. This year's tour will showcase a unique combination of 7 homes and 3 gardens. Garden Oaks is just north of the 610 Loop between Ella and Yale, only moments from the growth and vitality of downtown.

Garden Oaks is one of Houston's best-kept secrets. Nestled among towering pines and grand magnolias, this quaint and architecturally unique neighborhood of approximately 1400 homes continues to attract attention and rave reviews. From quaint cottages and charming bungalows to plantation, ranch and traditional style homes, Garden Oaks supports diverse updates while maintaining its charm and sense of history. Because of its excellent location, mass appeal, oversized lots, and booming property values, Garden Oaks is often compared to West University and Bellaire.

In 1937, Edward L. Crain established Garden Oaks on a tract of land just north of the Houston Heights. Comprised of 5 sections, Garden Oaks offers a unique blend of mid-century homes- mostly pier and beam cottages. The western edge of the neighborhood is comprised of G.I. homes built for returning veterans after World War II. All five sections have seen an abundance of renovations and newly constructed homes.

The Garden Oaks Home and Garden Tour has something for everyone—and it's a great place to pick up unique decorating tips and eclectic gardening ideas. Here's a sampling of what you'll find on this year's tour.

- Return to the beginnings of Garden Oaks at 979 Gardenia in this original home. Modest cosmetic changes have kept this dollhouse current while maintaining the original architect's vision and design.
- The evolution of Garden Oaks can be seen in the expanded GI house at 915 W. 41st. The garage has been converted to living space and a master suite was added to give the growing family of the 1950s more elbow room.
- The moment you enter the angled front door at 815 W. 41st you'll know this is not your typical Garden Oaks home. The open and contemporary angles are juxtaposed with traditional elements, creating a unique combination that's pleasing to the senses. The large master suite is brightly lit with skylights and windows overlooking the landscaped backyard, pool, and guesthouse.
- The remodeled kitchen of 315 W. 32nd gives this traditional cottage an open feel. Bold colors abound in the house, giving
   Continued on page 14

## **Last Chance Civic Club Meeting**

Tuesday, March 6th

The next Civic Club Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 P.M. in the Garden Oaks Elementary School Multi-Purpose Room. We will be having an important presentation on the re-balloting of the entire neighborhood that will be required in order to pass GOMO (see pages 12 and 15). This will also be your **last chance** to pay your 2001 Civic Club dues and be eligible for the drawing to be held at the meeting (see page 3). Also, representatives from the City of Houston will be there to display the construction plans for the barriers at 30<sup>th</sup> and Randall (see page 9).

## **Guest Editorial**

#### Mark Saranie

Just a quick editorial with regards to GOMO. I have mentioned elsewhere in the Gazette that my retail profession allows for days off during the week rather than over the weekend. While everyone is at work I get to see what transpires on our street. One thing that fills my heart with horror during these days is when I see a large vehicle slowly cruising down our street full of "suits" excitedly pointing and gesturing. Many times they back up to take another look at a property then continue through our section. You can only imagine my anger when these snakes slither through our neighborhood. You would have an extremely difficult time convincing me that these sinister individuals are not developers very much aware of the quandary Garden Oaks finds itself in. Folks, this is not a made-up account. I feel threatened every time these "drool mobiles" pass by our quiet little home. As of the last tally on the list-serve, Section 2 has reached its goal and Section 1 is very close to meeting theirs. Come on Sections 3, 4, and 5; you can beat the deadline! Until GOMO is passed I will have the feeling that our collective pants are down around our collective ankles.

[Editor's Note: A late-breaking major change occurred with respect to GOMO voting just as this issue of the Gazette was being finalized for printing. I urge all of you to read Sam Stengler's article on page 15 now. It details the situation and what we need to do next in order to continue the movement to protect our neighborhood, our deed restrictions, and our properties.

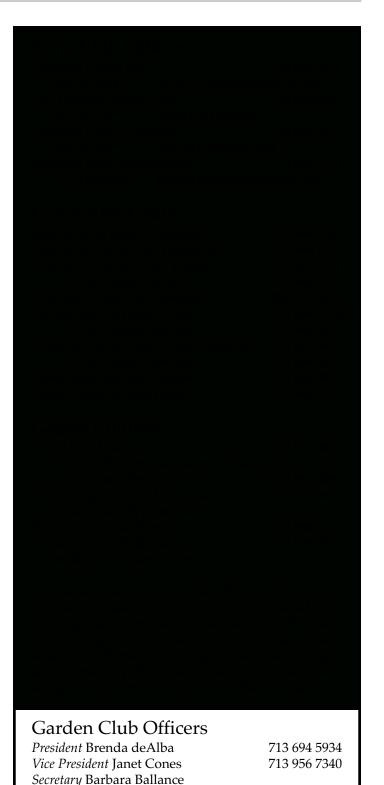
Keeping this in mind, please realize that all the other articles in this issue were written before this came to light. So while some of the information is no longer current, that does not lessen the validity of the points that they make with respect to the urgency of GOMO. Thank you.]

## February Yard of the Month

1025 Lamonte

Tom & Brenda Balsano

Congratulations!



Treasurer Tina Nieto

Sunshine Terry Jeanes
Phone Committee Ann Hollis

Yard of the Month Holly Veech

### Citizens and a Tribute

#### David Bell, Civic Club President

Since my last message, our national political landscape has seen one administration leave and a new one take its place. Regardless of one's political leanings, most people have agreed that President Bush's inaugural address was one of the better ones. There were a few lines that particularly caught my attention, which I thought were worth repeating as they have relevance to us as a community and civic association. President Bush stated, "I ask you to be citizens, not spectators. Citizens, not subjects. Responsible citizens, building communities of service and a nation of character." As a civic club, we need our citizens to practice citizenship, which mandates an involvement and willingness to exert some energy for the greater good. From my various discussions with people who call, to doorstep conversations with people as we work to preserve our deed restrictions, there is no shortage of opinions and passion about our neighborhood and community. There is a way to channel your thoughts and ideas and that best way is through the civic club. The diversity of opinions and ideas that can only come about by a widely participating group will make our neighborhood a better place, and provide a better return on your home investment.

I am also pleased to see that the effort to successfully create a means to preserve and protect our deed restrictions is making significant strides forward. By now, everyone in the neighborhood should have received a ballot delivered to their home with explicit instructions on how to complete and return it. However, I also have had a number of very pertinent and probing questions asked about the future workings of the plan. I am sure too that there are many people who have questions that have not come forth and voiced their concerns. Please let the civic club be your forum to ask your questions and share your fears/concerns about something that you may not know. I assure you, your questions and criticisms are welcome and will be fairly and honestly answered.

Lastly, on January 31, Garden Oaks lost one of its most precious souls as she ended a long period of suffering and passed from this life to the next. She was a true treasure to her long loving husband and sons who survive her, and to all of us who knew her. We will miss her dearly. I first met her through the Citizens on Patrol program where she and her husband were very active, and if not for them, it would not have survived. She and her husband were married just before WWII and moved to Garden Oaks. While her husband put on the uniform and went to war, she made her significant contribution to the war effort here. After the war, they reared two

sons and helped make our community. They started our churches, our children's little league and scouting programs, our civic associations and other activities that transform a group of houses into a community. She and her husband remained active in our neighborhood activities and regularly attended the civic club meetings until the effects of age made her pain too much to bear. Her husband was lovingly and dutifully by her side until the end. There is much we should learn from them. They were citizens, not spectators and we owe them our thanks and gratitude, as well as our prayers. I purposefully have not mentioned any names, but the many who know them will share my thoughts. Our neighborhood is blessed to have a number of other seniors living among us who have similar stories. There is a reason they are known as the greatest generation and we of my generation and younger would do well to show them more honor and respect.

## Time is running out to win \$200.00 Cash!

## Michael Froebel, Membership Chair

Just wanted to remind everyone that time is running out to be included in our \$200.00 drawing, so send in your Garden Oaks Civic Club Membership Form with your payment for your annual dues by the March 6th Civic Club meeting and just maybe the winner will be you. You don't have to be at the meeting to win, but if you do make it, you can pick up your prize money right away. There should be a membership form in this issue of the *Gazette* in the form of a small insert. If it is missing, please call me and I will see that you get one. My phone number is on the inside cover of the *Gazette*.

Would you like to attend your neighborhood meetings, but don't have anyone to watch the children? Not a problem! We have someone at every meeting that will take care of the little ones while you sit in on the meeting. So come on down, relax for a bit, talk to some old friends and maybe make some new ones while you hear what's old and new in Garden Oaks. Hope to see you there and good luck on the drawing!

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.



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## Minutes Of February 6, 2001 Civic Club Meeting

Amy Shaughnessy, Secretary

President David Bell was not present. Vice-President Stacey Park called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. A motion was made and seconded to accept the January minutes as published.

Officer Reports

Treasurer: Cherry Wolfarth announced that there has been a change in the expense reimbursement process. Anyone requiring a reimbursement needs to get a Check Request Form from Cherry and have it approved by the Chair of the committee you represent. Cherry also reported that many people are paying their Constable Program dues – thanks for the speedy payment! The February Cash Flow Report was distributed.

Committee Reports

Beautification: Sheila Briones announced a workday for the Rose Garden at 32nd & Lawrence on February 17. Rick Grochoske has volunteered to be the new Beautification Chair – thanks, Rick!

GOCOP: Carl Waters announced that one of the GOCOP charter members, Laverne Kelley, passed away on January 31. Carl reported that according to the HPD, there were 14 crimes in Garden Oaks in December 2000 and there was a 66% increase in total crimes in Garden Oaks in 2000 over 1999. Carl announced a program by HPD that offers cash for information on drug "stash houses". GOCOP Patrollers are desperately needed - contact Carl at 713-864-1992 for more information on becoming a GOCOP.

Constable Program: Terry Jeanes reported that invoices have been mailed for the 2001 Constable Program dues and neighbors are responding promptly! As our property values increase, so does construction and crime in our neighborhood. Keep an eye out and join the Constable Program so we can hopefully add a second constable to patrol Garden Oaks. Contact Chair Terry Jeanes at 713-680-8550 for more information or to participate in the Constable Program.

GardenOaks.org: No Report.

*Gazette*: The deadline for the March *Gazette* is February 15. Contact Joe Muscara at 713-691-6833 for information or to submit an article.

Home Tour: Co-Chair Mike Caldwell announced that the committee is looking for a Set-Up chair. Raffle tickets are now available for \$1.00 each. Sponsor Party tickets are now available for \$35.00 each. The Sponsor Party takes place the night before the Home Tour and includes a preview of the homes and a great dinner. Contact Sheila Briones to purchase Sponsor Party tickets. Contact Mike Caldwell at 713-697-8690 or Robert De Veau for more information on the Home Tour, which takes place on April 1, 2001.

Membership: Michael Froebel reminded everyone about the \$200.00 cash drawing (prize donated by OD's Printing) for all residents who pay their dues by the March Civic Club meeting. The drawing will take place at the March Civic Club meeting. You do not need to be present to win, but it is strongly encouraged!! Currently we have 127 paid members, which represents about 9% of the neighborhood. To join the Civic Club or for more information, contact Michael Froebel at 713-683-8914.

Garden Club: Ed de Alba urged everyone to check the *Gazette* for Garden Club news. The next meeting will take place on March 8 and the program will be on orchids. Contact Garden Club President Brenda de Alba at 713-694-5934 for more information.

GOMO: Sam Stengler reported the latest totals on the GOMO voting per section. Sections 1 and 3 were blanketed with ballots recently (with the help of Waltrip High School students), and this has helped their numbers considerably. Sections 2, 4, and 5 will be blanketed the first two weekends in February. Volunteers are needed for follow-up. Sam reminded everyone of the party for the first section to reach the 60% goal, provided by Terry Jeanes and catered by Kenneth Santos. Our attorney has been contacted regarding questions, which have arisen lately on the listserv. The findings will be in the *Gazette* and on the listserv when our attorney reaches a conclusion. Ballots and lists of addresses that have signed the GOMO petition are available on the listserv at www.onelist.com/subscribe/Houston\_GO. Signed ballots can be returned to Sam Stengler or dropped off at the GOMO Drop Box at Stacey Park's house 32nd & Ashland. For more information on the Deed Restrictions Committee or to volunteer, call the hotline number at 713-341-3737 or GOMO Chair Sam Stengler at 281-773-3478.

#### **Unfinished Business**

The plans for the permanent barricade that will replace the "milk jugs" at 30th and Shepherd will be presented at the March Civic Club meeting.

Stacey Park mentioned that the progress on the sound wall seemed to have stopped and asked if anyone had any information on this. General consensus was that the slow progress was probably due to the weather.

#### New Business

Sharon Lauder requested that the Senior Helpers be moved out from under Membership again. The topic was discussed and it was decided that Senior Helpers would be a non-budgeted (because the 2001 budget was approved after Senior Helpers had been absorbed into Membership) sub-committee under Membership. Sharon will be in charge of the Senior Helpers, her phone number will be listed in the *Gazette* as the contact and she will report or arrange for someone else to report on the Senior Helper activities at each Civic Club meeting. The motion was made, seconded, and approved by the meeting's attendees.

The Garden Oaks theater marquee sign has been removed by the building's new owners, The Net church.

Vice-President Park adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Refreshments for the meeting were graciously provided by Terry Jeanes, REMAX/Metro.

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### **Citizens on Patrol**

Carl Waters, Jr.

I start this month's article on a sad note. Many of you may be aware that one of the Charter Members of the Citizens On Patrol program passed away at the end of January. Laverne Kelley was among the first to answer the call for patrollers when the program started almost 11 years ago. She and her husband V. D. continued that tradition when they signed up to be a base station when the program started using C. B. radios as a communication tool. V. D. told me that she insisted on becoming a base station when that part of our program was instituted. V. D. also said that among the things she missed the most when her health started to fail last year was patrolling and interacting with the other patrollers. Our sympathies to V. D., his sons and the rest of Laverne's family. We will deeply miss her.

The crime statistics for last year are now complete. We had a total of 104 crimes reported by HPD for our neighborhood. The breakdown was as follows: Rape (1), Robbery (1), Assault (3), Burglary (46), Burglary of a Motor Vehicle (24), Auto Theft (17), Narcotics (4) and Driving While Intoxicated (8). These numbers reflect an increase of 42 crimes over the 1999 numbers or an increase of 66%. This is certainly a sharp contrast to the trend reported by local officials. The bottom line is that we all need to be more cautious about leaving our possessions in view of persons passing by our homes or vehicles and to be sure to secure our vehicles and homes with the proper locks.

#### **December Crime Statistics**

Rape (1)

700 block of Sue Barnett on 12/15/00 at 12:01 a.m. (residence).

Assault (1)

700 block of W. 38th St. on 12/1/00 at 5:15 p.m. (street).

Burglary (5)

700 block of W. 42nd St. on 12/21/00 at noon (residence). 800 block of Lamonte Ln. on 12/27/00 at 2:30 p.m. (residence). 1500 block of Sue Barnett on 12/27/00 at 4:13 p.m. (residence). 3100 block of North Shepherd on 12/1/00 at 10:30 p.m. (restaurant). 3100 block of North Shepherd on 12/13/00 at 3:33 a.m. (restaurant).

*Burglary of a Motor Vehicle (4)* 

700 block of W. 42nd St. on 12/6/00 at 11:30 p.m. (street). 700 block of W. 34th St. on 12/27/00 at 9:00 p.m. (driveway). 900 block of W. 42nd St. on 12/13/00 at 5:45 p.m. (driveway). 4200 block of Alba on 12/28/00 at 10:30 p.m. (driveway).

Auto Theft (2)

200 block of W. 30th St. on 12/27/00 at 11:00 a.m. (driveway). 4200 block of Apollo on 12/22/00 at 6:00 p.m. (other).

DWI (1)

2900 block of N. Shepherd on 12/11/00 at 2:28 a.m. (street).

Requests for an application to join the Citizen of Patrol program can be submitted over the Internet at GOCOP77018@AOL.com. Just leave a message and I will

713-755-5200

get back to you within 24 hours. You can also call me at 713-864-1992 for details about joining our program.

Here's hoping for lower crime statistics in 2001.

Crimes in progress, Fire or Ambulance 911

Houston Police Department (non-emergency) 713-222-3131

Precinct One Constable North Shepherd Office 713-697-3600

#### 2000 Crime Totals

Precinct One Constable San Jacinto St. (downtown)

#### Carl Waters, Jr.

Crimes against persons	5	Day of the Week	
Rape	1	Monday	8
Robbery	1	Tuesday	14
Assault	3	Wednesday	22
Tibbaar	J	Thursday	17
Property Crimes	87	Friday	16
Burglary	46	Saturday	13
Burglary Motor Vehicle	24	Sunday	13
Auto Theft	17	Suriday	10
Auto men	17	Most Activity by time of day	
"Victimless Crimes"	12	10:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.	11
Narcotics	4	9:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.	9
Driving While Intoxicated	8	7.00 p.m. to 10.00 p.m.	,
Driving while intoxicated	Ö	I aget actignity by time of day	
Total Cuimas by Costian Newsborn		Least activity by time of day	0
Total Crimes by Section Number		4:00 a.m. to 5:00 a.m.	Ü
1	47	3:00 a.m. to 4:00 a.m.	1
2	13	5:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m.	1
3	10	1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.	1
4	20	3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.	1
5	10	r i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i	
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## **Constable Program Fee Reminder**

### Terry Jeanes and Susan Saranie, Co-chairs

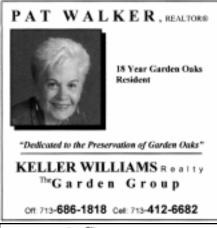
Invoices have been sent to all annual pay members. So this is your reminder to send in your \$230, payable to Garden Oaks Civic Club, for the program December of 2000 through November 2001. Mail checks to Garden Oaks Civic Club PO Box 10273 Houston, TX 77206

Also anyone interested in the automatic draft program, drafting monthly for \$20 per month, please call Terry Jeanes at 713-812-9154.





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## **Medical Information on the Web**

Catherine Kruppa, MS, RD, LD

While it's easy to find health topics on the Internet, determining the accuracy of the information is not nearly as simple. It is not necessary for information appearing on the web to undergo the peer review process that is standard practice for articles published in medical journals. Here are some tips to help you make sure that the information you receive on the web is reliable.

First, find out where the information came from. A good website will be sponsored by major medical and healthcare institutions such as hospitals, medical schools, non-profit organizations such as the American Heart Association or Centers for Disease control, or by major medical journals such as the Journal of the American Medical Association. Also try to determine the purpose of the website. For example, is the purpose of the website to educate you on a certain topic or is it trying to get your to buy their product?

Next, check the sources that are linked to the website. Investigate the links with the same guidelines that you used to investigate the original website. Also, check the references. Make sure the sources of the website are from leading medical journals in that specific field. In fact, many websites should link you to the actual reference.

The credentials of the individuals who are quoted on the website are also important. Where were their degrees received? What work experience do they have? Where have they been published? Are they financially associated with the company sponsoring the website? Do they receive commission on products sold via the website?

Once you have found the information that you are looking for, check multiple websites and then compare the information. Also, discuss information found on the web with colleagues and doctors.

Finally, look for a disclaimer that says all information is subject to change and that they are not trying to practice medicine online. Usually the site will recommend the reader to talk to their doctor about their medical problems.

Listed below are a few reputable medical web resources.

St. Luke's Episcopal Health System www.sleh.com
Texas Heart Institute www.texasheartinstitute.org
WebMD www.webmd.com
The American Dietetic Association www.eatright.org
The Mayo Clinic www.mayo.edu
Journal of the American Medical Association www.ama-assn.org
Food and Drug Administration www.fda.gov

## **Garden Oaks Elementary News**

Jeannie Daniels, Principal

Garden Oaks Elementary will host a **Spring New Parent Round-Up** on Thursday, March 8th AT 7:00 P.M. All prospective parents are invited to attend. Current parents and teachers from all our programs, including Bilingual, Montessori, and SIGHTS will be on hand to talk with parents about the many activities and enrichment programs we offer at Garden Oaks Elementary.

A huge thank you to the Civic Club from our Garden Oaks students. We have used the recent donation from the Home and Garden Tour to provide a special science presentation for our students: Weird Science, a K-6 experience with actual science facts and experiments that had us all in awe, including the teachers! This program not only taught science, but it caused interest in physical and biological sciences to skyrocket! We had a huge number of Science Fair entries and winners! We have also used these funds with our organic gardening project on campus. Our science lab and many individual classes work in these garden plots, incorporating science experiments and real-life experiences all in one!

We will continue to accept applications to our Montessori Program throughout the month of March. Those students who are not readily accepted into the available spaces for next year will be placed on a first-come, first-serve waiting list.

We have completed testing for our SIGHTS (gifted/talented) program. Anyone else who is interested in having a five year old tested for first grade SIGHTS should call us for more information at (713) 696-2930.

Be sure to come to our **Spring New Parent Round-Up** if you would like to find out more about our school. See you there!

## **Traffic Control in Section 1 Takes** a Step Forward

James King

The City of Houston has finalized plans for the removal of the temporary barriers at the intersection of 30th and Randall at the Shepherd split. Permanent roadwork and an earthen burm will replace the "milk jugs" that currently form the "Berlin Wall" at that location.

Representatives of the City of Houston will attend the March Civic Club meeting to display the construction plans to anyone who may be interested.

The finalization of this traffic control project leads to another topic of discussion for Garden Oaks residents. Once the City is finished with their part, it is up to our community to make the appearance of that corner worthy of Garden Oaks. Everyone's input and support is welcome regarding the beautification of this prominent corner of the Garden Oaks subdivision.

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## **Decorating the Bathroom**

## Susan Kostelecky, Window Fashions Certified Professional

Bathrooms are easy and fun to decorate. They are generally the smallest rooms in the house, making it easier to manage the decision making process. A few added decorative details can make a great impact.

One dilemma that often occurs in Garden Oaks homes is having existing tile that may be in great shape, but the two colors are not exactly in this year's latest color palettes. This can make it difficult to find rugs, towels or wallpaper to coordinate with your tile. When life hands you lemons, make lemonade!

One idea could be to neutralize your walls instead of trying to match wallpaper to your tile. If you have bright blue tile with pale yellow accent tiles, consider painting the walls a pale yellow, instead of overwhelming the room with a strong, bright wallpaper. The lighter paint will make the room seem larger, and provide a soft background for window treatments or framed pictures.

Now you can tie in the tiles with some decorative fabrics. With the overwhelming selections of fabrics available, you will certainly find a number of options to coordinate with your tiles. Your biggest decision will be to determine which one you like best! Get some paint sample chips from your local paint store and bring them home to match them with your tile. Find the paint chip that is the closest to your existing tile shades, and take those chips with you while searching for fabrics. This helps you match fabric samples more closely to your tile. Bring the samples home and hold them up to the tiles to see what is the best match. If you are undecided, tape your samples to the wall or window frame and live with them a few days. Sometimes what looks great in night light, looks too strong in bright day light, and you may change your mind.

Once you have determined the main fabric, you can select a coordinate fabric (or two or three). You now have several options for your window treatments and shower curtain, as well as some choices for trim such as banding, ruffles, pleats, cording, etc. You may even find some great mini-prints that have exactly the blue and yellow shades of your tile. If your existing striped shower curtain coordinates well with the new floral window treatment, consider adding a floral banding around the perimeter to tie everything together.

Often when you have a custom window treatment and shower curtain made for your bathroom, it is difficult to find accessories to coordinate. There are companies that will laminate your chosen fabric into wastebaskets, lotion dispensers, tissue boxes, place mats, picture frames, and more. Now your bathroom is pretty and practical, because you can clean these items easily.

Towels also come in many colors today, but perhaps you cannot find some that match your tile exactly. Using the same technique as choosing the neutral coordinate paint for the walls, you can select a towel in similar shades and add fabric trim from your chosen fabrics and add it to the hem of the towels. A fabric band, either flat or pleated, is very pretty, and can be accented by a coordinating cording or tassel also.

Now your bathroom is so pretty and coordinated, it looks like you planned that tile combination all along. All you have to do is receive the compliments from your neighbors for doing what they wished they had already done!

For more information call Susan Kostelecky at 713/697-4110.

#### **Garden Club News**

#### Barbara Ballance

In lieu of a March Garden Club meeting, we will be taking a field trip to Peckerwood Gardens in Hempstead on Sunday, March 18th. Call Barbara for details (713)426-6046.

The following is a list of all Garden Club meetings & locations for the remainder of the year.

March 10: Spring Work Day @ Friendship Garden March 18: Field Trip to Peckerwood Gardens

April 12: 1010 Lamonte 915 W. 41st May 10: **June 14:** 407 W. 33rd July 12: 4311 Alba August 9: 951 W. 43rd September 13: 974 W. 42nd 336 W. 33rd October 11: November 8: 858 W. 41st

November 10: Fall Work Day @ Friendship Garden

December 13: 744 W. 43rd

### **Azaleas**

#### Mark Saranie

You're thinking, "Haven't we read enough about azaleas already?" By the time this *Gazette* is delivered, probably so. However, it bears mentioning that as utilized as azaleas are in our neighborhood and around our great city, barely a fraction of the available varieties are in use. Azaleas are divided into ten groups and did you know that out of the one hundred twenty-two varieties of azaleas listed in my dog-eared copy of the 1991 Houston Home and Garden gardening book, thirty-two varieties were suitable for the Houston area? Thirty-two! How is a gardener to choose? While planning a potential azalea purchase this is my mental process: "Let's see, I want the white kind, the lavender kind, and the pink kind." Pretty scientific, huh? The point is purchase those that are of the color you want and those that make you happy. And by happy I mean the feeling you get while driving home from work on a sunny spring afternoon and seeing the profusion of color, albeit short, that azaleas bring to our lives.

Our first year in Garden Oaks brought fear of the azalea because after bloom-time, you have prune-time and there is no scarier feeling than that of the daunting challenge of pruning azaleas for the first time in your life and not wanting to royally mess things up. Add in not really knowing what you are doing, despite all the reading you have done on the subject, and the feeling is that of sublime indecision and mental paralysis. While it is not necessary to prune azaleas every year, giving them a chop now and then keeps their size and shape in check. The amazing thing is that you get five new branches directly below the cut on any branch you prune. Use a fertilizer formulated for azaleas. Do not prune or feed past mid-June. At this time azaleas begin the process of setting buds for next year. Pruning the bushes will remove those buds, and fertilizing may damage them.

Azaleas are best suited for the north and east sides of your home as these areas receive less of our harsh summer sun and are typically in high shade all day. Azaleas send their roots out just beneath the surface of the soil. This is why lots of mulch under and around these shrubs is vital. They prefer to be planted high so that they do not stand in water after a downpour or prolonged watering. When planting azaleas, work the soil well and instead of sinking it totally in a hole, place it about one third the way deep then mound new soil around and slightly over the root ball and finish it off with lots of mulch. Water in well. The use of a root stimulator will encourage new root growth and a healthy and happy plant.

The mulch gradually acidifies the soil as it breaks down and azaleas love this. I save lots of money on mulch as it is freely and lovingly provided by our pine and oak trees. Many planting instructions advocate making vertical cuts on the root ball in order to stimulate new root growth. I do this and have never experienced an azalea that up and died.

Where gardening is concerned, I am unsophisticated. I have all these great books about gardening and despite this, I make bad choices, mostly of the location type. I have made some great decisions as well, and have been well rewarded. I garden by trial and error: an admittedly wasteful way of keeping the neighbors wondering and the "Yard of the Month" sign far, far away in other sections of Garden Oaks. I don't garden to compete. Don't get me wrong, I would love to proudly display that hallmark of a gardening job well done, but I don't delude myself. In my mind, me getting that honor would lower the bar and the individuals who make these monthly selections have a lot more gardening experience than I, and an eye for a well-balanced presentation.

I derive my pleasure of gardening from simply doing it. I love the feel of dirt on my hands and under my nails. And while my wife often, and quite pointedly, makes me aware of how rough my hands get, I enjoy the feeling of fulfillment I get after a vigorous day in the yard. I can hardly wait to see new stuff come alive, making very slow waves in its sea of mulch, blanketing in lush green, soil that has been bare for several months. So, start getting ready for spring!

#### Garden Things for March

- Keep your eyes open for advertisements alerting you to March Mart, which is held at Mercer Arboretum. This is a treat to attend, as you will find lots of plant offerings not commonly found in local nurseries.
- Feed your lawn areas with a 13:13:13 or 3:1:2 ratio fertilizer. Many lawn fertilizers have a high first number, nitrogen, that jumpstarts your lawn. I avoid these. Yeah, its nice to see green after so much brown but all that nitrogen gives you lots of top growth at the expense of root growth.
- Good time to prune hibiscus, vitex, and any other plant that has not quite come out of dormancy.
- Feed your roses.
- For the vegetable garden this is a great time for planting bell peppers, cucumbers and squash. A neighbor down our street suggested I give eggplants a try. I just might as we both enjoy young eggplant fresh off the grill.

## **Completed Ballots Received for the Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization (GOMO)**

As of 2/18/01 by Sam Stengler, Deed Restrictions Committee Chair

Section One	524 W. 30th	512 W. 31st	408 W. 32nd	323 W. 33rd	Section Two	706 W. 39th
3003 Lawrence	531 W. 30th	516 W. 31st	416 W. 32nd	328 W. 33rd	701 GO Blvd	709 W. 39th
3007 Lawrence	607 W. 30th+	519 W. 31st	419 W. 32nd	331 W. 33rd	709 GO Blvd	714 W. 39th
3102 Lawrence	722 W. 30th	520 W. 31st+	420 W. 32nd	335 W. 33rd	713 GO Blvd	717 W. 39th
3105 Lawrence	801 W. 30th	524 W. 31st	428 W. 32nd+	336 W. 33rd	714 GO Blvd	718 W. 39th
3106 Lawrence	813 W. 30th	525 W. 31st	503 W. 32nd	404 W. 33rd	717 GO Blvd	721 W. 39th
3113 Lawrence	814 W. 30th	701 W. 31st	504 W. 32nd	407 W. 33rd	718 GO Blvd	722 W. 39th
3114 Lawrence	826 W. 30th+	703 W. 31st	507 W. 32nd	416 W. 33rd	721 GO Blvd	725 W. 39th
3123 Lawrence	203 W. 31st	704 W. 31st+	508 W. 32nd	419 W. 33rd	722 GO Blvd	726 W. 39th
3201 Lawrence	207 W. 31st	705 W. 31st+	511 W. 32nd	420 W. 33rd	725 GO Blvd	729 W. 39th
3202 Lawrence	208 W. 31st	706 W. 31st	512 W. 32nd	423 W. 33rd	705 Sue Barne <u>tt</u>	730 W. 39th
3205 Lawrence	211 W. 31st	709 W. 31st	519 W. 32nd	427 W. 33rd	709 Sue Ba A t	733 W. 39th
3206 Lawrence	212 W. 31st	710 W. 31st	520 W. 32nd	431 W. 33rd+	710 Sue Vallett	705 W. 41st
3210 Lawrence	215 W. 31st	801 W. 31st	523 W. 32nd	432 W. 33rd	7155 ie Barnett	7 <u>0</u> 6 <b>W</b> . 41st
3213 Lawrence	216 W. 31st	802 W. 31st	524 W. 32nd	502 W. 33rd	14 Sue Barnett	0 W. 1st
3214 Lawrence	219 W. 31st	806 W. 31st	528 W. 32nd	503 W_33	717 Sue Bar le	718 W. 41st
3217 Lawrence	220 W. 31st	809 W. 31st	535 W. 32nd	502 V. G. rd+	722 Szalárnat	721 W. 4Is
3302 Lawrence	223 W. 31st	810 W. 31st	710 W. 32nd	1.W. 53rd	72 S 6 3 Sarnett	722 1 34
3303 Lawrence+	224 W. 31st	813 W. 31st	801 W. 3 11	512 W. 33rd	y ue Barne	7. 5 V. 41st+
3304 Lawrence	227 W. 31st	814 W. 31st	802 V 32.1d	515 W 33rd	729 Sue Parpe	'26 W. 41st+
3305 Lawrence	228 W. 31st	818 W. 31st	30 W. 32nd	512 V 3 3rd	730 Sire B rp. tt	729 W. 41st
3309 Lawrence	235 W. 31st	821 W. 31st	809 W. 32nd	5. O.W. 33rd	772 Ste Barnett	730 W. 41st
3006 Randall	310 W. 31st	822 W. 51st+	813 W. 32P	523 W. 33rd	7. Sue Barnett	733 W. 41st
3010 Randall	311 W. 31st	25.77. 31st	816 . 2d	527 W.	737 Sue Barnett	738 W. 41st
3210 Randall	316 W 31	826 W. 31st	12 W. 32nd	3 22 M 33.2d	738 Sue Barnett	742 W. 41st
3218 Randall	323 1 8 4	208 W. 32 d	821 W. 32nd	3 w. 33rd	741 Sue Barnett	706 W. 42nd+
228 W. 30th	32 × 31st	212 W 3 md	204 W. VA	536 W. 33rd	750 Sue Barnett	709 W. 42nd
231 W. 30th	<sup>32</sup> 7 W. 31st	216 V. 32nd	2(8 V. 3)a	208 W. 34th+	753 Sue Barnett	718 W. 42nd
307 W. 30th	328 W. 31st	219 W. 32ml	11 W. 33rd	212 W. 34th+	757 Sue Barnett	721 W. 42nd
308 V 3 1th	331	223 W. 32m	212 W. 33rd	220 W. 34th	761 Sue Barnett	725 W. 42nd
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312 W. 30th	335 W. 31st	26 V. 32nd	216 W. 33rd	311 W. 34th	769 Sue Barnett	733 W. 42nd
319 W. 30th	403 W. 31st	31 W. 32nd	219 W. 33rd+	331 W. 34th	1002 Sue Barnett	734 W. 42nd
320 W 3 Vt.	404 1136	232 W. 32nd+	220 W. 33rd	336 W. 34th+	1004 Sue Barnett	737 W. 42nd
323 W. 30th	40 <b>- 1</b> 0.	235 W. 32nd	224 W. 33rd	340 W. 34th+	709 W. 38th	748 W. 42nd
328 W. 30th	408 W. 31st	236 W. 32nd	227 W. 33rd	404 W. 34th	717 W. 38th	749 W. 42nd
415 W. 30	412 W. 31st	303 W. 32nd	232 W. 33rd	407 W. 34th	718 W. 38th	750 W. 42nd
420 W. 30th	416 W. 31st	307 W. 32nd	235 W. 33rd	504 W. 34th	721 W. 38th	714 W. 43rd
424 W. 30th	419 W. 31st	319 W. 32nd	236 W. 33rd+	507 W. 34th	729 W. 38th	720 W. 43rd
427 W. 30th	420 W. 31st	323 W. 32nd	303 W. 33rd	512 W. 34th	730 W. 38th	726 W. 43rd
428 W. 30th	423 W. 31st	327 W. 32nd	304 W. 33rd+	519 W. 34th	733 W. 38th	727 W. 43rd
431 W. 30th	424 W. 31st	328 W. 32nd	308 W. 33rd	527 W. 34th	734 W. 38th	730 W. 43rd
432 W. 30th	431 W. 31st	332 W. 32nd	311 W. 33rd+	535 W. 34th	737 W. 38th	737 W. 43rd
507 W. 30th	436 W. 31st	335 W. 32nd	315 W. 33rd	539 W. 34th	738 W. 38th	744 W. 43rd
508 W. 30th	503 W. 31st	403 W. 32nd	316 W. 33rd	805 W. 34th	741 W. 38th	
512 W. 30th	507 W. 31st	404 W. 32nd	319 W. 33rd	813 W. 34th	702 W. 39th	
520 W. 30th	508 W. 31st	407 W. 32nd	320 W. 33rd	817 W. 34th	705 W. 39th	

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#### GARDEN OAKS GAZETTE

Continued from page 1

it a relaxed feeling without shrinking the rooms. The backyard features a large deck overlooking a pool and a private pond.

- A vibrant mix of colors and fabrics welcomes you into the tastefully decorated home at 863 Lamonte. Here, you'll find a mix of formal and informal cozy sitting areas and new kitchen that is a feast unto itself.
- The exterior of the 1950s Ranch-style house at 303 W. 33rd masks a different house inside. The home's warm colors are a perfect backdrop to the owner's many antiques and collectibles. The many interesting uses of common objects in uncommon ways showcase the owner's creative decorating style. Enjoy the cozy garden out back, with its "Bed of Roses".
- You'll find one of Garden Oaks' newest showplaces at 1325
   Sue Barnett. This home boasts a chef's kitchen and a lavishly wood paneled library.
- Take a step back into old New Orleans in the garden at 705
   W. 38th. Garden rooms, a wooden pergola, statues, and a log cabin make this a lush retreat.
- For those with a green thumb, the garden at 207 W. 33rd will showcase creativity, humor and "dumpster diving" at its best! This "Healing Garden" features recycled items as focal points throughout.
- The garden at 862 Lamonte is a prime example of gardening on a budget, with passion and a sense of humor. It features whimsical details such as wooden silhouette figures and even a bowling ball.

All Home and Garden Tour proceeds directly benefit the Garden Oaks subdivision and surrounding community. The Garden Oaks Civic Club is an active organization that sponsors and drives projects around the community.

The Garden Oaks Home and Garden Tour tickets are priced at \$10 in advance or \$12 on the day of the tour. Tickets are available at the following locations: Bells Myown Cleaners, 1362 W. 43rd St; Buchanan's Native Plants, 611 E. 11th St; The Frame Shop, 3444 Ella Blvd; Irma's Restaurant, 22 N. Chenevert, Kaplan's Ben Hur, 2125 Yale and Smith & Hawken, 3935 San Felipe. On the day of the tour, tickets will be available at the Command Center/Trolley Station in the Garden Oaks Shopping Center in the 3800 block of N. Shepherd. All advance sale tickets must be redeemed at the Command Center/Trolley station. From there, complimentary Trolleys, generously underwritten by METRO, will take patrons to all 10 tour stops. This will help relieve congestion and parking problems at the tour's homes and gardens.

While you are touring the homes, let your children (2 years and older and potty-trained) experience their own free

"tour"—the Arts Alive! way. Let the fun-loving professionals of Arts Alive! lead your children through imagination exploration. These lucky kids will "tour" creative activity centers like thematic movement, art projects, outdoor play and snacks. Children can be dropped off as early as 11:30 A.M., and must be picked up by 6:30 P.M. at the Fellowship Hall of St. Matthews United Methodist Church located on the northeast corner of N. Shepherd and Crosstimbers.

To ensure adequate staffing levels, parents must call the Garden Oaks Home and Garden Tour Hotline at (713) 267-7800 and leave a message indicating the number of children that will participate.

A limited number of tickets are also available for the Home Tour Preview and Sponsor Party on Saturday, March 31st. For only \$35 per ticket, the evening will feature a sneak preview of all 7 homes and 3 gardens, a Silent Auction, hors d'oeuvres, beverages and entertainment. Calling the Home Tour Hotline at (713) 267-7800 can reserve tickets. Raffle tickets for plenty of local area goods and services will be available on the day of the tour. Raffle tickets sell for just \$1 each. Top prizes include a three-piece set of handcrafted Adirondack chairs and a table, a DVD player and \$200 worth of Shell gasoline.

## 2001 Home and Garden Tour Sponsors

#### Corporate sponsors (\$1000)

AES/Carrier, Inc. Shannon & Associates, Inc.

#### Platinum sponsors (\$500)

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James Flowers, Chronic Pain Management

#### Gold sponsors (\$250)

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Bos Lighting Design
Eileen Hartman, Greenwood King Properties
Raintite Aluminum & Siding
All-Star Construction

### Whither GOMO?

#### Sam Stengler

As I'm writing this, it is the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> week in February. Except for a short exile in Oklahoma, I have always lived along the upper Texas Gulf Coast, including almost 30 years in Houston. Like most folks here, I am again marveling at the extreme changeability of our weather. We've gone from the 40-50's last weekend, up to near 80 this past Friday, and then, amazingly, diving down to almost freezing early this morning.

Our few, brief days of spring-like weather last week heralded all sorts of changes, many of them likely to be premature. The azaleas are blooming, the buds on trees and plants are forming, and wildflowers are popping out all over. However, we are still in the middle of February, a month from 'official' spring, and I'm sure none of us would be surprised to see several frosty, even freezing, nights before March comes around.

Where is all this leading, you ask?

Well, originally, this article was a rather light, but still serious description of the continued progress on our way to having enough 'Yes' ballots for each section to create the Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization (GOMO). Our numbers are way up from last month, with Section 2 almost at the 60% frontage-footage mark, and Section One getting \*real\* close....

However, we've been hit with an unexpected, un-forecast stretch of nasty weather.

I was informed this afternoon that we have a very serious problem with the underlying language of our ballot. A problem which, unfortunately, our attorney and his associates can see no clear, legally sound method of remedying which would allow us to use our existing ballots, and thus, the hundreds of votes that we have already collected.

In short, none of our currently collected votes can be used. We have to re-ballot the neighborhood all over again.

We, the Garden Oaks Deed Restrictions Committee, now have two choices before us: to try and beat our May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2001 deadline by gathering enough folks to return to each of you, our neighbors, and ask that you fill out and sign our corrected ballot. Or, to wait until May 1<sup>st</sup>, re-file our original petitions, and start the yearlong balloting period over again.

By the time you read this, the committee will have met, and tried to decide upon one choice or the other; and most importantly, decide upon a plan to implement that choice in the quickest possible manner.

All of this activity will be reported at the March 6<sup>th</sup> Civic Club meeting, where I (or, our attorney, if she can schedule the time to come) will present as much information about this situation as possible, as well as the committee's recommendation and plan of action.

If ever there was a time for each of you to attend a Garden Oaks Civic Club meeting, it is now. If ever there was a reason for each of you to make your voice heard and your efforts count, this is it.

The potential lapse of our deed restrictions through non-enforcement is certainly the most important issue we face as a neighborhood today. And each of you can be instrumental in getting GOMO created to prevent that lapse. *Every single person* will be important in this effort, and we will desperately need your help!

Come to the March meeting! Let's pull together with our efforts and ideas, and maybe, just maybe, we can pull a success from this potential disaster, and be able to enjoy the coming Spring secure in the knowledge that we have a most powerful weapon in our arsenal to keep our neighborhood as we want it: the Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your Section Captains listed below, or call me at 281-773-3478.

## **GOMO Voting Section Captains**

### Sam Stengler

Section 1 - Mary Tyler Martinez	713 681 3913
Section 1A - James King	713 426 1607
Section 2 - David Heiland	713 927 1125
Section 3 - David Bell	713 694 5016
Section 4 - Steve Powell	713 686 6503
Section 5 - Shelly Immel	713 688 4681
John Evans	713 688 1528
All Sections - Sam Stengler	281 773 3478

## **Beautification Committee**

#### Brenda de Alha

Rick Grochoske, Section 1, has volunteered to chair the Beautification Committee. The Rose Garden workday proceeded as planned. Upcoming workdays are 3/17 - Gazebo Park and 3/24 - Triangle Park both at 9A.M. Please consider volunteering, even if only for an hour.

#### **Heavy Trash**

One Call Program 713 956 6589

Section 1 - March 13

South of 38th – Mar. 6 (including 1A)

North of 38th to South of 43rd – Mar. 13

North of 43rd to Chamboard - Mar. 20

#### Recycling

North of West 43rd St. Tuesday Mar. 6 & 20

South of West 43rd St. Tuesday Mar. 13 & 27

Recycling Hotline 713 837 9130

## Directory of Advertisers

Andrew Smith, CPA	9
Cherry Wolfarth	6
Diane Morish's Boutique	6
DJ's Lawn Care	9
The Frame Shop	8
Green Green Grass	
of Home Reality	7
Harry James	7
Kaplan's Ben Hur	4
Keller Williams/	
The Garden Group	8
Lauder Properties	5
Luxury Lawns	4
Maldonado Landscaping	8
O.D.'s Printing	5
Shannon & Assoc.	5
Terry Jeanes	4
Tree Experts	6
US Tree Experts	9
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# March 2001

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
"People are about as happy as they make up their minds to be." - Abraham Lincoln			1	2	3	
4	5 Very Special Birthday	6 Civic Club Meeting 7:00 P.M. G. O. Elem.	7	8	9	10 Garden Club Work Day Friendship Garden
11	12	Home Tour Meeting 7:00 P.M. 1335 Sue Barnett	14	15 Gazette Deadline Today	16	17 Beautification Committee Work Day Gazebo Park 9 A.M. St. Patrick's Day
18 Garden Club Field Trip Peckerwood Gardens Call 713 426 6046	19	20 Vernal Equinox	21	22	23	24 Beautification Committee Work Day Triangle Park 9 A.M.
25	26	27 Home Tour Meeting 7:00 P.M. 859 Azalea	28	29	30	31

#### Upcoming events

Garden Oaks Home and Garden Tour Sunday, April 1st

Civic Club Meeting Tuesday, April 3rd

Garden Club Meeting Thursday April 12th in 1010 Lamonte

Make sure your Civic Club committee meeting or event gets on the calendar! Email the editor at GOGazette@Mac.com with your information.