

GARDEN OAKS GAZETTE

December 2001

Volume 24, Number 12

Membership Renewal Time

Michael Froebel

I know all of you are busy with the holiday season rapidly approaching, so I will try to be as brief as possible. Membership has some changes coming, such as a new committee chair, a small increase in dues and your membership donations are now due for 2002.

First I would like mention that Cherry Wolfarth will be taking over as the new membership chair. Additionally I will remain on the committee and I understand we may have another volunteer, so this will be the first time in a great while that the committee has had more than one member. I expect that with the additional help, we will be able to complete some of the outstanding goals and even achieve a few new ones. Cherry is our current treasurer and should be able to move into this new position with no problem. Please help me say thanks to Cherry and good luck in your new role.

Membership donations are now due for the 2002 calendar year. There is a membership certificate in the form of an insert in this month's *Gazette* for your convenience, but if by chance it has slipped out or has been misplaced you can still cut the form from the back of the *Gazette* and send it in with your payment. You will likely notice on the form that the recommended household membership dues increased from \$20 to \$25. This increase is to help offset the rising costs associated with maintaining our neighborhood. These monies help maintain our parks and fund initiatives such as GOMO so, take a moment to help beautify your neighborhood by sending in your membership donation. Don't forget the other committees that need your support, such as the Garden Club, Constable Patrol, Beautification, GO COP and *Gazette*.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who support the community with your donations and those of you who donate your time. You help keep Garden Oaks a beautiful and safe place to live. I wish everyone a happy and safe holiday season.

2002 Officer Nominations

Craig Lee

I was asked by Civic Club President David Bell to head up a committee to identify a slate of officers for 2002. Together with Sheila Briones, Terry Jeanes, and Robert DeVeau we contacted 11 individuals that we either personally knew or had been referred to us for the position of president. None of those 11 accepted for varied and certainly valid reasons from not having the time or just not interested. Future years are looking good though!

The nominating committee ran out of time to find a president prior to submitting this article to the *Gazette*. We will continue our work and hope to have a candidate for this important and somewhat fun position prior to the December civic club meeting.

Three individuals have generously agreed to fill the other positions and are being proposed by this committee. They are Vice President: Josh Hamilton, Treasurer: Margie Dalton, and Secretary: Lori Kennedy. I want to publicly thank those who helped this committee and both the individuals that are running and those that took the time to consider running. The civic club needs the continued support and time of as many people as want to get involved. If you would like to visit with me about filling the president spot, give me a call at 713-802-0079 or email to craig_lee@aimfunds.com.

Civic Club Meeting & Annual Potluck Dinner

Tuesday, December 4th, 7:00 P.M. GO Elementary

There will be votes on the 2002 Officers and the 2002 Budget (see articles in this issue). Last names from A-M should bring a meat type entree/casserole, and N-Z should bring vegetable dishes or desserts. Also, the Garden Oaks elementary choir may perform Christmas Carols.

Final Thoughts

David Bell

It's amazing how quick a year goes by, especially when you are having fun. This past year has been all of that and I can't believe a year as civic club president has come and gone. I want to thank a number of people who made the job pleasurable and fun to do, and without whom this job would have been impossible. Stacey Park served as Vice President, and she was invaluable help to me, mostly behind the scenes. She offered sound advice when I called and was always there to fill in when asked, which was often. I hope our civic club is lucky enough to have her as our president some day when her schedule will afford her time to do so. Cherry Wolfarth had probably the most unappreciated duty of all civic club officers as Treasurer. It is time consuming, demanding, and thankless. The treasurer's job is probably one of the most important civic club roles and I especially appreciated her commitment. Also, Amy Shaughnessey has served, for I think three years, as secretary. As president, you realize the importance of accurate minutes to what is discussed at civic club meetings as they are used quite often in making judgement calls. Amy did a masterful job in that capacity.

Further to the above, our committee chairs really make the civic club operate. These people put in countless hours of personal time with little recognition for their efforts. Their names appear each month on the second page of the *Gazette* and if not for them, much of what we take for granted would not get done. Thank them the next time you see one of them.

Finally, I want to thank the residents who come to the meetings and participate in the community activities. We have far too few of them and I am at a loss for why. Whatever the reason, I am thankful for those who do care enough to get out and get involved.

As for my parting thoughts, I have learned a lot about our neighborhood, the city's operations and how things get done. More importantly, I have gotten to know a number of our neighbors better. As with most volunteer jobs I have done in the past, I got back immensely more than I believe I put in. I made some new friends, and am sure made some enemies, but that comes with the territory. The one concept that I did hear from time to time that I want to address is that of the civic club being run by "the clique." That is not new, as I have heard it for as long as I have lived in the neighborhood. From my perspective, that resonates as an excuse for not getting involved. I am not a clique person and don't see it existing. However, if you are waiting for the un-cliquing of

Continued on page 3

Garden Club Officers

<i>President</i> Brenda deAlba	713 694 5934
<i>Vice President</i> Janet Cones	713 956 7340
<i>Secretary</i> Barbara Ballance	
<i>Treasurer</i> Tina Nieto	
<i>Yard of the Month</i> Holly Veech	
<i>Sunshine</i> Terry Jeanes	
<i>Phone Committee</i> Ann Hollis	

Treasurer's Report

Cherry Wolfarth

The table below summarizes projected data for all of 2001 as well as the proposed budget for 2002. The 2002 budget will be voted on at the December civic club meeting.

Category	2001 (Projected)			2002 (Proposed)		
	Expenses	Income	Net	Expenses	Income	Net
Gazette	-9,500.00	9,050.00	-450.00	-11,600.00	9,500.00	-2,100.00
Beautification	-5,300.00	900.00	-4,400.00	-8,495.00	900.00	-7,595.00
Home Tour*	-14,120.00	27,130.00	13,010.00	-12,888.00	27,345.00	14,457.00
Membership	-450.00	4,800.00	4,350.00	-1,120.00	5,075.00	3,955.00
GOMO	-6,500.00	0.00	-6,500.00	-7,035.00	0.00	-7,035.00
General	-640.00	350.00	-290.00	-400.00	300.00	-100.00
GOCOP	-300.00	800.00	500.00	-600.00	800.00	500.00
GardenOaks.org	0.00	0.00	0.00	-150.00	0.00	-150.00
G.O. Elementary	-891.00	0.00	-891.00	-1,000.00	0.00	-1,000.00
Sign Repair/Maint.	0.00	0.00	0.00	-1,000.00	0.00	-1,000.00
Gift (unbudgeted)	-1,500.00	0.00	-1,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tax Refund	0.00	1,966.00	1,966.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTALS	-39,201.00	44,996.00	5,795.00	44,288.00	43,920.00	-368.00
*Home Tour profit in excess of projected \$14,457 will be used for purposes recommended by committee and voted on by the Civic Club.						
CONSTABLE PATROL is not included in budget (separate acct.). Projected expenses for 2002 are \$50,000.						
ESTIMATED YEAR END ACCOUNT BALANCES:			General Acct.	7500		
			Investment Acct.	9700		
			Constable Acct.	500		

Continued from page 2

the civic club before you get involved, then get your own group together and come take charge. Until then, remember the words and wisdom of Teddy Roosevelt – it's not the critic's place to criticize the doer of deeds.

GOMO Section Captains

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| Section 1 - Needs You! | Call Sam Now! |
| Section 1A - James King | 713 426 1607 |
| Section 2 - Warren E. Carlson | 713 697 8690 |
| Section 3 - David Bell | 713 694 5016 |
| Section 4 - Needs You! | Call Sam Now! |
| Section 5 - Shelly Immel | 713 688 4681 |
| All Sections - Sam Stengler | 281 773 3478 |

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Minutes of November 7, 2001 Civic Club Meeting

Amy Shaughnessy, Secretary

President David Bell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The October minutes were approved as published.

Officer Reports

Treasurer - Cherry Wolfarth announced that she has withdrawn from the 2002 Home Tour committee in order to concentrate on her new position as 2002 Membership Committee Chair. Cherry says it looks as though the Civic Club will be \$6-7,000.00 short at the end of the year, which we do have available in savings.

Officer James Moncrief, our new constable, introduced himself and said that he has been in training, but is now actively patrolling. Halloween was surprisingly quiet in Garden Oaks. Officer Moncrief reported on a transient who seems to frequent the area around the Taco Cabana at Shepherd/Durham and 610. This man can be aggressive - if he bothers you, call the Constable's office at 713-755-7628.

Guest Speaker

Tom Moffet of the Net Church spoke on the church and their plans for being an added amenity to our neighborhood. Some of their goals are a Youth Center, after school programs for kids, convalescent outreach, possibly even using the theater to show family films and classics for seniors. The church has plans for more work on the façade. They are also donating the letters from the theater sign to the Civic Club and they currently support the Constable Program.

Committee reports

Beautification - Rick Grochoske announced the bids are in on the park at 30th and Durham. There will be a workday on November 10 at the Triangle Park. To join the Beautification committee, contact Rick at 713-864-8164.

GOCOP - Carl Waters reported on the September crime statistics. Contact Carl at 713-864-1992 for information on becoming a GOCOP.

Constable Program - Co-chair Terry Jeanes announced that the program needs 250 homes to pay for the program in 2002. The application form will be added to the forms section on the Garden Oaks listserv. Thanks to Terry for donating the Constable Program insert in last month's *Gazette*! For more information or to support the Constable Program, contact Terry Jeanes at 713-680-8550.

GardenOaks.org - David Bell is contacting the designer to get the pages that are ready up and running and not wait for them all to be finished before launching the site.

Gazette - Editor Joe Muscara apologized for the error in not getting the 2002 slate of officers published in the November *Gazette*. He expressed thanks to Margie Dalton and Amanda Carlin taking over the delivery coordination so beautifully! To contribute an article to the *Gazette*, contact Joe at 713-691-6833.

Home Tour - Co-chair Sheila Briones announced that raffle tickets for two tickets to the 2002 Sponsor Party are currently available. The committee is looking for live and silent auction items and underwriters for the tour homes and gardens. They are also looking for volunteers to help with the tour. The 2002 Home Tour

will take place on April 7, 2002 and is a great event to show off the neighborhood. It is the only fundraising event for Garden Oaks. For more information, call the tour hotline at 713-267-7800.

Membership - Michael Froebel announced there are 250 paid members currently and he just received the first paid membership for 2002! To join the Civic Club, contact Michael at 713-694-5934.

Garden Club - Brenda de Alba went over some of the efforts that Garden Club makes to give back to Garden Oaks, both in time and financial support. Contact Brenda at 713-694-5934 for more information or to join the Garden Club.

GOMO - Sam Stengler thanked Alex and Mary Martinez for all their extreme efforts on behalf of GOMO and announced that they are stepping down as Section Captains of Section 1. Anyone interested in taking over, please contact Sam. Current voting standings are as follows:

- Section 1 & 1A - 50% approved (needs 75%)
- Section 2 - just under 50% (needs 75%)
- Section 3 - no count at this time
- Section 4 - 30% approved (needs 60%)
- Section 5 - 26% approved (needs 60%)

Call (281-773-3478) or e-mail (sstengler@pdq.net) Sam with any ideas to help promote GOMO to get us over the hump!

President David Bell also thanked Shannon Thompson and her Fall Festival committee for a great job on the festival!

New Business

Announcement of slate of 2002 officers - Nominating committee chair Craig Lee announced the proposed slate of 2002 Civic Club officers:

- President - no candidate identified yet
- Vice-President - Josh Hamilton
- Treasurer - Margie Dalton
- Secretary - Lori Kennedy

Call Terry Jeanes at 713-680-8550 or Sheila Briones at 713-861-8091 if you have any new nominees. The slate will be voted on at the next Civic Club meeting on December 4.

Discussion of preliminary 2002 budget - The proposed 2002 budget was distributed and Treasurer Cherry Wolfarth proposed raising the Household Civic Club dues from \$20 per year to \$25. A suggestion was made to raise the dues to \$30 instead of \$25. A motion was made to keep the increase to \$25.00, which was seconded and passed. The budget does not include expenses for GardenOaks.org. The site hosting for 2002 will be donated by Josh Hamilton and the Civic club will only need to pay the domain name registration costs. \$120.00 will be added to the budget for hosting and maintenance of GardenOaks.org. There was some debate over the Home Tour monies - should they be in the Civic Club budget or kept separate? Civic Club Treasurer Cherry Wolfarth, 2002 Home Tour Co-Captains Mike Caldwell and Sheila Briones discussed and are in agreement that the Home Tour is a fundraising effort for the Civic Club and the money should be budgeted with the Civic Club. The Home Tour committee has the authority to allocate as they see fit any profit from the tour above the budgeted amount. The suggestion was made that *Gazette* printing costs could be lowered by cutting some of the extra articles to keep the *Gazettes* shorter, using less paper. The suggestion was

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Beauty Is My Business

Continued from page 5

also made that the total cash the Civic Club has in all its accounts be added to the budget to show side by side comparisons of funds and also to reflect the Constable Program income and expenses on Civic Club reports, even though the money is a separate entity with its own account. The 2002 proposed budget will be published in the December *Gazette* and will be voted on at the December Civic Club meeting.

GOMO drawing - Sam Stengler drew the names for the winners of the GOMO drawings - a \$200.00 and a \$300.00 winner for each section and a \$500.00 grand prizewinner.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m. Refreshments for the meeting were graciously provided by Terry Jeanes, REMAX/Metro.

Citizens on Patrol

Carl Waters, Jr.

Some months it seems like there is a lot to write about and some months I can't find anything to write about. It would appear that December is one of my lean months and so I will keep it short and sweet and simply wish:

Happy Holidays to one and all from your neighbors and friends at Citizens On Patrol.

September Crime Statistics (3)

Robbery (1)

700 block of W. 30th St. on September 11 at 4:10 a.m. (residence).

Burglary of a Motor Vehicle(1)

2900 block of N. Shepherd on September 25 at 6:00 p.m. (parking lot).

Auto Theft (1)

300 block of W. 34th St. on September 7 at 9:30 a.m. (street).

I do have some information to report on the robbery incident. It was reported to me that the resident of the home, a 65-year-old female, was awakened by the sound of breaking glass. The resident armed herself, but either surrendered the weapon or had it taken from her when the three intruders started yelling they were the police. The woman was beaten and bound with duct tape but later managed to get herself to the neighbors (still partially bound with tape) to tell her story and have the police called. I was told she moved from the residence but stayed somewhere else in the neighborhood. The culprits got away.

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 about joining our program.

Emergency Contact Numbers

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Precinct One Constable Dispatch	713-755-7628



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Contact Holly Veech at 713 263 8659 or send an e-mail to Holly.Veech@Chron.com.

Winter Gardening

Mark Saranie

First of all, my wife and I hope everyone in Garden Oaks has a beautiful Christmas filled with renewed appreciation of our country, our families, and our collective ways of life.

Now, look at what winter has dragged in with it... the gardening task of protecting those plants we have faithfully pampered and protected throughout the year. As much as I enjoy cooler temperatures and the occasional cold snap, I never look forward to insuring the longevity of my green masters. Gardening, is like procrastinating on homework or preparing for an exam; trying to make up for all the projects pondered upon but never done is a task too daunting to conceive of tackling. But we do it, right?

Here are some quick things to do. If you have mulched well throughout the year, protecting your plants will be an easy thing. Because of our mild winters, many of the plants used in the garden will come back from the roots. If you do not have any of these types, spring is the time to fill in those vacated spots and eliminates some of the worry for the following winter. I'll have a list for you in January.

Plants need water during our winters. The air is drier during these months and moisture evaporates readily. Watering well is especially important if a freeze of any type is forthcoming. The water will help in eliminating air pockets that will otherwise fill with the cold air and kill the roots.

Using coverings to protect less cold hardy plants is a good idea. Remember to remove these, (especially if they are plasticized), the next day if the weather will remain above freezing for a stretch of time. In some cases this protection turns into a sauna that will cook your plant leaving you with a sad pile of mush.

Even if a plant looks like it needs pruning and it is warm out, resist the temptation. Pruning prompts vegetation to add on new growth and since winter pruning is mysteriously linked to freezing weather, Old Man Winter will be watching you and pay you an icy visit. Using a fertilizer high in nitrogen (the first number of the three typically found on fertilizer bags) during the winter will have the same effect as pruning. Use a fertilizer high in phosphorus (the middle number) instead. Have fun this winter and don't break your back moving that one-hundred-pound pot. The plant in it can be replaced. Yeah, like I follow my own advice.

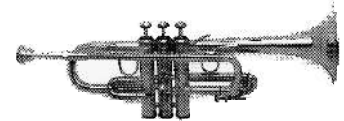
Garden stuff for December

- Mulch, mulch, mulch. The abundance of discarded tree clothing will make mulching easy.
- Fertilize your winter color.
- Dream about spring and plan your gardens. Doing so is more difficult when planting time is here.

December Yard of the Month

3213 Lawrence

Jerry Vuchak - for beautiful fall mums



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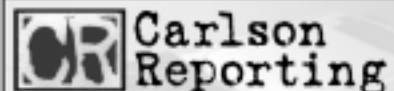
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Critter Corner

Casey and Mau Mau Farris

Hi neighbors and HAPPY HOLIDAYS! Yep, we are full swing into the holidays and many people find this season very stressful. Did you know that it could also be a stressful time for your pets? Mau Mau and I have some tips for you to keep the stress down for your pets, along with some crafty ideas to treat your wild birds. We also have a new section called "Lost & Found" to help reunite neighborhood pets with their families.

Neighborhood News: Squeaky Dansby (Lab Mix) has had a bout with pancreatitis. His sister Pinta (Dalmatian) is quite the ballplayer. Biscuit May (No Idea Yellow Mix) has been getting out of his fence lately so y'all keep a look out on W. 31st Street. His brother Dexter May (Spotted No Idea Mix) is a large dog but the most sensitive dog in the neighborhood and he gets real sad when Biscuit is gone. Austin Posada (Husky/Border Collie) is doing so well with the "no jump" command. Good boy Austin! Buster Bear (Cocker/Poodle) and Sonny (Border Collie) Wolfarth took advantage of the pet sitter and got fed double while their mother was out of town. Back on the diet you two!

Pet of the Month: "Miss December" is Spooky Thompson. Spooky is a three-year-old Tortoiseshell feline with the most pleasant disposition. Typically cats don't like surprises and don't like strangers. Spooky has had more than her share of both lately. Recently her family was out of town and while they were gone contractors were in and out of the house disrupting her schedule and disrupting the house. She never missed a beat; she stayed right on that routine, and before long she had every contractor catering to her desires. Besides agreeable, she is friendly and affectionate. She shares her territory with a Pug named Presley and a 19-month-old little girl named Parker. Parker and Spooky are especially close. Spooky stays in at night, but goes in and out during the day. Her favorite hang-out is under the house.

Critters 101: Holiday Stress

Although they needn't fret about finding the perfect gift for someone, pets – like people – may experience stress this holiday season. Routines are very important for a lot of our pets, especially cats and nothing disrupts routine more than the holiday season. Visitors in the home, crazy schedules, re-arranged furniture, or a lack of attention may cause pets to engage in strange behaviors, such as pacing, whining, clinging, licking themselves excessively or hiding under the bed. Many pets exhibit stress by losing their appetite and will stop eating. Pet owners should be on guard for these signs and take appropriate steps to prevent them.

Our pets are accustomed to eating, sleeping, exercising, and playing at designated times during the day – a schedule we generally adhere to nine months out of the year. However, from November through January, our routines change reflecting our holiday commitments, and our pets' world is turned upside down. Although it is difficult, your pets' routines should be maintained as much as possible during the holiday season. Feed your pets at their usual time, check the water bowl frequently, let your dogs out regularly and provide a comfortable, quiet place of refuge for your pets to retreat to if they need to escape the hustle and bustle around them.

In addition to these creature comforts, keep in mind that Poinsettias, Holly berries and Mistletoe are all toxic plants if ingested by your pets. If you add preservatives to your Christmas tree's water, this water can be toxic if consumed. Tinsel, holiday ornaments and wrappings really do look like toys and can be hazardous to your pet. Kittens like to climb trees, so you will want to see that your Christmas tree is well anchored. Chocolate is toxic and can even be fatal for your pets. Rich holiday foods, laden with sugar and fat can give your pets severe gastrointestinal complaints.

The holidays may be hectic, but they are a wonderful time to re-connect with family and friends. Make sure you spend quality time with your pets and keep in mind how stress reducing their company can be for you. Just by simply being together, you and your pet can reduce each other's stress, improve your moods, and enhance each other's well being. Now, what could be a better holiday gift than that?

Lost & Found: The Ricklefsens (Section 1) are still looking for their Siamese cat that got out during a rainstorm in September. SIAM is a one year old seal point which means she has dark chocolate points on her ears, feet, face and tail. Her body has a cream colored undercoat with dark chocolate hindquarters. Her eyes are very large and blue. She is spayed and declawed. The Ricklefsens are new to the neighborhood and they miss SIAM terribly. Please call Trish at 832-618-1606 with any clues to SIAM's whereabouts.

The Gigliottis (Section 1) have inherited a beautiful female cat that was left when her owners moved away. As it turned out, not only is she beautiful but she is also a fine mother. She has a litter of kittens that will soon be ready for adoption. If interested please contact me.

Dear Mau Mau: Why does my cat let her food get old before she eats? *D. Mann*

You are probably pulling her food out of the fridge and we prefer our food at 86 degrees Fahrenheit. Hello! Can't you cook? *Mau Mau*

Casey's Comments: This holiday season, bond with your pack, and when you are happy dance around and wag your entire body.

Migratory Report: We are getting fewer species of fall transits heading toward the tropics. Instead, winter residents are arriving and will spend the next six months in our area. Families such as sparrows and waterfowl blow in on late fall fronts and seek out a winter habitat. Now is a good time to inspect and clean all bird feeders and birdbaths. Inspect and clean all of your birdhouses. During rainy, windy or cold weather, many birds will take shelter in them. Clean out old nest debris and add some wood chips or dry grass to offer some insulation. For the holidays, decorate a tree outside for your guests with edible ornaments. A garland of fruit would be a nice gift or a pinecone dipped in peanut butter and rolled in birdseed.

Please forward your questions and pet news to Casey@goDOGusa.com or call 713-683-6191.

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**VOTE YES
on GOMO.**

As a neighbor and realtor, I feel strongly that this is what we must do to preserve the beauty and integrity of our great neighborhood!

Cherry Wollarth, Realtor
Prudential GARY GREENE, REALTORS®

Office: 713-686-5454 Pager: 281-625-3711

2002 Garden Oaks Home & Garden Tour

Sunday, April 7, 12-6 p.m.

Mark this down on your calendars!

Friends of Montessori News

*Christine Adams, President, Friends
of Montessori Board*

The Friends of Montessori Board invites parents to apply for admissions to the Garden Oaks Elementary Montessori program for the 2002-03 school year. Applications will be available on or about Jan. 15, 2001 and will be accepted on the first Monday in March.

If you have ever been curious about what the Montessori method offers children, you will have your opportunity to experience a small taste of this exciting and comprehensive approach to learning. You can get an idea about whether the Montessori method would suit your child's needs. During the last week of January 2002, the teachers will present lessons from the Montessori method. Parents will be able to look at the different Montessori instructional materials from all levels and see how Montessori materials teach children. Teachers will present lessons and show how these lessons are reintroduced to students in increasingly complex ways as children advance from preschool through sixth grade. The exact date and time will be announced in January 2002.

In the meantime, parents are welcome to visit the Montessori classrooms, meet the teachers and students. We hope you will talk with families who have graduated from the program and with those who are currently enrolled. Montessori education emphasizes hands-on, self-directed learning paced to fit the student's individual strengths and challenges. Montessori materials are naturally interesting to children and the teachers are very adept at helping children find a pace suitable for their abilities. This combination helps children work at the right level for them - not above or below it. The Montessori program at Garden Oaks serves gifted/talented and regular students, valuing each child's unique contributions to our community. If Montessori instruction is not your preference, Garden Oaks Elementary also offers regular instruction and the Sights program for gifted/talented students.

Below are the main features of the Montessori admissions policy. The full policy will be available for interested parents from the office at Garden Oaks Elementary.

Garden Oaks Elementary Montessori Admissions Policy for 2002-2003

1. All students must be zoned to go to Garden Oaks Elementary School and must submit a current application.
2. Applications will be processed and prospective students accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis. Applications will be accepted beginning on the first Monday in March.
3. All students who cannot be placed in one of the Montessori classrooms will be put on a waiting list in the order in which their applications are received. If a space opens up during the year, then the space will be offered to the first person on the waiting list, then to the second, etc. Those remaining on the list will be considered first for the next enrollment period provided that they have re-submitted an application for the new enrollment period. Parents must communicate to the Principal their intentions before the enrollment period for the next school year to assist in planning the classrooms.
4. There will be a maximum of 50% of the open spaces in each class reserved for the siblings of students who are already a part of, or who have graduated from, the Garden Oaks Montessori Program. Parents must communicate to the Principal their children's qualifications for this before the beginning of the enrollment period for the next school year.
 - a) If there are fewer siblings applying than there are reserved spaces, then the siblings will automatically be accepted into the Program.
 - b) If there are more siblings applying than there are reserved spaces, then they will be accepted into the program on a first-come, first-serve basis as a part of the normal policy. If siblings do not make it into the class, they will go onto the waiting list. If a space opens up, siblings and non-siblings will alternate into the open spaces, maintaining the 50% ratio for the new students. The 50% number is not a limit to the number of siblings, but rather an added chance that the sibling will make it into the Program.
5. The children of the Montessori teachers will be automatically accepted into the Program.
6. The children of Montessori teacher aides will be automatically accepted into the Program.
7. Unforeseen circumstances may arise. Therefore, the Principal will have final discretion on resolving any issues on admissions. Constructive feedback on the admissions process from participants is encouraged. In the fall of 2001, prior to enrollment, the FOM Board in conjunction with the Principal will consider suggestions from parents regarding the admissions policy for 2002-03.
8. The Principal and the teachers determine each student's classroom assignment.

The letters keep coming...

Dear Neighbors:

As a result of reading the letters in the November 2001 *Gazette*, I felt the need for some additional explanation.

I only sued the Garden Oaks Board of Trustees because two of their members stood on my property and told my son they intended to sue me and I also knew that the Board of Trustees would sue, based on my prior experience in 1986. When they actually did finally sue me individually, they asked the court to award \$200 per day in fines for every day that a "violation" was in existence. At the time that lawsuit was filed, the fine would have been in the aggregate total of \$87,600, an amount which was significant enough to where it mandated that I continue to fight through the legal system with the former Board of Trustees.

There have been discussions about the Summary Judgment award I was granted by the Court. A Summary Judgment is awarded to either a plaintiff or defendant if the Judge perceives that the plaintiff or defendant would prevail in trial. This means that the Judge believed, based on a preponderance of the evidence provided by me, that I would prevail in trial and did not require me to go to trial to prove my point. By virtue of that decision there was not a trial and the final record maintained at the County Courthouse, due to the fact that there was not a trial, does not include all of the evidence which was presented.

However, I have maintained all of that evidence, all of the depositions taken of each of the former Board Trustees, the pictures, all of the motions and I have this documentation available for anyone who would like to review it at my office which is located at 1415 North Loop West, Suite 500. My office telephone number is 713.621.3675. If anyone would like to come over and review and/or copy this information you are welcome to do so. I only request that you call ahead of time so that I can schedule a conference room for your use. I also have maintained all of the records of Exhibits to the depositions that include the surveys of the property of each of the respective former Board of Trustee members.

There is some very interesting reading in the depositions of each of the former Board of Trustees that were taken under oath in my lawsuit. For example, all of the former Board of Trustees but one admitted to having the same or a similar violation on their property that was identical to what they were in the process of suing me for.

Also included in those depositions are testimonies that the former Board of Trustees documented that there were 136 exceptions and/or violations known to them on October 29, 1990 (I have enclosed a copy of that document for review by the *Gazette* editor). The depositions of each of the former Board of Trustee members was also evidence considered by

the Judge in granting the Motion for Summary Judgment. Most of the former Board of Trustee members testified that even though they had the same or similar violations on their property, that they did not think it was inappropriate to file a lawsuit against me.

There has been so much encouragement to individual neighbors to individually file lawsuits against other neighbors that they personally feel are violating the deed restrictions. This is a very expensive and lethal process. If you as an individual file a lawsuit and it happens that the other party prevails, then you get to not only pay for your attorney fees, but all of the costs of the other person's attorney fees that you have caused by virtue of your lawsuit. In my case I was awarded approximately \$25,000 by the Court from the former Board of Trustees fund to reimburse my legal expenses, since I was deemed to have prevailed, even without a trial. The cost of litigation, especially if you happen to be proven wrong, is very expensive and could produce a great financial hardship on anyone who decides to file a lawsuit related to deed restrictions.

You cannot selectively or arbitrarily enforce deed restrictions in the State of Texas. One Judge in Texas, after reading depositions where former Board of Trustee members testified under oath that they had similar violations on their properties, decided to grant a Summary Judgment. Until and unless the vast majority of the violations that have occurred in the last 50 years are all corrected; or someone comes up with the funding to move or destroy all of those garages, carports and houses that are built on property lines, the full scope of the Garden Oaks deed restrictions will NEVER be enforceable. There is no statute of limitations on violations prior to some mythical period of time and a neighborhood cannot begin enforcement in the current period on new construction when the same violations are apparent on old construction for a period of 50 years.

I read in the November 2001 *Gazette* that "it has always been the intention of the GOMO to have elected directors, partly because of perceived secrecy around the old Board of Trustees." We, at least I, still do not know who this purported slate of directors are going to be, how and if they will be elected or appointed and who will elect/appoint them. I could never vote for something and give an organization the ability to tax my property on transfer, without knowing how or if those people will become elected, appointed or anointed.

Last, but not least, it was interesting to me, in the responses in the letters included in the November 2001 *Gazette*, that it appears clearly to me that the sole purpose and charter of GOMO appears to be the initiation of lawsuits against the residents of this neighborhood. **WHY?**

Victor C. Moore
532 West 32nd Street

What Defines Custom Window Treatments?

Susan Kostelecky, Certified Window Fashions Professional

There are many ready-made window treatments available today through mail order catalogs, "big box" retail stores, and large department stores. How do these differ from custom window treatments? What justifies the price difference? I'd like to answer some of these questions.

Window Sizes

Custom window treatments are made specifically for your windows. Therefore, if your windows vary by 1/4" inch, custom treatments will be made to fit each window in the room individually. Lengths are specific to your window area (window height, area above and below the window), and are proportionate to your window area, depending on where the treatment will be mounted.

Fullness

Industry standard for custom drapery panels or valances is 2.5 times fullness. Therefore, if you have a window that is 45 inches wide and the valance board face is 48", the face fabric allowed is then 48 times 2.5, which is 120" (plus allowances for returns).

There are exceptions to this: tab top valances or panels are generally 1.5 to 1.75 times fullness. Custom sheers are 3 times fullness, or sometimes more, depending on the look desired. Sometimes drapery panels or valances are more than 2.5 times fullness, again, depending upon the style of the room and the weight of the fabric.

Because windows vary so widely in size, ready-made valances and panels generally do not fit your windows with the proper fullness, so your treatments might look less lush than you would like.

Style and Color

Custom window treatments can be made in fabrics that match your existing furniture or accessories, or in fabrics that coordinate with and complement your things. There are literally thousands of fabrics to choose from to mix and match, as you prefer, rather than limited fabrics and styles that may be available in a store. You can put your own style on display and have a room that no one else has.

Trims and Details

This category ties in somewhat with the "style and color" category above. With custom bedding, pillows or window treatments, you can select from numerous trims and details. Some of these details include jute trim that comes in numerous shades, which is great for a lodge look room; other trims are leather, ribbon, fringe, tassels, cording, banding, feathers, nail heads, suede, monograms, embroidery...there are virtually unlimited combinations to coordinate with your taste and preferences.

Selection and Installation

When you work with a professional window treatment consultant, fabrics and ideas are brought to you in your home. Working together, you decide on what style treatment and fabrics work best for your room. Your consultant can help you decide which fabrics work best for the treatment you have selected, so you get a beautiful finished product that meets or exceeds your expectations.

Once your treatments have been fabricated, a professional installer will arrive at your home at an agreed upon date and time and install your draperies, valances, blinds or shades. His job every day, all day, is to install window treatments. He is experienced at installing into different types of walls (plaster, concrete, wood, sheetrock) or ceilings and knows how to install specialty hardware, traversing rods, valances, decorative hardware, motorized equipment, tiebacks, arched treatments...anything you can order, he can install. He will make quick work of installing complicated layers of treatments so they function well and look beautiful.

This can be the best result of ordering custom window treatments—you don't have to decide where or how to mount the hardware! Your only job is to sit back and admire the treatments you selected that look so wonderful in your home.

Your window treatment consultant should be on site at the installation to provide accurate directions to the installer on where to install the treatments. She will also dress out the treatment, adjust folds into proper placement, determine the height of tiebacks, and take photos of the completed work for her portfolio. She will also answer any questions you have about caring for your window treatments, and verify that your treatments are at least as beautiful as you had hoped! You should also receive cuttings of the fabrics used in your treatments for your future use in purchasing accessories.

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

Stop Holiday Weight Gain Before it Becomes a New Year's Resolution

Catherine Kruppa, MS, RD, LD

The month between Thanksgiving and Christmas is full of family and friends and lots of celebrating. Don't give in to the 5-10 pound weight gain, which you plan to get off in 2002, make some changes now!

Alcohol not only contributes to additional calories at a meal, but it also decreases your satiety. This means you feel less full and tend to nibble. Nibbling after drinking alcoholic beverages can add up to an additional 300 calories during your meal, not to mention that the alcohol itself can contribute an amazing 300-700 calories per meal.

The first step is to know the calories that you are drinking. Try to go for the lower calorie drinks such as champagne or wine. Order a wine spritzer instead of wine itself and save 82 calories.

12 oz Alcohol free Beer	65	4 oz Eggnog	335
12 oz Beer	150	8 oz Gin & tonic	155
12 oz Light Beer	100	3 1/2 oz Manhattan	165
5 oz Bloody Mary	125	8 oz Margarita	300
8 oz Bourbon & Coke	195	3 1/2 oz Martini	140
4 oz Champagne	85	3 1/2 oz Whiskey Sour	200
3 1/2 oz Daiquiri	125	3 1/2 oz Wine	85

A safe limit is 100-200 calories from alcoholic beverages daily. Alcohol converts to fat when metabolized by the body. Recent studies show that alcohol causes the body to burn less fat, therefore fat burning and weight loss slow down.

At parties, have another hors d'oeuvre instead of a second drink, and you may eat less later. In a recent study, people who ate an additional 450 calories made up for it by eating less later in the day. Those who drank an additional 450 calories did not compensate for the drinks, thus adding 450 calories to their normal day's total that led to weight gain.

If you really want another drink, stick to calorie-free cocktails such as club soda with a twist of lime. Other lower calorie beverages include White Wave Silk Nog (soy eggnog) which contains half the calories and 17 grams less fat than regular eggnog, Diet V8 Splash, Sugar free hot apple cider mix, Martinelli's sparkling cider, Carnation fat free hot cocoa mix, and General Foods International Coffees.

Constable Program

Terry Jeanes & Susan Saranie Co-Chairs

The 2002 campaign is well underway. Thanks to all of you who jumped on the bandwagon and got your dues in right away.

Reminder...dues are \$180 per year if paid by January 30th, 2002 (\$200 per year after). The automatic draft option is available at \$20 per month. Membership includes 40 hours of paid professional law enforcement patrol, security check for discount on your homeowner's insurance, vacation watch, membership handbook, and alarm contact call for quick response (including no charge for false alarms). Join today and be eligible for the January Drawing including a potpourri of gift certificates and items to enjoy.

Added thanks to the following 2001 campaign members: The deAlbas (Lamonte), The Halls (W.43rd), J Vuchak (Lawrence), D. Toon (W.34th), The Staffords (W 31st), The Pruitts (W. 42nd), The Amsdens (W 41st), and The Slaviks (Sue Barnett).

Heard Under the Oak Tree

Terry Jeanes

Welcome New Neighbors who recently closed on their homes:

923 West 41st.	1071 West 43rd.
308 West 32nd.	411 West 30 th
212 West 31st.	963 West 43rd.
882 West 41st.	962 Lamonte (correction)
4255 Apollo	

Welcome to the neighborhood and we hope to see you at a Civic Club meeting soon.

Neighborhood extras...Happy Belated Birthday to *Holly Veech*, November 8th, and *Becky Jeanes*, November 11th.

Well wishes to *Brenda deAlba* on recuperation from her recent illness. Best wishes to *Michael Chiasson*, Garden Oaks student studying in Canada who will be traveling to Rome over the holidays. *Sheila Briones*...hope you had a great trip to Boston.

To highlight a neighbors special event or tidbit, contact Terry Jeanes @ 713-812-9154 or jeanest@pdq.net.

Useful Numbers

Senior Helper
713 862 3747

One Call Program
(Heavy trash and more)
713 956 6589

Recycling Hotline
713 837 9130

Rat-on-a-Rat
(Illegal Dumping)
713 525 2728

Neighborhood
Protection Team
(Enforce City Codes for
environmental matters)
713 525 2525

Public Works
(Water/sewer, street
repairs, street lighting,
trees or bushes that are
traffic hazards)
713 837 0600

Bruce Tatro (District A)
713 247 2010

Ken Yarbrough
713 263 1516

John Whitmire
713 864 8701

December 2001

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

Upcoming events Civic Club Meeting Tuesday, January 8 th - Note later date due to New Year's holiday <i>Make sure your Civic Club committee meeting or event gets on the calendar! Email the editor at GOGazette@Mac.com with your information.</i>						1
2	3	4 Civic Club Meeting 7:00 P.M. GO Elem	5	6	7 Pearl Harbor Day	8
9	10 Hanukkah	11 Home Tour Meeting 7:00 P.M. 859 Azalea Ornament Exchange Party	12	13 Garden Club Meeting 7:00 P.M. 420 W.32 nd	14	15 Gazette Article Deadline
16	17 Eid Al-Fitr	18	19	20	21 Winter Solstice	22
23	24 Christmas Eve	25	26	27	28	29
30	31 New Year's Eve	Christmas	Kwanza			

2002 Garden Oaks Civic Club Membership Form

Please note that your Civic Club dues are now payable on the first of each year.

Name(s) _____ Phone _____

Address _____ Own Rent Section # _____

(A) Annual Dues

- Household \$25
- Senior Citizen \$5
- Business \$50

(B) Additional Program Support

- All Three Programs \$18
- Gazette \$7
- Citizens on Patrol \$7
- Beautification \$7

(C) Constable Patrol Program

- Annual Payment \$200 (\$180 before 1/31)
- Contact me about participating in the Monthly Debit Program
- Other Contribution \$ _____

(D) Gift to the Garden Club \$7 or other \$ _____

Total amount enclosed (A) _____ + (B) _____ + (C) _____ + (D) _____ = \$ _____

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO Garden Oaks Civic Club
Mail completed form and payment to PO Box 10273, Houston, TX 77206