

GARDEN OAKS GAZETTE

February 2002

Volume 25, Number 2

2002 Home & Garden Tour Planning in Full Swing

Sheila Briones, 2002 Co-Chair

With the April 7th Tour fast approaching (*only two months away!*), the 2002 Home & Garden Tour Committee is in high gear, planning and tying up loose ends for the upcoming Tour.

A combination of six homes and three gardens will be featured:

| | | |
|-------------------------|-----------|---------------|
| 415 W. 30 th | Section 1 | Home & Garden |
| 432 W. 30 th | Section 1 | Home & Garden |
| 1535 Sue Barnett | Section 5 | Home & Garden |
| 423 W. 31 st | Section 1 | Home |
| 811 W. 41 st | Section 3 | Home |
| 938 LaMonte | Section 4 | Home |
| 336 W. 33 rd | Section 1 | Garden |
| 420 W. 32 nd | Section 1 | Garden |
| 803 LaMonte | Section 3 | Garden |

Funding is also in full swing and underwriters at all levels are still needed. Contact Sheila Briones (713) 861-8091, sbriones@hotmail.com or Susan Kostelecky (713) 697-4110, skdesigns@mindspring.com if you or your company would like to underwrite a home or garden. Thank you to those underwriters who have stepped forward as of this writing:

Corporate Sponsor, \$1000, Shannon & Associates, Inc.
Platinum Sponsor, \$500, Terry Jeanes, ReMax/METRO
Platinum Sponsor, \$500, Mike Caldwell Building & Design
Platinum Sponsor, \$500, Harry James Building & Design
Gold Sponsor, \$250, Pat Walker, Keller Williams – The Garden Group

Volunteers are still needed to fill in as docents, ticket takers, greeters, trolley guides, members of the Set-up crew, etc. As an incentive volunteers will be given a T-shirt and one tour ticket. Volunteers will also be honored at a "Volunteer Thank-You Party" immediately following the Tour. If you would like to volunteer, contact Tina Sabuco (713) 692-6778, tinamarie@houston.rr.com or Brenda de Alba (713) 694-5934, brenda.p.dealba@exxonmobil.com

Before the day of the tour, various merchants around the neighborhood will sell discounted tickets at \$12 each. On the day of the tour, tickets will be sold for \$15 each at the Tour Command Center in the Garden Oaks Shopping Center, W. 38th at N. Shepherd. Patrons can also purchase T-shirts and drinks, park their cars and catch a FREE ride on the Metro trolleys to each Tour home and garden.

Home/Garden owners, sponsors, and underwriters will also be honored at a Sponsor Party held the night before, Saturday, April 6th, at which a Silent and Live Auction will take place. This year you'll be able to bid on-line for auction items at your own convenience before and during the Sponsor Party. **(For a detailed synopsis of the on-line auction procedures, see the *Gazette* article on page 9)** Tickets to the Sponsor Party are \$40 per person. Reserve your tickets now by contacting Deanna Zugheri at (713) 956-1349, deanna@greenwoodking.com

Remember, the Tour is scheduled for Sunday, April 7th, from 12 noon to 6 p.m. For up-to-date information about the Tour, call the Tour Hotline at (713) 267-7800.

Civic Club Meeting

*Tuesday,
February 5th*

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

And Now, A Word From Your President...

Kenneth J. Santos

If you are in favor of or against GOMO, *now* is the time to make your opinion heard! GOMO has about 5 months left to complete its task of collecting votes. This balloting will determine whether the residents of Garden Oaks want a Maintenance Organization, or not.

For all of you who have returned your ballots, a very big thanks! If you are in favor of GOMO and haven't returned your ballot, please do so. If you don't vote, that non-vote will count as a NO vote. All votes, yes, no, and non-votes, count!

If you have questions and are unsure as to the importance of having a Maintenance Organization to protect our neighborhood, ask your questions, weigh the pros and cons, ask more questions and then make a decision and vote. If you are against having a Maintenance Organization, or have fears about how it will affect you, let the GOMO committee know why. Your input could prove to be valuable.

Garden Oaks Deed Restrictions are still in effect and are enforceable. With a Maintenance Organization, enforcing the deed Restrictions will be easier. As I stated last month, GOMO's purpose is to protect your investment in Garden Oaks and for the betterment of our neighborhood. Get out there and vote!

Download PDFs of recent Gazettes at
<http://homepage.mac.com/GOGazette>

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.

Join the Garden Oaks List Serv. It's easy, it's fun, and best of all, it's free. Just go to

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Houston_GO/join

Garden Club Officers

| | |
|--|--------------|
| <i>President</i> Janet Cones | 713 956 7340 |
| <i>Vice President</i> Holly Veech | 713 263 8659 |
| <i>Secretary</i> Susan Spooner-Gunther | |
| <i>Treasurer</i> Tina Nieto | |
| <i>Yard of the Month</i> Terry Jeanes | |
| <i>Sunshine</i> Barbara Ballance | |
| <i>Phone Committee</i> Cathey Land | |

Minutes of the January 8, 2002 Civic Club Meeting

Lori Kennedy, Secretary

President Kenneth Santos called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. It was moved, seconded, and passed to accept the December minutes as published.

Constable Report

Deputy James Moncrief reported that 2 suspects were apprehended during an attempted burglary in the 300 block of W. 31st. An alert neighbor called in a suspicious person and the constable responded within 2 minutes. HPD also responded to the alarm triggered at the residence. The 2 suspects were acting as a team with 1 person serving as an armed lookout. Deputy Moncrief also said these individuals may have been responsible for other crimes as service calls have dropped since their apprehension. The rapid response time from the constable was instrumental in apprehending these suspects.

Officer Reports

Treasurer – Outgoing treasurer Cherry Wolfarth prepared the year-end report for 2001. Last year's actual income and expenses were better than anticipated and resulted in an approximate \$1000 surplus to the budget. There is about \$25,000 in the combined Civic Club accounts. Please see new treasurer Margie Dalton for all future checks and reports.

Standing Committee Reports

Beautification - Chair Rick Grochoske announced a work day in the Rose Garden (34th and Lawrence, Section 1) on Saturday, 2/16/02 beginning at 9:00 a.m. All are welcome to join in on the fun and help trim the roses. Contact Rick 713.864.8164 for more information or to volunteer.

GOCOP - Chair Carl Waters reported the November crime statistics. Carl reminded everyone that he gets the information from the HPD website, and any resident can do the same. Residents may also attend HPD's Positive Interaction meeting at St. Matthew's church (43rd and Shepherd) on the 3rd Thursday of every month for more information. He reports more details about crimes when he is aware of them, but that extra information is not always available. Citizens on Patrol is sponsored by HPD and staffed by GO volunteer residents. Patrollers must attend a 1 hour training from HPD. Volunteers are always needed. Contact Carl at 713.864.1992 for more information or to volunteer.

Constable Program – Co-chair Terry Jeanes reported that the new contract has been signed at the same rate as last year. Membership booklets and phone stickers are available to paid supporters. Terry reiterated that the quick response time of the constable was a major factor in catching the 2 burglary suspects; otherwise, they probably would have escaped. The prize drawing has been delayed until the February meeting. Contact Terry at 713.812.9154 for more information or to support the constable program.

Gazette – Chair Joe Muscara reminded everyone that the deadline for submissions is the 15th of every month. Contact Joe at GOGazette@Mac.com regarding *Gazette* submissions. Contact Holly Veech at 713.263.8659 for *Gazette* advertising.

Home & Garden Tour – Co-chair Sheila Briones reminded everyone the home tour is scheduled for Sunday, 4/7/02 from 12:00–6:00 p.m. Tickets are \$12 pre-sale and \$15 day of tour. The sponsor party is Saturday 4/6/02. Tickets are \$40 each and will be available after 3/18/02. The committee is still searching for underwriters to support each home and/or garden. There are 3 levels of sponsorship: Gold (\$250), Platinum (\$500) and Corporate (\$1000). Current sponsors are: Corporate – Shannon & Associates, Inc; Platinum – Terry Jeanes, Re-Max/METRO; Mike Caldwell Building & Design; Harry James Building & Design; and Houston Structural; Gold – Pat Walker, Keller Williams, The Garden Group; and Clouse Floors. Trish Ricklefsen is coordinating the silent auction for the home tour. Trish stated that this year the silent auction will be available on-line in order to expand the viewing time and increase the bidding time for auctioned items, and to give participating businesses more exposure. Businesses who donate will be credited on the website. Auction items will have a picture, brief description and minimum bid listed on the site. Joe Muscara is creating this website. The target date for the on-line site is 2/1/02. Bids will be accepted on-line until 3/30/02. New items will be added to the site as they are donated. Final bidding will take place at the sponsor party. Trish encouraged people to submit "wish lists" of items they would like to see available for bidding. The home tour can still use volunteers. Tina Sabuco and Brenda DeAlba are coordinating volunteers for the day of the tour. Trish Ricklefsen is coordinating volunteers to solicit auction donations. Call the home tour hotline 713.267.7800 for more information or to volunteer. The home tour committee will meet Wednesday 1/9/02 at 7:00 p.m.

Membership – Chair Cherry Wolfarth announced that there are a few people interested in serving on the committee this year. The committee will focus on increasing membership and Civic Club meeting attendance, and completing the welcome packet for new residents. The committee will also publish names of GOCC members in the *Gazette* 2 times per year, hopefully beginning with the February issue.

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Ad Hoc Committee Reports

Deed Restrictions – Chair Sam Stengler reported that the next meeting would be Wednesday 1/16/02 at 7:00 p.m. at the Kroger. The meeting will be a planning meeting focusing on the bylaws and a balloting push in February and March. Contact Sam at 281.773.3478 for more information or to volunteer.

GO.org – No report.

Garden Club

Brenda DeAlba reported that the Garden Club meets the second Thursday of every month. This Thursday the meeting will be at 407 W. 33rd and will be a planning meeting for this year. Contact Janet Cones at 713.956.7340 for more information or to join.

Old Business

Rick Grochoske reported that the city should start construction on the new park area at Randal and Durham in early February. No more milk jugs!

New Business

Terry Jeanes reported that a new house under construction in the 900 block of LaMonte appears to have deed restriction violations. At least 2 residents talked to the owners about deed restrictions before construction began and the owners indicated they were aware of the restrictions. It was moved and seconded that the Civic Club send a welcome-type letter to all new construction and remodeling projects politely reminding and/or informing them of our deed restrictions and including a copy of the restrictions as well. The motion was tabled until the February meeting so the executive committee can discuss/review. Ed DeAlba proposed that the Civic Club create a committee to review plans for potential deed restriction violations. The executive committee will also review this idea. Interested residents should prepare ideas for next month's meeting. Sheila Briones proposed a generic GO t-shirt instead of one specifically designed for the home tour. It could be a year-round fundraiser. A previous GO t-shirt sold well several years ago. Sheila will keep working on it. There will be a Committee Chair meeting on Thursday 1/24/02 at 7:30 p.m. at 974 W. 42nd.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

GOMO Section Captains

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| Section 1 - Marie Grochoske | 713 864 8164 |
| 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 |

Deed Restrictions

Sam Stengler

The Deed Restrictions Committee of the Garden Oaks Civic Club is starting to 'ramp up' for its Winter/Spring Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization (GOMO) balloting effort. In addition to getting more ballots signed and returned, we will also be finalizing the GOMO by-laws, and distributing them to the neighborhood.

Also, we finally have meaningful voting information on the numbers of ballots returned, number of 'FOR' votes, etc.

Here is the breakdown, by section, of all ballots received as of 1/15/2002.

| Section | Total Section | | Perc. Of Eligible | |
|----------------|-----------------|----------------------------|-------------------|--------|
| | Eligible Sq. Ft | 'For' Votes | Sq. Footage 'For' | Needed |
| Section One: | | coming soon, not completed | | 75% |
| Section Two: | 2,724,582 | 1,299,765 | 47.7% | 75% |
| Section Three: | 3,171,081 | 1,140,768 | 36.0% | 60% |
| Section Four: | 2,556,356 | 638,512 | 25.0% | 60% |
| Section Five: | 2,435,456 | 734,412 | 30.0% | 60% |

As you can see, we still have a long way to go.

I will be posting the lists of properties that have returned ballots on the Garden Oaks web site and the Listserver shortly. If your property address is not listed and you wish to vote, you may download a ballot from the GO listserver or contact any of the Committee Section Captains.

We also need as many willing volunteers as we can get to pass out and collect ballots from your neighbors and friends. If you have any spare time and would like to help please contact one of the Committee Section Captains or myself at the telephone numbers elsewhere in this Gazette. Or, as always, you may contact me directly by calling 281.773.3478.

Constable Program – Good Guys 2, Bad Guys 0!

Terry Jeanes & Susan Saranie

We are proud to report our program truly works. Thanks to the quick thinking of one of our neighbors who alerted the constable's office and Deputy Moncrief who was on patrol just moments away, two suspects were apprehended by Deputy Moncrief along with HPD and other constable officers. The excitement included news helicopter crews overhead. Thanks to all of those who support the program, it is a success. It appears these suspects may be those responsible for the recent rash of thefts in Section One. Remember to keep your eyes and ears open. Quick actions on suspicious activity can make a huge difference.

Please support this important program using the enrollment form in this issue of the *Gazette*.

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It's just \$40 for one month, \$200 for 6 months, and \$380 for one year for the standard ad size (2 3/8" x 2 1/4"), or \$70 for one month, \$350 for 6 months, and \$740 for one year for double the ad size.

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

Citizens on Patrol

Carl Waters, Jr.

Let's start this month with a bit of good news. Our Deputy Constable and HPD officers arrested two suspected burglars in Section One in late December. The suspects, one adult and one juvenile, were in the process of burglarizing a home on Thirtieth Street (it may have been Thirty-first St. The deputy was not sure when he spoke with me). The suspects tried to run but were captured after a short foot pursuit. Deputy Moncrief advised me that he has received fewer calls regarding burglaries since their arrest. Time will tell how deeply these two were involved in the increase in burglaries in November and December. A couple of notes to close this part of my article, Deputy Moncrief was dispatched to the call because a concerned neighbor reported the juvenile who was standing outside the residence talking on a cell phone. This goes to show what can happen when neighbors know who belongs at a particular home. Some of us might want to do more than "just make a phone call" but this incident also goes to show the importance of allowing trained professionals to do their jobs. After the juvenile was taken into custody it was discovered that he was carrying a hand gun.

A female resident from Section 5 reported she was approached by a white male while she was out for an early morning jog on January 10th near the Gazebo Park on Sue Barnett. The man was described as a white male, 5' 7" and wearing a gray business suit. The caller stated he asked her for help and when she told him she could not help him, he started running after her. The caller stated she ran to Forty-third St. and stopped a passing METRO bus. The driver called the METRO police department and a report was filed through them. The man was last seen running west down Lamonte Lane. If you have any information on this individual please contact METRO PD or the Constable's office.

November Crime Statistics (9)

Robbery (1)

700 block of W. Thirty-ninth St. on November 4 at 10:30 p.m. (driveway).

Burglary (5)

300 block of W. Thirty-first St. on November 14 at 8:00 p.m. (garage).

300 block of W. Thirty-first St. on November 17 at 7:00 p.m. (garage).

700 block of W. Thirty-first St. on November 21 at 1:30 p.m. (residence).

3200 block of Lawrence on November 22 at 1:30 p.m. (residence).

800 block of Azalea on November 28 at 12:15 p.m. (residence).

Auto Theft (3)

700 block of Garden Oaks Blvd. on November 10 at 8:00 p.m. (driveway).

3000 block of N. Shepherd Dr. on November 16 at 1:00 p.m. (parking lot).

700 block of Garden Oaks Blvd. on November 23 at 3:15 p.m. (parking lot).

Also reported was a burglary which occurred in the 400 block of Azaleadell in Garden Oaks Plaza on November 10 at 9:00 a.m. (residence).

Applications are 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

CALL THESE FIRST - THEN CALL ME TO REPORT NEIGHBORHOOD CRIMES

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

Heard Under the Oak Tree

Terry Jeanes

Welcome our new neighbors who closed on their new homes.

| | | |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 403 West 34th | 826 Lamonte | 718 Sue Barnett |
| 423 West 32nd | 923 West 41st | 319 West 34th |
| 308 West 32nd | 1055 Althea | 507 West 32nd |
| 741 West 42nd | 212 West 31st | 1006 Althea |
| 843 West 41st | 882 West 41st | 741 West 38th |
| 1011 West 41st | 738 Sue Barnett | 1038 West 41st |
| 802 West 42nd | 4255 Apollo | 1042 West 43rd |
| 1071 West 43rd | 955 Gardenia | 411 West 30th |
| 915 West 42nd | 701 West 41st | 954 West 43rd |
| 963 West 43rd | | |

Welcome and we hope to see you at a civic club meeting soon.

Belated best wishes to the *Runge household*. Gig & Betsy celebrated their 8th anniversary on October 9th and son Jack celebrated his 4th birthday on October 28th.

Happy new arrival to the *McLeans, Sean & Caroline*, who welcomed their baby girl *Lucy*, born November 25th.

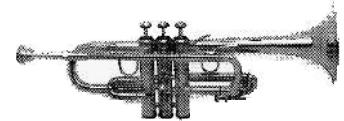
A special thanks to holiday cheer providers *Bill & Susan McMillian* for hosting special guest *Santa Claus* for the families of Garden Oaks at the Gazebo Park, and to *Pat Buron* for his special Santa visit to many children and friends at the Garden Oaks playgroup.

Happy Belated December birthday to *Jacqueline Debien*.

Congratulations to *Becky Jeanes* for her 4.0 semester at Tulane.

Our sympathy and condolences to the family of *Edith Rider* who recently passed away. The Riders, longtime residents of Section 4, were famous for their cozy cottage home featured in *Better Homes and Gardens* and all the love they shared with many neighborhood children. Now they both will be missed.

To highlight an event or special recognition of a neighbor please forward your information to Terry Jeanes at jeanest@pdq.net or via phone to 713-812-9154.



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 818 W. 41st St. 4232 Apollo
 858 W. 41st St. 855 Azalea
 970 W. 41st St. 839 Lamonte
 862 W. 41st St. 1325 Sue Barnett
 717 W. 42nd St. 1458 Sue Barnett
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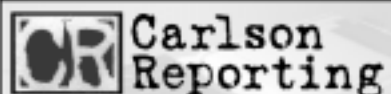
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Membership

Cherry Wolfarth

We're off to a great start this year! For the first time in many years the membership committee is just that - a committee. Thanks to all of our committee members for a rousing first meeting to brainstorm on activities and goals for membership this year. **Michael Froebel** (formerly the membership chair) is continuing with the group and in charge of data base management. We are taking advantage of his computer wizardry. **Chris Lindsay**, who moved to Garden Oaks with her husband a year ago from the River Oaks area, is eager to meet her neighbors and help out with neighborhood activities. (She's also volunteering for home tour this year.) Chris, along with **John Deerner**, postal carrier extraordinaire, had some really exciting ideas to bring to the group which will help us achieve our 2002 goals. Not present at our first meeting, **Janna Charlton**, who had to work late on a Sunday (poor soul), will be rounding out our group. Joanna, I suspect, will help bring a bit of balance to the group since she is the only member who does not reside in Section 4. Although we are all a part of this great neighborhood, we can't help but have a bit of friendly competition and special pride about our particular section.

Last year our membership in the civic club numbered 248, which is a bit over 17% of the total Garden Oaks households. This year we are aiming for a 25% membership rate. Please note the insert in this month's *Gazette* for the list of paid members so far this year. As you can see we're off to a great start with 138 memberships already. Thanks to all of you who have already paid your 2002 dues. We will be publishing this list again in September; so don't be left out of our list of neighborhood champions!

Another goal for this year is to increase attendance at Civic Club meetings. We will be achieving this goal in the following three ways: 1) Quarterly drawings at civic club meetings for door prizes (neat stuff from area businesses), 2) A system of phone reminders for members, and 3) Rides to meetings for new attendees. It's always a little awkward to go to a new place alone the first time and we hope that a "buddy" system will ease this discomfort. Our President, Kenneth Santos, has promised to run brief meetings this year that will last approximately an hour or so. By keeping meetings shorter, we have more time for socializing after the meeting, which often is the best part.

If you would like a ride to the next Civic Club meeting (the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7PM), please contact me, Cherry Wolfarth (Home: 713-688-5131 or Office: 713-686-5454) and I will arrange for myself or one of the committee members to give you a lift. We'd love to see you there!

NEWS FLASH!!!!!! All paid members of the Civic Club (as of March 1) will be eligible for the following drawings: 2 tickets to the Garden Oaks Home Tour (\$24 value) or the Grand Prize of 2 tickets to the sponsor party (\$80 value). Winners will be notified by March 10, 2002.

Silent Auction - Win-Win-Win!

Trish Ricklefsen

In years past, the Silent Auction has been held at the Home Tour Sponsor Party the night before the actual Home Tour. This year, we will have the same great auction the night of the party, but it will be much easier to get in on the bidding action beforehand and stay in right up to the final bid. Beginning February 1, you will be able to browse our website and place your bid directly from the website. That's right – place your bid from the comfort of your own home or office. On-line bidding activity will continue through the night of the party.

You will be able to see highest bid activity conducted at the party from the comfort of your own home. If you want the item, be generous - you need to be the highest bidder! Do you think you might have been out-bid by your neighbor? Worried that someone might outbid you at the party? Stay online the night of the party and go back in and bid higher. You can bid as many times as you like. Have fun!

This year we will have a variety of items including the following: home & garden, entertainment, dining, health & beauty, original works of art, special occasion packages and great get-aways. Spruce up your home, find a great gift, have a night out, the choice is up to you. If you have wanted to carve out some quality R&R time, our great get-away gift certificates may help motivate you.

What is win, win, win? These activities, like many others throughout the year, are activities to raise money for our Garden Oaks community. You win because you get the item and support your community, the business wins because they get great exposure and a write off, and, the community wins because we raise more money. Remember, when you patronize the businesses that donate items to the Silent Auction, please thank them for their support.

Maximize your buying power. If you are planning to buy an item within the next few months anyway, and you think that a business might want to donate the item to our event, heck, you will be able to add it to the 'wish list' on the website. We will try to get the item donated. Then you can try to bid on it – maybe even at a reduced price – maybe not.

Have you always wanted to contribute to your community but never have been able to find the time? This is a wonderful opportunity to make a donation to the Silent Auction and help your community at the same time. You can donate a weekend at your beach house, landscaping services, child care services, a hand-made beaded necklace – whatever you can dream up. The important thing is to get involved in any way you can – donate, volunteer or purchase items up for auction.

Are there any business owners out there who want to join in on the fun and help us raise money? There will be a section for donations on the website too. We hope to have the website "live" February 1, 2002. Send me a digital picture of your item and we will put it on the website too. Act now! The earlier businesses make their donations, the more website time they will receive. If you have any questions, suggestions, details or wish to donate, call Trish Ricklefsen at 832.618.1606, visit the website at <http://www.gardenoaks.org/silentauktion> or e-mail at gosilentauktion@houston.rr.com. Thank you all for participating in the Silent Auction and making 2002 another great Home Tour Event.

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Friends of Montessori News

*Christine Adams, President, Friends
of Montessori Board*

Applications for the Garden Oaks Elementary Montessori program for the 2002-03 school year are available from the office at Garden Oaks Elementary. Stop by the office and pick up an application. Applications will be accepted beginning at 8:00 AM on March 4, 2002. Camping out in the Rick Englert Spark Park Sunday night before the application day is traditional – and a great way to meet other parents interested in the program! Don't forget to come to the annual Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, Feb. 2nd. It's your chance to look over the school, meet faculty, students and parents in a relaxed, informal setting. Below are the main features of the admissions policy.

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 2002, prior to enrollment, the FOM Board in conjunction with the Principal will consider suggestions from parents regarding the admissions policy for 2003-04.
8. The Principal and the teachers determine each student's classroom assignment.

The Friends of Montessori welcome parents to come visit the Montessori classrooms and meet the teachers and students. We hope you will talk with families who have graduated from the program and those who are currently enrolled. Montessori education emphasizes hands-on, self-motivated learning paced to fit the student's individual strengths and challenges. The Montessori program at Garden Oaks serves gifted/talented and regular students, valuing each child's unique contributions to our community.

January Yard of the Month

As winter has taken its toll on Garden Oaks gardens, this is to all those feverishly cutting back and cleaning up for that visualized future colorful garden.

The Downfalls to Fad Diets

Catherine Kruppa, MS, RD, LD

In January of 2002, *Men's Fitness Magazine* awarded Houston the fattest city in America award. The title is based on a number of factors that include nutrition, sports participation, alcohol, smoking, TV viewing, overweight, junk food, etc. With so many Houstonians, as well as Americans, wanting to lose weight, many turn to fad diets in an effort to find that magic weight loss bullet. This article addresses a few of the more popular fads and the potential risks.

Dr. Atkins' New Diet Revolution is based on cutting out carbohydrate containing foods and eating an unlimited amount of meat, fish, poultry and fats. This definitely appeals to most Americans who can easily live without the bun on their double bacon cheddar cheeseburger. People do see weight loss from this due to two reasons. First, when the high amounts of protein byproducts are excreted through the kidneys, so is a lot of water. Second, after the first three days of the diet the novelty of eating as much fat and protein as you want wears off and your calorie intake decreases due to the exclusion of a food group. The potential risks of this diet include an increased risk of heart disease, cancer, osteoporosis, gout, kidney stones, orthostatic hypotension, high blood pressure and diet failure. The bottom line is can you really avoid bread and bread products for a lifetime? And when you do start eating them again, unless you have decreased your total calorie intake, that weight is going to magically reappear.

The Carbohydrate Addict's Diet consists of a low carbohydrate diet all day, except for a one-hour reward meal. Again, this diet is effective because it limits calories from carbohydrates at every meal except for one and that meal lasts only one hour.

Potential problems of this diet include that it promotes inaccuracies such as "grapes are nothing but sugar bound to ignite nonstop carbohydrate cravings." It calls for decreased fruit intake and decreased intake of fiber, numerous vitamins, minerals and phytochemicals. Scientific studies show that fruit, fiber, vitamins, minerals and phytochemicals fight against heart disease and cancer. This is just another diet that leads consumers another step away from normal eating.

Sugar Busters! works by cutting out concentrated sources of sugar and high glycemic carbohydrates. This successfully cuts calorie intake for most people. This book also includes the promotion of inaccuracies; such as carrots are a bad food. Do you really believe that an excess amount of carrots is what has caused obesity in America? Excluding sugar from the diet has important psychological consequences. Moderate consumption of sugar does not compromise blood sugar and can be part of a healthy diet. This diet can definitely be detrimental to athletes and other active people.

The bottom line is that these diets may cause you to lose a few pounds but they can't realistically last a lifetime as well as promote your health. You are better off having a few excess pounds than watching your weight yo-yo with every new fad diet. The key to healthy weight loss is to consume fewer calories than you expend during the day and to consume a well-balanced diet.

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Critter Corner

Casey and Mau Mau Farris

Hi neighbors and Happy Valentine's Day! February is National Pet Dental Health Month so Mau Mau and I want to talk about dental care for pets. Did you know that oral disease is the most frequently diagnosed health problem for pets? As usual, Mau Mau has some interesting facts about felines and I have some ideas to get those wild birds flocking to your yard.

Pet of the Month: "Miss February" is Ipo Spar (pronounced Epo), a one-year-old Husky. Ipo was recently adopted from the SPCA by Dennis & Cathy Spar of 839 W. 42nd Street in Section 3. They named her Ipo, which means sweetheart in Hawaiian. She's a real beauty and is easing the sorrow of her new brother, Casey (Husky) after the loss of Gusto (Husky). Huskies are typically very social and Ipo is no exception. She has lots of energy, as well as a healthy appetite. She likes to play ball and chase, but always finds time to cuddle. The Spars picked the perfect name for our new sweetheart, Ipo Spar.

Pet News: Killer Pruitt (Jack Russell Terrier) is getting ready for basketball season. He has been playing with his basketball for three hours a day. Keegan Arnold/Sabuco (Dachshund) is suffering from a pulled shoulder muscle and we wish him a speedy recovery. We have two new Beagles in the neighborhood, Bert and Ernie Speers. Dash Caldwell (Italian Greyhound) recently had an episode of seizures and is being treated. Fancy Keating (Grey Himalayan) has discovered catnip bubbles and highly recommends them to other felines. Presley Thompson (Pug) is being treated for bladder cancer and so far she is responding well. Sydney Farris (Border Collie/Blue Heeler) had a vestibular inflammation and spent some time in the emergency room. The vestibular works with the inner ear for balance. He is almost back to normal and really appreciates the care his daddy provided while he recovered.

Critters 101: Oral Hygiene

Poor oral health in dogs and cats can cause serious health problems in addition to painful tooth loss or gum disease. The buildup of plaque and tartar in a pet's mouth can cause periodontal disease, an infection that can spread through the bloodstream to the heart, liver and kidneys. Symptoms of gum disease in dogs and cats include yellow and brown build-up of tartar along the gum line, inflamed gums and persistent bad breath. An astounding 80% of dogs and 70% of cats show signs of oral disease by age three, according to the American Veterinary Dental Society.

Periodontal disease is a common problem in dogs, particularly smaller breeds. Canine dentistry experts believe this is because small dogs' teeth often are too large for their mouths, forcing the teeth closer together. Bacteria, combined with saliva and food debris between the tooth and gum, can cause plaque formulations that accumulate on the tooth. As bacteria grow in the plaque and as calcium salts are deposited, plaque turns to tartar. If tartar is not removed from the teeth, pockets of pus may appear along the gum line and further separate the teeth from the gum, which allows more food and bacteria to accumulate. Without proper treatment, this plaque and tartar buildup may cause periodontal disease, which affects the tissue and structure supporting the teeth. Periodontitis is irreversible and may lead to other health problems. Unlike the inflamed gums of gingivitis, which can be treated and reversed with thorough plaque removal and continued plaque control, periodontitis can only be contained to prevent progression. The disease causes red, swollen and tender gums, receding gums, bleeding, pain and bad breath. If left untreated, periodontitis can lead to tooth loss. The infection caused by periodontal disease may enter the bloodstream, potentially infecting the heart, liver and kidneys.

Common indications of oral disease include bad breath, a change in eating or chewing habits, pawing at the face or mouth and depression. If any of these signs are present, the pet should be taken to the veterinarian for a dental exam.

The first step in preventing oral disease is a routine physical examination including a dental exam. Pet owners should practice a regular dental care regimen at home, which may include brushing the pet's teeth with specially formulated toothpaste. It is best to start early, but grown dogs and cats can learn to tolerate brushing. Toothpaste for humans is not recommended because it may upset the pet's stomach.

Lost and Found: Lucy LaPointe is a two-year-old Terrier/Hound mix and needs a good home. Her family has new human additions and responsibilities and feels that Lucy is not getting the attention she deserves. Their sadness is overcome with the hopes of a loving home for Lucy. She is a wonderful pet. She is good with people, children, babies, cats, and other dogs. She is white with black markings and weighs about 40 pounds. She is current on her shots and is totally house trained. Please call Jennifer at 713-697-2287.

Dear Mau Mau: My cat makes the most unusual sounds. Is that common? *B. Brown*

Are you just realizing how unique and wonderful cats are? Do you live under a rock? Cats have over one hundred vocal sounds, while dogs have a mere ten. *Mau Mau*

Migratory Report: This is a great time to experiment with different foods. With a platform feeder, you can add fruit and bakery products to your winter feeding arsenal. Expand

the menu by offering chopped nuts, doughnuts, popcorn, bakery crumbs, grapes, raisins, apple pieces and orange halves. Treat your birds to some home cooking by making muffins, bread and other snacks with sunflower seeds and nuts. Fresh water is vital to birds in winter.

Casey's Comments: When loved ones come home, always run to greet them.

Casey Farris is owner/operator of a company that offers pet care services. Mau Mau Farris is owner/operator of Casey. Please forward your questions and pet news to Casey@goDOGusa.com or call 713-683-6191.

Talk Like a Plant

Mark Saranie

February is the month of love and like harbingers of spring, brightly wrapped heart shaped boxes began their annual appearance in grocery and drug stores right after Christmas. Valentines Day greeting cards cascade down display racks like multi-colored ivy while bags of red, pink and white candies are heaped on shelves like fertilizer for relationships. Go consumerism!

Oh, for easier and less complicated times. Yeah right! Unless a person was savvy of the meaning of plants and flowers in centuries past, things could be said that would make a demon blush. Of course, good things and amorous things could be communicated as well. Envision a nineteenth century old maid living across the way from another old maid, furtively gazing through her lace curtains as a bundle of pansies or wallflowers were being delivered by a child. Oh the gossip she would have for tea later that day. Now, if her neighbor was a good friend, as a friendly jest she could send some French Marigolds or if a competitor, White Carnations. Clue: "Thoughts, affection, jealousy, and disdain, to all the mentioned flowers in order, do these meanings pertain."

A quick Internet search on, "the meaning of plants" or "the language of flowers" will unearth a plethora of information. I feel that the sites utilizing information from the Victorian Era are the most authentic. I recently came across a list of flowers and plants that can be used to express love and other assorted and sundry feelings. A few which express love are: Myrtle, Red Chrysanthemums, Red Tulips, and Red Roses. Granted, if the recipient is unaware of the meaning of your floral gift, your effort is wasted. On the flip side you could enrage or embarrass someone if they are cognizant of the meaning of plants and flowers and you are not. Be sure to include the meaning or sentiment of your gift on a card.

The rose, naturally will always be the first choice for Valentine's Day. Red roses are the single most given flowers, and well they should be. Their beauty, perfection, and deep fragrance parallel how we feel about our mates. One reason I grow roses is so that I can pluck a bloom and surprise my wife with its sunny disposition when she goes into the kitchen for her first cup of weekend morning coffee. Other reasons I have for growing roses, especially antique roses, is that they are easy to grow and care for, hardy, and very rewarding. Their petals are great for making potpourri-but more about that later.

What do I do when the roses are not in bloom? If anything else is in bloom, I bring their sunny message into our home. As of late nothing from the back or front yards has been available. The capricious weather patterns we have had since December have either completely confused our Houston plant world or turned it into a landscape of slime and freeze-dried vegetation. You should see my crinum. It looks like the earth sneezed. (Now isn't that an image to cherish?)

Poem: "February is nigh, I say with a sigh. My girl and I, Our love so prized."

Now get out those pruning shears or your wallet, and talk like a plant.

Garden Things for February

- Good time to think about applying pre-emergence herbicides. Be mindful of your children and pets.
- Wait until the danger of frost is over before pruning. Read up on the subject as it appears in the paper. DO NOT prune azaleas. This springs' supply of blooms are already fattening up for the show.
- Freezing weather remains a possibility this month so if your beds still need mulching, do so and water in well. This will be your best defense against root damage.
- If you want color right now, check out your nursery. They will have plants that thrive during our winter.
- Are veggies in your plans? Most root vegetables can be planted now. I have sown beets in the past for the leaves. They add color and nutrition to salads. Plant carrots, Swiss chard, collard greens, green onions and turnips.
- A word on collard greens—I have successfully propagated the stems of bunches purchased at the market. Just stick them in the ground. Soon enough they will take root and supply you with lots of great meals. I found this out quite by accident last year when turning compost. A bunch of discarded stems I uncovered had developed roots.

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

February 2002

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

| | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------------------|--|---|--|--|---|---|
| Upcoming events Civic Club Meeting Tuesday, March 5 th Home and Garden Tour Sunday, April 7 th <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 | 5 Civic Club Meeting 7:00 P.M. GO Elem | 6 Deed Restrictions 7:00 P.M. Kroger | 7 | 8 | 9 Groundhog Day | |
| 10 | 11 | 12 Home Tour 7:00 P.M. 1335 Sue Barnett Chinese New Year Lincoln's Birthday | 13 Ash Wednesday | 14 Garden Club 7:00 P.M. Valentine's Day | 15 Gazette Deadline | 16 Beautification Work Day 9:00 A.M. Rose Garden | |
| 17 | 18 President's Day | 19 | 20 | 21 HPD Positive Interaction Program 7:00 P.M. St. Matthew's | 22 Washington's Birthday | 23 | |
| 24 | 25 | 26 Home Tour 7:00 P.M. 336 W. 31 st | 27 | 28 | "There are no great things, only small things with great love. Happy are those." - Mother Theresa | | |

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 Email _____

(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 January 31, 2002)
- 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) _____ = \$ _____

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