

GARDEN OAKS GAZETTE

March 2002

Volume 25, Number 3

Come One, Come All!

Sam Stengler, Deed Restrictions Committee Chair

The Deed Restrictions Committee of the Garden Oaks Civic Club is pleased to announce that we will be holding an extensive Question and Answer (Q&A) session concerning GOMO, the proposed Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization, on Tuesday, March 5th, 2002.

Everyone in the GO neighborhood is invited to attend. Bring your questions, concerns, and comments!

We'll try to get started around 7:45 PM, after a short civic club business meeting. We will have several of our committee members available to answer your questions, so load 'em up, and come on out to the meeting!

This is your chance to ask those directly responsible for this effort any questions regarding GOMO that you've ever had. Let's make the most of it and pack the GO Elementary School's cafeteria!

Continued on page 7

2002 Home & Garden Tour

Showcases Homes & Gardens in Full Flourish

Sunday, April 7, 2002, from 12 Noon to 6 P.M. Sheila Briones, 2002 Co-Chair

Garden Oaks' annual showcase of homes and gardens will be held Sunday, April 7th. The collection of six homes and three gardens will be shown from 12 noon to 6 p.m.

The 2002 Garden Oaks Home & Garden Tour is a guided open house concept featuring a unique combination of quaint cottages, charming bungalows, plantation, ranch and traditional style homes and gardens.

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

415 W. 30th Home & Garden

This designer's showcase displays a fine collection of heirloom antiques, a crisp ensemble of colorful patterns and textures, a feat of architectural detailing and a quaint little garden replete with unusual plants and trees. The spacious living room beckons for a large family gathering while the generous master suite offers a sigh of relief from a hard day's work. Thoughtful, functional and aesthetic; this classic home and garden serve a life of good living.

Continued on page 8

Civic Club Meeting

*Tuesday,
March 5th*

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

Attention

Delay Heavy Trash

The 2002 Home Tour Committee is asking residents not to put out heavy trash until **after** the conclusion of the April 7th Home & Garden Tour. Thanks in advance for your cooperation.

From the Editor

Joe Muscara

Ah, yes, there it is, the blank page. It can be so intimidating for a writer, because it appears that nothing has been done. But is that really true? Do our ideas form from nothing? I'm sure a documentary can better explain the scientific phenomena behind our thought processes, how our brains work, and so on. I can only tell you what my experience seems to be.

I can't recall ever getting a good idea from simply nowhere. Every idea or thought seems to have been built on something previous. It may have been a conversation that was really a brainstorming session, just a recollection of something I have seen before that lead me to using that idea or method to suit my needs, or something else I knew or remembered.

Take the *Gazette* for example. If it weren't for the groundwork and design done by Robert DeVeau, the previous editor, it wouldn't be what it is today. If I had a different starting point, the *Gazette* you treasure and frame each month would be different than what you see here.

Then, where does the infamous writer's block come from? Isn't that when you can't think of anything? To my mind, no. The key word in the phrase is block. It's not that you can't think of ideas, it's when you aren't willing to accept them. We all have those voices. I hear them too (no, I'm not talking about the schizophrenic ones, that's for another editorial). It's not good enough, it's too cheesy, it's been done already, and many others can put a grinding halt to the creative process. When you start putting expectations and standards on your creativity, that's when these voices really can kick in.

This is always an issue for me when someone tells me they like what I've done, or that they look forward to what I'll do next. Gee, I don't want to disappoint anyone... I end up having to tell myself that if what I've been doing is fine, then generally more of the same should be too. Besides, who am I to judge? I can't tell if what I've done is really really good or just okay, only that it's not bad. Don't get me wrong, it's not as bad as I may be making it sound, but it is there.

So what am I going to do next? I don't know. I'll get some idea somewhere.

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

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	

President's Letter

Kenneth Santos

In addition to the usual business matters, I'm pleased to announce that this month's Civic Club meeting will provide an open forum with the Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization ad hoc committee members. Residents of Garden Oaks with questions, reservations or suggestions about GOMO should plan to attend the March Meeting. If you have been reluctant to return your ballot because you feel you need more information about GOMO or if you have become confused by differing yard signs that appear to contradict, this Civic Club meeting is designed for you. If you are undecided about GOMO and its intent and purpose then this meeting should prove to be enlightening.

There has been a lot of publicity lately regarding the powers of homeowner associations (HOA's). There are some who believe that an HOA must have powers to "force" ordinary citizens to toe the line. We've read the horror stories of widows being forced from the homestead. Closer to home, a neighboring HOA is suing one of its residents for displaying a sign. Just how does a group run a neighborhood with everyone in full compliance in every way without resorting to foreclosures and lawsuits? These are some of the concerns that will be discussed by the GOMO committee at the March Civic Club meeting.

The Civic Club fosters an atmosphere of open discussion and differing opinions. My primary objective as President is to ensure that every opinion is heard and responded to. This meeting is open to everyone regardless what your opinion is concerning GOMO. This will be a great opportunity for clarification as to how GOMO will work and what Garden Oaks can look forward to in the future. With only about 4 months left to collect the required number of approval signatures, time is quickly running out. Let GOMO know what you consider to be important to Garden Oaks and our deed restrictions.

Membership

Cherry Wolfarth

Last month's civic club meeting was a great success! We had a better-than-average turnout and quite a few first time visitors. We used name tags for the first time in years, with minimal resistance from the attendees I might add, and the atmosphere was particularly friendly. Congratulations to **Janis Wourms** (312 W. 33rd St.) who was our lucky door prize winner and recipient of a \$25 gift certificate from Home Depot.

As many of you noticed we published a list of current paid civic club members by section last month. We apologize for omission of the following individuals who should have been listed in that group:

- | | |
|------------|-------------------------|
| Section 1: | Janis Wourms |
| | Stephen Gould |
| Section 4: | Dennis Williams |
| | Marilyn Williams |
| Section 5: | Diane Morish |

This list will be published again in the summer, so if you have not yet paid your Civic Club dues yet, be sure to complete the membership form contained in the Gazette and return with your check to our P.O. Box. Thanks in advance for your support. As I mentioned last month, our goal is to get 25% of our neighborhood households to join. We currently have just over 14% participation with Section 1 leading the way with 16%, closely followed by Section 2 then Section 5.

This month we will be notifying the winners by phone of our special March prize drawing. All persons who have paid their civic club dues by March 1st will be eligible to win. Runners up will receive 2 free tickets to the Garden Oaks Home Tour on Sunday April 7th and the grand prizewinners will receive 2 free tickets to the Home Tour sponsor party on Saturday evening April 6th. The sponsor party is a really fun event which includes sneak previews of all the tour homes and gardens, food, drinks, entertainment and most importantly, great company!

If you have any questions related to membership, feel free to contact me, Cherry Wolfarth at 713-688-5131

Beautification News

Rick Grochoske

We need your volunteer help for the Saturday morning workdays starting at 9:00 AM at the parks and dates listed below. These workdays are necessary to clean up our neighborhood parks for the upcoming GO Home Tour, scheduled for Sunday, April 7th. Please bring your spouse, kids, and neighbors and your pruning shears, rakes, and wheelbarrows. We will be doing spring cleaning, planting and adding mulch to our flower beds. Please plan to attend to make our community shine!

- Saturday, March 2nd – Triangle Park located at Sue Barnett and Alba
- Saturday, March 23rd – Garden Oaks Blvd.

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Minutes of the February 5, 2002 Civic Club Meeting

Lori Kennedy, Secretary

President Kenneth Santos called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. The January minutes were accepted as published.

Officer Reports:

Treasurer – Treasurer Margie Dalton reported the Civic Club accounts are in good shape.

Constable Report:

Deputy James Moncrief reported that the neighborhood has been much quieter lately. He reminded residents to update their registration and inspection stickers and to stop at the stop signs. He mentioned there is a man knocking on doors at night pretending to need money for a tow truck; residents should be aware and report it if they are approached. Call the Constable's office for service calls for a quicker response time; call 911 for emergencies.

Standing Committee Reports:

Beautification - Chair Rick Grochoske announced they will be planting in Triangle Park on Sunday 2/10/02 at 9:00 a.m. He reminded everyone of the work day in the Rose Garden (34th and Lawrence, Section 1) on Saturday 2/16/02 beginning at 9:00 a.m. There will be a beautification committee meeting on Tuesday 2/26/02 at 7:30 p.m. at 507 W. 34th. There will be another work day on Saturday 3/2/02 beginning at 9:00 a.m. in Triangle Park. Contact Rick 713.864.8164 for more information or to volunteer.

GOCOP - Chair Carl Waters reported the December crime statistics and the 2001 year end statistics from HPD. There were 22 fewer reported crimes in GO in 2001 than in 2000. Volunteers are always needed for GOCOP patrollers and are asked to patrol the neighborhood 1 hr/week. Patrollers must attend a 1 hour training from HPD. Contact Carl at 713.864.1992 for more information or to volunteer.

Constable Program – Co-chair Terry Jeanes reported that membership booklets and phone stickers are available to paid supporters. Currently there are 125 paid supporters for this year. Mary Lynn Porter was the winner of the prize drawing. Contact Terry at 713.812.9154 for more information or to support the constable program.

Gazette – Editor Joe Muscara asked for volunteers to be "substitute" Gazette deliverers; they would deliver when a regular delivery person was on vacation, sick or just needed a break. 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. There are 6 homes and 3 gardens. About \$4000 has been collected in underwriting so far, with another \$5000 committed and invoiced. The sponsor party is Saturday 4/6/02 and ticket reservations are being taken. It will be a fiesta theme. The silent auction website

is up and running. Thanks to Trish Ricklefsen and Joe Muscara for creating the site. The on-line bidding is open to anyone, but all items must be paid for and picked up by the end of the home tour on Sunday. The on-line bidding will continue through 4/6, with simultaneous on-line and live bidding on the night of the sponsor party. Advertising billboards have been donated by Clear Channel Communications and will be placed in the Garden Oaks/Shepherd/Heights areas beginning on 3/8. T-shirts will be available at the March meeting. There will be a volunteer party on Sunday night after the tour. The home tour can always use volunteers. Contact the home tour hotline 713.267.7800 for more information or to volunteer.

Membership – Chair Cherry Wolfarth announced that the committee has a goal of increasing membership from 17% last year to 25% this year. They are also seeking to increase participation in the Civic Club meetings and have begun placing reminder calls to residents. They are hoping to present a draft of the welcome packet at the March meeting. A drawing was held for a door prize.

Ad Hoc Committee Reports:

Deed Restrictions – Chair Sam Stengler reported that the next meeting would be Wednesday 2/6/02 at 7:00 p.m. at the Kroger. A section captain is needed for Section 4. A straw poll was held supporting the idea of a question and answer session at the March Civic Club meeting. Contact Sam at 281.773.3478 for more information or to volunteer.

GO.org – Co-chair James Cobb reported that the site is waiting on content to be activated. Now that responsibilities for content have been divided up, he has received some information, but needs more. There is now a link from the GO main site to the silent auction site.

Garden Club:

Ed DeAlba reported that the Garden Club will meet this Thursday, 2/7/02, at 847 LaMonte instead of on Valentine’s Day. Contact Janet Cones at 713.956.7340 for more information or to join.

Old Business:

The motion from the January meeting regarding a welcome-type letter to all new construction and remodeling projects was tabled again until March. It was suggested that the Deed Restriction committee could accept this responsibility if the motion were to pass.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Meeting refreshments were graciously provided by Terry Jeanes of Re/Max-METRO.

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Beauty Is My Business

Citizens on Patrol

Carl Waters, Jr.

Let's start out this month with a bit of good news. According to the statistics that I collected from the HPD Web Site last year, crime was down in our neighborhood by 20%. Overall, 85 crimes were reported to HPD down from 106 in 2000. A breakdown of those numbers indicated there were 10 reported crimes against persons (2 rapes, 6 robberies, 1 assault, 1 homicide), 70 property crimes (42 burglaries, 11 burglaries of motor vehicles, 17 auto thefts) and 5 of what I refer to as "victimless crimes" (3 narcotics arrests, 2 DWI's). The day of the week with the most reported crimes was Thursday with 18 crimes reported and the least crimes were reported on Monday (7). The time of day most crimes were reported was between 1:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. and from 9:00 p.m.. to 10:00 p.m. with 7 crimes reported in each of those time frames. Crimes reported by Section numbers: One - 49, Two - 15, Three - 7, Four - 7, and Five - 6.

I received a call from the President of Garden Oaks Plaza Civic Club around the middle of January. He reported that an occupied home had been broken into and the thief made off with a laptop computer, a woman's purse and her car. He apparently was a totally bad guy because he left behind a bicycle, raincoat and a partial can of beer. Apparently there was or maybe still is a theft ring working the area. They steal bicycles which they leave behind and they then steal a car. If you find a bicycle call the police or Constable's office and report that you found property that you believe was stolen. Someone should come and take it as evidence. **Scam alert** - recently my elderly neighbor was visited by 3 white males who told him he had a flea problem. They offered to return later and spray the yard for him. When they did they spent less time than it takes for a cigarette to burn down (my wife saw one of them pick up the still smoldering butt from the hood of his truck and finished it before leaving) and convinced my neighbor to sign a check and let them fill in the amount. We later learned they went straight from his home to a branch of my neighbor's bank and cashed the check for \$3,600.00. Watch out for 3 males driving a red Dodge Ram pickup with damaged windshield and a blue Chevrolet pickup possibly with a rebel flag where the front license plate should be. Please call the police immediately if they come to your home.

Did you know that when someone pawns property, in particular power tools, that they have to provide a photo ID to the pawn shop where they leave the tools? A Section One resident advised me of that fact last month while he was talking to me about finding signs someone had tried to get into his garage for the third time in the past few months. He stated an HPD Officer told him about this and told him to make sure to keep a list of the serial numbers for all his power tools etc. HPD has a pawn shop detail that checks area pawn shops receipts against stolen property reports on a monthly basis. Guess it's time to jot those numbers down!

Before closing this month, I would like to say a word of thanks to all the wonderful volunteers in COP program. Last year they set aside 586 hours of their time to help make Garden Oaks a safer place to live. **Thanks all!!!**

**Citizen Patrollers Needed – Call 713 864 1992 or
email GOCOP77018@aol.com to join**

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December Crime Statistics (10)

Burglaries (8)

- 700 block of Sue Barnett, on 12/2/01 at 11:00 p.m. (garage)
- 500 block of W. Thirty-first St., on 12/7/02 at 9:30 p.m. (garage).
- 500 block of W. Thirty-second St., on 12/9/01 at 11:30 p.m. (residence).
- 800 block of Lamonte Ln. on 12/13/01 at 12:00 noon (residence).
- 500 block of W. Thirty-second St., on 12/21/01 at 2:30 p.m. (residence).
- 3000 block of Attridge on 12/22/01 at 11:00 a.m. (residence).
- 200 block of W. Thirty-fourth St., on 12/22/01 at 1:50 p.m. (residence).
- 300 block of W. Thirtieth St., on 12/27/01 at 10:30 a.m. (residence).

Burglary of a Motor Vehicle (2):

- 2900 block of N. Shepherd on 12/18/01 at 1:00 p.m. (commercial parking lot).
- 2900 block of N. Shepherd on 12/21/01 at 8:00 a.m. (other parking lot).

Please contact me via the Internet at GOCOP77018@AOL.com or 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

Continued from page 1

In voting news, here are the latest numbers (percentages of total square footage that have voted 'Yes' to GOMO).

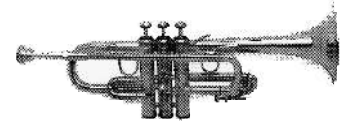
- Section One: (Not completed)
- Section Two: 51% out of a needed 75%
- Section Three: 39% out of a needed 60%
- Section Four: 26% out of a needed 60%
- Section Five: 32% out of a needed 60%

Let's get those ballots in, folks. If you have one at home, gathering dust, or still unread, please dig it out *now*, and vote! Return your completed ballot to PO Box 924693, Houston, TX 77292, or bring it to the meeting on March 5th! And, if you're in need of a ballot, or have a question that just won't wait until the March meeting, you can always call me at 281.773.3478, or email me at <sstengler@covad.net>.

See you there!

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



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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
 718 W. 42nd St. 1575 Sue Barnett
 847 W. 42nd St. 1043 Gardenia

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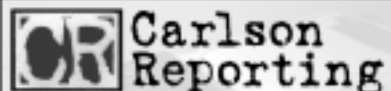
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Continued from page 1

432 W. 30th Home & Garden

This talented homeowner simply describes her creative decorating style as "comfortable." Modest in description, this relaxing retreat offers a gracious guestroom above the garage, an ingenious attic conversion to a master suite, a swimming pool, a child's playhouse by the garden, the warmth of an easy color palette, the casual softness of fine slip covered furniture and an eclectic collection of antique furnishings. You'll find this inviting home and garden to be the very definition of comfort!

1535 Sue Barnett Home & Garden

Recently remodeled by an interior designer and professionally landscaped, this fabulous home and garden will soothe your senses and revitalize your soul just as if you had spent a relaxing day at the spa! Contemporary style, lighting designs, and a luxurious array of deep, rich colors all play in the rejuvenating effect of this modern cottage.

423 W. 31st Home

From 1941, the original front of this Garden Oaks home belies the magical transformation that has taken place behind. Newly renovated with a warm, sunny addition, this home now features an updated kitchen facing spacious living and dining areas, a grand master suite with a vaulted ceiling and a newly built backyard deck to enjoy a breezy summer night. This vintage home has many of the features found in today's high-end new construction.

811 W. 41st Home

This home evokes true Southern charm with its inviting front porch. The warm rich colors of the interior rooms play to the open floor plan, which allows for entertaining in style. Only one room of this newly renovated house has been left in its original footprint. The master suite downstairs and children's rooms upstairs are all additions to the home. Don't miss the stylish new kitchen with granite countertops.

938 LaMonte Home

This empty nesters' home is a prime example of how comfortable and accommodating a modest size home can be. This original Garden Oaks 2 bedroom / 1 bathroom cottage draws you into its well-appointed living and dining room areas. For ease of use, the newly remodeled kitchen is functional in design and stylishly decorated.

336 W. 33rd Garden

Don't be fooled by the quiet façade of this little cottage. Behind the charming house is a vivacious growth of flora. A harmonious balance between a neatly laid English garden and a pastoral scene of a verdant venue, this masterpiece is a vibrant symphony of gardening!

420 W. 32nd Garden

Right away you'll notice the fine craftsmanship and detailing of this flourishing garden from your first step onto the intricately laid flagstone. This garden summons you to meander along its various vignettes of space and a variety of blooming plants before savoring a tall glass of Southern iced tea on the pergola-covered deck. Don't miss the garden tool armoire and bench skillfully handcrafted by the talented gardeners themselves!

803 LaMonte Garden

A gardener's dream! Walk through numerous individual gardens, each having a unique focal point. The whole garden has seen a dramatic transformation over the past few years. The homeowner has planted an amazing variety of trees, shrubs and flowering plants. They are all accented beautifully and creatively with ironworks, benches and concrete figurines. Watch out for the alligator!

Tour tickets are priced at \$12 pre-sale or \$15 on the day of the Tour. Pre-sale tickets are available at the following locations beginning Saturday, March 9:

- Another Place in Time, 421 W. 11th, (713) 864-9717
- Bell's MyOwn Cleaners, 1362 W. 43rd, (713) 680-8404
- Buchanan's Native Plants, 611 E. 11th, (713) 861-5702
- Haute Groceries, 3468 Ella Blvd., (713) 682-2780
- Irma's Restaurant, 22 N. Chenevert, (713) 222-0767
- Kaplan's Ben-Hur, 2125 Yale, (713) 861-2121
- Kojak's Deli & Fine Foods, 1912 W. 18th, (713) 426-1800
- Northwest Family YMCA, 1234 W. 34th, (713) 869-3378
- Prudential Premier Properties, 1354 W. 43rd, (713) 686-2038
- Smith & Hawken, 3935 San Felipe, (713) 621-9395
- The Frame Shop, 3444 Ella Blvd., (713) 682-4578

All pre-sale tickets must be redeemed at the Command Center/Trolley Station located in the Garden Oaks Shopping Center, 3800 block of North Shepherd between W. 38th and Garden Oaks Blvd. Day of tour tickets can also be purchased at the Command Center. From the Command Center, catch a free Trolley (generously underwritten by METRO) which takes you to all nine tour stops. Parking at the Command Center is recommended because this will help relieve traffic congestion along the tour route.

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

A limited number of tickets are also available for the Tour Preview and Sponsor Party held Saturday evening, April 6. The party honors the Home & Garden owners, sponsors, and underwriters. For \$40 per ticket, the evening features a sneak preview of each of the homes and gardens, food, beverages and entertainment. Reserve your tickets now by contacting Deanna Zugheri at (832) 476-4123 or send your check (made out to the Garden Oaks Civic Club) along with the form inserted in this *Gazette* to Deanna Zugheri, c/o GOH> Sponsor Party, 1801 Heights Blvd., Houston, Texas 77008.

To add to the excitement of the Sponsor Party, a Silent/Live Auction will also take place. This year you'll be able to bid on-line for auction items at your own convenience before the Sponsor Party. Bid on such items as: Houston Aeros Hockey Game Package; tickets to the Alley Theatre; personal training sessions; ladies watches; pet massage training session; dinners for two, etc. Web address is: www.gardenoaks.org/silentauktion

For up-to-date information about the Tour, call the Tour Hotline at (713) 267-7800.

Continued on page 13

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Garden Oaks Elementary Pancake Breakfast Raises Awareness and \$1,200 for the Montessori Program

Kirsten Joel

The 8th Annual Pancake Breakfast was our most successful ever! 300 people came out to the school for food and fun on Saturday, February 2, 2002. Kids had their faces painted, jumped in the moonwalk, climbed into the police car and fire engines, and made Valentines crafts. Adults met their neighbors, teachers and parents and learned more about the Montessori method of education.

Special thanks go out to the Houston Police and Fire Departments, IHOP at 59 and Gessner, Party Time Moonwalks, TanksPaintball.com, Wow! Facepainting, all the Montessori students and teachers, Montessori Alums especially Anne Fruge, Jeff Amerson, James Cobb, Dennis Fletcher, Brian Foyt, John Goodman, Michele Haggerty, Curtis Klein, Jim Murdock and his IHOP friends, Jane Ann Roberts, Joanna Temple (Event Chairman), Celesete Zamora and all the other parents, teachers and school staff who helped out.

If you would like more information on Garden Oaks Elementary School in general, or on the Montessori Program at Garden Oaks, please contact school principal, Jeff Amerson at 713-696-2930. He is always happy to visit with parents, show off our school and work together to make it the best it can be for our neighborhood's children.



Is this guy having too much fun or what? Garden Oaks Principal Jeff Amerson works off his IHOP pancake breakfast by horsing around in the moonwalk. The moonwalk was donated by Montessori teacher, Karen Rodriguez.

Silent Auction Website – Hits home!

Trish Ricklefsen, Chair, 2002 Silent & Live Auction

With more involvement than we had ever dreamed possible, the Silent Auction website is giving supporters tremendous exposure for their advertising dollar while offering great fun and community spirit for us all. As of February 7, 2002, the website had received over 1,200 'hits.' (One 'hit' is registered every time someone logs on to the website.)

On the website you can click on any underlined word for more information. (The underlined words are 'links' to more in-depth information about specific items, pictures, and the supporters who made donations.) When provided to us, we have included URL addresses to the supporter's website. This complete package should offer you a 'total shopping experience.' Check the website for details on when winners are announced.

Many fun, interesting and valuable items are up for auction and now they are at bargain prices. Have you bid on the Aerial Tour of Houston? The beautiful watches and jewelry? What about the Houston Aeros package or the Alley Theatre tickets? There are some great deals! What are you waiting for? New items are added as they are received, so check in often to see if there's anything new for you, your family or your friends. Spread the word and get everyone involved in your community fund-raiser. If you have ever wanted to support your community, there is no better time than now and through the Silent & Live Auction.

Special thanks go to Sheila Briones, April Weller Toxey and Brenda DeAlba who have personally developed a tremendous amount of supporters and volunteers for the Auction. I would also like to thank the many other Home Tour Committee members who are working out Auction details and continued supporter development. Please let them all know you appreciate their hard work too.

Please also express your appreciation and show your patronage to the following supporters who have generously donated products, services or items to the 2002 Silent Auction.

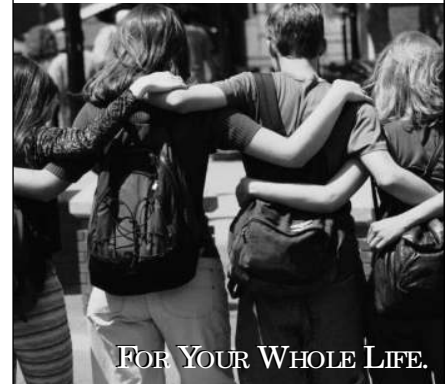
Alley Theater (April Weller)	Garden Club of	Martha Kennedy
Arts Alive!	Garden Oaks	October Gallery
Body Dynamics	Houston Aeros (April	Sheila Briones
Bone Voyage Pet Sitting	Weller)	SK Designs
Services	J. Pelton Photography	Susan Sidell Designs
Cabana Tans	Jackie Aldredge	Susan Spooner Designs
Carlos Rios	Janet Cones	To Bead or Not to Bead
Carter & Cooley Deli	John Everett	Venus Hair
Cynthia Woods Mitchell	Kojak's Deli	Verizon Wireless Theater
Pavilion (April Weller)	Lady Godiva Bath &	William & Deanna
Dale Schwartz	Body, Inc.	Zugheri

Let them know you are part of the Garden Oaks activities. Keeping the supporters happy is the key to making all of this work – for you and your community. Thank you all for supporting the Auction activities and helping us make this a very successful and fun year.

<http://www.gardenoaks.org/silentauction>

e-mail: gosilentauction@houston.rr.com

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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 m2lindsay12@hotmail.com.

Organic vs. Non-Organic Foods

Catherine Kruppa, MS, RD, LD

What is Organic?

Organic crops are grown without the use of synthetic chemicals or sewage sludge as fertilizer. Instead, organic farmers utilize more earth-friendly methods of controlling weeds and pests, such as crop rotation, mulching and fertilizing with manure or compost. Organic livestock is raised without hormones or antibiotics. Biotechnology is not utilized, nor is irradiation in food processing.

MYTH OR TRUTH: Organically-grown foods are more healthful and safer than conventionally grown foods.

MYTH. No evidence has shown a difference. Organic foods are typically grown with natural pesticides and insecticides to prevent crop damage. With conventional agriculture, pesticides are carefully regulated to ensure their safe use for the environment and human health. If you prefer organic foods, they are nutritious choices in a healthful eating plan.

Organic farming practices may be less harmful to the environment, but this is not a guarantee that the resulting products will be safer to humans. The take home message is that whether organically or conventionally grown, produce should be thoroughly washed, meat should be cooked to the proper temperature and precautions should be taken to prevent cross-contamination.

Top 10 Foods to Buy Organic

<i>High Pesticide Food</i>	<i>Main Nutrient</i>	<i>Healthy Alternatives</i>
Strawberries	Vitamin C	blueberries, grapefruit, kiwi, oranges, raspberries, watermelon
Bell Peppers	Vitamin C	broccoli, green peas, romaine lettuce
Spinach	Vitamin A, C	asparagus, broccoli, brussels sprouts
Cherries	Vitamin C	blackberries, blueberries, grapefruit, kiwi, oranges, raspberries
Peaches	Vitamins A, C	grapefruit, nectarines, oranges, tangerines, watermelon
Mexican Cantaloupe	Vitamin A, C and potassium	US cantaloupe grown from May to December, watermelon
Celery	Carotenoids	broccoli, carrots, radishes, romaine lettuce
Apples	Vitamin C	bananas, nectarines, tangerines, watermelon
Apricots	Vitamin A, C and potassium	nectarines, oranges, tangerines, watermelon
Green Beans	Potassium	asparagus, broccoli, brussels sprouts, cauliflower, green peas, potatoes

Although many individuals who purchase organic food may do so for health reasons, the organic seal on a food package is not a health claim, nor is it a guarantee that a product is safer or better than conventional food. Rather, it is an indication of how a product was grown.

MYTH OR TRUTH: Foods grown with organic or natural fertilizers have more nutrients than those grown with synthetic fertilizers.

MYTH. Plants cannot tell the difference between types of fertilizers. Factors such as climate, crop handling, and maturity at harvest affect the nutrient content of fruits and vegetables.

A recent study in the Journal of Alternative and Complementary Medicine concluded that on average, organic crops contained higher amounts of three minerals (iron, magnesium and phosphorous) and vitamin C, while at the same time containing lower amounts of nitrates. This study however, is not conclusive evidence that organic food is more nutritious. The nutrient content of crops – organic or conventional – will depend on a variety of factors such as weather, growing conditions, storage and processing.

MYTH OR TRUTH: Organic foods are more expensive.

TRUTH. Organic produce, since it is grown without synthetic pesticides or chemicals, is more labor intensive. Organic crop yields are often not as high as those grown under non-organic conditions, and fewer farmers (only about 4%) use organic methods and sustainable agriculture practices; therefore the price of organically grown produce reflects the greater demands placed on the grower.

Continued from page 9

Thank You to the following 2002 Home & Garden Tour Underwriters

Corporate (\$1000)

- Abbey Rents Service
- Greenwood King
- Metro
- Shannon & Associates, Inc.

Platinum (\$500)

- Bos Lighting Design
- Coldwell Banker Swilley-Hudson
- First HomeCare Houston, Inc.
- First Houston Mortgage
- Harry James, Building & Design
- Houston Structural, Inc.
- Mike Caldwell, Building & Design
- Team Texan, Patsy Bushart & Wes Vawter, Prudential
- Gary Greene Realtors
- Terry Jeanes, RE/MAX Metro
- Tony's Mexican Restaurant & Cantina

Gold (\$250)

- All Star Construction, Inc.
- CenterPoint Energy Houston
- Clouse Hardwood Floors
- Oscar Ochoa, OD's Printing
- Pat Walker, Keller Williams-The Garden Group
- Tom & Carol Hazel

Heard Under the Oak Tree

Terry Jeanes

Welcome to our newest neighbors who recently closed on their new homes.

- 826 West 31st.
- 835 West 43rd.
- 1086 West 43rd.
- 419 West 30th
- 503 West 30th

Best wishes & congratulations to *Matt and Holly Veech* on the arrival of their new baby girl, *Lindsay*, on January 24th.

Congratulations to *Brenda de Alba* on her recent promotion.

A round of applause for the *Garden Oaks Elementary Friends of Montessori* for another successful Pancake Breakfast!

To highlight an event or congratulate a neighbor, simply contact *Terry Jeanes* - 713-812-9154 or jeanest@pdq.net

Constable Program Report & Alert

Terry Jeanes & Susan Saranie

Thank you to all who have forwarded their contribution and profile. We do appreciate your support. We are in need of additional supporters so please take the time to complete the insert.

Deputy Moncrief's Report - January

1410 miles patrolled, 2 criminal offenses, 3 arrests, 3 vacation watches, and 3 alarm responses

Alerts

The following has been brought to our attention regarding incidents involving scams of our seniors and other neighbors.

- A widow was contacted by a stranger at her door using the name Robert Tedford (this name has a police record for other such incidents). He stated that he was collecting a past due bill for a large sum of money and would take her house if she did not pay him in cash. An additional name of Jay Hartwick was also noted.
- Another senior was recently approached for funds by a party at his door. Although all details are not known, a check was given and unfortunately the party at the door filled out the blank check for far more than it was to have been for. This party immediately proceed to cash the check prior to the neighbor trying to stop it.
- Another "stranger at the door" has been approaching residents with the need for an odd amount of cash, usually around \$11.35, for "a wrecker who is waiting with his car at Conn's (for example)."

Please be alert and keep an eye out for your neighbors as well, especially those you think may be vulnerable.

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.

Critter Corner

Casey and Mau Mau Farris

Hi neighbors! Spring, glorious Spring will soon be here. You are probably thinking about pruning and planting. Sometimes planting brings out the digger instincts in even the best of dogs, so this month I want to discuss solutions for digging. Of course, Mau Mau has a couple of facts about felines. Many species of birds will come through Garden Oaks during the northern migration, which will start toward the end of this month.

Pet of the Month: "Mr. March" is a six-year old Dalmatian named Lucky Badeau. He is the son of Laura & Brian Badeau of 4207 Alba in Section Four. Lucky is brilliant white with black spots. Like most Dalmatians he is agile, strong-willed and likes being on center stage. Behind that strong character, Lucky is very sweet and good on a leash. He shares his territory with some fish, an Italian Greyhound named Gabby and a Grey Tabby named Pandora. His mother is a veterinarian so going to the doctor is no big deal for Lucky; in fact, he goes all the time. Lucky's favorite treat is a dental bone. This month as we celebrate St. Patrick's Day I wish you all, as the Badeau's would say, Good Lucky!

Pet News: Max Rhinehart (Yellow Lab) is so talented he can literally eat his meals with a tennis ball in his mouth. Hoss Mathews (Great Dane) drinks his water from the bathroom sink, but he has to bend down to reach it. Gabriel Weeks (Scottish Fold) has graduated from kitten food and is now eating big cat food. Edris Pradt (Doberman) is the epitome of a couch potato and wants HBO to show some new movies for a change. Maria Sheffield-Scott (miniature Schnauzer) has a new baby sister, Halo (West Highland Terrier) who is almost potty trained. Good Girl Halo! Most everybody knows Steadman and Celine Folk (Great Pyrenees), the Grand Duke and Duchess of Garden Oaks; well, the white cat that keeps them in line is Cotton-Schwartz.

Critters 101: Digging to China

In the wild, as well as in our yards, a dog will dig for a variety of reasons. The first step for almost any solution regarding canine behavior is to teach your dog basic obedience. The next step to finding a solution to digging is to make sure your dog is not hunting moles or other animals in the earth. Dogs smell things that we can't even imagine having a scent! If he is hunting moles, get rid of the grub worms in your yard, a mole's favorite food, and the moles should leave your yard. If he's hunting bugs, be thankful he's not hunting moles! Dogs that dig for bugs usually leave "divots" much like a golfer. Consult the garden shop to get rid of the bugs.

If your dog isn't digging to hunt, he may be digging for shelter. If your dog digs a few big holes and lies in them consistently, I would be happy that he's managed to make himself comfortable. The holes keep him warm in the winter and cool in the summer. Most yards that have the Grand Canyon look are due to a bored dog. If you feel your dog is digging out of boredom, and he is frequently digging big holes, I strongly suggest that you find a way to bring him in the house and make him part of the family. Dogs who are banished from the house, and/or banished from sleeping in your bedroom can feel they are ostracized from the "pack" (your family). Dogs are so socially orientated that most are absolutely miserable if they are isolated to the backyard on a daily basis. I know your dog doesn't seem miserable because he jumps for joy every time he sees you, but what does he do when you're not around and he's all alone? Out of frustration and boredom, he probably digs! When you are home, your dog should be included in your daily activities. Another way to combat doggie boredom is to give your dog a friend. If getting another dog is not what you had in mind, consider doggie day-care, or find a neighbor with a dog. Then, three times a week or so, bring your dog to their house/yard, or have them bring their dog to your place. This will give your dog some company and social doggie interaction.

So, what if your dog is treated like a family member, and he isn't a permanent outside dog, and doesn't spend all day, every day outside all by himself? You've never seen a mole in your yard, and your dog doesn't seem particularly fond of bugs. Now what? Your dog just loves to dig! Why not give your dog a nice place of his own to dig (preferably in the shade). Sand is easier to deal with than dirt and sand and water together do not make mud, and sand dries quickly and shakes off better. Make your dog a "sand-pile" in one of his favorite digging spots. You can landscape it and put a small garden fence around it. Put his outdoor toys and bones there and give him lots of praise when he digs there. Fill in all other holes with water or Fido's feces and cover with dirt.

Dogs are intelligent, compassionate, fun-loving creatures. Circling the same yard day after day does not provide much stimulation. They deserve to have a mentally and physically stimulating life. They deserve to be loved and included in a family structure, and they deserve to have fun.

Dear Mau Mau: Are there more dogs or cats? *L. Hickman*

Hellooo! Cats, not dogs, are the most common pets in America. In 1987 cats overtook dogs as the number one pet. Haven't you noticed there is a "meow" in the middle of homeowner? Did you know that thousands of years ago Cats were worshipped as gods? Try not to forget this. *Mau Mau*

Migratory Report: No matter where you live, you can attract birds to your backyard. Provide many different food

sources as various birds eat insects, nectar, fruit, berries, nuts, and seed. Provide both natural food sources as well as food in feeders. Provide water. Birdbaths, fountains, or just pans of water work well. Provide cover. Birds feel safe when they are not out in the open. Shrubs, trees, and flowers all provide some protection and security. Provide a place to raise a family. Some birds use birdhouses, others use nesting shelves, others like trees and shrubs. Keep cats away. Outdoor cats kill thousands of songbirds every year.

Casey's Comments: When you give a lesson in meanness to a critter or a person, don't be surprised if they learn their lesson.

Casey Farris is owner/operator of Bone Voyage Pet Sitting Services©, a Garden Oaks company offering many services and products dedicated to the welfare of our pets and the people who love them. Mau Mau Farris is owner/operator of Casey. Please forward your questions and pet news to Casey@goDOGusa.com or call 713-683-6191.

A Time for Renewal

Mark Saranie

Well, the year is on its way and in little over a month, April 7 to be exact, our annual home tour will be in full swing. This is the time to spruce up those front yards for our grand show. Incidentally, heavy trash day is a week later, so please, please, refrain from putting out anything before the tour. Those piles of stuff on the side of our streets aren't exactly yard art and don't leave a good impression.

What a winter we had! The more than usual cold weather combined with the lack of rain has taken its toll on most gardens around the neighborhood. During the last few weeks I have done some minor cleaning that really left my beds bare and embarrassing. Fortunately, this is a great month to get new inhabitants into the ground. The cool weather will enable these to develop good root systems that will allow them to endure what will surely be a record scorcher of a summer. I am not dedicating too much to the beds immediately in front of the house as I am in the process of redesigning that portion of our front yard into an area that requires less attention and will have more color than it has had in the past. I'll add just enough so that it looks nice for the tour and can easily be transplanted afterwards. Lots of pots are in order for this Band-Aid.

Garden centers are filling up with myriad perennials that will endure in the garden for years to come. Native perennials or those plant species that can take our summers are excellent selections because when properly mulched for the

cold time of the year they are guaranteed to be the first to return from their winter dormancy, thus lessening your efforts.

A hasty trip to my favorite garden center provided me with some plants I have never tried. They are going bananas in their containers so I know they will adapt to their new home readily. Their mature heights will hopefully give this particular bed a nice 'high to low' look. Since I cannot tolerate a planting season without disappointment, I purchased some seed to sow. We'll see what happens.

What I am trying out is Cardinal Flower, Sunray (*Coreopsis grandiflora*), Cape Daisy (*Osteospermum*), Blue Lace Flower, and Lambs Ear. Their culture, sun needs, and care are similar so it should be a colorful gathering as well as an easy maintenance issue. Other warm-weather selections are: **Perennials**-Balsam (red flowers), Cleome (pink, purple, or white flowers), Daylilies, Hibiscus, Lantana, Phlox, Plumbago (either white or blue flowers), Shasta Daisy, Vinca, and Wedelia. **Annuals**-Ageratum (light blue flowers), Celosia, Cosmos, Copper Plant, Gaillardia, Gomphrena (purple or white flowers), Ixora (red, pink, or yellow flowers), Kalanchoe, Marigold, Penta, Petunia, Portulaca (red, orange, or yellow flowers), Purslane, Salvia, Torenia (if you can find this you'll love it), Zinnia.

There is a lot to do outside right now so protect yourself from the sun and enjoy the dirty work.

Garden things for March

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

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

Useful Numbers

Senior Helper
713 862 3747

All City Services
(city information or services ranging from traffic court dates and sewer concerns to pothole problems and neighborhood complaints)
311

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

Recycling Hotline
713 837 9130

Deed Restriction Violations
City of Houston Legal Department
713 247 2000

Bruce Tatro (District A)
713 247 2010

Ken Yarbrough
713 263 1516

John Whitmire
713 864 8701

March 2002

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Upcoming events Civic Club Meeting Tuesday, April 2 nd 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 Triangle Park Workday 9:00 AM
3	4	5 Civic Club Meeting 7:00 P.M. GO Elem	6	7	8	9
10	11	12 Home Tour 7:00 P.M. 822 Lamonte	13 Home Tour 7:00 P.M. Kroger W. 43rd With Captains and Home & Garden Owners	14 Garden Club 7:00 P.M.	15 Gazette Deadline	16
17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19 Home Tour 7:00 P.M. 235 W. 33 rd	20 First Day of Spring	21 HPD Positive Interaction Program 7:00 P.M. St. Matthew's	22	23 Garden Oaks Blvd. Workday 9:00 AM
24 Palm Sunday	25	26 Home Tour 7:00 P.M. 838 Azalea	27	28	29	30
31 Easter				Passover	Good Friday	

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) _____ = \$ _____

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