



Garden Club to present "Growing Camellias in Houston"

Robert De Veau, Garden Club Vice President

Join the Garden Oaks Garden Club on Thursday, January 9th at 7:00 pm when Greg Davis of the Houston Camellia Society kicks off our new year with an informative slide presentation regarding everything you need to know on growing camellias in the Houston area. Mr. Davis will also bring along a few sample plants and some blooms for display. Having grown and shown camellias since 1970, Mr. Davis has been actively involved with the Houston Camellia Society, including several terms as President. In addition, he is also Past President of the American Camellia Society and is active in both the Gulf Coast Camellia Society and the International Camellia Society.

Did you know...?

- These gorgeous shrubs are natives of Japan and China.
- Red camellias symbolize intrinsic worth and white blossoms mean loveliness.
- Displayed at Korean weddings as far back as 1200 BC, camellias represent longevity and faithfulness.
- Camellias produce large, elegant, rose-like blossoms that range in color from pale ivory to shell pink to glistening crimson. The flowers come in a variety of shapes and sizes.

The camellia is one of the few shrubs that blooms in the winter months, from about October through April, depending on the species and variety. Throughout the South, they have been highly prized for over 200 years for their lustrous evergreen foliage and exquisite flowers, many of which open to show golden stamens.

The Garden Oaks Garden Club meetings are open to everyone. Each month we meet at a different club member's home. Our January 9th meeting will be hosted at 1063 W. 42 St. You may call me at (713) 686-6012 for additional information. We hope to see you on January 9th.

Civic Club Meeting

*Tuesday,
January 7th*

The next Civic Club Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 7th at 7:00 P.M. in the Garden Oaks Elementary School Multi-Purpose Room. There will be a **drawing** for a **door prize**. Don't miss out!

Wonders Never Cease

Joe Muscara

No sooner than the December *Gazette* hit the streets, I received not one but *two* calls from neighbors volunteering to take over as editor. We've decided to let one, Hector Willars, take over as co-editor, and he's starting those duties with this issue. Welcome aboard, Hector!

That means that Warren Carlson is no longer co-editor. I must give thanks to Warren for all his help and support during his term as co-editor. Though sometimes we disagreed on whether certain changes were necessary, his input was always valuable. I think it's important to know what the possibilities might be, whether those were literal or grammatical. Thank you very much, Warren. It's been fun. I will always get a laugh when I think about how our friendship started...

Unfortunately, we still have not found a replacement to take over the position of ad director from Holly Veech. If you think you even *might* be interested in this position, please *please please* contact Holly at 713 861 8093 or GazetteAds@GardenOaks.org and find out what the position entails. Holly has done a great job, and I thank her for all her help.

So what does that mean for me? It means this is my last issue as *Gazette* editor. A little earlier than March, I know, but we couldn't come up with a reason for me to stay on when the new editor, Rebecca Ferguson, was willing to take over after this issue. Besides, it seems that I've already developed a case of "senioritis," that disease that hits those who are on their way out. Maybe it's also known as "lame duck disease," where the victim says, "hey, what do I care? I'm leaving anyway!" Hopefully, the signs of this disease won't be too flagrant throughout this issue.

I've had a lot of ups and downs being *Gazette* editor. There have been many headaches, but it also has been a lot of fun. I imagine that there will be things that I'll miss about it, but then again, I don't really think about doing those things until those few days every month when I'm working on it. I'm very excited to see what Rebecca does with it. I think she's going to do quite well.

What am I going to do? Oh, I don't know. I'll be around. I want to work on my business more, so that will take a bit of my time. That's probably the biggest thing. Other than that, probably a little here and a little there. Nothing huge.

Continued on page 5

Garden Club Officers

<i>President</i> Ed de Alba	713 694 5934
<i>Vice President</i> Robert De Veau	713 686 6012
<i>Secretary</i> Chris Lindsay	
<i>Treasurer</i> Janet Cones	
<i>Yard of the Month</i> Janet Cones	
<i>Sunshine</i> Susan Spooner Gunther	
<i>Phone Committee</i> Barbara Ballance	

Garden Oaks Montessori News

Brian Sherwood, VP Communications, Friends of Montessori at Garden Oaks

The next board meeting of the Friends of Montessori at Garden Oaks, guardians of the Garden Oaks Elementary School Montessori program, will be Tuesday, January 7th at 6:00pm in the school library.

This meeting will include elections for three board positions, President, VP Program Development, and VP Communications. The Communications position will be for only one year as the current holder is retiring when his last child leaves Garden Oaks in June.

It is important for new parents to serve in order to get new ideas on keeping the program going. Please come and participate. Learn what issues are before the Montessori program. Give your opinion and volunteer your time and expertise to benefit our program.

The board of the Friends of Montessori at Garden Oaks Elementary School is made up of program parents and other concerned people who support the functioning of the program and make sure the classrooms and teachers have what they need that is above and beyond the requirements of a conventional HISD classroom. The board members are elected to two year terms by the members of Friends of Montessori at Garden Oaks. The membership is made up of the parents of the children in the program and the Montessori staff at the school.

In its first five years as a pilot program, admissions was based on a first come, first serve basis. There were no preferences given to siblings. Now that the program is no longer a pilot, the admissions policies have been revised to reflect the needs of the community while adhering to current HISD admissions policies. At the request of the current school administration, we considered alternatives to the "camp out" that has characterized the first come, first serve policy. In line with this, the board has settled on a lottery system that will include a sibling preference and a required parent meeting before signing-up for the program. Come to the board meeting to find out more details.

Thank you for supporting the Montessori program and Garden Oaks Elementary.

For photos from the 2002 Montessori Pancake Breakfast, please see pages 8 and 9. For information about the 2003 Pancake Breakfast, see the insert.

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Director to be alive)

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Guillaume "GEM" Morvan (Shepherd Park Plaza Resident)

Minutes of the December 2, 2002 Civic Club Meeting

Lori Kennedy, Secretary

After a delicious pot-luck dinner, President Kenneth Santos called the meeting to order at 7:24 p.m. The November minutes were accepted as published.

Officer Reports

Treasurer – Treasurer Margie Dalton reported the Constable balance is about \$520 negative because of payment of a final invoice. There have been expenses in the past month for beautification (signs) and the final GOMO/deed restriction committee bill for attorney fees. The overall account balances are still in good shape.

Standing Committee Reports

Beautification – Chair Rick Grochoske reported that all four entrance signs have been refurbished (rotten wood replaced, sanded and painted). There will be a lot of projects in the upcoming year. Contact Rick at 713.864.8164 for more information or to volunteer.

GOCOP - Chair Carl Waters reported the crime statistics, which were down for the month compared to last year, but the overall year-to-date statistics are still higher than last year. Three new members began patrolling in the last month. Amy Shaughnessy received patroller awards for 85 hours (t-shirt) and 100 hours (jacket). Contact Carl at 713.864.1992 for more information or to volunteer.

GardenOaks.org – Co-Chair Josh Hamilton reported that a search page has been added. Remember the web address is GardenOaks.net or .org.

Gazette – Chair Joe Muscara reminded everyone that the deadline for submissions is the 15th of every month. The *Gazette* is looking for a new editor, new co-editor, and new ad director. If you know of someone who wants to advertise, please contact Holly Veech at 713.861.8093. Contact Joe at Gazette@GardenOaks.org regarding the positions or submissions.

Membership – Chair Cherry Wolfarth announced that membership reached its goal of 25% participation for the year. They will be sending out dues invoices this month. Donna Archer won the door prize.

Other Reports

Constable – Co-chair Terry Jeanes reported that they have received some contributions towards re-starting the program. Whenever the program re-starts, it will be for the remainder of the calendar year. They will send reminders to past supporters and paper the neighborhood. The committee would like a new draft form from everyone (including current draftees) so information can be updated.

Garden Club – The next meeting will be at 974 W. 42nd and will be the holiday party. Contact Janet Cones at 713.956.7340 for more information or to join.

New Business

2003 Budget – The 2003 budget was submitted for approval. There was discussion regarding membership funds being designated as individual committee income versus designated as the membership total. The budget was prepared before the new membership structure was announced so the membership revenue plus committee income contributions are now the total membership revenues; they are the same numbers but are just labeled differently. It was moved, seconded, and passed to accept the budget as published.

Election of 2003 Officers – The nominations committee slate was presented by David Bell. The slate, as previously published, recommended Kenneth Santos for President; Josh Hamilton for Vice-President; Margie Dalton for Treasurer; and Lori Kennedy for Secretary. There were no nominations from the floor. It was moved and seconded to accept the slate as presented; the motion passed.

Santa Claus will be at the Gazebo Park on December 17 and 18 from 6:30 to 8:30 each night. Wassail and cookies will be served.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Continued from page 2

So, I want to wrap up with a few thank yous before I lose my composure. Thanks to all of the contributors over these nearly three years. I've gotten a lot of compliments about the *Gazette* while I was editor, and I've always thought that the contributors were just as deserving of the compliments. As I've said, without them, this thing would be blank.

Thanks to Oscar Ochoa of OD's Printing. This guy is something else. No matter what happens, it's okay, and he has a smile on his face. He has been somewhat quietly involved in this community for years, volunteering and donating money and printing services without asking for anything in return.

I want to thank all of you who have been reading the *Gazette* and my little column when I've bothered to do it. I really appreciate it. Let's all make faces at the people who don't read this—they're not looking!

Last, but not least, I want to thank the one uncredited member of the *Gazette* staff, my wife Lori. She has been proofreading every issue since I started (yes, I've had and need two proofreaders; that's the secret to my success). But, more importantly, she has put up with my ranting, my yelling, my cursing, my bad moods, and every other thing I've done when the computer crashed or something else was going wrong. Even better, she's been super-helpful and supportive throughout my term as editor. I couldn't have done it without her; I *wouldn't* have done it without her.

I better stop now before I get all *verklempt*. I will see you all around the neighborhood.

But then,


I won't be the editor anymore.

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Citizens on Patrol

Carl Waters, Jr.

Happy New Year everyone!

For the past seven years it has been my pleasure (most of the time) to serve as the coordinator for our neighborhood Citizens on Patrol program. You have seen my name in the *Gazette* each month but, as I have stated many times before, I am not the only patroller in the neighborhood. Starting this year a patroller or a patrol team will be featured as the *Patroller(s) of the Month* until all the members of the patrol unit have been featured. I have selected patrollers Amy and Bill Shaughnessy to kick things off in January. Amy and Bill have lived in Garden Oaks Section 4 since they report having followed a very wise friend here in 1994. Since then they have met lots of other equally wise friends in the neighborhood through their involvement in the Civic Club, Home Tours, GOCOPS, *Gazette Delivery* and hosting annual Neighbors Night Out parties. Amy also served as the Civic Club Secretary for 2000 and 2001. They have been patrolling regularly as GOCOPS since 1999.

October Crime Statistics (7)

Burglary (3)

Tuesday, October 8th, 800 block of W. Fort-third St. at 9:30 p.m. (residence).
 Monday, October 21st, 1100 block of Sue Barnett at 9:30 a.m. (residence).
 Thursday, October 24th, 1400 block of Sue Barnett at Noon (residence).

Burglary of a Motor Vehicle (2)

Thursday, October 17th, 1000 block of Althea at 3:46 a.m. (street).
 Saturday, October 19th, 400 block of W. Thirty-third St. at 4:00 p.m. (street).

Auto Theft (2)

Wednesday, October 2nd, 500 block of W. Thirty-third St. at 9:00 p.m. (residence).
 Thursday, October 17th, 4400 block of Alba at 10:30 a.m. (street).

NOTE - As occurred last month, two crimes were reported out of the sequence for which I was reporting. They were a burglary that occurred Tuesday, August 27th at 7:30 a.m. in the 4200 block of Apollo and an auto theft that occurred September 27th in the 2900 block of N. Durham at 3:00 p.m. from a parking lot. I have adjusted the August and September reports accordingly.

Please contact me via the Internet at GOCOP77018@AOL.com, the Garden Oaks web site or by telephone 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
All Other City Services	311

Constable Report

Terry Jeanes and Susan Saranie

Is he back yet?

No, not yet. We are still in need of your support to reinstate our own dedicated constable patrolling 40 hours per week in our community. The constable dispatcher will still respond to calls for this area but the immediate presence is not here. All supporters are asked to complete an updated form (see insert) whether you are a current member or new supporter. For a monthly draft of \$20 per month, you can support our private patrol program, receive 40 hours of patrol per week, have your alarm contact as the constable's office, receive vacation watches, and get security checks for discounts on your homeowner's insurance.

Supporter forms are flowing in steadily but we are not there yet. We need 225 supporters before reinstatement can occur. **We need your support!** Please complete the form and return it as soon as possible so we may get our dedicated constable back on our streets before the "bad guys" notice that he is gone! Start the new year off right—complete your constable form today! For additional information contact Terry Jeanes 713-812-9154 / jeanest@pdq.net or Susan Saranie 713-861-7994.

Heard Under the Oak Tree

Terry Jeanes

Welcome new neighbors Congratulations and welcome to the following who recently closed on their property.

412 West 34th 208 West 32nd 512 West 33rd
802 West 41st 831 West 43rd 432 West 30th

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

Happy Birthdays

Belated to former civic club presidents *James Flowers* (December 10th) and *Terry Jeanes* (December 11th).

Upcoming birthday wishes to *Lindsay Veech* who, on January 24th, will be celebrating her first birthday and to *Madeleine Willars* who will be turning three the same day.

Special thanks to *The McMillians and crew* for all their help in hosting Santa for his annual visit to the Gazebo Park.

Our condolences to the *Doris Matteson family*. Doris was a long time resident and she passed away on November 27th.

To all a joyous and prosperous new year.

To highlight a neighbor or special event please call or email Terry Jeanes at 713-812-9154 or jeanest@pdq.net.



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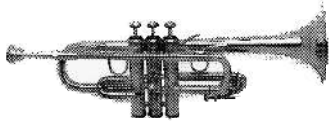
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Pictures from the 2002 Montessori Pancake Breakfast



“Fireman Read” Tatum enjoys his pancakes.



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Garden Oaks Montessori Graduate and Alumni Leader Anne Fruge, Parent Kirsten Joel, teacher Karen Rodriguez and future student Madeleine Joel rest after a hectic morning.




Jim Murdock of IHOP shows his daughter, Megan Becker and Garden Oaks Parent Rene de Luna how to flip pancakes like a professional.

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Ladybugs

Mark Saranie

A few weeks ago my office manager came rushing excitedly into the store. "Mark, Mark, you have got to come outside to see this!" She turned and was back outside in a rush. When I got to the back door she and another associate were out in the sun looking up. Far above us in a corner of the building what seemed like hundreds of ladybugs were crawling all over the walls. They extended from that point clear around the east side of the building. Never have I seen this amount of ladybugs in this setting. I have seen them many times at one of our local nurseries for sale in mesh bags, but never in a swarm. There also seemed to be a nest up in the corner from which they were crawling.

I wasted no time in finding a lidded plastic container, punching holes in it, putting some foliage in the container, and scooping as many ladybugs as possible into it. When I got home that evening I opened the container and let them go in our back yard. The next day at work ladybugs still crawled about so I repeated my actions from the previous day and released them once more at home. A few days ago while moseying about the backyard and beds I spied several of the bugs on the hummingbird bush.

This event brought to mind a time long ago when I lived in Costa Rica. My dad and I were up in one of many mountainside neighborhood developments he surveyed. It was a breezy afternoon and the low moan of the wind rushing through the pine trees gave the then undeveloped terrain a haunting personality. One could almost expect to see a leprechaun come strolling casually out from among the many trees. Then, a ladybug the size of a nickel landed on my shoulder. It looked like a pin and was deep red with black polka dots. It was a fleeting moment as it took wing almost as quickly as it had adorned my life. I have never seen a ladybug of that size since.

If you are interested in biological means for controlling garden pests, ladybugs are an excellent choice to control aphids and leafhoppers. Pesticides are an easy fix and kill beneficial and bad bugs alike. When the bug population ratio gets out of balance, problems may follow. The clouds of mosquitoes we all endured last year are evidence of this.

Among the ranks of good bugs are lacewings, trichogramma wasps, praying mantes, assassin bugs, and spiders. These usually migrate when the food supply is gone or gets very low, so identifying these will guard you from poisoning them. Other control measures are bats, birds, frogs, and lizards; yard beasties that can also be killed by over use of pesticides. Be kind to your surroundings and use pesticides responsibly and sparingly; the bug you eradicate may be the bug you need.

Garden Things for January

- **Mulch.** This is a year round activity and through the month our plethora of trees give up plenty.
- **Hold off on pruning** any freeze damage. It is best to wait until the last frost so that you do not encourage any early growth that can be damaged by a late frost.
- I have seen many incidences of brown patch in the neighborhood. Consult your local nursery for a fungicide.
- If you still have any refrigerated tulips put them in early in the month. This is also a great time to plant spring-blooming bulbs.
- Have a great January.

Submitting Plans to GOMO

The Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization, Inc., (or, more popularly, GOMO) is your organization, made up of your neighbors and friends, to help you and your neighbors comply with our neighborhood's deed restrictions.

One of the most important services that GOMO provides to you is a consistent, knowledgeable process for determining deed restrictions compliance. This service, currently free of charge, allows a property owner of any section of Garden Oaks to submit their building plans to GOMO, and have GOMO check the plans for compliance with the Garden Oaks Deed Restrictions. The property owner will then receive a letter, either congratulating the owner for complying with the DRs, or, if there appears to be a potential violation, describing the violation in detail so that the owner can rework the design of the structure in order to be in compliance.

You *must* submit plans to GOMO if your property is in Sections One, Two, Three, or Five and you are

- erecting a new residence or outbuilding of any kind, even for ornamental purposes;
- expanding the 'footprint' (usually means adding on to your existing foundation, whether concrete slab or 'pier-and-beam'/ crawlspace) of any existing residence or outbuilding;
- extending the vertical height of your existing residence or outbuildings;
- rebuilding a residence or outbuilding after the original residence or outbuilding has been destroyed/removed/relocated.

Submitting plans to GOMO is strictly voluntary if your property is in Section Four.

You do *not* have to submit plans to GOMO if your construction involves only interior changes to either the residence or outbuilding(s).

Remember, though, that even if you are simply replacing windows, remodeling your kitchen, re-doing electrical/plumbing, etc., you will likely need to get one or more City of Houston building permits of some type, even if you do not have to submit your plans to GOMO. In no case will GOMO acquire City of Houston permits for a property in Garden Oaks, nor does the approval of plans by GOMO imply approval by the City of Houston.

So, if you are looking to finally build that second bedroom at the back of the house, or adding a detached garage, or are rebuilding your residence, contact any of the GOMO Directors listed below, and make arrangements to deliver a non-returnable copy of your plans for approval.

Another important service that GOMO provides to Garden Oaks is the handling of deed restrictions violations.

First, let's understand that there are no paid GOMO managers nor any full-time staff. GOMO is an all-volunteer organization. So, while we do, as part of our volunteer 'job,' try to keep our ears to the ground and our eyes open, we must also rely on you and your neighbors to notice remodeling or new construction, as well as any potential violations.

To that end, GOMO has a process in place to let you and your neighbors keep us informed of construction, remodeling, etc. in the neighborhood. And, like all good processes, we also have a nice form to fill out. This form is available on the GO website, as well as on the Garden Oaks Yahoo! List server (in the 'Files' section). In addition, any of your GOMO Directors will be able to provide a copy of the form to you upon request.

Fill out the form with as much information as you can, and please include your name and contact method (phone, cell, email, etc.), especially if you would like for us to keep you advised of any action/resolution.

In addition, you may also contact one of the GOMO Directors by phone or email (listed below) to leave your information. Again, give as much information as you can, and include a contact method for yourself.

Once we have the information on the form, GOMO will investigate the complaint, and take any action that may be needed.

The identity of the person(s) making the complaint will be kept confidential.

I know this is a lot, but, as with everything else dealing with Garden Oaks Deed Restrictions, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact any GOMO Director listed below.

GOMO Directors

<i>Section One</i>	Donna Archer	713 863 0532
	Tim Gunther	713 861 1336
<i>Section Two</i>	Sam Stengler	281 773 3478
	Peter Kozak	713 692 5843
	David Hoyer	713 699 8171
<i>Section Three</i>	Richard Stark	713 691 1067
	Mike Dishberger	713 695 7916

[Directors from Section Five are still needed. If you would like to run for Director of Section Five, please contact a Director listed above for detailed qualifications and procedures.]

Critter Corner

Casey and Mau Mau Farris

Happy 2003! Most of us at one time or another have made New Year's resolutions in the interest of self-improvement. This year, why not make some for pet improvement? However, Mr. January is so purrfect he doesn't need any stinking resolutions. Mau Mau says he's got a great resolution. Why does that make me nervous? In the winter it is harder for birds to find food in their natural habitat. As a result, winter is a great time to set up a bird feeder and to enjoy getting to know different birds!

Pet of the Month: "Mr. January" is Henry Points, a one-year-old white Maine Coon cat. Henry lives with his family in Section Two. Henry shares his territory with his parents, Chad and Jenifer, and a yellow Lab named Summer. One day, a cousin George (Orange Tabby) came to visit. George was not happy and did not like other animals or people. When he met Henry his whole outlook changed and his disposition changed also. It was such a transformation that the Points kept George so he could live with Henry. The three Points animals have created an interesting ritual. They get in a line and Summer nibbles Henry and Henry nibbles George. Nobody doesn't like Henry! Henry is relaxed and easygoing but very curious and playful. He's the kinda cat that makes you laugh just thinking about him. His daddy says Henry gets himself into trouble. I say we need more Henry's in the world.

Pet News: Bert and Ernie (Beagles) Speers had a sleep over with Kolby (Black Lab) Schimmenti; Major (Black Lab) Breda and Austin (Husky Mix) Posada had a play date. Chelsea Streeter (Orange Tabby) turned 20. Many friends and admirers showed up with well wishes. Happy Birthday Your Highness! Goldie Rhinehart (Mix) is recovering well from her spay operation. Penny Schoenfield (Catahoula) is learning "sit" and "down." Presley and Elvis Thompson (Pugs) have a new human baby boy named Joe Emory. Stryder Davis (Doberman) is gaining weight and showing lots of personality. Stryder was a very sick dog a couple of months ago and strayed into the neighborhood. He literally knocked on the Davis door and collapsed. Dodie and Randy took him in, got him vet care, and have spent lots of time nursing him back to health. He is not out of the woods yet but we are hopeful.

Critters 101: Resolutions for Healthier Pets

Resolution #1 Spay or neuter your pet. By doing so, not only do you not add to the horrible problem of pet overpopulation

(five to twelve million animals are euthanized each year in US shelters), but you also decrease the odds of certain health problems.

Resolution #2 Get your pet on a good diet. The quality of your pet's diet has impact on his or her health, and once you switch from a supermarket brand to a premium brand, you will see the difference in your pet's coat.

Resolution #3 Keep your pet well groomed. Keep up with brushing as necessary for your breed and don't let it get away from you. Grooming can be an excellent opportunity to bond with your pet. Healthy cats usually do an adequate job keeping themselves clean, but dogs should be bathed every month or two with a good quality pet shampoo.

Resolution #4 Conduct periodic at home checks on your pet. This is in no way meant to replace his annual exam with a vet. However, take a few minutes every month to nip some potential problems in the bud. First, run your fingers through the coat, against the grain. Does it feel greasy? Is there dandruff? Are there little black specks? Is the skin a normal gray-white, or is it pink (indicating irritation)? After touching the coat, do your fingers smell rancid or fishy? Have there been any changes in stool, water intake, or urination? Do you see wax inside the ears? Do they look oily? Check gums for a red line along the roots (sign of potential disease). Are the teeth brown? Contact your vet if you discover anything unusual.

Resolution #5 Exercise your pet every day. If you have a yard, don't put the dog out to amuse himself, play fetch with him. Take him for walks. If you're out all day, take your dog to doggie daycare or hire a dog walker to exercise him. Not only will these things keep him in shape, but also they'll make him calmer in the house. Likewise, cats need to be exercised. Turn your cat's favorite playthings (ping pong balls, bread bag ties, crumpled paper) into prey by tossing them around and away from your cat. Cats who love to watch birds might be more stimulated trying to catch things in the air. Tie the toy to a piece of string and make it fly above your cat but let him catch it every so often to keep it fun.

Resolution #6 Stimulate your dog through training. Even if your dog has been through puppy kindergarten and knows basic commands, there is more to be learned. Adult dogs find stimulation through taking advanced classes, many trainers offer classes in areas such as agility, fetching, or coming when called. Such classes will benefit your dog by surrounding him with friends, engaging his mind, and strengthening his bond to you.

Resolution #7 Resolve to spend lots of quality time with your pet. Your love and affection will make your pet happier – and thus healthier in the New Year, and all those that follow.

Dear Mau Mau: *What is your New Year's Resolution?* A. Kinton I have given this some thought and this year all humans living under my roof will sleep a specified amount of hours every night as determined by me. I will strictly enforce this rule, and, should they fail to comply, all humans will be vigorously reminded of my authority in this matter beginning approximately two hours prior to sunrise. *Mau Mau*

Backyard Report: One of the best ways to get to know birds is to feed them! Put bird feeders where you can see them from a window – hanging from a tree branch, on the ground, or on a deck. (Remember cats can hide in bushes, so place feeders a safe distance from shrubs and bushes). If a bird finds a backyard feeder in Houston that it likes, it may stay for the winter and even may return to the same spot next year! Provide a variety of foods to attract different kinds of birds. Peanut butter is a favorite of Chickadees and Woodpeckers. Cardinals and Blue Jays like sunflower seeds. Goldfinches enjoy Niger seed. Suet is a good, high-energy food for a number of different birds in the winter. Experiment to find out which foods your backyard birds prefer.

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.

Letter to the Editor

I have lived in the Garden Oaks area for 56 years. We have a new restaurant named "Fortune 99" located in the Garden Oaks Strip Center. They have the most wonderful huge buffet of Chinese food, and the place is always spotless. The food contains no preservatives and no MSG. The food is absolutely delicious and the owner has spent a great deal of time, money and effort on the venture. (I dine there at least once a week.) Garden Oaks residents are not giving Fortune 99 the support it needs to continue. This is the first restaurant we have had in this location, and I realize that the economy is down, but a good restaurant is what most of us look for. I hate to see a business with such caring, concerned owners, cooking fresh food every day, having to close.

Will you please mention the restaurant in the Gazette. I would greatly appreciate it. Roland, the owner, said he is going to give it a few more months to see if business picks up, if not he will regretfully have to close the doors.

Sincerely,
Judy Drapela
Section 2 Resident

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

Download PDFs of recent Gazettes at

<http://www.GardenOaks.org/>

For a copy of the deed restrictions for your section, visit the Garden Oaks web site at <http://www.gardenoaks.org> or contact any of the above GOMO directors. Please be sure to include your section number or your address in correspondence.

Useful Numbers

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

January 2003

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Upcoming events Civic Club Meeting Tuesday, February 4 th Make sure your Civic Club committee meeting or event gets on the calendar! Email the editor at Gazette@GardenOaks.org with your information.			1 <small>New Year's Day</small>	2	3	4
5	6	7 Montessori 6:00 P.M. G.O. Elem Library Civic Club 7:00 P.M. G.O. Elem.	8 GOMO Directors Meeting 7:00 P.M. Kroger W 43 rd	9 Garden Club Meeting 7:00 P.M. 1063 W 43 rd	10	11
12	13	14	15 Gazette Article Deadline (maybe...)	16	17	18
19	20 <small>Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Observed)</small>	21	22	23	24	25 "What is written without effort is read without pleasure." -Samuel Johnson
26	27	28	29	30 <small>Yeah, my birthday!!</small>	31	

Thanks to all of you that paid your 2002 Civic Club Membership dues. You helped us meet our 25% membership goal for 2002.

We are now taking dues for 2003. Please see the enclosed membership form for more information.