

Garden Oaks Gazette



And the Winner is...

TINA SABUCO

Congratulations to **Peggy Kramer** of West 31st Street for her winning entry in the “Name the 2004 Home & Garden Tour and Party” contest! Her idea, *The 2004 Garden Oaks Home and Garden Tour - Celebrating Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow*, won by a landslide!! As a thank-you from those of us on the committee, Peggy will receive **two free tickets to the Garden Oaks Home & Garden Tour and Party** (a \$100 value). This includes a tour of the homes and gardens, party admission, dinner, dancing, and the auction! Thank you, Peggy!

The committee would also like to thank Caroline McLean, Susan Taylor, Mike Upper, Susan Sidell, Craig Lee, and Ann Best for their wonderful ideas! Between the seven entrants, we had a total of eighteen submissions from which to choose!

Thanks again, Peggy! The committee is excited about all of the possibilities your theme will allow us in publicity design and party planning!

2004 Officer Nominations

SHEILA BRIONES

As we roll into the last quarter of the year, it’s time once again to decide who will represent you in decisions regarding the neighborhood.

The Nominating Committee - Terry Jeanes, Craig Lee, and I - have been working to compile a slate of officers who have the best interest of Garden Oaks in mind.

The officers to be presented by the Nomination Committee and voted on at the December 2 Civic Club meeting include the following:

- President:** Trey Wood, Sect. 1
- Vice President:** Chris Lindsay, Sect. 4
- Treasurer:** Mike Dishberger, Sect.3
- Secretary:** Diane King, Sect. 1

Nominations from other people who want to run for an office will be taken from the floor at the December 2 Civic Club meeting. If you have any questions, please call me at (713) 718-5117 (work) or (713) 861-8091 (home). You may also email me at sbriones@hotmail.com.

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Civic Club Meeting Tuesday, November 4th

The next civic club meeting will be November 4, at Garden Oaks Elementary school at 7:00 p.m. Attend the Civic Club meeting for a chance to meet your neighbors and share your ideas.



REBECCA FERGUSON
Gazette Editor

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I hope everyone had a great October. The autumn has always been a special time for me. I think everyone feels just a little more alive when the temperatures finally get below 80 degrees. Of course, as of this writing, that hasn't really happened yet, but the potential is there. Halloween is always the holiday kickoff for me. Then there's Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's... and my birthday falls in there somewhere (see calendar, then see contact info at left for sending gifts). I want to wish everyone a very happy start of the holiday season, and remind everyone that the real point of the holidays is not to stress out about shopping or dinners or family gatherings, but to take time to share your feelings of love and happiness. I apologize for that being so sappy. The fall always does that to me.

In other news, we have a new writer for the *Gazette's* gardening column. Margaret Sinclair has belonged to the Garden Oaks garden club for about three years. She is also the president of the Houston Hemerocallis Society and she completed the Master Gardening Program in Fort Bend County about 4 years ago. Additionally, Margaret is a member of the Houston Rose Society, the Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society, and the Cactus and Succulent Club. She is currently studying to become a National Garden Club horticultural and floral design judge. Most importantly, Margaret has been gardening and loving it for many years. We were all very pleased to have someone pick up the column so quickly.

Which leads me to my next point. I was disappointed when I read Mark

Saranie's article last month and learned that he would no longer be writing for the column. I always enjoyed Mark's articles because they had a tendency to touch on various details of day-to-day life and consequently read with a very open and honest tone. On several occasions, a comment or phrase in his articles would make me smile and laugh to myself. We appreciate the work he put into the articles over the last few years, and wish him the best with the free time he'll now have every month. Thanks a lot, Mark. And thank you Margaret, for stepping in and making the column your own.

Have a great Thanksgiving, everyone!

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Membership Report

CHRIS LINDSAY

The Garden Oaks Civic Club Membership Committee wishes to thank all 468 of our neighbors who supported our Civic Club this year by paying their dues. As reported in last month's newsletter this is a record number of household memberships for a single year!

The enclosed insert sheets list the complete and official Garden Oaks Civic Club Membership list, as required by our rules.

While we appreciate your financial support, it would also be great to have you contribute thoughts and ideas for the Civic Club and/or volunteer your time to serve on one of the committees. Our Home & Garden Tour will be back next year and that requires quite a number of volunteers to make it a success. Or, if nothing else entices you to attend our meetings, maybe the chance to win a fabulous door prize will! Every month at the Civic Club meeting, (the first Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. at Garden Oaks Elementary School) every adult who attends is eligible to win. So come to the next meeting, meet your neighbors, and maybe you'll be the next winner of our door prize.

October's door prize winner was Sheila Briones, who won a \$25 gift certificate to Kaplan's Ben-Hur.

Remember that we provide a baby-sitter at our monthly Civic Club meeting. Cost is just \$1 per child.

Download recent Gazettes at

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

Randall Park - Have You Seen It Lately?

RICK GROCHOSKE & SUSAN ADKINS

If you haven't driven by Garden Oaks's newest park, you need to. It is located on the west side of Durham at Randall and 30th Streets. You may remember the white, water-filled barricades (milk jugs) that seemed to be there for years. Well, no more—it's a beautiful landscaped berm now.



With sweat equity from primarily many Section 1A residents and funds from the entire neighborhood, the once cut-through street has been transformed to a beautiful park. The planning of the park began over a year ago and the design was implemented in three work days. This spring, compost was added and tilled into the soil of the berm, turning the compacted dirt into soil suitable for sustaining plant life. Several large rocks were also placed to add visual interest and to block the errant vehicles that continued to drive across the area, even though it was closed to traffic. Late in September, the sprinkler system was installed with a new water meter and tap. The last work day on October 11 was the most rewarding with the planting of over 300 pieces of landscape material. The plant material consists of native grasses and trees in a variety of colors and textures. The trees—Montrose Purple Vitex, Red Drummond Maples, a Fantasy White Crape Myrtle, and a Jerusalem Thorne—all offer either colorful foliage

or clusters of flowers when mature. Plans are in the works to add a crushed-granite pathway between Randall and 30th Streets.

Garden Oak Civic Club earmarked money in its 2003 budget to help get the park started. Five hundred dollar contributions from both the Garden Club and Terri Jeans were promised if donations could be obtained from the neighborhood. This comment put Section 1A residents to work. With a few phone calls, some door knocking, and a fun neighborhood get-together they raised enough money to make the park a reality. Jackie Hanson, owner of New Horizons Landscaping (not a resident of Garden Oaks), was nice enough to contribute all the material for a sprinkler system and, with help from his crew and from neighborhood residents, it was installed and is working beautifully. Please note New Horizons Landscaping advertisement in this month's Gazette.

It was a lot of work for a lot of people, but the rewards are beautiful. So drive by and take a look. Once again our residents show our pride in Garden Oaks and show what a neighborhood is all about.



L to R: Gary Adkins, Judy Roesler, Matt Roesler, Kelly Mathews, Susan Smallwood, Doug Fletcher, Sean Jez, Rick Grochoske, Guy Smallwood, Susan Adkins, and Jeff Breem

Civic Club Meeting Minutes - October 7, 2003

LORI KENNEDY
Secretary

Vice President Josh Hamilton called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. It was moved, seconded and passed to accept the September minutes as published.

Officer Reports

Treasurer – Margie Dalton reported there was not much activity in September. No funds have been transferred yet; Margie is still checking into other types of accounts. If anyone would like to help Margie investigate other banking options, let her know.

Standing Committee Reports

Beautification – Chair Rick Grochoske reported that the irrigation framework has been put in Randall Park and they are working with the City to tap into the City's waterline and meter so that water will (hopefully) be running by 10/10/03. A planting workday is scheduled for 10/11/03 at 9:00 a.m. Contact Rick Grochoske at 713-864-8164 for more information or to volunteer.

GOCOP - Chair Carl Waters reported the August crime statistics. There were 7 reported crimes for the month (including 1 from June and 1 from July) and 68 so far this year. The total reported crimes year-to-date is 9 less than last year but patrollers are always needed. Contact Carl at 713-864-1992 for more information or to volunteer.

GardenOaks.org – No report.

Gazette – Chair Rebecca Ferguson reminded everyone that the deadline for submissions is the 15th of every month. It was noted that daylight savings time ends on 10/26 not 10/27 as listed on the calendar. Contact Rebecca at Gazette@GardenOaks.org regarding submissions.

Membership – Chair Chris Lindsay announced there are 467 paid household members of the Civic Club. They are working on catching up with delivering the welcome packets for new residents. Sheila Briones won the mystery door prize.

Ad Hoc Committee Reports

Cookbook (Membership) - Jane Hamilton said she still needs all types of recipes for the cookbook. She is hoping to have it available for sale at the Home Tour. She may place an article or flyer in next month's *Gazette* to remind people about it. Contact Jane at Recipes@GardenOaks.org to submit recipes.

Home Tour - Chair Sheila Briones reminded everyone that the Home Tour is scheduled for 4/18/03. The preview party will be on 4/17/03 at Mraz Hall on W. 34th. The party will include a preview of the homes and gardens, a silent/live auction and a band. Tickets are \$50.00. Peggy Kramer is the winner of the theme contest - Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow. Peggy wins two tickets to the preview party - congratulations! There are 2 home and garden combos (1438 Sue Barnett and 950 W. 43rd); 3 homes (535 W. 33rd, 1006 W. 41st and 1343 Sue Barnett); and 4 gardens (212 W. 34th, 507 W. 31st, 963 Gardenia and 901 Sue Barnett). Contact Sheila at HomeTour@GardenOaks.org for more information or to volunteer.

Other Reports

Garden Club – Chris Lindsay announced the next meeting is outside of the neighborhood and is about trees.

Last month's meeting was the annual plant swap. The Garden Club is having a workday in Friendship Park on 10/11/03. Contact Ed de Alba at 713-694-5934 for more information or to join.

GOMO - President Sam Stengler announced the annual GOMO members' meeting would immediately follow the Civic Club meeting.

New Business

Sheila Briones noted that many residents have complained lately about the noise of the trains and that Craig Lee has begun to communicate with Burlington Northern railroad. Craig is trying to open and develop the lines of communication with the railroad to understand their long-term plans and address the quality of life issues that may arise. Craig is trying to get a railroad representative to come to a Civic Club meeting. Craig would like to see an ongoing meeting agenda item regarding the "train noise mitigation effort" or something similar, for monthly updates on progress.

Sheila Briones is also heading the nominating committee for the 2004 slate of officers. Terry Jeanes and Craig Lee are also on the committee. Contact Sheila or any of the committee members to submit names for consideration.

Guest Speaker - Ken Hernandez, Workforce Dean at Houston Community College. Mr. Hernandez spoke about the impact and importance of HCC to the community. HCC provides education and workforce skills and has served over 1 million students in its history. Mr. Hernandez is asking for the

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The holiday season is fast approaching, so I thought some holiday safety tips would be timely. These items were taken from a quarterly publication that I receive from the Houston Police Department.

While Shopping

- Stay alert to your surroundings: thieves prey on those who are inattentive.
- Do not shop alone (swimming isn't the only time there is safety in numbers).
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash. Purchase your merchandise with checks and credit or debit cards, if possible.
- Always carry some form of identification (preferably a Texas driver's license or identification card).
- Do not carry a large purse. If you must carry a purse, wrap the strap tightly around your arm.
- Do not carry your wallet in your back pocket. Consider carrying it in your front pocket. This is good advice for check books, as well.
- Keep an eye on your packages when eating at the mall. Bags can be easily switched. The same is true while shopping for additional purchases.
- Teach your children what to do if they become separated from you while shopping.
- Do not carry a large number of packages when you leave the store or mall. Consider using the package pick-up service.

- Always have your keys in your hand before leaving the store.
- When you arrive at your vehicle place your packages in the trunk or other covered area.
- Leave the store before closing time when at all possible.
- Check with the store or mall security to see if they can escort you to your vehicle.

In Parking Lots

- Shop early to avoid evening darkness and night travel.
- Park in areas with high visibility. Check to see if lighting is available in the event that you must leave after dark.
- Avoid parking next to vans or other vehicles with heavily tinted windows.
- Walk briskly, confidently, and directly through the parking lot to your vehicle. Be wary of strangers soliciting sales or information.

At Home

- Keep the outside of your home well lighted with your doors and windows locked.
- Do not display gifts beneath a Christmas tree that can be seen from the street.
- After Christmas, destroy all gift boxes and place them in non-transparent garbage bags to avoid advertising to thieves what gifts came into the house.

August Crime Statistics (6)

Burglaries (5)

800 block of W. 31st St. on Monday, August 4 at 11:15 p.m. (residence).
3100 block of N. Shepherd on Friday, August 15 at 10:00 p.m. (residence).
800 block of W. 31st St. on Thursday, August 21 at 10:30 p.m. (garage).
3200 block of Randall on Wednesday, August 27 at 8:30 a.m. (residence).
900 block of W. 41st St. on Thursday, August 28 at 8:00 a.m. (residence).

Burglary of a Motor Vehicle (1)

4300 block of Apollo on Sunday, August 10 at 5:00 p.m. (street).

In addition to the August crimes, the report also indicated the burglary of residence in the 300 block of W. 34th St. that occurred on Tuesday July 22 at 1:00 p.m. The July numbers will be adjusted accordingly. Through August of this year, there have been 68 crimes reported to HPD. In 2002, there 77 crimes reported through August.

Please contact me by email at GOCOP77018@AOL.com, the Garden Oaks web site, or by telephone at 713-864-1992 for details about joining our program.

Emergency Phone Numbers

Call these first, then call Carl Waters to report neighborhood crimes

HPD (Non-Emergency) - 713-884-3131
Precinct 1 Constable Dispatch - 713-755-7628
Crimes in Progress, Fire, or Ambulance - 911
All Other City Services - 311

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Floral Design 101

ROBER DE VEAU
Garden Club Vice President

Throughout recorded history, people have used flowers to express their feelings, to enhance their surroundings, and to commemorate important rituals and observances. The knowledge of how our ancestors used flowers comes to us in numerous ways. All forms of art depict the use of flowers: music, books, paintings, sculpture, ceramics, and tapestries are only examples of some of the sources of information regarding the use of flowers in past times. Some of the most opulent examples of source material for us are the flower pictures produced by artists during the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries, which so accurately depict flowers in their incredible beauty.

Join us on Thursday, November 13, when the Garden Oaks Garden Club travels to John+Simpson Florists at 373 W 19th St. Shop owner and Garden Oak's resident Susan Simpson will conduct a hands-on floral design workshop. Participants will leave with a finished floral design and with ideas of how to decorate for the holidays. Using materials found in our yards – such as magnolia, variegated pittosporum, nandina berries, and Golden Rain Tree, combined with purchased floral material – Susan will discuss the mechanics of design and show how anyone can create a thought provoking design. Susan is partial to the use of seasonal plant material, which is always preferred, and each month of the year has its special flowers. Many have symbolic meanings: pine boughs represent wisdom, maturity, and nobility; narcissus (the sacred lily) stands for prosperity, good fortune and purity; Bamboo represents longevity, constancy, humility and fidelity; and peach blossoms are youth and charm.

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Railroading

CRAIG LEE
Section 1 Resident

The romanticism of the railroad allures me. At times I fanaticize about hopping aboard one of those trains that pass by my home, and riding it wherever it wants to go. Just for the heck of it. At first, living near the tracks was kind of interesting, kind of cool. But things have changed some since I moved here 12 years ago, besides me getting older and crankier.

I live in a corner of Garden Oaks near Yale that is often affected by the 'GO trains,' and in these last few years, the number of trains has definitely increased. The horns have also gotten louder (I have verified this). Have you noticed that too? Now, there's this little thing about them parking on the tracks for hours at a time. I wonder now if there is something we can do or say to help find a better balance between neighborhood desires (peace and quiet) and the railroad's needs to make a profit. I also wonder if the changes we've seen are a trend that has not ended yet. Will Burlington Northern/Sante Fe (BNSF) double or triple the tracks (there's just one now)? Will they use their right of imminent domain to buy properties and expand operations?

I fantasize about an urban neighborhood devoid of the typical city annoyances - one that is peaceful and tranquil. Probably as unrealistic as the when I daydream at my Greenway Plaza office and envision US 59 not as a big wide freeway, but a big wide river, with parks and fishing piers along the banks. Well, that's not likely to happen anytime soon, but there are some little known programs in place now that help mitigate noise and disruptions from the

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Critter Corner

CASEY AND MAU MAU FARRIS

Hi neighbors! The holidays are just about here and boy am I ready. Be sure and keep an eye on all your Thanksgiving dinner leftovers; the temptation can be too much for a dog, and sometimes the cats get in cahoots with the dog. Last year, after cleaning up the kitchen, my husband and I left for a short visit with some friends and when we got back, the turkey breast leftovers were missing and we never found them or any trace of them. My neighbor Jo Ann Jones, kindly gave us some of her leftovers for turkey sandwiches. Is this a great neighborhood or what?! This month spotlights one of America's favorite cat breeds (the Himalayan), and Ms. November happens to be one. Mau Mau has been a little stressed out and wants to talk about it. The backyard has falling pecans and lots of spider webs – better put on a hat.

Pet of the Month

“Ms. November” is a beautiful Blue Norther Himalayan named Fancy Keating. She is nine years old and lives in Section V with her family Erin, Kevin, and six month-old Patrick Joseph. Fancy is a gorgeous feline, but her personality is what wins you over. She has an easygoing, sweet disposition and likes all people. Her favorite activities include following you around, grooming, napping, lounging by the front window, and playing. One of her favorite games is popping catnip bubbles. After ten minutes with Fancy, anyone would be hooked on Himmies.

Pet News

Bonnie and Clyde (Border Collies) Owens recently competed in a Novice Frisbee Contest. Clyde won 1st place and Bonnie won 3rd place. Now, they

move on to the Intermediate Level Competition. Way to go Owens family! Mickey Barton (Black Lab) recently died of old age. Ralphie Hesse (Burmese) was hit by a car on Golf and passed away. Please remember to drive slowly through our neighborhood; you never know when a pet will dart out the door and into the street. Tobey (Yellow Lab Mix), Oliver (Brindle Lab Mix), and Annie (Calico) Ingelmo are pleased to announce the birth of their human baby brother named Luke. Maxine Evans (Tuxedo) has a new human baby sister named Emma and apparently the two are really close already. Emma watches Maxine and Maxine watches Emma, they share toys, and Maxine now sleeps under the bassinet.

Critters 101: Gimme a Himmie!

To say the Himalayan is popular is an understatement. Each year, the Himmie, as he's affectionately called, recruits more devoted humans into his not-so-exclusive fan club. Membership requires only two things – a desire to share your life and heart with a sweet, devoted feline, and a willingness to spend part of every day slaving over a hot cat comb. The Himalayan demands a serious time commitment to keep those long locks looking lovely.

The Himalayan was created in the 1950s by American and British breeders whose goal was to create a cat with the pattern and color of the Siamese but the body and head type of the Persian. By breeding together Persians and Siamese and then crossbreeding the offspring, these breeders succeeded in producing the desired appearance. Heavily boned, broad through the chest, low on the legs, and massive across the

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Gardening Column

MARGARET SINCLAIR

Hi there, I'm your new gardening columnist. I'm delighted to be asked to write about plants and gardening. I'm more of a horticulturalist than a plant person as I'm interested in almost anything related to gardening. When I present various plants, I'll use their Latin name because that is the best way to truly identify a plant. I will also put what I recognize to be the familiar name. Often, plants are known by local names and sometimes, I won't know them all, so please don't take it personally if I leave out Aunt Susie's name for a flower that you knew and loved back when.

It's the best of times and the worst of times to garden. It's the best weather for any outdoor activity and the worst in that I haven't the energy to garden every single day to the maximum. I hate it when that happens. It's also difficult to stop buying all the plants that will look great in the winter. One of the most wonderful aspects of gardening here in the heat and humidity of the Gulf Coast is that we **can** garden all year long. The rest of the nation gets a break during the winter – not us. We can go like that battery bunny if we have the energy! I've heard it said that our winter is August. Heaven help you if you haven't got your watering system set up by then. What is it they say about Houston? We have two seasons – August and the rest of the year.

I now have way more to plant than I ever expected since the Houston Garden Club recently held their annual Bulb Mart and I had to go there. The nice part about gardening for years is that you can eventually limit yourself to the area of interest. This year, for me, it's gingers. The ginger family is called Zingiberaceae and a fellow named Lindl

first found and named it. There are about 40 genera in this family and the cultivated genera include some names we recognize: *Alpinia*, *Amomum*, *Costus*, *Globba*, *Hedychium*, *Kaempferia*, and *Zingiber*. *Zingiber*, *Curcuma* and *Kaempferia* have a dormant period in the winter. All gingers are rhizomatous herbs in that they grow from fleshy roots that lie horizontally under the ground. Leaves or stems grow directly from the rhizome. Iris are like this also.

Here are some of the common gingers for us to grow:

Alpinia – Shell ginger, can live to about 25° but are slow to return if colder than that. They have drooping flower racemes, 12" to 18" long and are quite showy. *Alpinia zerumbet* "Variegata" is the green and yellow ginger we see taking sun and shade.

Amomum compactum – This is known as the cardamom plant but is not the true cardamom. It has a fragrant leaf and grows to 2' to 3' in light shade.

Costus – The leaves are set on the stem in a spiral and that gives this ginger its familiar look.

Curcuma – The leaves rise directly from the roots and are known as the "surprise" gingers. These like deep shade and have a short season.

Globba – A deciduous ginger, the flowers are colorful bracts in drooping racemes with small flowers. These grow best in high shade and are useful as a detail plant.

Hedychium – These are the butterfly gingers. *Flavum* is yellow; *coccineum* is brick red, orange-salmon or a blend of these.

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Volunteers Step Forward

SHEILA BRIONES

2004 Home & Garden Tour Chair

Volunteers filling the 2004 Home & Garden Tour Committee Chair positions were announced at the September 9 tour committee meeting. I would like to personally thank the following volunteers:

- **Dian Austin and Sandy Altman** chair the *Command Center Committee*.
- **Ann Best** will handle the *Publicity/Marketing Committee*.
- **Debbie Padon** is in charge of *Docent Scripts*.
- **Ed de Alba** heads the *Transportation/Traffic Committee*.
- **Trish Ricklefsen** stepped forward to chair the *Preview Party Committee* with help from **Brenda de Alba**.
- **Terry Jeanes** is in charge of the *Florist Committee*.
- **Susan Kostecky** has undertaken the *Underwriting Committee*.
- **Marie Grochoske** will handle the *Concession Committee*.
- **Susan Saranie** leads the *Finance Committee*.
- **Shannon King** is in charge of the *Communications Committee*.
- **Tina Sabuco** leads the *Silent/Live Auction Committee* with the help of **Becky McCullough**.
- **Jan Forster** heads the *Printing Committee*.
- **Holly Veech and Kelly Gould** chair the *Pre-Sale Tickets/Poster Committee*.

- **Craig Lee** will handle the *Set-Up Committee*.
- **Nelda Prince** stepped forward to chair the *Volunteer/Staffing Committee*.
- **Blake Woods, Susan Kostelucky, Debbie Padon, Terry Jeanes and Brenda de Alba** made up the *Selection Committee*.

The tour committee has been busy these past couple of months but there is still a tremendous amount of work to be done.

We Need Volunteers!

We need a volunteer to head the graphics committee! If you have any graphics experience and willing to help out the Home Tour effort please contact Sheila Briones as soon as possible.

You may also volunteer as a tour docent, ticket taker, greeter, trolley guide, or as a member of one of the above-mentioned committees. To volunteer or if you have any further questions, please feel free to call me (Sheila Briones) at (713) 718-5117 (work) or (713) 861-8091 (home) or send me an email at: sbriones@hotmail.com

Mark your calendars for the 2004 Home & Garden Tour scheduled for Sunday, April 18, 2004, 12 noon to 6 p.m. Keep in mind that profits from the Tour benefits the entire neighborhood.

Check out the new Garden Oaks
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Minutes

Continued from page 4

community to help HCC and support the \$150 million dollar referendum on the November 4th ballot so HCC can continue to provide for Houston.

Announcements

The next Civic Club meeting is 11/4/03.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Railroading

Continued from page 6

trains. One is "quiet zone" where street crossings are made safe enough that trains can pass without horns. Another is the possibility (currently being studied by the county) of rail "corridor consolidation." Another would be to build an underpass so Yale crosses under the tracks (ala Shepherd). And then there's just trying to let the railroad know we're here and please try to be a 'friendly neighbor' as you pass through—whatever that entails.

Towards these ends, I am working with a BNSF liaison to get someone to attend one of our future civic club meetings. It can't hurt. Other neighborhoods are taking similar actions. The potential benefits include our quality of life, and property values too. If anyone wants to hop a train with me, stop on by. Train stops daily.

Floral Design

Continued from page 6

No one really knows who assigned significance to each flower and plant, but it is written, "Every plant can well express itself."

The Chinese are credited with being the first people to put water in a container of cut flowers. It seems obvious now, but when the people in China were put-

ting flowers in water, the rest of the world was braiding garlands, making wreaths, and flinging petals. Today's floral designs in general incorporate the simplicity of oriental line arrangements and the massed arrangements of European designs. Today's arrangements are often called line-mass arrangements. Line is the linear foundation of a floral arrangement. A line can be produced by the stem of a flower, or by similar flowers placed in a line. It is the framework of line that brings the composition together. Lines can evoke an emotional response. A vertical line gives the appearance of strength, and a horizontal line promotes relaxation or tranquility. A curved line adds gentleness and motion, and a diagonal one indicates movement and anxiety. It is line that leads the eye from one point to another.

Last month, club members and guests braved a stormy night to drive out of the neighborhood to attend our meeting. Alas, our guest speaker was unable to attend. Heidi Sheesly of Tree Search Farms was most apologetic and has offered to give us a "rain check." Look for her rescheduled appearance in the early part of next year.

Garden Club Officers	
<i>President</i>	Ed deAlba 713 694-5934
<i>Vice President</i>	Robert De Veau 713 686-6012
<i>Secretary</i>	Chris Lindsay 713 819-8412
<i>Treasurer</i>	Janet Cones 713 956-7340 Robert De Veau
<i>Yard of the Month</i>	Janet Cones
<i>Sunshine</i>	Susan Gunther
<i>Phone Committee</i>	Barbara Ballance

Critter Corner

Continued from page 7

shoulders and rump, the ideal Himalayan is a large, substantial cat with an overall impression of roundness, a body style known as "cobby." The long coat adds to the impression of roundness and mass. Like their Siamese ancestors, Himalayans are decorated with the pointed pattern. Pointed and lynx-point colors accepted are seal, chocolate, lilac, blue, flame, cream, tortie, blue-cream, chocolate-tortie, and lilac-cream.

Himalayans make perfect indoor companions. Like their Persian siblings, Himmies are devoted and loyal. They are gentle, calm, and sweet-tempered, but they also possess a fun-loving, playful side. Himalayans love to play fetch, and a scrap of crumpled paper or a kitty toy will entertain them for hours. More vocal and active than the Persian (a gift from their Siamese ancestors, no doubt), they are nevertheless much quieter and less active than the Siamese. Himalayans are devoted and dependent upon their humans for companionship and protection. They crave affection and love to be petted and groomed, which is a good thing because every Himalayan owner will spend part of each day doing just that. Breeders recommend a 10 to 15 minute grooming session each day and a thorough one hour grooming session once a week. Occasional bathing is also needed to remove oil accumulation. Fortunately, with their calm, gentle personalities, Himalayans take well to grooming if you are gentle, consistent, and start their grooming programs early in their lives.



Dear Mau Mau

Why have you been stressed lately?
S. Collins

Well, lately my staff has been a little too busy for me, and my stepsister, Elizabeth, is trying to snuggle with my mom in my place on the bed. This upsets me and I don't know how to handle it. When I don't know how to handle things, I urinate on the rug in the foyer. For some reason, this gets everybody's attention and they focus on me again, meanwhile my mom washes the rug with Nature's Miracle. As far as Elizabeth goes, I have help now keeping her on her side of the bed. From time to time priorities get mixed up and I have to straighten things out again.

- Mau Mau

Backyard Report

I haven't had as many birds at my feeders the last few weeks and the squirrels aren't hounding me either. I was kind of worried, even took my feeders apart thinking something was wrong with them. Finally, I spoke to my unofficial official source, Joy Dansby, and her feeders are slow too. Nuts and berries are abundant right now and the wildlife is busy eating all that.

Another thing, I recommend wearing a hat when you are outside. The pecans whizzing off the trees could hurt somebody and the spiders are so prolific right now it's kind of hard not to run into a web.

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 713-688-6363.

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Gardening Column

Continued from page 8

Kaempferia – These are deciduous with purple green foliage with flowers blooming from the rootstock. Pulchra is the Peacock plant and rotunda is the Resurrection lily.

Zingiber - The Zingiber genera has the species officinal, the food ginger, and zerumbet the pinecone ginger. It has the red bract with very small white or yellow flowers.

I'm expanding my Hedychium collection this year. They like partial shade, rich soil with adequate moisture and are truly tropical plants. They tolerate an occasional light freeze and frost. These are also the very fragrant ones. I try to bring in a bloom each morning to enchant my senses, because, usually, I can't figure out immediately why the place smells so good. It takes a second or three to remember. I like that mystery.

Just to let you know what we're supposed to be doing for our gardens right now, I'm going to include the monthly to do lists. Happy troweling!

Gardening Stuff for November

You can still start a veggie garden for cool season vegetables. I've planted lettuce, carrots, radishes, spinach and turnip by seeds. Watch for the doves eating your seeds; they're very clever that way. If you're not actively growing anything over the colder months, keep the weeds pulled anyway, because prevention is the best cure.

Time to plant the cool weather annuals. My favs are the ever-present pansy in those newer Victorian colors; linaria, also called toad flax, in butter and eggs and a great blue multicolor; sweet alyssum in wine, white and yellow; snapdragons, short, medium and tall; and sweet peas. Sweet peas can be diffi-


cult to get going but they pay off so nicely in the end. You must plant them in November to get any for the spring.

Bulbs such as daffodils, ranunculus, and anemones go in the ground now, too. Be sure to mark where you put them or you'll be digging them up later for sure.

If you're into roses, there is the school that says stop feeding them now so they can go dormant for a bit and rest. I maintain that here they don't go dormant so I feed all winter and have splendid blooms. Roses have no problems with our not very cold winter. Houston Rose Society members have a rose show in the spring and want their blooms to appear at a certain time. They follow the resting theory and begin feeding about Valentine's Day.


You can fertilize your lawn this month and next. This is the active growing time for grasses and the perfect time to feed. Water well for the next two months, too.

Check the mulch beneath your shrubbery and bigger plants and keep it several inches away from the actual base of the plant. You don't want extra substance to stay wet and rot the trunk. Don't prune any camellias as they are setting bud for the winter bloom; this is true for all spring blooming plants, like bridal wreath (spirea), quince, flowering trees, and azaleas.

 **Yard of the Month**

Marilyn Davenport at 1438 Sue Barnett is the November Yard of the month for Garden Oaks. She has lived there for 13 years, but in February 2003 she re-landscaped her yard. It is very beautiful!

(for Sabrina Farber at Garden Guy:
Marilyn's phone number
is 713-686-5542)



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Recycling Hotline
713 837 9130

Deed Restriction Violations
City of Houston Legal Department
713 247 2000

Bruce Tatro (District A)
713 247 2010

Dwayne Bohac
713 460 2800

John Whitmire
713 864 8701

November 2003

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

Upcoming Events:						1
- December Civic Club meeting -- vote on new officers, 12/2						All Saints Day
- Home and Garden Tour, 4/18						
2	3	4 Civic Club Meeting Garden Oaks Elementary 7:00 p.m.	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 Home & Garden Tour Committee Meeting - 7 pm My Birthday!	12	13 Garden Club Meeting 373 W. 19th St.	14 Garden Oaks Elementary Fall Festival	15 Gazette Article Submission Deadline
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30				Thanksgiving		

2003 Garden Oaks Civic Club Membership Form

Name(s): _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

(A) Annual Dues

- \$25.00 Crepe Myrtle (Basic)
- \$50.00 Magnolia (Intermediate)
- \$75.00 Golden Oak (Patron)
- Senior Citizen \$5.00
- Senior Citizen \$10.00
- Senior Citizen \$15.00

(B) Garden Oaks T-Shirts \$15.00 each or \$10.00 Member Price

Quantity/Size: Small _____ Medium _____ Large _____ XLarge _____ XXLarge _____ \$ _____ TOTAL

(C) Contribution to Garden Club \$ _____

Are you a ___ new or ___ renewing member? Do you ___ own or ___ rent your house?

Amount Enclosed: _____ (A)+ _____ (B)+ _____ (C) = \$ _____ Total

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