Montessori Pancake Breakfast

JESSICA MODAD

On Saturday October 25, Garden Oaks Elementary hosted its 10th annual Pancake Breakfast. As always, this was a free event open to the entire Garden Oaks community. We are pleased to announce that the breakfast raised over $2,400 for the Friends of Montessori at Garden Oaks Elementary.

In addition to the breakfast, there was also a silent auction with wonderful prizes, including four tickets to see the Rockets play at the new Toyota Center; his and hers watches from I. W. Marks Jewelers; and a date night complete with limousine service, theatre tickets, and dinner for two. Some of these prizes were an absolute steal.

The kids enjoyed a sock hop, crafts table, and moonwalk, as well as all of the orange juice, pancakes, and sausage they could eat, all while wearing their Halloween costumes.

Thank you to the volunteers that helped make this possible, and to all of the donors and supporters of Montessori at Garden Oaks Elementary.

See Donor List on page 9

The Joys of Christmas

SUSAN LAFORET & LINNIE FREEMAN
Program Co-facilitators

Plans are underway for the “Joys of Christmas” program at St. Michael’s Episcopal Church (1613 W. 43rd). The program will take place on Sunday, December 21, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. There is no charge or request for donations, as this is considered to be a gift to the neighborhood.

The live nativity will include a donkey, sheep, and lambs, and we invite visitors to choose from costumes and play roles of shepherds, angels, or the Holy Family. There will be carols and refreshments, as well as activities for the children. Please call 713-681-6422 for more information.

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Civic Club Meeting
& Potluck Dinner
Tuesday, December 2nd

Please plan to join us at our annual potluck dinner. Last names from A-M should bring a meat dish or other casserole-type entrée. Last names from N-Z should bring a side dish, vegetable dish or a dessert.

The 2004 Civic Club officers and the budget will be voted on at this meeting.
Once again, I have waited until the very last minute to write. Aside from the fact that I have the art of procrastination down to a science, I had many things on my mind this month and was unsure of where to begin.

I want to start out by thanking all of the officers and volunteers (past and present) who have helped mold this neighborhood into what it is today. Without all of you, all of the accomplishments and prestige the neighborhood has achieved over the years would not have been possible. I hope that this positive trend continues to grow with the new year and the new officers.

As 2004 draws steadily nearer, I find myself reflecting on some of my actions and decisions from this year. One of the biggest things I did in 2003, outside of the realm of school and work, was to take on the role of editor for the Gazette. Now, certainly this was not a monumental life change—in fact, aside from some initial schedule adjustments and a little more swearing than usual toward the end of each month, taking on the job didn’t really seem like a big change at all. But with each issue that I have done, I have realized more and more the significance of our little newsletter. It is the only form of communication that reaches each person in the neighborhood, written by the residents, for the residents. And truthfully, I play a rather small role in all this. My job would be pointless if there were no one to provide content. We all play a part in this, and the more I’ve thought about it, the more profound it all seems to be.

There has always been discussion from time to time about things to do differently with various programs in the neighborhood, including the Gazette. And throughout my life, I have rarely encountered a situation in which there was not room for improvement. It is this kind of forward thinking that has brought our neighborhood the recognition that it has long enjoyed. Think where just this newsletter would be if every new editor had felt that the Gazette was as good as it was ever going to get. We would each be receiving a single sheet of paper every month with about three articles on it. Some neighborhoods do have this, or something very similar, and it has very little effect on the residents because many find nothing in it of value. Our Gazette, however, has something in it for everyone, and I do my very best every month to include every article that I receive. And I will continue to do so, as long as all of you keep sending them to me.

I hope that in the midst of all of the holiday hustle and bustle, everyone can take a moment to look around and think, “This certainly is a wonderful place to call ‘home.’” I know that I will, and I have all of the kind, helpful, and supportive people whom I’ve had the privilege of meeting and working with to thank for that.

I would love to meet more of you, and the monthly Civic Club meetings are a great place to do just that. I have heard many people say that they don’t attend the meetings because of all the drama. But keep in mind the fact that these meetings aren’t really all that dramatic—they have often been rather productive. If the meetings still aren’t for you, I understand. But write something, join a neighborhood organization, talk to your neighbors. Our little neighborhood has many great things to offer each of its residents. Why not take advantage of the opportunities?

As I’ve been a bit long-winded, I’ll close by simply wishing everyone a most joyful holiday, and a bright and prosperous new year.
President Santos Bids “Adieu”

KENNETH SANTOS
Civic Club President

“Apathy in my neighborhood? I don’t think so!” That’s how I concluded my first letter as President of the Garden Oaks Civic Association two years ago. For two wonderful years, I have had the pleasure and honor to serve as your President. I have had the opportunity and privilege of working with many concerned and involved individuals from our neighborhood. I have been fortunate enough to meet many people that I otherwise wouldn’t have had I not been involved. And I’ve also made a few new friends along the way. It’s been said that success is measured not only in achievements, but also in lessons learned, lives touched, and moments shared along the way.

Some of the high points of the past two years include:

• An extremely successful Home Tour in 2002 thanks to Sheila Briones and her committee of talented neighborhood volunteers.

• Under the direction of Sam Stengler, GOMO became a reality for four of the five sections.

• Chris Lindsay, chair of the membership committee, revamped the dues structure and increased the number of dues-paying households to the highest level it’s been in quite a while.

• The Beautification committee, lead by Rick Grochoske and a band of residents primarily from Section 1A, succeeded in turning “milk jug park” into the Randall Street Park with beautiful natural landscaping.

• The Fourth of July bike parade, on hiatus for the last several years, was resurrected and proved to be a most enjoyable way to start the holiday, thanks to Brenda de Alba and her committee.

Although attendance at Civic Club meetings has not been what I would have liked to see, it still provides a great forum for residents to voice their opinions, hear from our elected officials, and take care of business. Can Garden Oaks have more? Is there room for more involvement? Are we a cohesive neighborhood? Yes, but there is always room for improvement. I encourage the incoming Officers of 2004 to think outside of the box. I also encourage anyone reading this to get involved. Don’t wait for a neighborhood crisis to occur. Don’t let apathy take over.

There were many other events, highlights, and memories all made possible by numerous other volunteers. To each of you, I extend my sincere and heartfelt thanks. I cannot end this, my final letter, without publicly thanking my fellow officers for their understanding, support, and guidance: Vice President Josh Hamilton, Treasurer Margie Dalton, and Secretary Lori Kennedy have all made for a wonderful and enjoyable term. I will miss working with all of you.

Apathy in my neighborhood? I don’t think so!

You’d Better Watch out…

SUSAN McMILLIAN

Santa Claus is coming…to Garden Oaks. On Tuesday and Wednesday, December 16 and 17, from 7:00 to 8:30 pm (weather permitting), Santa will be in the Gazebo in the SueBarnett/West 42nd/Lamonte pocket park. There will be wassail and cookies for all (and candy canes for Santa visitors). Santa has been making this special visit for almost twenty years now, and he always enjoys it. His lap has always been open to pets and children of all ages! Hope to see all of you there, ready to greet the big guy!

Garden Club Wraps Up 2003

ROBERT DE VEAU
Garden Club Vice President

The holidays are upon us and December will find club members and friends forgoing our typical meeting to gather at the home of Ed and Brenda de Alba to celebrate the season with a potluck dinner and gift exchange. It’s a perfect way to wrap up this year and get ready for the New Year.

Last month, the Garden Club traveled to 373 W 19th St. for a hands-on floral design workshop at John+Simpson Florists. If you have not yet experienced this treasure of a store, you need to go. Susan Simpson has filled her shop with a delightful array of gifts, books, cards and various sundry items that are just perfect for that hard-to-please recipient. Of course, Susan’s specialty is flowers and floral design—both of


Continued on page 8
President Kenneth Santos called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. The October minutes were accepted as published.

**Officer Reports**

**Treasurer** – Margie Dalton reported that no income was recorded in October. Bills for October included money for Randall Park set-up, 2 months of Gazette printing, and payment to Garden Oaks Elementary as earmarked from the 2002 home tour.

**Standing Committee Reports**

**Beautification** – Chair Rick Grochoske reported that Randall Park was the big project during the last month; the irrigation system is complete and the initial phase of planting is done. Thanks to everyone who helped! Wayne Forester made a short presentation about planting trees in Grant Park. Many trees have been lost in Grant Park over the last several years for various reasons. The forestry division of the City’s Parks Department has a program to promote natural reforestation of areas. The City would provide and deliver the seedlings and mulch, and the Civic Club would commit to providing the labor to plant and water for 2 years (though the City would still pay for the water). Wayne will continue to investigate so a formal proposal can be adopted by the Civic Club. The City would need a signed letter of commitment from the Civic Club. Contact Rick Grochoske at 713-864-8164 for more information or to volunteer.

**GOCOP** - Chair Carl Waters reported the September crime statistics. There were 10 reported crimes for the month and 79 so far this year. Volunteers are always needed. Contact Carl at 713-864-1992 to find out how to become a GOCOP patroller!

**GardenOaks.org** – Joe Muscara and Josh Hamilton reported that the discussion forums are available from a link on the GO home page. Robert De Veau announced that the list-serve will be disappearing on January 1.

**Gazette** – Kenneth Santos reminded everyone that the deadline for submissions is the 15th of every month and that Rebecca’s birthday is on the 11th. Brenda de Alba asked about the Gazette budget and why there was a deficit. There was much discussion about the cost of the Gazette and Trey Wood suggested tabling discussion and forming a committee to investigate. President Santos stated that a committee was not necessary at this time and that he would mention to Rebecca to think about ways to cut costs. There was more discussion on cost cutting measures including changing the way the Gazette is printed, cutting articles, and limiting the number of pages. It was then mentioned that the Gazette income budget was reduced significantly because membership contributions are no longer designated specifically for Gazette, and that several other committees do not bring in income. Trey Wood moved to table discussion and form an ad hoc committee to explore cost cutting alternatives. The motion was seconded and passed. Contact Rebecca at Gazette@GardenOaks.org regarding submissions.

**Membership** – Brenda de Alba announced that the 2003 Civic Club membership list was published in last month’s Gazette. Ed de Alba won the door prize.

**Ad Hoc Committee Reports**

**Cookbook (Membership)** – Josh Hamilton said recipes are still needed. The committee will be meeting some time in November and will review different formats. Contact Jane at Recipes@GardenOaks.org to submit recipes.

**Home Tour** – Terry Jeanes announced the next meeting is November 11, 2003, at 7:00 p.m. at 1051 Althea. All committee chair positions have been filled. This year’s home & garden tour theme will be Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow. Contact Sheila Briones at HomeTour@GardenOaks.org for more information or to volunteer.

**Nominating Committee** - Craig Lee stated the committee has compiled a slate of officers for next year. The officers are: Trey Wood, President; Chris Lindsay, Vice President; Mike Dishberger, Treasurer; and Diane King, Secretary. The slate will be presented for Civic Club approval at the December meeting. Nominations will also be taken from the floor.

**Other Reports**

**Garden Club** – Robert De Veau announced there will be a second workday in Friendship Park on November 8, 2003. They will be planting daffodil bulbs and will sell any extras at a discount. The next meeting is November 13, 2003 on floral design. Contact Ed de Alba at 713-694-5934 for more information or to join.

**GOMO** – Mike Dishberger announced that elections for a Section 1 representa-
Notes from GOMO

SAM STENGLER

The Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization (GOMO) is happy to announce the election of two directors for Section 1.

Gig Runge has been a Section 1 GOMO Director since GOMO began, and is also our current Treasurer. His re-election gives him a new three-year term as a Director.

Diane King is also a new Director for Section 1. She has owned property in Section 1 of Garden Oaks for many years, and lived here for quite a while in the 1970’s and 1980’s. She has recently returned to Garden Oaks after a short stay in Corpus Christi, and we welcome her back to the neighborhood and to our Board of Directors.

Our next GOMO meeting will be on Wednesday, December 10, at 7:00 p.m., at the Kroger’s on W. 43rd. We will not hold a plan review meeting after the December 2 Garden Oaks Civic Club meeting, due to the potluck event that night. All Garden Oaks property owners are welcome to attend the meeting.

Just a reminder: if you are going to remodel your home here in Garden Oaks, and live in Sections 1, 2, 3, or 5, you will need to contact one of your section Directors to see about submitting plans for approval.

What’s Cookin’?

JANE HAMILTON

We are well under way with the preparation of the Garden Oaks Cookbook, but we still need more recipes! The cookbooks will be on sale at the 2004 Home & Garden Tour in April, but in order to make our deadlines, we need to have all recipes in by early January. We hope to have at least 100 recipes for publication. We would like to have enough recipes to divide the book into sections or themes, so by contributing, you’ll not only provide a recipe, but you’ll also be helping to shape the book itself.

Please submit your recipe to http://bbs.gardenoaks.org/, and open the recipe forum in the temporary forums section. The only information that is required besides the recipe is your name and how long you’ve lived in Garden Oaks. Recipes may also be sent via email to recipes@gardenoaks.org.

If you do not have access to the internet, mail your recipes to: Jane Hamilton, 858 Azalea, Houston, TX 77018.

GOMO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Jane Hamilton, 858 Azalea, Houston, TX 77018.
Citizens on Patrol

CHRISTMAS IS THE TIME OF YEAR WHEN MANY ORGANIZATIONS SEEK HELP FOR THE POOR AND NEEDY. PLEASE USE CAUTION WHEN MAKING CONTRIBUTIONS. RECENTLY, TWO YOUNG MEN IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD WERE GOING DOOR TO DOOR ASKING FOR CONTRIBUTIONS. THEY CLAIMED TO BE COLLEGE STUDENTS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON, COLLECTING FOR LOCAL CHARITIES. AN ALARM NEIGHBOR CONTACTED THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON AND WAS TOLD THEY DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN PROJECTS LIKE THAT.

BE CAUTIOUS ALSO OF PERSONS SELLING MAGAZINES DOOR-TO-DOOR. THE CITY OF HOUSTON REQUIRES THAT ALL DOOR-TO-DOOR SOLICITORS HAVE A PERMIT. IF THE INDIVIDUAL AT YOUR DOOR DOES NOT HAVE ONE, HE/SHE IS IN VIOLATION OF THE LAW AND SHOULD BE REPORTED TO THE AUTHORITIES. IN THE CASE OF TELEPHONE SOLICITORS, HAVE THEM SEND YOU DOCUMENTATION ON THEIR PROGRAMS BEFORE AGREEING TO SEND THEM ANY MONEY. TELEPHONE PLEAS ARE A GOOD WAY TO GET MONEY AND NOT PROVIDE A SERVICE IN RETURN. PLEASE REMEMBER TO NEVER GIVE OUT CREDIT CARD INFORMATION OVER THE PHONE TO ANYONE THAT YOU DID NOT CALL.

SEPTMBER CRIME STATISTICS (10)

ROBBERY (1)
700 block of W. 43rd St. on Thursday, September 18 at 8:30 p.m. (street)

AGGRAVATED ASSAULT (1)
3400 block of N. Shepherd on Sunday, September 7 at 9:00 a.m. (street)

BURGLARIES (4)
500 block of W. 34th St. on Monday, September 1 at midnight (residence)
800 block of W. 31st St. on Thursday, September 11 at 10:00 p.m. (garage)
1000 block of Sue Barnett on Tuesday, September 16 at 2:20 p.m. (residence)
200 block of W. 31st St. on Wednesday, September 17 at 7:45 a.m. (residence)

BURGLARY OF A MOTOR VEHICLE (3)
2900 block of N. Shepherd on Monday, September 1 at 3:00 p.m. (parking lot)
2900 block of N. Shepherd on Monday, September 15 at 9:00 p.m. (parking lot)
700 block of W. 41st St. on Wednesday, September 24 at 5:45 p.m. (street)

DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED (1)
3200 Block of N. Shepherd on Saturday, September 27 at 3:59 a.m. (street)

ALSO LISTED ON THE REPORT WAS THE BURGLARY OF A MOTOR VEHICLE WHICH OCCURRED ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6 AT 7:00 p.m. IN THE 700 BLOCK OF W. 43RD. THE AUGUST NUMBERS WERE ADJUSTED ACCORDINGLY. CURRENTLY, 79 CRIMES HAVE BEEN REPORTED BY HPD IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD. THIS IS 5 FEWER INCIDENTS THAN REPORTED IN 2002.

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
The holidays are a great time to keep up traditions and bond with our friends and families. A wonderful bonding tradition to begin or continue is reading to your children. Education experts confirm what you may already know: reading for fun has a profound impact on our children. It not only introduces them to facts, fables, and fun, but it can also increase math scores, develop reading comprehension, and improve vocabulary, grammar, and punctuation skills. Books make wonderful gifts. Most of the holiday books listed here can be found at Amazon.com, Book Stop, or Barnes & Noble. This is just a small sample of all of the wonderful holiday books available.

Arthur’s Christmas by Marc Brown
Gaston the Green-Nosed Alligator by James Rice
The Christmas Miracle of Jonathan Toomey by Susan Woiciechowski
Clifford’s Christmas by Norman Bridwell
Franklin’s Christmas Gift by Paulette Bourgeois
The Gift of the Magi by O. Henry
How the Grinch Stole Christmas by Dr. Seuss
How the Reindeer Saved Santa by Carolyn Haywood
The Night before Christmas by Clement Clarke Moore
The Nutcracker by Mary Jane Auch
Olive the other Reindeer by Vivian Walsh

The Polar Express by Chris Van Allsburg
Theodore Was Here by Gregory & Puls
The Beautiful Christmas Tree by Charlotte Zolotow
Celebrating Kwanzaa by Diane Hoyt-Goldsmith
The Gifts of Kwanzaa by Synthia Saint James
My First Kwanzaa Book by Deborah M. Newton Chocolate
Crafts for Kwanzaa by Kathy Ross
Kwanzaa Karamu: cooking and crafts for a Kwanzaa feast by April Brady
December Secrets by Patricia Reilly Giff
Elijah’s Angel: a story for Chanukah and Christmas by Michael Rosen
Celebrations of Light: a Year of Holidays around the World by Nancy Luenn
A Great Miracle Happened There: a Chanukah Story by Karla Kuskin
Hanukah Money by Sholem Aleichem
Moishe’s Miracle: a Hanukkah Story by Laura Krauss Melmed
Our Eight Nights of Hanukkah by Michael J. Rosen
Songs of Chanukah by Jeanne Modesitt

Have a wonderful holiday!
Garden Club Wraps up 03
Continued from page 3

which took center stage at our last meeting. After a brief intro on the basics of design, Susan turned the us loose to create our own arrangements. With some coaching from Susan and Bill, her very talented designer, we all learned to “green” our bases before adding flowers. With a lot of laughter, a little help, and many words of encouragement, everyone left with a beautiful tabletop arrangement and a better appreciation for the art of arranging. But if you prefer to let the professionals do it for you, call John+ Simpson at (713) 862-8717 for all your floral needs.

On Saturday, November 8, several club members turned out at Friendship Park to plant masses of daffodils. These are sure to provide a springtime spectacle next year and for years thereafter. The variety planted is ‘Fortune,’ known for naturalizing in Houston. One thousand bulbs were purchased with some also going into the Rose Garden and several other pocket plantings around the neighborhood.

Garden Club meetings are open to all residents and friends of Garden Oaks. If you would like to become a member of the Garden Club, annual dues are only $10. For more information about the Garden Oaks Garden Club, call me at (713) 686-6012. We meet the second Thursday of every month at 7:00 pm. Most meetings feature a guest speaker followed by a brief business meeting. In addition, the Garden Club is responsible for the maintenance of Friendship Park and we conduct 2 work-days (one in the spring and one in the fall) when we add new plantings, replace the mulch, and tidy up the beds.

From all of us as the Garden Club, to all of you, we wish you happy holidays and a blooming new year!
Minutes
Continued from page 4

dive will follow the Civic Club meeting. Additional directors are still needed for Sections 2, 3, and 5.

Old Business
Craig Lee mentioned that he is talking with Burlington Northern and is still trying to get a representative to speak at a Civic Club meeting.

New Business
President Santos mentioned that because there was no Home & Garden Tour in 2003, no money had been set aside to donate to Garden Oaks Elementary. The school lets us use their facilities every month for meeting space at no charge to the Civic Club. Mike Dishberger moved to donate $1000 to the school. The motion was seconded and passed.

Announcements
The next Civic Club meeting is December 2, 2003, and will be the annual pot luck dinner.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 p.m.
Meeting refreshments were generously provided by Terry Jeanes of ReMax/METRO.

Check out the new Garden Oaks Neighborhood Forums on the Garden Oaks web site.

Dear Garden Oaks,

As we approach the New Year, I look back on all the good things that are happening in Garden Oaks ... and can only envision brighter things to come. I would like to thank those in the past, and now, who have worked so very hard at preserving this wonderful neighborhood. As we celebrate the New Year, I would like to raise a glass high and toast all of the great folks and friends who live here and have grown lives and homes in this beautiful Garden. Have a safe, prosperous and a fine New Year!

Harry James, Builder

10th Annual Pancake Breakfast Donor List
See Montessori article on page 1

Alexander’s Fine Portrait Design
Alday Theatre
Robert and Gisele Andrews
Brennan’s
Carrabba’s
Challal Café and Grill
The Children’s Museum of Houston
Classic 3 Golf
Michael Contello
The Cookie Art Cart
Craig’s Cleaners
Ernst & Young
Events
Foodarama
FOM & Garden Oaks Parents
Gabriel Tran Photography
Dr. Holmes Chiropractor
Houston Aeros
I.W. Marks Jewelers
Jake’s Finer Foods
James Coney Island
Kathy Johnson
Livingwell Solutions
Main Street Theater
Michael Walls
Museum of Health & Medical Science
National Pet Center
Radio Music Theatre
Rice Epicurean Markets
Marc and Jane Ann Roberts
Gig and Betsey Runge
Sheraton Houston Brookhollow Hotel
Six Flags Astroworld
The Spaghetti Western Italian Café
Jim and Lou Ann Taylor
Catherine Temple
Joanna Temple
Gabriella Villegas
Robin Williams
YMCA Northwest

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• CONSERVATION FRAMING
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818 W. 41st St 1030 Althea
858 W. 41st St 4232 Apollo
862 W. 41st St 815 Azalea
970 W. 41st St 855 Azalea
718 W. 42nd St 839 Lamont
847 W. 42nd St 1325 Sue Barnett
870 W. 42nd St 1458 Sue Barnett
823 W. 43rd St 1506 Sue Barnett
975 Gardena 1575 Sue Barnett

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December 2003 - Garden Oaks Gazette 9
Hi neighbors! Now that the holidays are here, it’s time to take stock of the good things in life. Dogs are definitely a headliner in that category. But while we love our pets, how often do we stop to really consider the reasons why we love them and the lessons they can teach us? Our own Mr. December is a great teacher. Mau Mau will explain why drinking toilet water is so “cool.” And when you decorate your tree, remember that the backyard will be getting busier as the winter birds get settled in, so why not decorate a tree just for them, too?

**Pet of the Month**

“Mr. December” is a Border Collie/Dachshund mix named Ramses. He is 14 years old and lives in Section 1A with his parents, Laura and Doug Fletcher, a cat named Cleopatra (Tortoise) and some fish (Cichlids). Ramses is adorable inside and outside. He has an abundance of happiness and he always follows his heart and his nose. Ramses says the secret to his longevity is taking 1-2 mile walks every day, getting plenty of rest, and having a smile for everyone he meets.

**Pet News**

Keegan Sabuco-Arnold (miniature Dachshund) passed away in October at the age of 14. He battled cancer for three months and died in the loving arms of his family. He was affectionately known as “The Beagle” and the love, joy, and light he emanated will be with us always. We also lost Seiko Antinoff (Shepherd mix) whose feisty and independent spirit gave us much joy and laughter. Star Davis (Shepherd mix) is taking agility classes and loves it. A big welcome to the neighborhood for Felix Caldwell (orange/white cat).
Wave to your neighbors and say hello. You might make a friend. Sometime it’s just nice to feel the sun on your back. Ask your dog. He knows.

Dogs aren’t afraid to ask for a hug. Dogs love to snuggle up to you as close as possible, and many will jump right in your lap when they’re feeling lonely. Don’t be afraid to ask for support when you need it. You don’t have to wait for the big things. Phone a friend and tell her you need a laugh. Call mom when you have a cold.

Dogs follow their hearts. You never see a dog doing things he hates because he feels obligated. Choose your friends, hobbies, and causes wisely. Make time to do the things that make you feel happy and whole. Spend more time with the people who make you feel good and less with the people who don’t. Don’t waste time seething about an irritating co-worker. Excuse yourself, shake it off, and move on to the delightful things you encounter. Think of the dog park. If your dog runs into a surly companion, he may grumble, even growl a little, but it only lasts a moment before he’s bounding off toward something better. And if the offender decides he would rather play than fight, dogs are quick to forgive.

So this holiday season, give your dog a big hug and an extra treat. Dogs deserve our respect; they are some of our most honorable teachers!

Dear Mau Mau

Why do my cats drink stale water, flower water, and toilet bowl water—anything but what’s in their water bowl? T. Sabuco

First of all, we like to drink out of the toilet because the water is usually cool. Running water has the same appeal. (It’s also fun to play with!) Flower water is often tasty. We generally ignore water placed next to our food bowls because we don’t associate thirst with eating. Then we forget the bowls are there. We train our staff to place water bowls all over the house, which is replaced with fresh water daily, and we tend to drink out of those. But we still like to drink out of the toilet on occasion, and really love it when the tap is on for us to drink from.

Mau Mau

Backyard Report

Bird feeding will get busier with each passing cooler day. Keep your bird-baths full and clean, especially if natural sources of water are scarce. Evergreen trees, decorated for the birds with strings of raisins, popcorn, nuts, and berries, are a great seasonal enticement.

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.
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

If we publish a Neighborhood Directory, may we include your Contact Information?

( ) Yes  ( ) No

Make checks payable to: Garden Oaks Civic Club

Mail form and check to: PO Box 10273, Houston, TX 77206

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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

Dwayne Bohac 713 460 2800

John Whitmire 713 864 8701

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