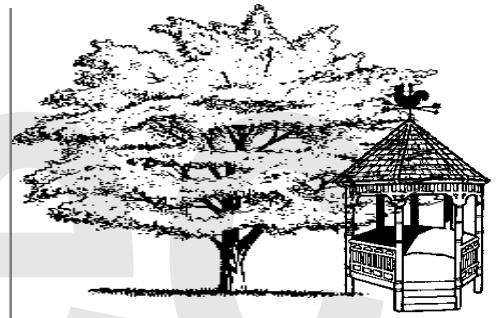


Garden Oaks Gazette



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.



*Fiona Fahey and Kelly Dieter
Wide-eyed angels at St. Michael’s
“Joys of Christmas” program*

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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.

Civic Club Officers

President Kenneth Santos

713 686 6012 974 W. 42nd

President@GardenOaks.org

Vice President Josh Hamilton

713 695 7347 858 Azalea

VicePresident@GardenOaks.org

Treasurer Margie Dalton

713 705 0499 1063 W. 42nd

Treasurer@GardenOaks.org

Secretary Lori Kennedy

713 691 6833 750 Sue Barnett

Secretary@GardenOaks.org

Committee Chairs

Beautification Rick Grochoske

713 864 8164

Beautification@GardenOaks.org

Citizens on Patrol Carl Waters, Jr.

713 864 1992

GOCOP@GardenOaks.org

Constable Program Terry Jeanes

713 812 9154

Constable@GardenOaks.org

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713 861 7994

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713 691 6833

Webmaster@GardenOaks.org

Co-Chair Josh Hamilton

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From the Editor's Desk

REBECCA FERGUSON

Gazette Editor

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 *everyone* at the meeting is allowed to offer their ideas and opinions. And the 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!

Download recent Gazettes at
<http://www.GardenOaks.org/>

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

Civic Club Meeting Minutes - November 4, 2003

LORI KENNEDY
Secretary

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-

Continued on page 9

What's Cookin'?

JANE HAMILTON

We are well underway 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 providing 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.

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 pot-luck 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.

GOMO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1

Donna Archer (2005)

Home: 713-863-0532
Cell: 281-435-9970
503 W. 32nd St Houston, TX 77018
dwright8@houston.rr.com

Tim Gunther (2004)

Home: 713-861-1336
336 W. 33rd St Houston, TX 77018
timothy_gunther@msn.com

Louis "Gig" Runge

Home: 713-869-5623
236 W. 33rd St Houston, TX 77018

Section 2

Sam Stengler (2005)

Home: 713-694-5566
Cell: 281-773-3478
710 Sue Barnett Houston, TX 77018
sstengler@covad.net

David Hoyer (2004)

Home: 713-699-8171
720 W. 43rd St Houston, TX 77018
dhoyer@houston.rr.com

Section 3

Richard Stark (2005)

Home: 713-691-1067
1335 Sue Barnett Houston, TX 77018
rstark@lucascareers.com

Mike Dishberger (2004)

Home: 713-695-7916
Office: 713-864-9190
862 W. 42nd St Houston, TX 77018
dishberger@aol.com

Section 5

Malcolm Taylor

Home: 713-956-8872
1030 W. 41st St Houston, TX 77018

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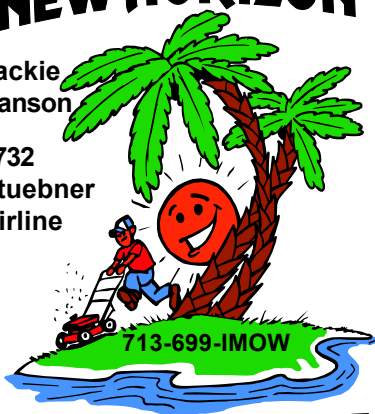
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Remember to book early for the holidays!

Citizens on Patrol

CARL WATERS, JR.

~~Happy holidays~~ one and all from your friends and neighbors
at the 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 alert 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.**

September 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

A Little Yuletide Reading

KAREN WIERSEMA

Media Specialist – Garden Oaks Elementary Library

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 Wojciechowski

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

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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!

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

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Yard of the Month

The December Yard of the Month is in Section 1, at 308 West 33rd Street, the home of Tom and Helen Theaker. They have lived there since 1998. They say the beautiful appearance of their yard and the uniquely-shaped shrubs are due to the talent and diligence of Juan Bahena, their landscaper. Drive by and take a look. I think two of the shrubs look like flying saucers. Beautiful!

Tom and Helen win a free flat of flowers and one hour garden consultation from "The Garden Guy" (see www.gardenguy.com or call (281) 208-4400 for information on the landscape services they offer).



Minutes

Continued from page 4

tive 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.

10th Annual Pancake Breakfast Donor List

See Montessori article on page 1

Alexander's Fine Portrait Design
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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!

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Critter Corner

CASEY & MAU MAU FARRIS

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).

Critters 101: 5 Holiday Lessons We Can Learn from our Dogs

Dogs have a great capacity for happiness. The simple things in life are great wonders to a dog. Meals are holiday-worthy, and just seeing the leash come out creates a party atmosphere. We have a lot to learn from our dogs in this department: our own daily routines can be a source of happiness. Spend time enjoying the scents and colors of a meal before eating it. Revel in the little things that make you happy each day: that first cup of coffee, the scenery surrounding your home or work, the feeling of clean sheets as you go to sleep. It all counts!

Dogs aren't afraid to let everyone know how much they care. Consider your dog's joy when you return home from work. Do we always display the same level of gratitude when we greet our significant others? While I'm not suggesting that we drool on anyone, we often forget to be at the ready with a hug when our family members arrive home. Jump up from the computer or sofa! Tell them how much you missed them! Now that it's getting darker, don't forget to turn on the porch light in anticipation of their return. When greeting friends, hug and tell them how much you enjoy seeing them. Aren't they just as important to you as you are to your dogs? And when you arrive home to greet your dog, give them the same greeting they give you! Jump with them, cheer for them, tell them what wonderful creatures you know they are.

Dogs understand the value of a daily walk. Just getting outside for 15 minutes can brighten your mood. Enjoy the wildlife and flora. Appreciate the gardening work your neighbors have done.

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

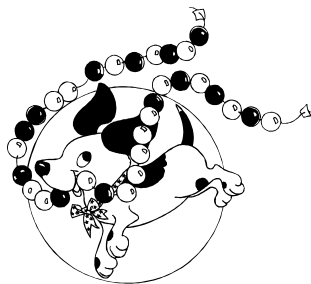
First of all, we like to drink out of the toilet because the water is usually cool. Running water has the same appeal. (It's also fun to play with!) Flower water is often tasty. We generally ignore

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.



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713 956 6589

Recycling Hotline
713 837 9130

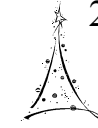
Deed Restriction Violations
City of Houston Legal Department
713 247 2000

Bruce Tatro (District A)
713 247 2010

Dwayne Bohac
713 460 2800

John Whitmire
713 864 8701

December 2003

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Civic Club Meeting & Potluck Dinner GO Elementary 7:00p.m.	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 GOMO Meeting Kroger's on W. 43 rd 7:00 p.m.	11 Garden Club Meeting (Potluck Dinner & Gift Exchange)	12	13
14	15 Gazette Article Submission Deadline	16 Santa Claus Visits Garden Oaks Gazebo Park 7:00-8:30 p.m.	17	18	19	20
21 Joys of Christmas Program St. Michael's Episcopal Church 6:30-8:00 p.m.	22	23	24	25  Christmas Day	26	27
28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve	Upcoming Events: - Cookbook recipe submission deadline, early January - Home and Garden Tour, 4/18		

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

Make checks payable to: Garden Oaks Civic Club
Mail form and check to: PO Box 10273, Houston, TX 77206

If we publish a Neighborhood Directory, may we include your Contact Information?
() Yes () No