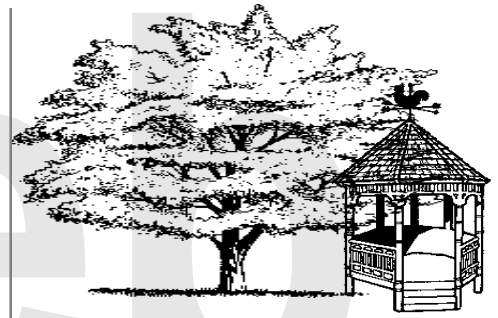


# Garden Oaks Gazette



## Two Work Days in February – Volunteers Needed

RICK GROCHOSKE

### Rose Garden –

**Saturday, February 14 at 8:00 a.m.**  
Valentine’s Day is an ideal time to cut back roses and prune crepe myrtle trees. The Beautification Committee would like to invite everyone to the rose garden located at W. 34<sup>th</sup> and Lawrence St. to help cut back the park’s roses, prune the crepe myrtle trees, and weed the flower beds.

### Planting Trees in Graham Park – Saturday, February 21, at 8:00 a.m.

The City of Houston Parks and Recreation Department has generously offered to supply 30-40 trees for Graham Park in Section 1. The trees will be anywhere from 10-15 gallons in size. All we have to do is plant them, but we need help. Volunteers are encouraged to bring shovels, rakes, wheelbarrows, and semi-strong backs for a few hours of intensive hole-digging in Graham Park, located in the 500 block of W. 34<sup>th</sup>.

The last decade has been tough on Graham Park. About five years ago, Graham Park lost about 20 pines during a

Pine bark beetles have also killed many pines in Garden Oaks, and several large oak trees have also been lost recently. Graham Park is much less wooded now than it was when our family moved to Garden Oaks sixteen years ago.

The Parks and Recreation Department provided requirements for the planting. Trees must be spaced on 15’ centers or 15’ away from park equipment to allow for mowers to move between them. Planted trees must be kept watered during periods of inadequate rain for two years. Wayne Forster has volunteered to do the watering until the trees are established.

This is an opportunity to give a little back to a park that has served Garden Oaks since its establishment. Many thanks to Wayne Forster, for initiating this project, coordinating with the City, and watering the new trees. For more information, please call Rick Grochoske at 713-864-8164 or Wayne Forster at 713-880-4367.

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### Civic Club Meeting

*Tuesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>*

The next Civic Club meeting will be held on February 3 at 7:00 p.m. in the Garden Oaks Elementary School cafeteria. Please attend a Civic Club meeting for a chance to share your ideas and meet some of your neighbors. Baby-sitting services are available at the meeting at a cost of \$1.00 per child. Hope to see you there!

## Civic Club Officers

**President Trey Wood**  
713 880 8462 403 W. 32<sup>nd</sup> St  
President@GardenOaks.org  
**Vice President Chris Lindsay**  
713 819 8412 938 Lamonte  
VicePresident@GardenOaks.org  
**Treasurer Mike Dishberger**  
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## Committee Chairs

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**Citizens on Patrol Carl Waters, Jr.**  
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GOCOP@GardenOaks.org  
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# Heard Under the Oak Tree

TERRY JEANES

## Welcome New Neighbors

942 Gardenia 967 West 43<sup>rd</sup>  
211 West 31<sup>st</sup> 954 West 41<sup>st</sup>  
1054 Lamonte 212 West 32<sup>nd</sup>  
216 West 32<sup>nd</sup> 216 West 32<sup>nd</sup>  
1063 West 42<sup>nd</sup> 1002 Gardenia  
830 West 43<sup>rd</sup> 1020 West 42<sup>nd</sup>  
717 West 41<sup>st</sup> 424 West 30<sup>th</sup>  
303 West 33<sup>rd</sup> 954 West 42<sup>nd</sup>  
813 West 32<sup>nd</sup> 986 Althea  
411 West 32<sup>nd</sup> 520 West 30<sup>th</sup>  
519 West 32<sup>nd</sup> 3106 Lawrence  
308 West 34<sup>th</sup>

Congratulations, and we hope to see you at a Civic Club meeting soon!

## Welcome New Arrival

**Anna Lyse Smistrla** was born to proud parents Ray and Yollie on October 2.

## Happy Birthday

**Eddie Battenfield, Jr.** celebrates his birthday in February.

**Lindsey Veech** celebrated her second birthday on January 24.

## Fun Events

Nothing but great karma surrounded everyone at the first annual **Bad Karma Christmas party**, hosted by Tina Sabuco and Shellye Arnold. Some of the great recycled gifts included a recycled microwave, a 1956 Bellaire (model, that is), and some rather loud dorm pants that Keith Kostelecky tried to pawn off all night. We're all looking forward to next year's event.

The **Garden Club Christmas party** was a rousing success at the W. 43<sup>rd</sup>. home of Ed and Brenda de Alba. The tours of the house were great, and opening and stealing presents was lots of fun.

The **Tamale Mamas** formed following a recent educational event hosted by Sheila Briones. Members mastered the fine art of corn husking, mesa, and filling techniques. Graduates include Shelly Rogers, Brenda de Alba, Rita Donaldson, Tina Parks, Stacey Woods, and Rebecca Stark.

## Congratulations

**Rick and Marie Grochoske** are grandparents again for the second time! Granddaughter Kaitlan Marie was born on January 15.

*To highlight a special event, birthday, anniversary, or accomplishment, contact Terry Jeanes at 713-812-9154 or [jeanest@pdq.net](mailto:jeanest@pdq.net).*

## Garden Club Officers

<b>Ed de Alba</b>	<i>President</i> 713 694-5934
<b>Robert De Veau</b>	<i>Vice President/Treasurer</i> 713 686-6012
<b>Chris Lindsay</b>	<i>Secretary</i> 713 819-8412
<b>Susan Gunther</b>	<i>Correspondant</i>
<b>Brenda De Alba</b>	<i>Yard of the Month</i>
<b>Tina Nieto</b>	<i>Historian</i>

Check out the new Garden Oaks  
Neighborhood Forums at  
[www.GardenOaks.org](http://www.GardenOaks.org).

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

# Only With Your Help

**TREY WOOD**  
*Civic Club President*

My wife and I started off the new year in fine fashion: on a cruise of the Caribbean! Unfortunately, that meant I missed our first Civic Club meeting of the year. However, Garden Oaks' very capable vice-president, Chris Lindsay, reported to me that the meeting went well with fairly good attendance. I expect February's meeting to be packed. The reason? A topic of interest to all of us will be the focal (vocal?) point of the meeting: railroad noise.

Through the efforts of Craig Lee, a Burlington Northern/Santa Fe (BNSF) Railroad representative has agreed to address the Civic Club on the topic of noise abatement. This is something that is of interest to us all, especially in the wee hours of the morning. You can help convince BNSF of our concern over this topic by simply showing up to the meeting. We also hope to have Toni Lawrence, our newly elected city councilman, in attendance and possibly a representative from the office of our state legislator, Dwayne Bohac.

In the past, Garden Oaks had signs that were placed in strategic areas throughout the neighborhood to remind neighbors of upcoming Civic Club meetings. However, the whereabouts of those signs now seems to be a mystery. If anyone has any information on the signs, please contact me. Also, we need the help of our neighbors who live on corner lots to agree to post the signs in their yards on the day of Civic Club meetings. If you would like to help, please let me know.

Finally, we are all very excited with some of the new ideas proposed at our first meeting of this year for beautifying

Garden Oaks. As always, landscaping projects will continue to dominate our beautification efforts. Also, neighbors at the last meeting expressed an interest in restoring the original concrete signposts found on many corners, and possibly purchasing additional ones.

Do any of these topics strike a chord with you? Are you for them or against them? We need to know, and the only way for us to know your opinion is through your attendance at our monthly meetings. We will continue to serve the best interests of Garden Oaks, but only with your help.

## GOMO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Section 1

**Tim Gunther**  
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# Kindergarten Round-up

**JEFF AMERSON**  
*Principal - G. O. Elementary*

If you have a child entering kindergarten in the upcoming school year or in the next couple of years, Garden Oaks Elementary School would like to invite you to our annual Kindergarten Round-up on Tuesday, February 10, at 8:30 a.m. Every year, we take this opportunity to show parents of prospective students what our school has to offer. Join us for coffee and juice in the library at 8:30 a.m. and take a tour of the school. Our kindergarten classes will put on a performance at 9:00 a.m. in our school cafeteria. If you are unable to make the morning event, we invite you all to come to our PTA meeting on Tuesday night, February 10, at 7:00 p.m. in the cafeteria.

Montessori applications for next year are also available now in the front office of the school and will be accepted until Monday, March 1. The applications will be subject to a lottery drawing until all spaces are filled. Students must be zoned to Garden Oaks Elementary School to be considered for the Montessori program.

Finally, we would like to say "thank you" to the Garden Oaks Civic Club for its contributions to our school each year. We hope to continue to strengthen the relationship between our school and community. Our PTA has purchased new trash containers to help keep trash out of our neighboring streets and yards. We do hear your concerns. Thank you, Garden Oaks, for your continued support of the children of HISD!

For more information, call 713-696-2930, or send me an email at [jamerson@houstonisd.org](mailto:jamerson@houstonisd.org).

# Civic Club Minutes – January 6, 2004

DIANE KING  
Civic Club Secretary

Vice-President Chris Lindsay called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. The December meeting minutes were approved as published.

## Officer's Reports

**Treasurer** – Mike Dishberger presented the treasurer's report, and provided a recap of 2003. There was \$3,653.56 in total income over expenses for the year, thanks to the efforts of the Membership committee in 2003. The report was approved as submitted.

## Standing Committee Reports

**Beautification** – No official report was given. Section 1 resident Wayne Forster addressed the idea of getting more trees planted in Graham Park, on W. 34<sup>th</sup> St. He reported that the City's Parks Department can make available 30 to 40 five-gallon trees in various species. Forster has consulted informally with Victor Cordoba, the urban forester with the City of Houston, about the possibility of reforestation with small pine seedlings. The committee hopes to get something going for a Saturday tree planting in mid-February. Forster has developed a plan showing possible planting sites and invited anyone interested in this project to contact him or the committee.

**Citizens on Patrol** – Carl Waters announced that there was a renewed call for volunteers for Garden Oaks Citizens on Patrol (GOCOP). Currently volunteers patrol 43 hours per month. The City of Houston considers 60 volunteer hours per month the minimum for a viable "active level" program. The committee is continuing to rebuild the data sets after the GOCOP computer

crash. Carl noted that HPD has been slow to post crime activity on their web site, and that is the reason for the month's lag in neighborhood crime statistics in the *Gazette*. Overall there was a slight decrease in neighborhood crime in 2003 over 2002.

**GardenOaks.org** – No report.

**Gazette** – Rebecca Ferguson reminded members that the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month is the deadline for submissions to the *Gazette*.

**Membership** – Chair Chris Lindsay announced that annual civic club membership dues notices were mailed last week and this week. The various membership levels were explained. Chris Lindsay said she would continue as chair until Civic Club president Trey Wood appointed a new chair. Anyone interested in the position was invited to contact either of them. Tracy Peters, attending her first Civic Club meeting, won the meeting's door prize drawing.

## Ad Hoc Committee Reports

**Garden Oaks Home Tour 2004** – Sheila Briones announced that the home tour is the Civic Club's biggest fundraiser. Volunteers are needed for the day of the tour, April 18. The next Home Tour committee meeting is Tuesday, January 13, at 7:00 p.m., at 212 W. 34<sup>th</sup>. The committee meets on the second Tuesday of every month. Sheila Briones said the committee would probably meet weekly beginning in March. Meeting locations rotate among the 21 sub-committee chairs. Items are being sought for the silent and live auction held the day before the tour at the preview party. The party will take place

at Mraz Hall on W. 34<sup>th</sup> just west of N. Shepherd, from 7-10:00 p.m. Tickets to the party are \$50. The Home Tour tickets are \$13.00 presale and \$15.00 the day of the tour. They will be sold at area businesses when the date nears. Trolleys will be provided to go around to the five homes and four gardens on this year's tour. The parking command center will be the Garden Oaks Shopping Center. Contact Sheila Briones at [HomeTour@GardenOaks.org](mailto:HomeTour@GardenOaks.org) for more information or to volunteer.

**Garden Oaks Cookbook** – No report.

## Other Reports

**Garden Club** - Ed de Alba announced that officer elections will be held at the next meeting, Thursday, January 8. The meeting's location would be announced.

**GOMO** – GOMO board president Sam Stengler repeated that there are board openings for representation of Sections 2, 3 and 5. GOMO meetings take place immediately after each Civic Club meeting and again on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month, usually in the upstairs meeting room at the Kroger on 43<sup>rd</sup> St. GOMO meetings are open to all Garden Oaks residents.

## Unfinished (Old) Business

Craig Lee announced that a representative from one of the railroads has agreed to address residents' concerns about the noise levels of the trains at next month's Civic Club meeting.

## New Business

**Speakers for the upcoming year.** Chris Lindsay reported that Trey Wood was committed to having speakers at club meetings and invited suggestions.

*Continued on page 11*



# Old Roses Make Good Scents

**ROBERT DE VEAU**  
Garden Club Vice President

By definition, old garden roses were found or propagated prior to 1867, the year the first hybrid tea rose was propagated. The major old rose classes are *Gallica*, *Damask*, *Alba*, *Centifolia* (commonly called cabbage roses or Province roses), and *Moss*. The old rose collection also includes *Portland*, *Boursault*, *China*, *Bourbon*, *Eglanteria*, *Hybrid Perpetual*, *Hybrid Sempervirens*, *Hybrid Spinosissima*, *Noisette*, *Tea* and *Climbing Tea* species.

Old garden roses make excellent plants for the hot, humid climate found on the Gulf Coast because they can take whatever is thrown their way. Antique roses have been found in old cemeteries and abandoned homesteads dating back to the 1800s. Settlers from Europe brought many of their best roses with them to remind them of home. The amazing thing is that these roses are still alive and blooming. They have withstood droughts, floods, hurricanes, insect infestations and (more recently) lawnmowers. Having been abandoned for the most part, they have not been fertilized, sprayed, regularly watered, or pampered.

Besides being long-lived and hardy, antique roses are known for their fragrance. When you hear someone say, "take the time to stop and smell the roses," they are almost certainly talking about very old ones. Here in our area, most antique roses are evergreen. They are perfect plants for landscapes. Whether they are growing along a fence, climbing up a trellis, or serving as a focal point in a special place, they look great – even without blooms. A few special varieties only bloom once

a year, but most either repeat their bloom or never stop blooming at all.

Join us at 7:00 pm on Thursday, February 12 in the Community Resource Room on the second floor of Kroger at 1352 W 43<sup>rd</sup> St. The Garden Club will welcome Deanne Krause who will present a fascinating slideshow presentation on Old Roses. Deanne is a member and Consulting Rosarian of The Houston Rose Society, the largest local rose society in the United States. She also belongs to the Texas Rose Rustlers, a group of old rose enthusiasts, mostly from the Houston area and Central Texas, who search for specimens of surviving "old roses" in promising locations, such as cemeteries and older communities.

In January, the Garden Club met to discuss plans for the coming year and elect new officers. Officers for 2004 are: Ed de Alba, President; Robert De Veau, Vice President/Treasurer; Chris Lindsay, Secretary; Susan Gunther, Correspondent, Brenda de Alba, Yard of the Month; and Tina Nieto, Historian.

Garden Club meetings are open to all residents and friends of Garden Oaks. If you would like to become a Garden Club member, annual dues are only \$10. We meet on the second Thursday of every month at 7:00 pm. We usually have a guest speaker followed by a brief business meeting. The Garden Club also maintains Friendship Park and we conduct two workdays (spring and fall) to add new plantings, replace mulch, and tidy up the beds. Please call 713-686-6012 for more information. We hope you can join us on Thursday, February 12 at 7:00 p.m.

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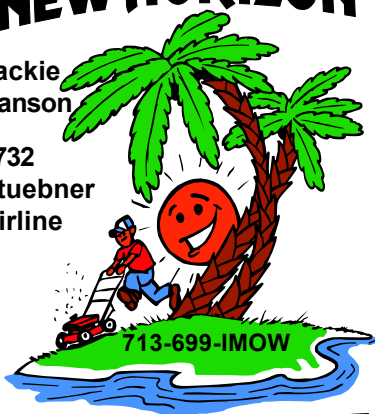
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## Membership Report

CHRIS LINDSAY

In 2003, the Garden Oaks Civic Club received 472 household memberships, which was an all-time high. Our goal for 2004 is 500, which is about one third of the total number of households in the neighborhood. All households should have received a dues invoice in late December or early January. If you did not, you can just fill out the membership form on the back of the *Gazette* or on the Garden Oaks website at [www.GardenOaks.org](http://www.GardenOaks.org). The dues rate is the same as last year:

Crepe Myrtle (basic level) - \$25.00  
(\$5.00 for senior members)  
Magnolia (intermediate level) - \$50.00  
(\$10.00 for senior members)  
Golden Oak (patron level) - \$75.00  
(\$15 for senior members)

Unlike homeowner's associations in which yearly membership dues are mandatory, we are a civic club. Joining is voluntary and simply shows your commitment to the neighborhood. The amount you donate is also voluntary. To vote on Civic Club matters, you must donate a minimum of \$25.00. Other than that, what you give is up to you, and we will appreciate whatever you are willing to donate. All dues go toward Civic Club programs, including Beautification, Citizens on Patrol, the Home & Garden Tour, the *Gazette*, the Membership committee, and our neighborhood web site.

The winner of the door prize at the January Civic Club meeting was Tracy Peters. Tracy received a \$25 gift card to Lowe's.

## Home & Garden Tour Momentum Growing

SHEILA BRIONES  
2004 Chairman

With April 18 fast approaching, the 2004 Home & Garden Tour committee is busy with more planning and tying up loose ends for the upcoming tour.

This year, five homes and three gardens are featured:

950 W. 43 <sup>rd</sup>	Home & Garden
1438 Sue Barnett	Home & Garden
535 W. 33 <sup>rd</sup>	Home
1343 Sue Barnett	Home
1006 W. 41 <sup>st</sup>	Home
963 Gardenia	Garden
220 W. 34 <sup>th</sup>	Garden
507 W. 31 <sup>st</sup>	Garden

(New this year is a Metro trolley stop at Garden Oaks Elementary.)

Underwriters are still needed for each home and garden. Contact Susan Kostelecky, our underwriting chairman, at 713-697-4110 or [skdesigns@mindspring.com](mailto:skdesigns@mindspring.com) if you or your company are interested in underwriting a home or garden. There are three levels of sponsorship: Corporate, \$1000; Platinum, \$500; and Gold, \$250.

Thank you to the following underwriters who (as of this writing) have stepped forward with their sponsorship:

Corporate Sponsor, \$1000, Shannon & Associates, Inc.

Corporate Sponsor, \$1000, Trish Ricklefsen, Keller Williams - Metropolitan

Corporate Sponsor, \$1000, Houston Structural

Platinum Sponsor, \$500, Terry Jeanes, ReMax/METRO

Platinum Sponsor, \$500, Campos Roofing

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Platinum Sponsor, \$500, SK Designs  
Gold Sponsor, \$250, Pat Walker, Keller Williams - The Garden Group

Gold Sponsor, \$250, Clouse Hardwood Floors

Continued on page 11

# Citizens on Patrol

CARL WATERS, JR.

## WANTED

GOCOPs is looking for a few good men and women willing to spend one hour a week looking at their neighbors' homes and garages while driving through the neighborhood. Volunteers must be at least 18 years of age and residents of Garden Oaks. Contact Carl Waters at 713-864-1992 for more information.

GOCOPs needs more recruits in order to meet a city requirement of 60 patrol hours per month. We are currently averaging about 40 hours per month, so we could use your help. The program offers you a chance to get to know your neighbors and see what is going on in the neighborhood. Who is remodeling? Whose house is for sale? Whose house was torn down to make room for a mini mansion? Ask and answer all of these questions while also contributing to the safety of our neighborhood.

After a relatively quiet October in which only four crimes were reported, criminals returned to the neighborhood with a bit of gusto in November. Nine crimes were reported for the month with an additional crime being listed with an August occurrence date. It appears that two of the auto thefts could be duplicate entries since they occurred on the same block, at the same time, and on the same day.

## Crime Statistics (11)

### Burglaries (4)

1500 block of Sue Barnett on Thursday August 14, at 8:00 p.m. (garage)

1000 block of W. 42<sup>nd</sup> St. on Tuesday, November 11, at 8:00 p.m. (residence)

1000 block of W. 41<sup>st</sup> St. on Thursday, November 13, at 8:30 p.m. (garage)

4300 block of Alba on Tuesday, November 18, at 5:30 a.m. (vacant home)

### Burglary of a Motor Vehicle (3)

900 block of W. 42<sup>nd</sup> St. on Tuesday, November 4, at 11:50 p.m. (street)

500 block of W. 30<sup>th</sup> St. on Wednesday, November 5, at midnight (street)

900 block of W. 41<sup>st</sup> St. on Friday, November 7, at 11:00 p.m. (street)

### Auto Theft (3)

800 block of W. 34<sup>th</sup> St. on Monday, November 17, at 11:55 a.m. (driveway)

300 block of W. 30<sup>th</sup> St. on Friday, November 28, at 7:00 p.m. (driveway)

300 block of W. 30<sup>th</sup> St. on Friday, November 28, at 7:00 p.m. (driveway)

As always, inquires about joining the Citizens on Patrol program can be sent to me from the Garden Oaks website at [www.GardenOaks.org](http://www.GardenOaks.org). You can also contact me at 713-694-1992 or [GOCOP77018@aol.com](mailto:GOCOP77018@aol.com).

### Emergency Phone Numbers

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

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HPD Non-emergency services	713-884-2121
All other City Services	311

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## The Best Fuel for Athletes

CATHERINE KRUPPA, MS, RD, LD

713-316-2707/[ckruppa@houstonian.com](mailto:ckruppa@houstonian.com)/[www.advice4eating.com](http://www.advice4eating.com)

This time of year, your friends may be trying to drop a few pounds and are most likely adhering to the South Beach or Atkins Diet to do so. Low carb is the current fad. There is low carb bread, pasta, energy bars, smoothies, and even beer. These diets are based on high protein and a limited amount of carbohydrates. They incorrectly claim that carbohydrates are bad and that they turn directly to fat.

The truth is that carbohydrates, protein, and fat are all good for us in the correct proportions, and carbohydrates are a very important source of nutrients for athletes. Eating the appropriate combination of the three can help you lose weight, feel better, and be a better athlete.

Carbohydrates are essential for training and competing, and they are the preferred fuel for working muscles. Carbs provide energy more rapidly to working muscles than protein or fat. Carbohydrates are the only fuel that can be used anaerobically (without oxygen) and they are the only fuel for the brain.

Carbohydrates include whole grains, vegetables, and whole and dried fruits. Most Americans are not eating enough of these foods and are instead eating too many refined carbohydrates, such as white rice, pasta, white bread, high sugar sodas, and desserts. These refined carbohydrates are digested quickly, leading to hunger and potential weight gain. The complex carbohydrates provide fiber (which helps keep you full), vitamins (thiamin, riboflavin, niacin, and folate), and minerals (iron, chromium, magnesium and phosphorus). They also contain antioxidants that protect the body from free radicals,

which can cause many diseases, including heart disease and cancer.

Everyone should consume the government's recommendation of 130 grams of carbohydrates daily to fuel the brain. Athletes should eat at least another 200 grams or 2-5 grams of carbohydrate for every pound of body weight. A recent study showed that people who take in about 55 percent of their calories from carbohydrates have a lower calorie intake and weigh less than people who eat just 40 percent of their calories from carbohydrates.

Advocates of the high protein diets claim that carbohydrates stimulate insulin release leading to fat storage. Carbohydrates do indeed stimulate insulin and insulin unlocks the cells so fuel can enter the muscles. It also promotes the entry of amino acids into the muscles for repair and recovery. Insulin will not convert carbohydrate into fat when the carbohydrate is needed for fuel or as an energy reserve in muscle. Therefore, it is excess calories coming from carbohydrate, protein, or fat that causes weight gain, not carbohydrates alone.

Here are a few high carbohydrate foods that will help fuel you to victory on the road, field, or court:

- baked potatoes
- rice cakes
- watermelon
- bananas
- dried fruit
- fig bars
- peanut butter and jelly sandwiches
- oatmeal
- low-fat yogurt
- baby carrots
- brown rice



# Critter Corner

CASEY AND MAU MAU FARRIS

Hi Neighbors! February is our shortest month but it can be the longest to endure. Keep in mind, however, that cold and dreary days are perfect for cooking, reading, and watching movies. Remember also that a combination of playing and laughter is the best medicine, so instead of gazing out the window and waiting for the sun, why not spend some time rolling around with your pets? I guarantee you will smile, laugh, and feel wonderful. So, roll up your sleeves and get out the balls, ropes, and feathers. Our Pet of the Month is a pair of playful, happy hound dogs. Mau Mau loves to play, and knows just how to get others to join. Our native berry plants will help get the birds get through the winter, but it's also important to keep the seed and suet available.

## Critters 101: Playtime for Pooches

Playing is instinctive for many creatures. All primates play, as do dolphins, whales, horses, dogs, and cats. For many animals, play is vital to physical and emotional well-being.

Some researchers say that play is preparation for adulthood. Puppies and kittens play by wrestling, rolling around, pretending to fight, and by chasing toys and each other. Through play, the animals learn hunting or herding behaviors, and they figure out how hard to bite so they don't hurt each other. Play also builds important social skills. For example, as puppies play, they learn how to get along with one another. Because puppies without siblings often develop behavior problems later in life, many dog breeders will place a singleton puppy with a larger litter. Without the opportunities for play that are provided by siblings, singleton puppies never de-

velop the social skills necessary to interact with other dogs and people.

Many pet owners forget about simply playing with their pets. Playing with your dog or cat allows you to relax, laugh, breathe deeply, and let the stresses of the day disappear. Playtime is also a great time to bond with your pet. So forget about the housework, put the yard work aside for a little while, and just get to playing!

## Pet of the Month

"Messrs. February" are Bert and Ernie Speers (beagles). They are eight years old and live in Section 5 with their devoted mother, Kathryn. They are named after the Sesame Street characters, and they live up to their names in attitude and appearance. These boys love to play hound dog games. Their favorite activity is going for walks and snooping. They also like jumping ditches and culverts, going to the dog park, singing, and playing with their stuffed hedgehog. Mealtime is also an exciting time, and mama has to be careful to keep them out of the food or they will try to eat until they burst. When they are not eating or playing, they are very snuggly.

## Pet News

There was a white Christmas at the Deffebach household when Madison (black lab) got into the baking goods and scattered baking soda all over the house. It wasn't hard to tell who had done the deed - Madison had baking soda caked in her nostrils. The Breda gang, Major (black lab), Newton (mancoon), and Lucy (white Persian) have a new human baby girl, Shelby Josephine. She is five months old and gorgeous. Beau and Stella Charlton

*Continued on next page*

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| 862 W. 41 <sup>st</sup> St | 815 Azalea           |
| 970 W. 41 <sup>st</sup> St | 855 Azalea           |
| 718 W. 42 <sup>nd</sup> St | 839 Lamonte          |
| 847 W. 42 <sup>nd</sup> St | 1325 Sue Barnett     |
| 870 W. 42 <sup>nd</sup> St | 1458 Sue Barnett     |
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## Critter Corner

*Continued from previous page*

(Jack Russell terriers) have a new human baby brother, Terry Joseph Charlton V. They call him Quinn. Abbie (husky mix) and Bailey (yellow lab mix) are remodeling their house and got a nice new dog run out of the deal. We had to say goodbye to Beauty Zugheri (doberman) on the last day of December. She was eleven years old and a great neighbor. Many days she stopped in at the Bone Voyage office for a quick visit, cookie, or nap. Saydi Gross (red chow/lab mix) has learned to jump her fence. Her parents are working on that, but in the mean time just send her home if you see her. One night, I came home and found her grinning in my kitchen.

### Dear Mau Mau...

*What games do you like to play?*  
-S. Collins

I heard playtime is good for you so I work it into my schedule every day. I love to play with my mother. She swings a feather at me and I chase it and attack it and hold it so she can't move it. When I want to play with her I just attack her arm and hold on with all four legs. If she doesn't get the message, I take my back legs and scurry them up and down. This makes her run for the feather toy. I also have a mouse that spins around when I bat it. I especially

like the noise it makes, and I play this at night a lot. Sometimes, my stepsister Elizabeth will play with me. We play chase until she gets hissy. There are many games to play, but since it's always more fun to have someone to play with you, I suggest getting your staff involved.

-Mau Mau

### Backyard Report

Getting birds through winter takes more than bird feeders and brush piles. It also takes a few spinach plants. Spinach plants are trees or shrubs that have bitter berries. Like those of us who prefer decadent foods over healthier alternatives, birds will flock first to ice cream plants, such as flowering dogwoods, and avoid spinach plants, such as hawthorns and hollies, for as long as possible. Only when the coldest days of winter set in, and food sources are exhausted, do birds begin to eat their spinach. At that point, these long-lasting berries are truly a lifesaver.

*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](mailto:Casey@goDOGusa.com) or call 713-688-6363.*

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# Civic Club Meeting Minutes

*Continued from page 4*

State Representative Dwayne Bohac is scheduled to speak at the May meeting. City Council member Toni Lawrence is also a possible speaker. Suggestions included a representative of the police department, and the Dispute Resolution Center. Speaker suggestions are welcome and invited, with the caveat that they should (or would be able to) speak no more than 20 minutes. Contact Trey Wood at [President@GardenOaks.org](mailto:President@GardenOaks.org).

**Whereabouts of "meeting tonight" signs.** A call was made to locate the yard signs that had formerly been put out a few days before each monthly Civic Club meeting at several visible locations throughout Garden Oaks. Several were reported stolen, but they are relatively inexpensive to have made. After some discussion, a motion was passed to spend up to \$300 for new signs. Mike Dishberger agreed to be responsible for getting the signs made. Plans for who would put the signs out and where were not decided.

**Ideas for community beautification: obelisk street signs.** It was suggested that the original street signs and the concrete pillars be refurbished and possibly painted as a couple have been. The Beautification Committee chair would be asked to consider this project.

**Speed bumps.** It was announced that a petition is already circulating to present to the City to have speed bumps placed in the 1500 block of Sue Barnett between Golf and Apollo. The City had already determined that the location qualified for speed bumps. It was noted that a successful petition effort had been

made several years ago for speed bumps on Sue Barnett, and it was suggested that this petition record might possibly qualify for the City to put them in. Although the city budget may yet preclude their being constructed, the required effort to get them is proceeding.

## Announcements

The next Civic Club meeting will be Tuesday, February 3, at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

# Home & Garden Tour Momentum Growing

*Continued from page 6*

Volunteers are needed to serve as house or garden docents, ticket takers, greeters, trolley guides, or members of a set-up crew. Volunteers will receive a T-shirt and one tour ticket (a \$15 dollar value). They will also be honored at a volunteer "thank you" party held immediately following the Tour. To volunteer, contact Nelda Prince at 713-694-5415 [nprince@kingphillips.com](mailto:nprince@kingphillips.com).

Tour tickets will be sold at various pre-sale locations around the neighborhood at a discounted price of \$13 each. (*Pre-sale tickets locations will be announced in the March Gazette*). On the day of the tour, April 18, tickets will be \$15 each and will be sold at the Command Center located at the Garden Oaks Shopping Center, at W. 38<sup>th</sup> and N. Shepherd. There will be plenty of parking at the shopping center, where everyone can catch a free ride on a Metro trolley to each of the homes and gardens on the tour.

A preview party honoring this year's home and garden owners, sponsors, and underwriters is scheduled for Saturday, April 17 (the night before the tour), from 7-11:00 p.m. The party will be held at the historic Bill Mraz Dance Hall, at 835 W. 34<sup>th</sup>. The preview party is open to everyone. Tickets to the party are \$50 each and include dinner catered by Chef Mary Eileen with 2 Busy to Cook, live music by the Texas Crude Band, dancing, fun, a silent and live auction, and "A Chair-ished Affair." The cost of the tickets also includes admission to preview the homes and gardens on Saturday evening before the party to avoid the long lines on Sunday. Special pricing is available for reserved tables of six or more, as well as for long-time residents of Garden Oaks (residents prior to 1960). See the insert in this *Gazette* for specific pricing. Reserve your preview party tickets now by contacting Trish Ricklefsen at 281-733-1003 [tricklefsen@houston.rr.com](mailto:tricklefsen@houston.rr.com).

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the 2004 Home & Garden Tour scheduled for Sunday, April 18, from 12-6:00 p.m. For up-to-date information about the tour, call the Tour Hotline at 713-267-7800 or log on to the Garden Oaks web site at [www.GardenOaks.org](http://www.GardenOaks.org).



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# February 2004

Sunday    Monday    Tuesday    Wednesday    Thursday    Friday    Saturday

1	2 Groundhog Day	3 Civic Club Meeting Garden Oaks Elementary 7:00 p.m.	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 Home Tour Meeting 744 W. 43 <sup>rd</sup> 7:00 p.m.	11	12 Garden Club Meeting Kroger on 43 <sup>rd</sup> 7:00 p.m.	13 "Love Through the Ages" Program 3800 N. Shepherd 7:30 p.m.	14 Beautification Workday Rose Garden at 34 <sup>th</sup> and Lawrence 8:30 a.m.
15 Gazette Article Submission Deadline	16	17 President's Day	18	19	20	21 Beautification Workday Graham Park 8:30 a.m.
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	Upcoming Events: Home & Garden Tour - April 18					

### 2004 Garden Oaks Civic Club Membership Form

Name(s):

Phone:

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#### (A) Annual Dues

\$25.00 Crepe Myrtle (Basic)

\$50.00 Magnolia (Intermediate)

\$75.00 Golden Oak (Patron)

Senior Citizen \$5.00

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

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