

Gazette

Jan



President's Message

James Flowers, Garden Oaks Civic Club President

I always make New Year's resolutions that seem to go by the wayside after a couple of months. A few months ago, Shelia Briones and I were discussing Garden Oaks, activities in the neighborhood, and the civic club. She asked me if I would be interested in running for president. I thought about it for a couple of weeks and decided that my New Year's resolution would be to volunteer time to the Garden Oaks community. I knew if I accepted, ran and won, my resolution would last the year.

January is the perfect time to start doing something new, something productive and something that helps others, your community, your family and yourself. The rewards of volunteering time are many. So, in 2008, my New Year's resolution is to make a concentrated effort to improve, grow, and help Garden Oaks continue to prosper. Of course, I also have the usual resolutions: Exercise, stay in good health, and keep a positive attitude! I hope you will take some time, even a couple of hours on a Saturday or two, to volunteer some time and help out in some way in Garden Oaks.

People volunteer for a wide variety of reasons, usually wanting to help others. But it's also OK to want some benefits for yourself from volunteering. Some people are uncomfortable with the notion that a volunteer "benefits" from doing volunteer work. There is a long tradition of seeing volunteering as a form of charity, based on altruism and selflessness. The best volunteering does involve the desire to serve others, but this does not exclude benefiting, as well. For example, if you are active for

even one hour a week in Citizens Patrol, your home is protected while you protect your neighbors' homes, too. Adding your effort to the work of others makes everyone's lives better.

Think about how much you receive when you give and consider that you also benefit in many ways. You may have several different reasons. Here are just a few of the many possible motivations I identified with:

- to get to know the Garden Oaks community
- to share a skill with others in the community
- to demonstrate commitment to a cause/belief
- to do your civic duty
- to feel the satisfaction from accomplishment
- to keep busy
- to repay a debt
- to donate your professional skills
- because there is no one else to do it
- to have an impact on your community
- to be a watchdog in and for the community
- to feel proud of myself and feel proud of Garden Oaks
- to make new friends in the community
- to do something different from your job
- for fun!
- to assure progress in Garden Oaks
- because you were asked

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You will probably have some special reasons of your own. Remember that

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Friendly Reminder

Deadline for Submission is the 15th of Every Month. **No exceptions.** No submissions will be accepted after this date. This allows us to proofread, edit, and the printing to be done in a timely manner for delivery to all Garden Oaks Residents.

Next Civic Club Meeting Tuesday, January 2nd

The next Civic Club meeting will be on Tuesday, January 2nd at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria of GO Elementary, 901 Sue Barnett @ Garden Oaks Blvd. Babysitting services are available at a cost of \$1.00 per child.
Hope to see you there!

Civic Club Officers

President James Flowers

Vice President Ivan Mayer

Treasurer Jerry Butler
713-822-3175 871 W 41st
j1982b@comcast.net

Secretary Cindy Bartos
713-694-6697 831 Azalea
cbartos@ix.netcom.com

Standing Committee Chairs
Beautification Brenda de Alba
713-694-5934 744 W. 43rd
ferrocem@yahoo.com

Citizens on Patrol Carl Waters, Jr.
713-864-1992 821 W. 31st
GOCOP@gardenoaks.org

GardenOaks.org Joe Muscara
713-691-6833 750 Sue Barnett
webmaster@gardenoaks.org

GardenOaks.org Co-chair
Josh Hamilton
713-695-7347 858 Azalea

Membership Dian Austin
713-691-6505 733 W. 42nd
daustin10@houston.rr.com

Constable Program Terry Jeanes
713-812-9154 922 W. 41st
terry@terryjeanes.com

Home Tour Sheila Briones
713-861-8091 412 W. 34th
sbriones@hotmail.com

Gazette Contacts
Editor & Advertising Director
Sue Schmidt 713-802-9669
sueschmidt1@comcast.com

Assistant Editor
Jonathan Lanz 713-884-8982
Gazette@gardenoaks.org

Delivery
Jonathan Lanz 713-884-8982
GazetteDelivery@gardenoaks.org

Ad Hoc Committee
Carter's Grove Apts. Gil Evans
713-861-2708 710 W. 32nd
evansgil@aol.com

President's Message

Continued from page 1

the motivations that lead you to volunteer may not be the reasons why you stay. Once you volunteer, you will continue to serve as long as you feel that your efforts are accomplishing something, that your talents are appreciated, and that you make a difference. And if you also like the people with whom you work, so much the better!

As long as you are truly serving through your volunteer work, isn't it wonderful that such an exchange occurs? In fact, it tends to strengthen your commitment to volunteering when you can see the benefits to both the recipient of your efforts and to yourself.

May this New Year bring you many blessings of good health, dreams to come true, prayers to be answered, and gratitude for all. Treat your life, family, friends, and others you meet as a PRECIOUS gift to be enjoyed, and of great value. Regard them with a love that is special and - it will all come back to you. Send forth good and it multiplies. Honor every one you come in contact with today, tomorrow, and make it an ongoing behavior. This too, is paid back to you by the Universe.

In this coming new year, experience compassion and show compassion. Offer ways to help others whenever and wherever you can. Give only good. The more you give of yourself, the more it comes back to you. It may help make this a better world. Celebrate and share your abilities so that you can attract more of the same.

I hope to meet you at the January 2008 Garden Oaks Civic Club meeting. Happy New Year!!

Remember: "Life is a series of new beginnings and in every ordinary moment there are a thousand miracles to behold."

GO Winers and Diners

Sue Schmidt

All has been quiet for the Winers and Diners for the past few months. Schedules were hectic, and out of town journeys made it difficult to come up with a date that worked for all. Christmas though, everyone found time to celebrate the season and come together for great food, wine and fun. This month we ventured to Dharma Café in the warehouse district off Houston Avenue. A renaissance is under way in the area. In taking a wrong turn down a dark street, we ventured upon a fabulous view of the Houston skyline on a perfectly clear evening in the city. The developers cannot be far behind!

The restaurant moved to the old Kessler Building at the corner of Houston Ave. and Crockett. The building is charming, but not well lit on the outside. Fenced parking is available behind the restaurant. If the lot is full, parking can be a bit distant and scary. Once inside the minimalist warehouse look with concrete floors, high ceilings, exposed pipes and warm wall colors is very soothing. One of the diners commented on the "calm and Zen like" atmosphere of the place. The wait staff promptly welcomed each new addition to the table. Suggestions for wine were offered, and drink orders were quickly taken.

A chalkboard with specials was set up near the kitchen. As I perused the board a waitress walked over to give her comments on a few of the specials. Our waiter also offered to go over the specials and make recommendations. He also brought a fabulous homemade grilled bread and bruschetta to munch on as we waited for our meal. The attention to detail of the staff is second

Continued on page 5

to none. On the website, the owners

Heard Under the Oak Tree

Terry Jeanes

Welcome new neighbors who recently joined the neighborhood

705 West 42nd 1003 Althea
1410 Sue Barnett 966 West 42nd
236 West 31st 1079 Lamonte

Congratulations on joining us. We hope to see you at a civic club meeting soon.

Welcome "Lexie" to the **Sandy Altman** and **Dian Austin** household. Lexie is about 3 months old and 15 pounds. She's of mixed heritage, most likely Bohemian Shepherd and Polish Labrador.

Congratulations

Birthdays

Garrett Langdon Crownover 3rd

Hannah Stender, 4th

Andrew Woods 14th

Rachel Woods 14th

Jennifer Langdon 21st

Lindsay Veech 24th

Allison Padon 28th

Shellye Arnold 30th

Joe Muscara 30th

Anniversary

Bonnie & Rudy Hernandez

Trips, adventures and guests.....

Sandy Altman and **Dian Austin** just returned from NYC, where they celebrated Sandy's Christmas Eve birthday a bit early by renting an apartment in the theatre district of Manhattan. The Broadway strike ended that week, so they were able to see 3 shows, see the lighting of the Xmas tree in Rockefeller Center, experience the first snowfall of the year, and eat NYC hot dogs and pizza!

House guest, **Vivian de Alba**, from Tennessee, visited the **Ed and Brenda de Alba** household. In addition former Garden Oaks resident, **Jill Frazier Farnsworth** was also a recent guest of the de Alba's.

Neighborhood Thanksto **Brian O' Leary** for hosting Civic Club holiday party and the surprise visit from Santa. Thanks also to **Susan and Bill McMillian** and team of Santa's elves for hosting Santa in the Gazebo Park.

Condolences to Anne and Ron Sledge—Ann's Mother, former Garden Oaks Resident, **Liz Stewart**, passed away 12/6.

Also condolences to **Tina Sabuco** and **Shellye Arnold** in the recent passing of their 11 yr old cat, Olive, on 12/3 who was known by many in the neighborhood.

To highlight an event, celebration, or other tidbit, contact Terry Jeanes at 713-812-9154 or terry@terryjeanes.com.

Oaks Dad's Club Fires up the Pits to prepare for the Spring Season!

Spring is right around the corner and with the sunshine and warm winds comes the sound of bats cracking and kids playing. It's almost time to "Play Ball!" again and for the kids of Oak Forest, Garden Oaks and surrounding areas that means spending their free time at the Oaks Dad's Club. Located at 3400 E. TC Jester just north of 34th street, Oaks Dad's Club has been home to kids sports since 1954. It's a place for kids to learn the game of baseball, make great friends and have a good time.

To lead into the Spring Season, the ODC Softball program is hosting a Brisket Sale in conjunction with a Cook-off and Kickball tournament on January 19th. Briskets must be pre-ordered by January 12th, are \$40 each, and will be cooked by an award-winning competitive barbecue team! You can preorder Briskets or get Registration information about the Cook-off by calling 713-680-2757 or contact me, Terri Schlather, at tschlather@sbcglobal.net.

ODC has leagues for all ages and levels - boys and girls alike. If you are interested in registering for Spring Baseball or Softball, visit ODC during open registration - January 15, 17, 21, 23 from 6:30pm - 8:00pm or January 26 from 10am - 2pm or January 29, 31, and February 2 from 6:30pm-8:00pm. We hope to see you on Opening Day - March 8, 2008.

PLAY BALL!

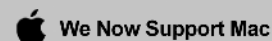
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Yard of the Month

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1st Vice President Janet Cones
713-822-2532

2nd Vice President Trish Merkhham
713-819-8412

Treasurer Robert De Veau
713-686-6012

Co-Secretary Cathy Waren
713-686-8686

Co-Secretary Mary Lynn Porter
713-686-8686

GOMO Board of Directors

Section 1:

Graham Gips (2010)

Home: 713 824-9204
408 W. 31st Street
graham.gips@gmail.com

Kathy Horner (2009)

Cell: 713 385-2050
527 W. 33rd Street
kathy@associatedcounsel.com

Sean Jez (2008)

Cell: 713 305-4481
825 W. 31st Street
sean_jez@fleming-law.com

Section 2:

Ed de Alba (2010)

President
Cell: 713 628-7008
744 W. 43rd Street
ferrocem@yahoo.com

Lori Kennedy (2009)

Home: 713 691-6833
750 Sue Barnett Drive
lorikgomo@blue-funk.com

Jason Mercer (2008)

Work: 281 433-3150
726 W. 41st Street
jason_f_mercer@hotmail.com

Section 3:

Mike Dishberger (2008)

Home: 713 695-7916
862 W. 42nd Street
dishberger@aol.com

Lynn Sievers (2008)

Home: 713 691-4789
851 Lamonte Lane
sieverslynn@hotmail.com

Richard Stark (2008)

Home: 713 691-1067
1335 Sue Barnett Drive
rstark@lucasgroup.com

Section 5:

Malcolm Taylor (2008)

Home: 713 956-8872
1030 W. 41st Street
malcolmtaylor@chevrontexaco.com

Tim Weltin (2008)

Home: 713 540-5315
1567 Sue Barnett Drive
timweltin@mycase.info

John Ciccarella (2009)

Home: 713 688-8285
4310 Apollo Street
ciccarella@intergate.com

Terms expire at end of October of the Year in parenthesis.

Constable Program

Terry Jeanes & Susan Love – Saranie

It has been a busy time of year, and I just want to take a moment to remind you to keep your eyes open throughout the neighborhood. Call with anything suspicious.

Take a moment NOW and program in the Constable Dispatch Number in your cell phone or home phone. 713 755 7628. Your call could make a difference.

By now you should have received your civic club mailer complete with your dues statement and request to be a supporter of the 2008 Constable Program. Please fill this out promptly and return it so we may continue to have our daytime deputy support and coverage. Thanks so much to those who have already done so in such a quick manner.

In months to come there will be a supporter households list to thank you more specifically. In addition thanks to all who contributed to the Precinct One Cruise for Smiles toy drive.

You can always find the supporter form on the website:
www.gardenoaks.org

Constable Program benefits included in the \$180 per year donation:

- 40 hours of a designated Harris County Constable (in addition to the GOMO contract of 40 hrs. per week) A total of 80 hrs per week!!!!
- Vacation watch by Harris County Constable. Forms available at: **www.gardenoaks.org**
- Security Checks for insurance discounts.
- Alarm contact/ response by Harris County Constable
- Perceived value by prospective new neighbors considering buying in Garden Oaks because the neighbors work collectively to make the neighborhood safer
- Low Cost. The annual fee is \$180 per year (Jan-Dec), which is less

than 50 cents per day. There are two payment options. An annual check of \$180 or a bank draft option of \$15 per month. Contact Terry Jeanes at 713-812-9154 or **terry@terryjeanes.com** with any questions

And remember you are an additional set of eyes and ears! Constable Dispatch at 713-755-7628. No matter the time of day. Your call could make the difference.

2007 November Stats.

Miles Patrolled **1613**
Court Citations **2**
Alarm Responses **1**
Written Warnings **0**
Vacations Watches **14**
Suspicious Vehicles **10**
Park checks **103**
Criminal Offenses **1**
Arrests **0**

**PRECINCT ONE CONSTABLE DISPATCH
713.755.7628**

GO Kids News Tonya Knauth

Moms' Night Out this month will be at Thai Spice on 19th St., on January 3 at 7 pm. Bring a bottle of wine, if you like.

Want to play? GO Kids has regular playdates for all ages at Graham Park, 34th and Lawrence (Section 1), on Wednesdays and Fridays at 10 am.

GO Kids was started by a group of parents who want to build a family-friendly neighborhood where children and parents know each other and grow together -- all Garden Oaks families are welcome! Aren't on the GO Kids list serve? Want more information about GO Kids? Contact Tonya Knauth at (713) 628-8243, or **tknauth@comcast.net**.

GO Winers and Diners

Continued from page 2

mention their desire of service to other and to feed their friends. They have obviously passed that philosophy on to their staff.

Some of the diners selected items from the specials such as Beef Osso Bucco with garlic mashed potatoes, Lobster Ravioli, Filet Mignon, and a wonderful salad filled with greens, walnuts, bleu cheese and gala apples. It seemed to be the beef that won over hearts and stomachs on this adventure. The Osso Bucco was so tender you really could eat it with a fork (just as the waitress said). The Filet Mignon was also tender and done to perfection.

Others chose menu items that came highly recommended. The Basil Shrimp with fettucine was seasoned well but the shrimp was a bit tough. This was not the case on a previous visit. The spinach ravioli with butter and caper sauce got rave reviews from the table. All in all, the menu includes seafood, chicken, beef, vegetarian

items, creative salads and nightly specials. The wine selection is good, reasonably priced *and* served in the correct glasses.

With so much wonderful food and wine at the table, there was not much demand for dessert, but a dish of cinnamon ice cream was ordered and shared that was to die for. I know I will return if for no other reason than that dessert! Dharma Café offered the perfect atmosphere to relax and enjoy the company of friends and good food.

I think we all agreed that the food, service and atmosphere at Dharma Café met every expectation. The website, www.dharmacafehouston.com, is worth a visit on its own. It's clever, imaginative and fun...come to think of it, just as the restaurant they have developed!

Terry Jeanes

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Dear Garden Oaks,

I can remember when I chose Garden Oaks as the area that I wanted to live and build my business. There was no new construction going on at all, and very little remodeling.

Good things are happening in Garden Oaks. We appreciate your support, and hope to be a part of the good things for many years to come. We have strived to preserve the character of Garden Oaks with our building and designs, and will continue to do so, with or without governing.

Have a safe, prosperous and a fine New Year!

Harry James, Builder



Sue Schmidt

Realtor

832.563.3402

Garden Oaks Resident



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955 West 43rd 705 Country Lane
Lots available for new construction:
3901 Golf Dr, 1811 Libbey and 915 W 42nd

"For every house is built by someone, but he who built all things is God" -Hebrews 3:4

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P.O. Box 10557
HOUSTON, TX 77206

Garden Oaks Civic Club Minutes

Cindy Bartos

Welcome:

President Sheila Briones called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. A motion was made and the minutes from the November meeting were approved as they appeared in the Gazette.

Treasurer's Report:

Jerry Butler presented the current income and expense report and had detailed copies available at the meeting.

Standing Committee Reports:

- **Beautification:** Ed DeAlba reported on the work completed November 10th on the Garden Oaks Blvd esplanade as well as the tree trimming in the Friendship Garden and the Rose Garden.
- **Constable Program:** No report
- **Gazette:** No report.
- **Website:** No report
- **Garden Oaks Citizen's Patrol:** Carl Waters reminded members that the new training classes for those interested in volunteering will begin in January.
- **Membership:** No report
- **2008 Home Tour:** Committee Chair Sheila Briones will need volunteers to help with the event on Sunday April 20, 2008

Garden Club: Chris Lindsay encouraged residents to join the Garden Club.

Garden Oaks Elementary and SPARK Park: Garden Oaks Elementary Principal Emily Thomas and Kathleen Ownby from the City of Houston's Mayor's office thanked the Civic Club members and the residents of Garden Oaks for their time and support given to the SPARK Park. Carter Ernst, artist for the Garden Oaks Elementary SPARK Park, gave an update on the work completed.

Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization (GOMO): Ed DeAlba announced there would be a meeting to review plans immediately following the Civic Club meeting.

Old business: none

New Business:

2008 Officers: Mike Dishberger, chair of the nominating committee for the 2008 Civic Club officers presented the committee's slate of officers:
President: James Flowers
Vice President: Ivan Mayers
Treasurer: Jerry Butler
Secretary: Cindy Bartos
A motion was made and seconded to accept the presented slate of officers by acclamation. Motion passed.

2008 Budget: A motion was made and seconded to accept the 2008 Budget for the Garden Oaks civic Club as it appeared in the Gazette. Motion passed.

President Sheila Briones announced that since the next scheduled Civic Club meeting falls on a legal holiday (January 1, 2008) we will meet the following night, Wednesday January 2, 2008 as described in our by-laws.

Terry Jeanes announced a Toy Drive sponsored by the Pct. 1 Harris County Constables' Office on Wednesday, December 12, 2008.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m. The Garden Oaks Civic Club Christmas party immediately followed at the home of Brian O'Leary.

2008 Home/Garden Tour Theme Winner

We have a winner for the 2008 Home/Garden Tour Theme

"Beyond the Garden Gate" submitted by Renee Shaver

Congratulations Renee! Renee won a \$75 gift certificate to the Rainbow Lodge!

Thank you to everyone who took the time out to submit an entry. The choices were wonderful and it was a difficult to "choose only one."

Garden Oaks Sisterhood

Dea Larson

Many thanks to all the GO Sisters that have made our new Sisterhood a success. Also THANK YOU to our generous monthly hostesses! Each meeting has been unique and everyone has been warmly welcomed at each home. Most importantly lots of new friendships have been formed.

With 2008 upon us, the Garden Oaks Sisterhood will be sharing New Year's resolutions and having an "Unwanted Christmas Present Exchange" at our January 17th meeting. If you liked all your presents, just wrap up one of those old blouses, funky scarves, or pair of cheap, outrageous earrings in the back of your closet you have been meaning to discard and submit it as your entry.

We meet the 3rd Thursday of the month starting at 7:30pm. Each Sister is asked to bring a lite snack or bottle of wine to share with the group. Please join us at the upcoming meetings detailed below.

January 17th -- Home of Tina Beddow 858 West 42nd Street -- cell -- **(832) 407.8888**

February 21st -- Home of Caroline McLean 1051 West 42nd Street

March 20th -- Home of Olga Marruffo 1566 Sue Barnett

April 17th -- Home of Anne Sellis 1014 Lamonte Lane

Questions? Please contact Dea Larson at 281-920-0325 or dealarson@aol.com

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www.oslschool.org

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424 W. 34th St.	815 Azalea
729 W. 39th St.	975 Gardenia
721 W. 41st St.	1043 Gardenia
750 W. 41st St.	839 Lamonte
818 W. 41st St.	3205 Lawrence
858 W. 41st St.	1325 Sue Barnett
862 W. 41st St.	1458 Sue Barnett
970 W. 41st St.	1506 Sue Barnett
718 W. 42nd St.	1575 Sue Barnett

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Citizens Patrol Program

Carl Waters Jr.

Many thanks to the volunteers who gave their time last year to make the *Citizens Patrol* program work. Without their time this program would not exist. Our program could use more volunteers. If your New Year's resolution is to become more active in the Garden Oaks community, our program could use your help. It takes just a few simple steps to become a member. First, you need to contact me by telephone at 713-864-1992, by email at GOCOP77018@AOL.com or through the Garden Oaks web site GardenOaks.org, if you chose the last option click on the get involved link and then click on our program. Once you have signed up you will need to complete a one hour training class and pass a criminal background check conducted by the Houston Police Department. The program is open to all Garden Oaks residents 18 years of age or older.

October Crime Statistics (6)

Burglary (3)

500 block of W. 33rd St. on Wednesday, October 17th at 8:00 a.m. (residence).

4200 block of Apollo St. on Wednesday, October 17th at 1:00 p.m. (residence).

1000 block of Gardenia Dr. on Saturday, October 27th at 11:00 a.m. (residence).

Auto Theft (2)

300 block of W. 32nd St. on Thursday, October 11th at 8:00 p.m. (driveway).

900 block of W. 43rd St. on Sunday, October 14th at 1:39 a.m. (driveway).
Driving While Intoxicated (1)

3100 block of N. Shepherd Dr. on Thursday, October 18th at 2:16 a.m. (public road),

Through October there have been 87 crimes reported this is 10 more than reported through October 2006.

As always inquires about joining the Citizens Patrol Program or about other community safety issues can be directed to me via neighborhood website GardenOaks.org or to the COP email account at GOCOP77018@AOL.com. or by phone at 713-864-1992.



DianaTarley.com

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Reference Numbers

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HPD Non Emergency Services

713-884-3131

All other City Services

311

Constable Dispatch

713-755-7628

Advertising & Article Submission Guidelines

The Garden Oaks Gazette is the official publication of the Garden Oaks Civic Club and is published on a monthly basis. It is hand delivered to 1,550 homes the first week of each month.

The Gazette's primary purpose is to disseminate information about Civic Club activities and community events.

Advertising rates are shown to the right. If you would like to purchase ad space, please contact the Editor. (See page 2 for contact information.)

All articles must be submitted by the 15th of each month for publication the following month. Contributing articles will be printed at the Editor's discretion and edited according to space availability. Publication of any article not related to the Civic Club does not imply endorsement by the Garden Oaks Civic Club and is solely the opinion of the author.

Size	Single	Six Months	Twelve Months
2 1/4 x 2 3/8	\$60.00	\$300.00	\$580.00
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Diary of a Garden Oaks Garden Club Junkie

Janna Alsbrook

I started crashing garden club meetings sometime back in 2004 because a neighbor told me about the annual plant swap. That's an event where everyone brings a plant or cutting from their garden to "swap" with others. It's a great way to get "free" plants, especially ones you have wanted to try but just haven't gotten around to buying.

Then in 2005 I attended a meeting about ponds. I promptly went out to the water garden store and still manage to maintain a decent whiskey barrel pond on my back deck. I've only had to restart it twice. Then in 2006 I officially joined the Garden Oaks Garden Club. Gardening, or as I like to call it "messing around in my yard", is the one thing in my life that I do for myself and no one else.

The topic of the first meeting I attended in 2006 was on African Violets, something which I thought I was the absolute expert on. I walked into a lovely woman's home thinking I knew everything there was to know about African Violets because mine bloomed on a regular basis. Little did I know mine were starving for light. I thought they were supposed to have their leaves reaching for the sky, that it meant they were happy, not praying for sun! At the meeting I learned that it was really quite by accident that they were indeed alive at all. The speaker was the nicest man from Teas Nursery who brought handouts and an amazing wealth of knowledge on African Violets. The plants he brought for demonstrating were then raffled off as door prizes. I walked out of there thinking "Wow, I really learned a lot tonight" and I had a lot of fun. As an added bonus our hostess provided a wonderful assortment of snacks so I did not have to make dinner.

Over the course of the next year I learned what I had secretly suspected for the last 20 years that I have lived in Garden Oaks, almost every thing alive in my yard is alive by accident. Or as they used to say in them olden days "only the strong will survive". At each and every Garden Club meeting I have attended I have learned something which I can put to good use toward improving my garden. I espe-

cially enjoyed the guest speaker on the topic of bamboo. I always thought bamboo was something that would take over your entire yard and then some. Now I know which species to plant that won't be invasive. There are a couple of varieties that I can choose from that will grow tall enough along my back fence line to hide the ugly warehouse that replaced the old house behind me a few years ago. And, as an added bonus, I can harvest the bamboo and make my own patio furniture.

At another meeting I learned about planting a garden to attract butterflies. I've actually done a very decent job of this on my own but what I learned new was that certain herbs are the big thing that attracts the caterpillars that make the butterflies. So this year I put some herbs in pots on my back patio to attract more caterpillars. I don't know if I will have more butterflies but my rabbit likes the fresh herbs and, if I feel like cooking, then I have fresh herbs too.

Other topics that have been covered this past year were on citrus trees, flower arrangements, propagation and succulents. The speaker on propagation was a Master Gardener. I found her talk very informative. I had no idea you could take the leaves from a Begonia, cut them into little pie shaped pieces, put them into a mixture of soil and vermiculite and voila! You would be growing new plants from pieces of leaves before you knew it. Her power point presentation was fantastic.

One of the most fun meetings we have is the annual Christmas party. It gives us all a chance to socialize more and get to know each other a little bit better. In addition, we do a garden themed gift exchange! I have found everyone in the club to be so much fun and they just love to talk about plants and gardening and neighborhood news. I now feel like I am addicted to the club. If I miss a meeting I feel a little panicked, like I may have missed out on some important information that I need to know. When I first started going to the Garden Club meetings I wondered how in the world some of these people knew absolutely every single plant and shrub and tree that **Continued on page 11** could possibly be mentioned. Now I know – they've been at it for awhile.



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Diary of a Garden Oaks Garden Club Junkie

Continued from page 10

And speaking of the members they are the best part of the club. We have a mix of members who live in different sections of Garden Oaks. Everyone is willing to explain things to you and give you tips and helpful hints. If you have small children this is the most perfect opportunity for you to have adult-only time and ask or plead for someone else to make dinner or give the kids the bath. Been there done that and wish I had figured that one out years ago and had joined the Garden Club much earlier. We have social time 7:00 – 7:15 p.m., then the gardening presentation starts at 7:15 p.m. which usually goes for 45 minutes followed by the business meeting. The business meeting part runs longer or shorter depending on what's going on with the club at that time but regardless we end by 9:00 p.m.

This year the meetings will be held on the second Thursday of the month in the Kroger Store (43rd Street) Community Meeting room. Holding the meeting at the store alleviates someone from having to host the event too often

in their home. But occasionally we'll have it at someone's home like we did that plant swap last year at my house which worked out great.

The dues are low, just \$25 for the year and you never have homework unlike so many clubs and it's all about doing something you like. Oh, wait, I forgot, we do sort of have homework. Twice a year we have workdays (actually just mornings) at Friendship Garden. The whole genesis of the Garden Oaks Garden Club was to build and maintain the garden. We spend time pruning, planting and mulching once in the spring and another in the fall. Ok, so now that I have given you full disclosure, please come join us some time. Our meetings are open to anyone without charge. Of course we hope after a few visits you will decide to join, but until you do meetings are free. So stop by, I look forward to meeting more of my neighbors!



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Treatment begins with a comprehensive evaluation to ensure that each patient is admitted to the most appropriate level of care, whether it's our intensive outpatient program, or the residential treatment, transitional living or day treatment programs at our Cessner location. Because addiction affects spouses, family members, partners and concerned friends, we offer programs that support our clients and those close to them. Our aftercare program continues weekly for one year after treatment. It's just one more way we make breakthroughs – every day.

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Pancake Breakfast News

Mark Klein

It's become a neighborhood tradition, that Saturday morning in February when volunteers flip thousands of free pancakes for a crowd hungry to help a unique public school program that serves children from all walks of life.

A call for donors and underwriters is underway to keep the community tradition going as Garden Oaks Elementary School and Friends of Montessori get set to host the 14th Annual Community Pancake Breakfast and Silent Auction, Saturday, February 9.

"The Pancake Breakfast helps keep the Montessori classrooms open at Garden Oaks Elementary," explains Shana Tatum, Garden Oaks Chapter President, Friends of Montessori. "It's an incredible neighborhood asset that has doubled in size since its inception. But, without fundraisers and underwriters this public school Montessori program may cease to exist."

That's because HISD funding to support the program is limited, and private funds must be raised to pay for Montessori materials and teacher aides' salaries.

"Through the generous support of underwriters and Breakfast donors, the Friends of Montessori has been able to maintain a unique public school Montessori program at Garden Oaks Elementary School, benefiting children from all socioeconomic, racial, ethnic and religious backgrounds," Mrs. Tatum says. "These students test scores across all subjects exceed those of HISD and the State of Texas. When you help underwrite the Pancake Breakfast you are really enhancing our local educational opportunities, and that can only help everyone in the community."

Underwriters are needed to support the free breakfast while donors are needed for silent auction items, part of the tradition that local pancake eaters look for-

ward to.

Last year's event raised more than \$11,000 for the Friends of Montessori program, says Mrs. Tatum, even though the golden brown pancakes, warm syrup and sausage are free to the community.

Also on the griddle for the February 9 breakfast: Garden Oaks Elementary student artwork, this year featuring hand-crafted garden items – all available for auction. There's family entertainment and tours of the Montessori classrooms led by the teachers, with an opportunity for Q & A. And of course, lots of delectable pancakes served up by dozens of neighborhood volunteers and Dads of Montessori.

An Educational Jewel and Neighborhood Asset Seeks Donors, Underwriters for Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser February 9

"It is unusual to have a program like this, but it is just one of those things that make the Garden Oaks neighborhood special for so many people," says Stephanie Acosta, a member of the non-profit Friends of Montessori.

To underwrite a portion of the annual breakfast, or to donate auction items, please contact Elizabeth Klein, 713.320.7294, or friendsofmontessori@yahoo.com.

Montessori program applications for the 2007-2008 school year are now available in the school office. The deadline for applications is January 11th. You may call the school at 713-696-2930 for more information. Happy New Year from all the students, staff and parents at Garden Oaks Elementary School!

Garden Oaks Fall Festival

Stephanie DuBroff-Acosta

This year's fall festival was a huge success! It was beautiful sunny autumn day at Garden Oaks Elementary School's campus! Festival goers were greeted by the Montessori Program's pumpkin patch, set up for pictures and pumpkin sales! Onward through the festival, fall-frolickers experienced and enjoyed the day with an inflatable slide and jumpy house, pumpkin bowling, sack races, blindfolded pumpkin decorating, donut on a string eating races, and a wild silly string arena! Also present was the ever-famous cake walk, gypsy story-telling, lollibot, duck pond, popcorn, candy apples, and sausage on a stick, all contributing to the fun festival atmosphere.

The Garden Oaks Elementary School Garden Club had plants and fresh cut herbs for the cost of a donation. Three of our neighbors set up booths to showcase their wares.

Civic Club President, Sheila Briones, made sure judges sampled several homemade creations at the dessert contest. Winners included:

First place: Terry Jeanes with her peanut butter pie.

Second place: Katie Glenn with her pumpkin cake.

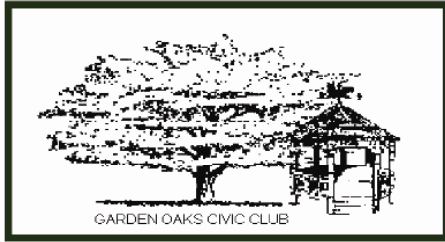
Third place: Cece Krumholz with her toffee bars.

Honorable mention: Jason Mercer with his cheesecake pecan pie.

Honorable mention: Alex & Zach Zugheri with their peanut butter cups. Thank you to all of our celebrity judges City Councilmember Toni Lawrence, HISD Board Trustee Natasha Kamrani, residents Lucy Lopez, Brenda de Alba, Carol Smith and her daughter, Elissa.

We are so proud of this year's fall festival and would like to thank Co-Chairs Deanna Zugheri and Jessica Modad, as well as the Garden Oaks Civic Club for their \$800 donation toward the event. Thank you to the many, many school, community, and student volunteers that worked months and weeks before the event, during and after the festival. A special thank you to the brave men and women that volunteered at the extremely popular silly string arena. Also to Ms. Tonia Toliver, the Garden Oaks Elementary School Cafeteria Manager.

Be sure to check out all of the fun pictures from the event and the next Fall Festival on your calendar!



ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES STATEMENT

GARDEN OAKS CIVIC CLUB

January - December 2008

DUE DATE: January 1, 2008	TOTAL CONTRIBUTION: \$ _____
------------------------------	---------------------------------

Membership is open to all residents whether you own or rent. Please choose the level you feel most comfortable supporting. **While all memberships are voluntary, you must contribute a minimum of \$25 (or \$5 for Seniors 65 years+) in order to be eligible to vote on civic club matters.** Membership dues are for the calendar year.

Fill in Amount

- \$ _____ CREPE MYRTLE: \$25.00 (\$5.00 for Seniors)
 - Basic Household Membership
- \$ _____ THE MAGNOLIA: \$50.00 (\$10.00 for Seniors)
 - Intermediate Level – Household Membership
- \$ _____ THE GOLDEN OAK: \$75.00 (\$15.00 for Seniors)
 - Patron Level – Household Membership
- \$ _____ OTHER (Contributions other than the levels above)
 - Fill in amount you would like to contribute
- \$ _____ BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP: \$50.00 (non-voting membership)
- \$ _____ CONTRIBUTION TO GARDEN CLUB
- \$ _____ CONTRIBUTION TO THE SPARK PARK
- \$ _____ TOTAL

Membership dues support all Garden Oaks Civic Club Activities: Beautification, Citizens on Patrol, The Gazette, Home Tour, Membership Committee, and Website.

Please mail this completed form along with your check payable to:
Garden Oaks Civic Club, P.O. Box 10273, Houston, TX 77206. THANK YOU!

Name(s) _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Critter Corner

Casey and Mau Mau Farris

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Last month the City passed an ordinance making it mandatory to sterilize any stray cats you are feeding. Mau and I have a lot to say about that and so does our Human Honoree of the month.

Neighborhood News: *Cat Catchers* is a non-profit neighborhood task force started back in 2003. We advise and assist neighbors with stray cat issues. Over the years we have accomplished so much and we have a lot of good stories to tell. We highly encourage the trap, neuter, release philosophy and have traps to loan and money to help pay costs of sterilization and rabies shots. We are totally funded by donations. If you have any questions, or would like to donate time and/or money, please contact me, Casey Farris at 713-688-6363 or casey@godogusa.com. Just a little bit of time, effort and money can make a huge difference.

Honoree of the Month: "Ms. January" is Maria Lawson, from Section II for her constant work and devotion to animals. Maria has trapped and neutered many stray cats in our neighborhood. She has tamed some, nursed some, fostered some, found homes for some, and taken so many to the vet for health-care using her own money most of the time. Maria watched this one particular tomcat, Blue, for awhile and befriended him. Blue was part Siamese and had the bluest eyes. He was so handsome that all who knew him called him "the gorgeous one." She did get him to trust her and she took him to the vet to be neutered. After that she found him a good home. At his new home, Blue had a cat companion named Frida and a human mom named Sheri. Sheri and Frida adored Blue whose name changed to Diego. Diego/Blue never wanted to go outside again and had his own website. God Bless Maria Lawson for her compassion and devotion to animals and for making happy stories possible.

Critters 101: Dec 2007 City Ordinance – Mandatory to Sterilize Stray Cats

If you are feeding any outside cats you must get them sterilized according to the ordinance passed in December by the City of Houston. According to BARC, about 250,000 stray cats live in the city. A female cat can start repro-

ducing at four months; they have 3-4 kittens in each litter and can have three litters each year. Do the math, in a matter of months the numbers can get out of control.

Unwanted cat litters create the feral colonies of cats. Feral cats are simply unwanted, abandoned, domesticated house cats once owned by human beings. Some people assume if they move off their pets will survive. This is not true; many die ugly deaths from starvation, disease, abuse, and dog attacks. Other people just don't get around to spaying/neutering their pets and allow them to roam outside, no doubt breeding.

Shelters spend \$50 million dollars (mostly your tax dollars) each year to euthanize 15 million dogs and cats. **All because people don't spay and neuter their pets.** Every single spay/neuter helps stamp out this problem. In fact, city councilman, Michael Berry says we can reduce the stray cat population by several hundred thousand in just a few years using the trap, neuter, release program. Sean Hawkins, founder of Saving Animals Across Borders, is dedicated to making Houston a "no kill" city and has opened several low-cost spay/neuter clinics around town, including the new clinic at BARC. Please check out the "Fix Houston" campaign at www.savingsanimals.org. We can be a "no kill" city but the key is spay/neuter.

It is your responsibility to have your pets spayed/neutered. Besides helping the overpopulation problem it also makes your pets healthier. **If you are feeding an "outside cat" then it is your responsibility and now it is the law to get it spayed/neutered.**

Stop the neglect and abuse – please spay/neuter

Casey Farris is owner/operator of *Bone Voyage Pet Sitting Services* and *Go Dog USA, Home of the Go Dog Social Club and Go Dog Academy @ Urban Tails*. Mau Mau is owner/operator of *Casey*. Please forward your questions and pet news to

Casey@GoDogUSA.com or call 713-688-6363.

Christmas Tree Recycling

Info from www.houstontx.gov

December 27, 2007 to January 7, 2008
Closed January 1, 2008

Please bring your residential Christmas trees to one of the following drop-off locations:

Wed - Sun, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sunbeam Neighborhood Depository
5100 Sunbeam
Lawndale Neighborhood Depository
9200 Lawndale
Kirkpatrick Neighborhood Depository - 5565 Kirkpatrick
Windfern Neighborhood Depository
6023 Windfern

**Mon. - Sat., 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.,
Sun. 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

- **Westpark Consumer Recycling Center** 5900 Westpark
- **Memorial Park** (Ball Fields 4 and 5) 7300 Memorial Drive
- **T.C. Jester Park** - 4200 T.C. Jester West [7]
- **Kingwood** - Bens View Lane and Bens Branch Drive
- **Clear Lake** - Ellington Field Recycling Dropoff - Hwy. 3 @ Brantley Road

**Weekdays - 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.,
Sat. 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

- **Living Earth Technology** - 5625 Crawford Road
- **Living Earth Technology** - 1503 Industrial Drive (Gessner @ Hwy 90)
- **CJM Soils Supermarket** - 1700 Highway 90A East
- **CJM Soils Supermarket** - 12202 Cutten Road

Daily 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

- **Doss Park** - 2500 Frick Road

Please remove tinsel, plastic bags, tree stands and water bowls. NO FLOCKED TREES ACCEPTED. Homes with City of Houston Automated Garbage Collection please place your tree at the curb to be recycled.

For more information, call 3-1-1.



January 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 New Years Day	Civic Club Meeting @ 7pm	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	Garden Club 7:00 p.m. @ Kroger's on 43rd	11	12
13	14	15 ★ Deadline for Gazette Submissions	GOMO Business Meeting @ 7pm	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Useful Numbers

All City Services (city information or services ranging from traffic court dates and sewer concerns to pothole problems and neighborhood complaints) 311

Emergency Services 911

Constable Precinct 1 Dispatch 713-755-7628

HPD Non Emergency Services 713-884-3131

One Call Program (Heavy trash and more) 713-956-6589

Recycling Hotline 713-837-9130

Deeds Restriction Violations City of Houston Legal Department 713-247-2000

Toni Lawrence (District A) 713-247-2010

Dwayne Bohac 713-460-2800

John Whitmire 713-864-8701

New Advertising Rates

- 2 1/4 by 2 3/8 single \$60 - 6 months \$300 - 12 months \$580
- 4 1/5 by 2 3/8 single \$90 - 6 months \$485 - 12 months \$920
- Half page single \$110
- Full page single \$180
- Back cover single \$300
- Inserts stay the same \$300

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