

GARDEN OAKS GAZETTE

VOLUME 34

ISSUE 12



DEC 2010

CIVIC CLUB MEETINGS

December 7, 7pm Holiday Potluck
at the O'Leary Appling home,
701 Garden Oaks Blvd.

UPCOMING MEETING
January 4, 7pm

REMINDERS

GO Cook - A Neighborly Collection of Recipes is now available, just in time for holiday gift giving and for planning your holiday dinner parties. See insert for more details on purchasing your copy.

VOLUNTEER NEEDED

A new beautification chair is needed for 2011. If you have a passion for our green spaces and are interested, contact beautification@gardenoaks.org.

IN THIS ISSUE

Citizens' Patrol ... 2
Heard Under the Oak Tree ... 3
Civic Club Meeting Minutes ... 4
GOCC 2011 Proposed Budget ... 5
Civic Club 2011 Officer Slate ... 7
Constable Program ... 7
Block Captain of the Month ... 8
Letters From and To the Editor ... 10
GO Wine Walk Photos ... 12
GO Kids ... 14
GOES Announcements ... 14
Remembering Margaret Riebeling ... 15
Holiday Travel Tips for Children ... 16
AC Tips ... 17
Christmas Tree Decorating Ideas ... 18
Critter Corner ... 19
Photo of the Month ... 22
Photographing the Soul of Guatemala ... 22
GO Winers and Diners ... 23
Events Calendar ... 24

CIVIC CLUB HOLIDAY POTLUCK

by Mark Klein, GOCC President

Celebrate the season with the Garden Oaks Civic Club at our December meeting and holiday celebration at Brian O'Leary and George Appling's home, 701 Garden Oaks Blvd. Join your friends and neighbors 7 p.m. Tuesday, December 7, for a brief business meeting, followed by a potluck supper and festivities.

George and Brian graciously have hosted our December gatherings for the past several years, offering the perfect venue to celebrate another year of living in one of Houston's greatest neighborhoods.

The Civic Club will provide sliced turkey, a spiral-carved ham and soft drinks. We ask that residents with the last name beginning



with A-H bring a side dish; I-Q a dessert; and R-Z an appetizer or bread. Feel free to B.Y.O.B.

We will elect Civic Club officers for the coming year and vote on the proposed 2011 GOCC budget.

Help those less fortunate this season by bringing an unwrapped new toy for the Precinct One Constables Cruising for Smiles Toy Drive – held yearly to give deserving, needy children within Precinct One a little holiday spirit.

Come join your neighbors and friends as we celebrate the holidays on Tuesday, December 7, 7pm.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Terry Jeanes
Your Neighbor & Area Specialist



When Experience
Counts
Garden Oaks
Top Producing
Realtor
Leading the
Competition

RE/Max Metro
713-812-9154



713.443.1701
www.scm-texas.com

Chris Schmidt
Garden Oaks Resident
chris@scm-texas.com

CITIZENS PATROL PROGRAM

by Carl Waters, Jr.

On October 29 the patrol program lost a valued member and friend. Jo Bewley passed away following a four-year battle with ovarian and breast cancer. Jo and her husband, Bob, joined the patrol program in May 1997. Their patrolling over the last few has slowed down due to Bob's work and Jo's illness. Jo was a retired teacher from HISD and taught in private industry setting up an education program for ARAMCO Industries in Saudi Arabia.

October 19 at 12:30 p.m. (residence).
900 block of W. 43rd St. on Tuesday,
October 26 at 10:30 a.m. (driveway).
1300 block of Sue Barnett Dr. on
Tuesday, October 26 at 9:30 a.m.
(street).

Inquiries 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.

The October crime stats were down quite a bit from the 11 reported in September with only four crimes reported.

October Crime Statistics: 4

Assault: 1

300 block of W. 32nd St. on Friday,
October 29 at 6:30 p.m. (driveway).

Theft: 4

800 block of W. 41st St. on Tuesday,

Emergency Numbers

Emergency Services 911
HPD Non-Emergency Services
713.884.3131
Constable Dispatch
713.755.7628
All Other City Services 311

Civic Club Officers

Mark Klein—President

231 W. 34th 281.536.6063
president@gardenoaks.org

Scott Easterly—Vice President

761 W. 42nd 713.691.3087
vicepresident@gardenoaks.org

Phil Ramirez—Treasurer

975 Lamonte 832.794.1221
treasurer@gardenoaks.org

Heather Leverett—Secretary

319 W. 31st 832.455.6254
secretary@gardenoaks.org

Gazette Contacts

Jessica Jarvis—Editor

1551 Sue Barnett 713.446.6440
gazette@gardenoaks.org

Dian Austin—Delivery Coordinator

733 W. 42nd 713.691.6505
gazettedelivery@gardenoaks.org

Kristin Strange—Advertising Director

832.651.0831
gazetteads@gardenoaks.org

Proofreaders

Carol Smith and **Dian Austin**



Standing Committee Chairs

Brenda de Alba—Beautification

744 W. 43rd 713.694.5934
beautification@gardenoaks.org

Carl Waters Jr.—Citizens' Patrol

821 W. 31st 713.864.1992
gocop@gardenoaks.org

Joe Muscara—GardenOaks.org

750 Sue Barnett 713.691.6833
webmaster@gardenoaks.org

Dian Austin—Membership

733 W. 42nd 713.691.6505
membership@gardenoaks.org

Terry Jeanes—Constable Program

922 W. 41st 713.812.9154
constable@gardenoaks.org

Garden Oaks Gazette

The Garden Oaks Gazette is the official publication of the Garden Oaks Civic Club and is published on a monthly basis. Submission deadline is the 15th of each month for publication the next month unless otherwise noted. **No exceptions.**

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.

HEARD UNDER THE OAK TREE

by Terry Jeanes

Welcome new neighbors

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

- 516 West 31st
- 813 West 31st
- 308 West 32nd
- 423 West 32nd
- 835 West 41st
- 951 West 41st
- 1039 West 41st
- 955 Althea
- 811 Azalea
- 923 Lamonte
- 1074 Gardenia
- 1447 Sue Barnett

December Birthdays and Celebrations

- Terry Jeanes - 11
- Ian & Julia McDaniel - 12
- Jim McDaniel - 15
- Brian O'Leary - 17
- Sandy Altman - 24
- Katie Cunningham -30

Happy Belated 16th Birthday **Adelaide Leonard** - November 1

Congratulations

Cameron Piske was honored as Freshman Favorite 2010 at the Lutheran High North Homecoming.

Out and About

Caroline and **Sean McLean** enjoyed a visit to Las Vegas. **Martha Kennedy** made a recent trip to London. **George Appling** had fun in San Francisco, Atlanta, Chicago and then with **Brian O'Leary** at the Kings Feast at Sherwood Forrest Faire. Both **Stephanie Acosta** and **Georgia Lister** were spotted at different times in Austin.

Condolences and special thoughts

To **Bob Bewley**, longtime *Gazette* deliverer, and his family on the passing of his wife, **Jo Carter Bewley**, in late October following a four-year battle with ovarian and breast cancer. Jo was a member of Citizen Patrol since the 1990s.

To highlight an event, celebration, or other tidbit, contact Terry Jeanes at 713.812.9154 or terry@terryjeanes.com.

Garden Oaks Realty
LAUDER PROPERTIES
 Residential and Commercial
 SPECIALIZING IN INNER LOOP
 Senior Citizens Discounts!
 Broker Owned and Operated
SHARON LAUDER, BROKER
Garden Oaks Resident for 29 Years
slauder@sbcglobal.net
 713-862-3747

STATE FARM INSURANCE

- Auto
- Home
- Flood
- Health
- Life
- Insurance



RAMONA DECULUS
 STATE FARM AGENCY
www.deculusinsurance.com
 4210 Ella Blvd. Houston, TX 77018
 713.682.3900
Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.

You don't have to travel far to purchase or service your car!

TOMMIE VAUGHN




- ★ New & Used Sales
- ★ Full Service & Maintenance Departments
- ★ Diesel Repair Facilities
- ★ Parts & Accessories Department
- ★ Collision Repair Center

1201 N. Shepherd
1 Mile North of I-10
Call Don Stokey at
713-412-2464 or
713-802-6633
www.tommievaughn.com

Ask for Don Stokey, Garden Oaks Resident of 20 Years and Sales Representative with Tommie Vaughn 21 Years

GOMO Board of Directors

Section 1:

Sheila Briones (2011)
412 W. 34th
Home: 713.861.8091
Cell: 281.685.8133
sbriones@hotmail.com

Mark Saranie (2012) **Vice President**
235 W 33rd
Home: 713.861.7994
Cell: 713.724.1271
msaranie@comcast.net

Melissa Haselden Zepeda (2013)
320 W. 34th Street
713.459.5339 or 713.426.6413
melissahaselden@gmail.com

Section 2:

Adrian Berry (2011) **Secretary**
737 W. 42nd
Home: 713.692.0408
adrian.berry@yahoo.com

Ed de Alba (2013)
744 W. 43rd
Cell: 713.628.7008
ferrocem@yahoo.com

Gale Gorman (2012)
742 Sue Barnett
gale_gorman@mac.com

Section 3:

Jerry Butler (2011)
871 W. 41st
Home: 713.822.3175
jbutler1982@att.net

Daniel Horowitz (2012)
1006 Sue Barnett
dhorowitz@abrahamwatkins.com

Kelly Mathews (2013) **Treasurer**
855 Lamonte Lane
Home: 713.640.5225
rkmathews1@gmail.com

Section 5:

Tim Weltin (2011) **President**
1567 Sue Barnett Drive
Home: 713.540.5315
timweltin@mycase.info

Luke Fatheree (2012)
1034 W 43rd St.
713.888.4743

Teresa Coleman (2013)
1003 Gardenia
713.686.7728
teresa.coleman@pobox.com

Terms expire October of year in parentheses.

GO CIVIC CLUB MEETING MINUTES

November 2, 2010

Garden Oaks Elementary School cafeteria
by Heather Leverett, Secretary

Welcome: President Mark Klein called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. at Garden Oaks Elementary School.

A motion was made and carried to accept the September minutes as published in the *Gazette*.

President's Announcements: President Klein urged everyone to think about **2011 Agenda Items**. Any suggestions on speakers or topics are welcomed. In December, the annual meeting will include a holiday party and the vote for 2011 Civic Club officers.

Secretary Leverett gave an update on the status of the **GOCC Database and Communications Initiative**. A core team with a technology background has been created to focus on the initiative. Requirements have been gathered with Dian Austin's and Terry Jeanes' input. Included are needs around membership management, security, bulk communication, volunteer and event management, payment/cash flow improvements and technical requirements. The goal is to reduce manual processes and increase communication, participation and speed of cash collection. The requirements have been prioritized and the team is in process of creating a timeline and better estimates of the hours required to complete the project.

Super Neighborhood: President Klein noted that the area's super neighborhood had its first meeting last month and, at the City of Houston's behest, voted to change its name to the Central Northwest Super Neighborhood Council. An alternative delegate from Garden Oaks is needed. The Central Northwest SN Council meets

GOMO Review Meetings

take place at 6:30p.m.
prior to the Civic Club meetings.

the fourth Wednesday of the month, at the Solid Waste Recycling Facility, 1245 Judiway. GO residents are encouraged to attend.

2010 Wine Walk Results: President Klein thanked everyone who donated their time and effort and made the wine walk a great success. Close to \$8,000 was raised to support the Constable Program. Terry Jeanes announced that the pictures should be online soon.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Ramirez was not present. The proposed 2011 GOCC Budget was reviewed and detailed copies were provided; it is similar to the 2010 budget. Items that were added include additional funds to support events, volunteer recognition and database/communication technology improvements. The technology project should allow for a return on investment, as membership and timing of cash receipt should increase with improved communication. The proposed 2011 GOCC budget will be voted on during the December meeting. President Klein reminded everyone that there will not be a home tour next year, the neighborhood's major fundraiser, so we need to keep up donations. The Civic Club was reimbursed about \$16,000 by GOMO for beautification.

Standing Committee Reports

GO Citizens Patrol: Carl Waters reported 11 crimes in September, the majority
Continued on page 6

GARDEN CLUB OFFICERS

President

Janet Cones 713.682.4416
jkcones@sbcglobal.net

1st Vice President

Trish Mehrkam 713.688.4408

2nd Vice President

Chris Lindsay 713.819.8412

Treasurer

Robert DeVeau 832.659.7797

Co-Secretaries

Cathy Wahren 713.686.8686

Yard of the Month selection committee

Mary Lynn Porter

GARDEN OAKS CIVIC CLUB PROPOSED 2011 BUDGET

(presented Nov. 2, 2010)

	REVENUES	EXPENSES	NET
Civic Club Membership	\$9,000	\$1,550	\$7,450
Gazette	20,000	17,100	2,900
Home Tour	-	-	-
Wine Walk	2,000	57	1,943
Constable	71,000	71,000	-
Beautification, Improvements & Maintenance	20,000	20,000	-
Garden Club	200		200
Interest Income	10		10
Friends of Montessori-Pancake Breakfast		250	(250)
Fall Festival		250	(250)
Events		500	(500)
Database / Communications Initiative		5,000	(5,000)
Santa at Gazebo Park		500	(500)
Website		250	(250)
Citizens Patrol		500	(500)
Bank Fees		250	(250)
Rent-Aztec Rental		1,260	(1,260)
Utilities		1,050	(1,050)
Insurance		500	(500)
Accounting Fees		300	(300)
Miscellaneous		1,500	(1,500)
TOTALS	\$122,210	\$121,817	\$393



Making people happy since 1988!

MAID IN THE SHADE

See for yourself what makes us the #1 choice for your cleaning needs!

We promise you will experience the best in customer service and home cleaning. Call 713-665-6243 today for your quote or visit www.maidhouston.com



- A+ Rating with the BBB
- 2010 BBB Awards of Excellence
- Houston Press "Best Maid Service" 2010
- 5 Star Rating on Yelp!

FOR A LIMITED TIME

\$20 off 1st visit* | **\$50 off** 4th visit*

* New clients only with regular repeat schedule. Cannot be combined with any other offer or discount. Offer expires 3-31-11.



AMS REMODELING

- Custom Homes
- Room Additions
- Garages
- Kitchens
- Bathrooms
- Hardie Siding
- Total Remodels



FREE ESTIMATES
713-680-2019



Transforming Your Dreams... Into Reality!



CAMPOS ROOFING
 "The Roofing Specialist"
 New Roofs/Re-Roofs and Repairs
 All work Guaranteed
 919 Judiway
 713-680-3530
 Since 1960

OWENS CORNING Preferred Roofing Contracting
BBB MEMBER

THE LARSON LAW OFFICE, PLLC

- * BUSINESS LAW *
- * FAMILY LAW *
- * WILLS & TRUSTS *

DIANA LARSON, ATTORNEY & GARDEN OAKS RESIDENT

400 LOUISIANA, SUITE 900
 HOUSTON, TEXAS 77002
 713.221.9088 (PHONE)

DIANA@THELARSONLAWOFFICE.COM

CC Meeting Minutes cont. from pg 4
 being thefts. In October there was one assault and three thefts. All of the thefts occurred on a Tuesday. 2010 crime counts had been down versus 2009, but with the additional crimes, is now equal to 2009. Carl needs additional volunteers to patrol. Volunteers can contact Carl at gocop@gardenoaks.org.

Constable Program: Terry Jeanes reported that the annual drive for the Constable Program is ready to be mailed. For National Night Out in October, Terry reported that the neighborhood street parties were great. For Halloween, traffic was relatively smooth with very few complaints or problems reported. Terry noted that recent rumors about certain AT&T and Centerpoint trucks being a potential scam were unfounded and that the representatives were legitimate. If, however, anyone is ever in doubt they can call dispatch or the constables. Terry reminded the GOCC never to let anyone you don't know into your home. She reminded the group that constables will pull over neighborhood drivers who do not

make a complete stop at stop signs. Terry noted that some people have placed boulders near the edge of their streets, which is technically not part of their property and can be dangerous, as in the case on Sue Barnett where those obstructions force children to walk in the street. She recommended drafting a communication to help educate the neighborhood on where property lines are and the potential hazards of the boulders.

Membership: No update.
 Beautification: No update.
 Gazette: No update.
 GardenOaks.org Website: No update.

Garden Oaks Maintenance

Organization (GOMO): Adrian Berry, GOMO Section 2 Director, announced that GOMO's annual meeting had elected its board of directors for 2011. The Section 4 GOMO initiative did not receive the 60 percent of property owner votes required to pass, though a majority of ballots cast were in favor of the proposal. Ballots were not returned by 58 percent of Section 4 property owners. In other annual meeting news, the annual constable contract vote

HOUSTON'S
 PREMIER GREEN
 BUILDER IN
 YOUR GARDEN
 OAKS COMMUNITY!



SOLUTION 4 LIVING
 Residential Construction and Design

CUSTOM HOMES
 HOME DESIGN
 REMODEL
 POOLS

We build in the style you love:
 TRADITIONAL
 MEDITERRANEAN
 CRAFTSMAN
 MODERN

CALL US FOR A FREE CONSULTATION ABOUT YOUR DREAM HOME OR REMODELING PROJECT!
281-914-9416

Solution Builders, LLC dba Solution 4 Living
 709 Sue Barnett Dr. Houston, TX 77008 , www.so4L.com

We specialize in green building that is affordable and reduces your cost of living!



BRING THIS AD AND RECEIVE A \$5,000*

BONUS ALLOWANCE ON YOUR PROJECT WITH US.

*on new home project

passed to support two constable patrols at 40 hours per week.

2011 Board Candidates: Current candidates for the GOCC Board include: President – Mark Klein; Treasurer – Phil Ramirez; Secretary – Heather Leverett; Vice President – open. The vote will be at the December meeting and nominations will be accepted from the floor. A Beautification Chair is needed and additional volunteers are needed for communication.

Friends of Montessori/Garden Oaks Elementary School Update: Principal Lindsey Pollock gave an update on the status of the transition to a Montessori program, including the magnet grant and program for environmental science. The transition will be a multi-year process. Friends of Montessori President Tonya Knauth gave a presentation on the history of Montessori, the level of participation throughout the city and the goals of the program. Applications for the Montessori program are online and are due by January 7, 2011. There was additional discussion around the potential for a public Montessori middle school that could serve Garden Oaks families.

President Klein adjourned the meeting at 8:11p.m. p.m.

2011 CIVIC CLUB OFFICER SLATE

by Scott Easterly

The following slate of candidates will be voted upon at the December 7 Annual Meeting:

President - Mark Klein
 Vice President - open
 Treasurer - Phil Ramirez
 Secretary - Heather Leverett

Nominations will be taken from the floor at the December meeting and then a vote for officers for 2011 will be taken. Any one with interest for the vice president position may be placed in nomination from the floor at the December meeting. Nominees must be in Good Standing with dues being current.

CONSTABLE PROGRAM Supporter Forms, Toy Drive, Free Car Wash

by Terry Jeanes & Susan Love Saranie

The Constable Mailer is out and should have arrived along with your civic dues statement. Please complete your 2011 supporter form promptly and return it. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Thanks to those who helped make this year's mailer a timely project. Dian Austin, Sandy Altman, Linda Sparks, Mark and Susan Saranie, Terry Jeanes, Jeremy Gaige, Leslie and Carl Waters, Lucy Gilmore, Martha Kennedy, Isela Villareal, Michael Dreiss, George Anderson Wood, Sue Walmsley Amash, Robin Gorman, and Doug Rude.

Whether you are paying by draft, PayPal, or direct pay, we need your updated contact info to keep you informed of important items. Supporter contributions are for January to December each year coinciding with the Civic Club's constable contract with the county. Please send in your contribution within the first quarter in order to make accounting, recognition, and volunteer work flow more smoothly.

Support the Constable Precinct One Cruising for Smiles Toy Drive

You may bring a new unwrapped toy to either the civic club event on Tuesday, December 7, drop one off at 922 W 41st in the porch drop box, or participate in the Cruising for Smiles Car Wash/Bar B Q with a free carwash for a toy donation on December 15 at Dr. Gleem Carwash 3103 Ella Blvd. Santa & his helpers will be there.

If you are traveling during the holidays remember to use the vacation watch form and remove all holiday packages from your vehicle or place completely out of sight so they are not an invitation to an unwanted intruder.

Vacation Watch Form:

www.gardenoaks.org/Resources/VacationWatch.pdf

Supporter Form:

www.gardenoaks.org/Resources/ContributorForm2010.pdf

Perfection Plus Services, Inc.

A Premiere Cleaning Service since 1989

- Family Owned and Operated
- Bonded and Insured
- Weekly, Bi-Monthly, One-Time
- All Equipment and Supplies Provided
- Travel in Teams with Supervisor
- English Speaking Manager Always on Site
- BBB Member



John Montgomery
Owner

YOU OWE YOURSELF
A PROFESSIONAL
HOME CLEANING SERVICE

713.664.9911



Diana Lynn Tarley

Broker / Agent



713.539.0569
713.880.5599

dianalynntarley.com

Richelieu Realty



New Construction • Custom Re-Design
 Renovations • Lots/Build-to-Suit

See Our Work At:

701 G. Oaks Blvd.	738 W. 42nd St.
713 G. Oaks Blvd.	847 W. 42nd St.
436 W. 30th St.	870 W. 42nd St.
516 W. 30th St.	823 W. 43rd St.
531 W. 32nd St.	1026 Althea
524 W. 34th St.	1030 Althea
527 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

HARRY JAMES BUILDING & DESIGN
 (713) 695-7007

harryjamesbuilder.com



GAZETTE BLOCK CAPTAIN OF THE MONTH AND WELCOME TO TWO NEW BLOCK CAPTAINS

by Dian Austin

Congratulations to December's Block Captain of the Month: Mary Lynn Porter, who lives in the 800 block of W. 32nd, and delivers *Gazettes* to the same street. Mary Lynn has been delivering *Gazettes* in that part of Section 1A for about three years.

This is Mary Lynn's second time to live in Garden Oaks. She spent 10 years living in the neighborhood back in 1950-1960 and graduated from St. Pius high school. She moved away, and came back to live in the same house (it belonged to her mother), and she's lived here this time for about nine years.

Mary Lynn, a psychotherapist in private practice, is co-secretary of the garden club and is a civic club supporter. In her spare time, she enjoys gardening, visiting with her mom in a nursing home and attending book club discussions.

We really appreciate Mary Lynn's continued support delivering *Gazettes*. She will receive a \$25 gift certificate to Tony's Mexican Restaurant, courtesy of Oscar Ochoa at OD's Printing. Thank you, Mary Lynn!

This month we welcome two new block captains. Ellie Golshan, who lives in the 700 block of W. 42nd, will become the new block captain for that street. Grant Holt, who lives in the 800 block of W. 43rd, will be the new block captain for the 200-300 blocks of W. 32nd in Section 1.

Thanks, Grant and Ellie, for giving back to our neighborhood!

We are looking for a permanent block captain for the 200-300 blocks of W.31st. Section 2 resident Gale Gorman continues to help us out here, but we're hoping that a resident on that route will volunteer.

If anyone wants to join the great *Gazette* Delivery Team, call me at 713.691.6505 or email me at FallingwaterT@yahoo.com. And if your *Gazette* is not being delivered timely, please let me know too.

ACE TREE SPECIALIST

As your neighbor in the Garden Oaks Community we want to help you keep your trees in top shape to preserve the beauty and unique forest garden atmosphere we love! We are a full service tree care company, family owned and operated for over 30 years!

Ace Tree Specialist is licensed and insured and we do give free estimates.

Right now is the perfect time to have your tree's deadwood, removal of weak or diseased limbs & deep root fertilize your trees. Improper tree care can take many years to correct itself & in some cases it never does.

So, be comfortable with us, we've been doing it since 1978!

Call us today and let us give you a free review of the health of your trees!



Nolan Strange
AceTreeSpecialist.com
713.723.0417

Discounts are available if you sign up as a member of www.HOUSEANDLAWN.com (it is free to join)

Dear Garden Oaks,

Thank you for another year of your continued patronage, it is greatly appreciated! The Home Building and Remodeling industry accounts for 25% of the Gross Domestic Product, so you are also buying from factories and providing many jobs all across the USA. Let's keep America working, and keep us in mind for all of your Building & Remodeling needs in the upcoming year 2011.

Have a Wonderful Holiday and a Safe & Prosperous New Year!

Harry James Building & Design




FRAMING + ROOFING
PAINTING + FLOORING
CUSTOM MADE CABINETS

Free Estimates, Insured, References

www.JoeBuildersCo.com

Call: Joe (832) 814-8586

Will Zugheri
Mortgage Banker
713.993.2201



Garden Oaks Resident

Experience the difference

wzugheri@envoymtg.com
www.MoneyFromWill.com



Shannon & Associates, Inc.
Shannon L. Nelson, ASID

Registered Interior Designer #2026
Studio 713-802-9301
Fax 713-802-0071
Wireless 713-304-2551

Residential & Commercial Interior Design
Renovation * Construction
208 W. 34TH STREET HOUSTON, TEXAS 77018



on 34th
Houston's Premier Event Destination

WE ARE OPEN!

901 WEST 34TH STREET
(713) 868-BELL(2355)

2 FOR \$20

DAILY AFTER 3 PM

ANY 2 COMBOS & 2 DRINKS,
ANY NIGHT

SAVE ON OUR DOUBLE DINNER DEAL
WITH SOMEONE SPECIAL.

IT'S A WIN-WIN.

ADD THE TEXAS RIBEYE FOR \$2 EXTRA

Fountain drinks and iced tea only. Dine in and to-go.

Luby's

11250 Northwest Freeway, Houston Texas 77092
Phone: 713-688-7056

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

by Jessica Jarvis

It hardly seems possible that the final *Gazette* for 2010 is about to be put to bed. As I write, admittedly because I have space to fill before going to press, I am in Ohio on a surprise trip to visit my youngest sister who turns 30 today. And while working on the *Gazette* would not be what I might choose as my first option for evening activity here in the land of the freezing, I toast not only my baby sister turning a year older but my wonderful neighborhood, in which I have made so many happy memories once again this year and in the now ten years I have lived here.

From the hard work and great celebrations of the Home Tour, to the Wine Walk, and civic club meetings. From National Night Out to gatherings such as bunco game nights and GO winers and diners, both of which I feel incredibly fortunate to have been invited to join, or just a handful of neighbors getting together for an evening of good food and revelry. There are simply so many ways to meet and enjoy the diverse, generous, talented, vivacious and so often hilariously entertaining people who call Garden Oaks home.

In addition to the many friends in Garden Oaks that I am so grateful for, I wish to specifically thank the incredible team who supports me every month as I prepare the *Gazette*. Carol Smith, who faithfully helps edit and proof each *Gazette*, Dian Austin, who re-proofs the entire *Gazette* after I have it all laid out, and Kristin Strange, the newest member of our team, who has done a fabulous job as ad manager. Thank you ladies. Not only are you some of my favorite GO women, but your commitment to this neighborhood and publication is exemplary.

Thank you to our wonderful and ever faithful advertisers. In 2010 we have added an impressive 16 new businesses to our advertising family, without whom publication of the *Gazette* would be

impossible. Thank you all for not only your support of our neighborhood but also for making Kristin's and my job easier by being so wonderful to work with.

Big thanks to everyone who has submitted articles, ideas and photos. The *Gazette* would not be what it is today without the time and effort taken by each and every one of you to add to our great publication. I look forward to serving you in 2011 and to working with even more of you in the future. If I have learned anything in the time I have lived here, it is that there are many great stories to be told here in Garden Oaks, both old and new.

Finally, big thanks to Oscar Ochoa, whose delightful disposition and love of Garden Oaks warms my heart each month as I deliver the *Gazette* to him.

Happy Holidays! I wish all the best to you and yours,

Jessica Jarvis

Speaking of the baby sister, she has reminded me that she will be in Houston staying at Chateau Jarvis over Christmas to have and recover from a surgery. She welcomes you to demonstrate your extreme hospitality through gifts of food, wine, entertainment or whatever Garden Oaks excitement you wish to introduce to her.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Publication of any article, letter, ad or notice not related to the Civic Club does not imply endorsement by the Garden Oaks Civic Club and is solely the opinion of the author.

A NOTE TO SECTION 4 RESIDENTS

The G.O.M.O. "Transfer Assessment Fee"

Guys and Gals,

Many thanks for all your help – You Did

Good!

As you noticed in the Garden Oaks Gazette, November, 2010 issue, only 42% of you voted For or Against the effort by G.O.M.O. to add another tax to us.

The Gazette reports that 54% of us supported the GOMO tax HUMMMMM! But 60% of us are needed to vote YES to PASS another tax.

There seems to be some confusion as to what a "tax" really is. A buyer and seller decide the worth of a property when they agree upon a price. Anything more is a "tax" be it a sales tax, property tax or a transfer fee (G.O.M.O.) – it is still a tax, pure and simple.

You may have noticed the only section in Garden Oaks where they are building new homes is Section Four (4). Wonder why? Could it be because there is no "transfer assessment fee" in that section? Look at our neighbors in Oak Forest. At last count they are building 26 new homes. (No "transfer assessment fee").

Consider this example: a builder buys a house/lot in Garden Oaks section 1, 2, 3, or 5 for \$200,000. G.O.M.O. receives a "transfer assessment fee" of \$1500. The builder builds and sells a new house for say \$600,000. G.O.M.O. receives another "transfer assessment fee" of \$4500. A total of \$6,000 on one piece of property which equals 1% of the sales price of the house. It appears to me this is "double taxation."

The deed restrictions for Garden Oaks were written in the 1930's and 1940's. We seem to have been doing pretty good over the past 70 or 80 years.

Hang in there Guys and Gals. I am sure we will have to fight this battle again. Maybe residents in sections 1, 2, 3, and 5 need to consider repealing the G.O.M.O. "transfer assessment fee" (a tax).

Lloyd White
Resident – Sec. 4

WELCOME DOCTOR GREEN

Dear Editor and fellow Garden Oaks Residents,

As a chiropractic doctor and 20+ year resident of Garden Oaks, it is a pleasure and honor to introduce my friend and colleague, Dr. Greg Green to my neighbors.

Several months ago, Greg looked me up because we share common clinical interests and in establishing a new practice, wisely wanted to avoid reinventing some wheels. Suffice it to say I was floored when he told me he was setting up right in my own neighborhood, literally a block away from my house!

In the intervening months, I've gotten to know Greg pretty well. Greg is not only engaging and easy to talk to, he's also very well

trained in advanced diagnostics and treatment protocols that allow him to handle a wide variety of difficult problems easily. I wholeheartedly endorse this young man as a great neighborhood resource for anyone suffering with pain.

So, please go by and meet my friend Greg Green, DC and his lovely family and take a tour of his beautiful facility right there in the same shopping center with Starbucks.

M. Swartztrauber, DC
Section 3

PS: He'll kill me for saying this, but if you see someone in Kroger dressed in scrubs and looking like a dead-ringer for Ed Norton the actor, that's Greg!

BACK OR NECK PAIN?
HEADACHES? EXTREMITY PAIN?
There's a new doctor in town.



CALL US TODAY!
(832) 203-5884

GREEN CHIROPRACTIC

- New, state-of-the-art equipment
- Effective, research-based techniques
- Cutting-edge, nearly paperless office
- "Non-cracking" manipulation options

1214 W. 43rd St, Suite 400
GREGGREENDC.COM



Est. 2010
OCTANE
COFFEE & WINE LOUNGE

Garden Oaks
North Shepherd at 34th Street
3402 North Shepherd Houston, TX 77018

HOURS OF OPERATION
Mon-Wed 6:30am-10pm Thurs-Fri 6:30am-12am
Sat 7:30am-12am Sun 7:30am-10pm

HAPPY HOUR
Mon-Fri 5pm-7pm

281-974-1693 | octanecoffeelounge@yahoo.com

Where the neighborhood gets revved up!

Now that we're here, we'd love to meet you.

Please come by any time before 10 am, and with any pastry purchase, you'll get a free coffee with our appreciation.

DRINKS
Coffee • Espresso • Lattes
• Cappuccinos • Specialty Tea
• Hand Selected Wines & Beer

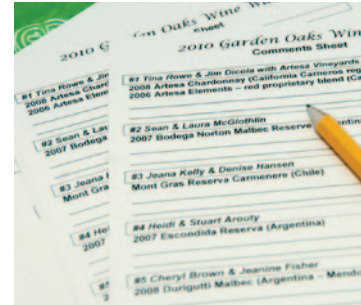
LIGHT BITES
Paninis • Artisan Cheese Plates
• Charcuterie • Flat Breads

SWEETS
Pastries • Cookies • Brownies

BREAKFAST
Fresh Baked Muffins & Scones
• Oatmeal & Granola
Fresh Fruit • Yogurts

FREE WiFi SPOT

 **Become our fan on Facebook: www.facebook.com/octanecoffeewine**



Some 235 Garden Oaks residents and friends came out to not only enjoy a lovely evening of wine and socialization, but to raise funds for the constable program. Plans are already under way for 2011. Get ready to mark your callendars, we hope to see you there!

A K S W I N E W A L K



Photos generously provided by Brandy Stoesz. To view more photos of the 2010 Wine Walk visit <http://pictage.com/934919> and order your copies or visit www.brandystoesz.com.





GO KIDS NEWS

Wishing you all a joyous and peace filled holiday season

by Sarah Heath

Please join us for our annual **Holiday Dinner and Caroling Party** hosted by the Lister-Bowman family. The festivities will take place on Sunday, December 19, at 5:30 p.m., at their home at 851 Azalea. Please check our BigTent page and sign up to help with food and supplies. You won't want to miss this wonderful tradition.

GO Baby is hosting a very special playgroup, Jingle Bell Bash. We hope to see you and your cuties on Friday, December 10, from 10-11:30 a.m., at the Jordan Home, 4223 Apollo.

Don't forget that GO Kids hosts several playgroups throughout the month! GO Baby is for the little bits up to age three and GO Buddies is for all our "big" kids! Check out our BigTent calendar for dates and join in on all the fun! For more information contact Kristin Jordan, kriki@me.com, Emily Garcia, emigarcia13@hotmail.com or Morgan Shields, morganbshields@gmail.com.

It's not too late to order your copy of *GO Cook - A Neighborly Collection of Recipes*. There are several delicious recipe ideas for all your holiday celebrations. Place your order at today - www.gardenoakscooks.com. Have questions? Email gocookbook@att.net.

Moms' Night Out Holiday Party!

Please join us for some holiday cheer on Tuesday, December 14, at 7 p.m., at the home of Michele Jankowski, 4315 Alba. We will have a cookie exchange for

those interested. Please bring three to four dozen cookies to swap and snack on. Don't forget the drinks and snacks! Spectators are welcome. Contact Maricela Pina at pinamaricela@yahoo.com for more information.

Dads' Night Out is the place to be on Thursday, December 16, 7 p.m., at the Petrol Station. Unwind with the guys and enjoy a good, hearty ale and juicy burger to get you through the holidays. Contact Richard Whisenhunt at whisenhuntrichard@yahoo.com for information.

Feeling a little guilty about all those Christmas cookies and holiday eggnog? Join the 2011 GO Kids Weight Loss Challenge and you'll be able to button your pants in no time. The Challenge will begin January 9 and last for 12 weeks. All participants will pitch in \$20 and the biggest loser takes home the pot. And you won't want to miss the annual binge dinner at the end of the challenge. For more details and a complete list of rules contact Devin Hunter at devin@provishr.com.

Are you or someone you know an overwhelmed, sleep deprived new parent? Don't worry because help is on the way! We are happy to provide several meals to new families during those stressful few weeks. If you are expecting or know a neighbor who is, contact our Dinner Drop coordinator, Amber Berend, at amber.berend@yahoo.com and she'll set you right up.

GO Kids was started by a group of parents who wanted to build a family-friendly neighborhood where children and parents know each other and grow together. All Garden Oaks families are welcome. Not on the GO Kids list serve? Want more information about GO Kids? Contact Sarah Heath at 832.724.3325 or sarahmheath@gmail.com.



GARDEN OAKS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS

by Lindsey Pollock, GOES Principal

Applications for the Garden Oaks Elementary magnet program are now being accepted. The school will transition to an all-Montessori program with an emphasis on Environmental Sciences over the next few years. All Pre-Kindergarten (ages 3 and 4 years old) and Kindergarten classes for the 2011-12 school year will be Montessori. Applications are due January 15, 2011.

Also - Save the Date! The annual Friends of Montessori Garden Oaks Elementary Chapter Community Breakfast and Silent Auction benefiting Garden Oaks will be held February 12, 2011!



Please support our advertisers who in turn support our neighborhood. Tell them you saw their ad in the Gazette!

REMEMBERING MARGARET RIEBELING

by Stacy Gross



Margaret L. Riebeling was born on June 30, 1927 in Linz, Austria and passed away on November 17, 2010 at the age of 83. She was also a loving matriarch of her family and was known for her very caring spirit. A 45 year resident of Garden Oaks (4212 Apollo), she had a love for gardening and was well known for it. She was awarded "Yard of the Month" several times with the help of her late husband Anthony "Tony" and was not only proud of it but gave a lot of cuttings from her garden to many people in Garden Oaks. There are many homes in Garden Oaks who share a bit of Margaret because of those cuttings. You could always see her working in the garden.

A lesson I learned very quickly was to not say "thank you" when you were given one of her many cuttings, or given any plant for that matter; it was bad luck! Kind of a "don't you dare" sort of thing. This was a hard lesson for me since I was brought up to say thank you for just about any and everything given or offered to me. She'd stop and shush me mid sentence every time so that I wouldn't utter the words. Maybe that explains why the rose cuttings never took.

We shared a chain link fence and anytime either of us were outside working in the garden a conversation would strike up. She shared stories of her life in Austria, where the "Sound of Music" was filmed and how beautiful the mountains were, but mostly she shared stories of her late husband or her six children of whom she was so

proud. It was obvious that she had a wonderful, loving and dynamic family. I often saw kids on her roof, blowing it off and cleaning up the yard. Someone was always watching out for her.

If she wasn't talking about family, she was talking about plants and her garden. She routinely left a grocery sack of cuttings or "volunteers" hanging on the fence. This last spring she said I just "had to have" one of her lilies and luckily, I have one. Every plant had a history or story. One of my favorite stories she shared, and cracked me up every time, was a tale about this "wild hydrangea" that came into her yard. They popped up everywhere unannounced. She called them "illegal aliens." Illegal or not I think I'll always find a place for them to thrive in my yard.

She was wonderful neighbor and good friend. It will take some time to stop looking at the fence for a sack of goodies. While we mourn her loss, we know she's back with her beloved and she'll continue to live through the many cherished plants and memories that she has spread through her love and friendship to not only Garden Oaks and Houston but most certainly every place she touched.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 60 years, Anthony Riebeling and son, Tony. She is survived by six children; 12 grandchildren; 20 great grandchildren; four great great grandchildren along with other relatives and friends. Funeral services were held Friday, November 19, 2010 in the Chapel of Earthman Resthaven Funeral Home followed by interment in Earthman Resthaven Cemetery.



SCM Construction Services
RESIDENTIAL REMODELING • CUSTOM HOME BUILDING

713.443.1701
www.scmtexas.com

Chris Schmidt
Garden Oaks Resident
chris@scmtexas.com

ADOLF HOEFL GARAGE

"Satisfying customers since 1946"

Kathryn and Sybren van der Pol

Hours of Operation:
7:30 AM - 5:40 PM, Weekdays

4610 N. Shepherd, Houston, TX 77018
713.695.5071

DEANNA ZUGHERI
GARDENOAKSHOMES.COM

When my husband Will and I purchased our home in Garden Oaks in 2005, we knew it was the perfect place to raise our family. It was the cute homes and tree-lined streets that first attracted us to the area but we quickly realized that we found a true neighborhood where neighbors wave as they pass and visit in their yards in the evenings. It is full of great history and old-fashioned traditions such as the 4th of July Bike Parade, Fall Fest and Home & Garden Tour.

Over the years, we have seen Garden Oaks grow and change, yet it still has that same wonderful sense of community. It gives me great pleasure to help others discover this beautiful place we call home. If you or any of your friends or relatives are thinking of buying or selling please give me a call

- Deanna

GARDENOAKSHOMES.COM
DEANNA@GARDENOAKSHOMES.COM

THE METROPOLITAN
KELLER WILLIAMS
REALTY

HOLIDAY TRAVELING

Tips to help your family arrive happy and healthy by preparing for the adventure

by Lindsey Pollock, GOES Principal

Travel by car can be tedious for young children who are not used to sitting still for long periods of time. Car seats are required by law and though it might be tempting to let the kids roam around in the back of the van, the risk of accidents resulting in serious injury are just not worth it.

Therefore, plan breaks in the trip along the way. Look for stops for potty breaks and fun for the family. Rest stops with playgrounds and restrooms are free while providing the essentials. Let everyone know what the expectations are and how long you will stop. When leaving the car, synchronize the watches and state the length of the stop. When approaching the playground, have everyone huddle for a moment and review the amount of time that will be spent. Give the child a three-minute warning to let them know the time is coming to an end and it is time to go back to the car.

Pack a snack and use the break to have a healthy snack. By combining exercise and healthy snack choices outside the vehicle, children learn patterns of behavior that will benefit them for life.

Older children enjoy charting and mapping your travels. Track your route with a marker on a highway map. Even though GPS aides are guiding us as we travel, learning to read a map and understanding map concepts such as the key, distance, road types (interstates, state highways, county roads), longitude and latitude are exciting for the new traveler. Add a personal compass and children are well on their way to orienteering (and badge skills for scouts)!

Take along travel games or activities that are entertaining to your child. Many newer vehicles have DVD screens installed or you may have a portable DVD player to entertain the child in the car. While this is one of many modes of making the travel time go fast, remember that the time your family has together is very limited in today's busy world.

Enjoy your time and take the opportunity to sing silly songs and play rhyming games. Reading jokes and riddles to one another is a great way for children to practice reading to you and enjoy a good laugh. Listening to books on tape or read aloud time (as long as you're a passenger) is another way for the family to share in story time and enjoy classic tales. When was the last time you heard a Grimm's Brothers Fairy Tale? Stories about growing up are a source of children's fascination and you might be amazed to hear tales of your own children's escapades and dreams.

You'll want to pack an emergency kit of items for the car: handy wipes, paper towels, a bottle of water and drinking cups (watch amounts to avoid more frequent stops), a flashlight, pencils, pens, crayons and markers, blank sheets of paper (great opportunity to make stationery and write letters) and clipboards.

Pack your cameras and a sense of humor. Enjoy your time together and cherish the moments. Happy trails!



NEED SOME SERIOUS HELP WITH SELLING YOUR HOME?

As a fourth generation Heights and Garden Oaks resident, I know this area. My great grandfather settled in the Heights in 1917 and my family has been active in Houston ever since.

After twelve years in the business, Real Estate isn't just my work, it's my passion. I'm committed to providing you with the best service possible and that's why my clients continue to use me for all their Real Estate needs.

Give me a call for a free home evaluation, market snapshot of your area, or even if you just have a question because I'm always here to help!



Shawn Manderscheid
Coldwell Banker United
281.773.0195
shawnm@cbunited.com



UNITED, REALTORS®

REAL ESTATE... TAKEN TO NEW HEIGHTS!

WWW.MANDERSREALTY.COM

AIR CONDITIONING TIPS FOR THE WINTER

by Mitch Weigand

Tip No. 9: Air Filters - Your A/C system's worst nightmare?

There's a lot about indoor air quality that you might not be aware of and certainly can't see. Up to 72 trillion microscopic irritants/allergens find their way into your home every day. They include dust, pollen, pet hair and dander, dust mites, mildew, lint, fungus, tobacco smoke, cooking grease and bacteria. Many of these particles are so small that your nose and throat can't filter them out, and they can get deep into your lungs.

Run-of-the-mill, cheap air filters that cost around a dollar do little or nothing to capture these irritants. All they collect is the big stuff like pet hair and dust the size of small boulders.

The correct solution is to get the

expensive, \$17.00 HEPA filters, right? Not really. While they do great things for your air quality by trapping most allergens, these types of filters can starve your system of free-flowing air, thus making it work way too hard.

Another solution is the stand-alone, ionic-type room air cleaner. Unfortunately, they are effective only within a certain radius. At a cost of \$300 to \$500 each, buying one for each room can be cost prohibitive.

Finding that happy medium

The best A/C filter costs about \$3 each and are available at most home improvement stores. While pleated like the \$17 ones, these filters aren't over-pleated and do allow air to readily go through them.

If you can afford it, the ideal solution is installing a whole home air cleaner. American Standard, my choice for the best A/C systems on the market, has one called

AccuClean. It works as part of your heating and cooling system, which means it's designed to clean the air in every room of your home.

The AccuClean's unique filtration system has the highest efficiency of any air cleaner on the market. It removes up to an unprecedented 99.98 percent of unwanted particles and allergens from the filtered air in your home. Standard filters and ionic-type room appliances can't match that while HEPA filters can clog, reducing airflow throughout your system.

No matter what system you have or filters you use, replace your filters regularly.

Mitch is the owner of Air Wise™ and a member of the Garden Oaks Civic Club. You can email Mitch any A/C questions at mitch@airwisehouston.com or write to 1590 Sue Barnett Drive, 77018. Check out Mitch's new website at www.airwisehouston.com.

We've extended our Garden Oaks Special through December!

\$55 Garden Oaks Special
Normally \$75. You save \$20!
Garden Oaks residents only • Offer expires December 31, 2010

For your safety and comfort, we do the following:

- Perform carbon monoxide test
- Check and cycle safety devices
- Inspect heat exchanger
- Oil and check operation of motor
- Inspect, clean and operate burners

Call us today!
713/305-2924
www.airwisehouston.com

Air Wise™
Your trusted neighborhood A/C company

Happy Holidays to our Friends & Neighbors

Mitch Weigand
owner

American Standard
HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

VEVO ENTERPRISES
AIR WISE
MITCH

License #TACLA020081C • Regulated by the Texas Dept. of Licensing & Regulation



DOES YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE LOOK TOO OLD FASHIONED?

by Orlando Flores

Does your Christmas tree look too old fashioned? When it comes to decorating Christmas trees here are some style tips to follow to make it more up-to-date and stylish.

Style Tip No. 1

The big fat round artificial Christmas tree is out and the slim artificial tree is in. This is because the recent trends in Christmas trees lean more toward tall and conical shapes

rather than fat and round shapes. As modern day cozy condo lofts and apartments often have tall ceiling heights but less floor space a slim artificial Christmas tree fits much better than a chubbier version.

Natural trees that tend to be tall and slim are the spruces and firs. They have a slimmer girth than pines and cedars. When it comes to fake Christmas trees, more and more manufacturers are producing slim artificial trees that can fit more easily into our cramped urban lifestyle.

Style Tip No. 2

Artificial is in and natural trees are



out. Okay, so maybe real Christmas trees will never go out of fashion but if you are a bit of style snob then the trend is toward an artificial tree in the wildest color you can find. Another plus is that the new artificial trees are fire retardant.

Style Tip No. 3

One of the secrets to decorating Christmas trees in a stylish way is to be minimalist. To be truly fashionable, decorate the tree in one or two colors. For instance, you could decorate a natural evergreen with only gold bows and natural

SENIOR LU ANN SPECIAL

EVERY DAY AFTER 4 PM

\$5.99

Features a Lu Ann entree, two sides and a roll.

Dine in and to-go. Available at this location only. Availability may vary.



11250 Northwest Freeway
Houston Texas 77092
Phone: 713-688-7056

crystals. A white Christmas tree looks great with uniformly sized Christmas balls from top to bottom. A sky blue artificial tree could be decorated in monochrome with glass balls that are a deeper shade of blue. Now it doesn't mean that you have to always stick to one or two colors. I am guilty of incorporating more colors in the same color tones.

Style Tip No. 4

One of the first rules of fashion and interior decorating is to break all the rules and the same applies to Christmas trees. This means ignoring Christmas traditions with the idea of putting a new spin on them. Instead of using the classic angel or star as a tree topper, you top it with a spray of fibrous waving multicolored diodes or a design that you have constructed using Christmas rope lights. One interesting idea is to make a star out of red velvet and decorate it with peacock feathers, faux gems and gold bows.

Another way to break a traditional rule is to decorate your tree with just one color. To be different you could forget about putting largest decorations at the bottom and the tiny ones at the top, put the large ones on the top and the tiny ones on the bottom. Another idea is to make all of your Christmas tree decorations the same size.

One big trend that has dominated Christmas style and design for the last few years is to hang your Christmas tree anyway you can think of, as long as it is not standing up. This includes hanging it upside down from the ceiling, suspending it sideways from the ceiling and buttressing it against a wall.

Style Tip No. 5

One of the secrets to decorating Christmas trees is that the more

personal it is the better. Use your imagination! Allow your entire family to decide what the theme should be for your family's Christmas tree.

Orlando Flores is the owner of Cavallini's Creations in the Garden Oaks Shopping Center. Visit the website for ideas: www.cavalliniscreations.com.

**For all of Your
Printing & Bookbinding
Needs**

O.D.'s Printing
Neighbor helping neighbor

Oscar D. Ochoa
Owner

8924 Emmott Road
713-896-0052

Your Neighborhood Remodeler/Builder



*Creating Spaces for a
Lifetime of Living*

Winner of the 2009 Texas Remodeler of the Year
Winner of the 2008 Star Award Best Specialty Room
Winner of the 2007 Master Design Gold Award

4206 Law Street | Houston, TX 77005 | 713.666.1931

www.wmshawandassoc.com

CRITTER CORNER

by Casey and Dorothy Dan Farris

Happy Holidays! The allure of Christmas is not restricted to the human species. Dogs and cats love Christmas! And why wouldn't they? It's the one time of year we bring a tree into the house. Not only that, but we cover it with all manner of dangly things that glitter and sparkle and swing back and forth.

When shopping for your dog keep in mind his play personality. Dogs like to play differently, depending on their breed and their individual personality. But once you figure out which games wag your dog's tail, you can use them to give him exercise, mental stimulation and a sense of purpose. Then there's the bonding that comes from having so much fun together. This month we continue our series on play personalities and focus on the brainiac dog - The Smart Cookie!

Critters 101: Games for The Smart Cookie

This dog play personality trains you rather than the other way around. He gets bored easily and expresses it in destructive ways such as chewing. This dog may come from a breed that was used to perform a job such as herding livestock.

Top activities for this dog will exercise his brain as well as his body like agility games or

obedience training. Herding allows your dog to pit his wits against a flock of sheep. You don't need your own farm; simply scatter his toys throughout the room. When your dog brings you a toy, make sure he sees you dropping it into the box and then praise him. With a few repetitions, you will find that your dog will be happy to herd all its toys into the toy box. Do not use socks or any items that you do not want your dog to herd on his own.

Read up on training and teach your dog to do a job, any job: retrieving the paper, playing messenger in the house (he can carry notes in his collar) – anything that makes him feel useful.

Play hide and seek with treats, a favorite toy or you. Stock up on interactive toys that make your dog use his brain to find the treats inside.

Many of the herding breeds have an ability to jump. Set up a few obstacles that you can encourage your dog to jump over. Start with a bar that your dog can walk over and put the dog on a leash. Lead the dog up to the bar, give it the jump command and lead it over the bar. Praise it for taking the jump and repeat the exercise a few times before you raise the bar. It may take a few repetitions before your dog actually jumps, but soon this will be a favorite game for your

dog.

Set up obstacles in a straight line. Poles are a good choice for this exercise. Lead your dog in and out of the posts, so that it knows what it is supposed to do. The first time might take a little bit of patience and effort on both your parts, but weaving through obstacles is a great way for your dog to show off its dexterity and its energy.

Climbing exercises allow your herding dog to take advantage of its natural balance and agility. Set up a teeter-totter in your backyard and lead your dog over it. The first time your dog walks along a teeter-totter, it might be surprised by the tilt that occurs after he has shifted his weight from one side to another. Soon, however, he will be able to handle it with grace. This type of activity is common in agility trials for dogs.

Remember the philosophy that a tired dog is a happy dog.


Casey Farris is owner/operator of Bone Voyage Pet Sitting Services©, and Go Dog USA, Garden Oaks companies offering many services and products dedicated to the welfare of our pets and the people who love them. Dorothy Dan Farris is owner/operator of Casey. Please forward your questions and pet news to Casey@GoDOGusa.com or call 713.688.6363.

 <p>Oak Forest Veterinary Clinic</p> <p>Monday - Friday: 7:00 AM - 6:00 PM By appointment only</p> <p>Saturday: 7:30 - 11:30 AM Walk-in's welcome</p> <p>2120 West 34th Street (Between T.C. Jester & Ella)</p> <p>(713) 682 - 6351</p> <p>www.oakforestvetclinic.com</p>	<p>Hallie Ray Moore, DVM Jessica K. Parkerson, DVM</p> <p>Wellness Exams & Vaccinations Convenient Drop-off Service New In-house Laboratory Baths & Grooming Acupuncture Pet Food & Treats Radiology Large Boarding Facilities 24/7 Medical Record Access Surgery & Dental Procedures</p> <p>Supporting our community since 1964</p>
---	---

PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Dea Larson on her recent trip to Antigua, Guatemala for a photo workshop.



Bone Voyage
 Pet Sitting Services

713-688-6363
Casey Farris
 Owner/Pet Lover

www.goDOGusa.com

PHOTOGRAPHING THE SOUL OF GUATEMALA

by Dea Larson

On October 28, I stepped out of a bus onto the cobblestone streets of Antigua, Guatemala, and my life was changed forever. Since my teenage years, I have been drawn to the beautiful weavings, clothing, belts and bedspreads created by women of the Guatemala. This fall, I joined a photo workshop sponsored by Art Workshops of Guatemala (www.artguat.org) led by internationally recognized photographer, Nance

Ackerman. Along with five other participants from all over the United States, we spent the next 10 days working with weaving cooperatives, celebrating the festive Todos Santos (All Saints Day, November 1) in numerous cemeteries in the western highlands and photographing the gentle Guatemalan people in the surrounding countryside.

Guatemala and its Mayan natives are well acquainted with war, poverty and natural disasters due to the chain of volcanoes in the area, its location between the hurricane prone Caribbean Sea and Pacific Ocean and the never-ending civil unrest. Nevertheless, Guatemalans are exceptionally courteous and eager to share their heritage with travelers. On Todos Santos, families celebrate the lives of the deceased at the local gravesites surrounded by other villagers enjoying picnics, marimba music and kite flying. Kites are an important part of the tradition as they use these multicolored "messengers" to communicate prayers, hopes and dreams with their departed

loved ones. As we photographed this special day, many villagers shared their stories and their tortillas and thanked us for honoring them with our interest.

After observing these humble people who greet each day with a smile and are devoted to helping others in their communities, I am inspired to live life more simply and reach out to others in need. Returning home, I am reminded that as Americans, we are truly blessed with great abundance. And as a resident of Garden Oaks, my trip to Guatemala renewed my gratitude for our wonderful community. May you all enjoy a wonderful holiday season!



FOR ORDERS TO GO • CURBSIDE ORDERS • CATERING • EVENTS
CALL 713-880-0898 or EMAIL: FACUNDOCAFE@COMCAST.NET



Fresh Gourmet.

FRESH FRUIT and SIDES

Fresh Fruit Parfait - Seasonal Fresh Fruit, Granola, Yogurt \$3.50
 Fresh Fruit Cup \$2.00 Eggs \$2.00 Turkey \$1.50
 Bacon \$1.75 Texas Toast \$1.50 Sausage \$2.00
 Croissant \$2.25

SALADS

Classic Caesar \$6.25
 Romaine Lettuce, Croutons and Parmesan Cheese
 Spinach Salad \$7.50
 Spinach, Mushrooms, Bacon, Walnuts and Tomatoes tossed in a Balsamic Vinegar Dressing
 Greek Salad \$7.25
 Greek Lettuce Mix, Tomatoes, Olives, Red Onions, Feta Cheese tossed in a Greek Dressing

BREAKFAST

Breakfast Tacos \$2.00
 Scrambled Eggs, Shredded Cheddar Cheese and your choice of Bacon, Turkey, Sausage, Ham or Potato served with Salsa
 Breakfast Sandwiches \$3.00
 Scrambled Eggs, Shredded Cheddar Cheese and your choice of Bacon, Turkey, Sausage or Ham. Served on your choice of Texas Toast or Wheat Bread
 Breakfast Croissants & Ciabattas \$3.50
 Scrambled Eggs, Shredded Cheddar Cheese and your choice of Bacon, Turkey, Sausage or Ham
 Classic Breakfast Platter \$5.75
 Scrambled Eggs, Breakfast Potatoes and your choice of Bacon, Sausage or Turkey. Served with a side of Texas Toast
 Texas Breakfast Platter \$6.00
 Scrambled Eggs, Breakfast Potatoes, Avocado, Salsa and your choice of Bacon, Sausage or Turkey. Served with a side of Texas Toast

Omelets - Served with a side of Texas Toast

Meat Lovers Omelet \$6.25
 Bacon, Sausage, Turkey and Cheddar Cheese
 Spanish Omelet \$6.25
 Sausage, Jalapeños, Monterey Jack Cheese and Salsa
 Mushroom and Spinach Omelet \$6.25
 Mushrooms, Spinach and Swiss Cheese
 Build Your Own Perfect Omelet \$7.00
 Begin with Three Eggs and your choice of any Four Ingredients
 Bacon, Spicy Sausage, Turkey, Ham, Chicken, Cheddar, Swiss, Monterey Jack, Feta Cheese, Blue Cheese, Spinach, Jalapeños, Tomatoes, Mushrooms, Onions, Potatoes
 French Toast \$5.00
 Texas Style French Toast served with Fresh Fruit and Powdered Sugar

LUNCH

Sandwiches - Served With Your Choice of Fries, Chips or Sweet Potato Fries and a Pickle Spear

BLT \$5.95
 Bacon, Lettuce, Tomatoes and Mayo served on Wheat Bread
 Turkey, Swiss and Avocado \$7.75
 Turkey, Swiss Cheese, Avocado, Romaine Lettuce and Tomatoes served on a Croissant
 Roast Beef Sandwich \$7.25
 Roast Beef, Cheddar Cheese, Romaine Lettuce, Tomatoes and Onions served with Dijon Mustard on Wheat Bread
 Chicken Salad \$6.25
 Chicken Salad, Lettuce and Tomato, served on Toasted Ciabatta. Try it with Fruit or Nuts
 Club \$8.50
 Turkey, Roast Beef, Ham, Bacon, Monterey Jack Cheese, Lettuce, Tomatoes, Mayonnaise and Mustard served on Wheat Bread

Burgers - Served With Your Choice of Fries, Chips or Sweet Potato Fries and a Pickle Spear

Classic Burger \$8.00
 Half Pound Angus Patty, Lettuce, Tomatoes, Onions
 Classic Cheese Burger \$8.75
 Half Pound Angus Patty, Cheddar Cheese, Lettuce, Tomatoes, Onions
 Greek Burger \$9.00
 Half Pound Angus Patty, Feta Cheese, Lettuce, Tomatoes, Cucumbers, Onions and an Athens Sauce
 Texas Burger \$9.25
 Half Pound Angus Patty, Cheddar Cheese, Onion Rings, BBQ Sauce, served on Texas Toast
 Spinach Bacon and Avocado Burger \$9.50
 Half Pound Angus Patty, Bacon, Avocado, Tomatoes and Fresh Leaf Spinach
 Grilled Chicken Sandwich \$7.75
 Grilled Chicken Breast, Monterey Jack Cheese, Lettuce, Tomato, Onion

BEVERAGES

Sodas
 20 oz. \$1.65 32 oz. \$1.95
 Black Current Tea \$1.65
 Cappuccino \$2.75
 Espresso \$1.95
 Café Latte \$2.75
 Hot Chocolate \$2.00
 Coffee \$1.50
 Monster \$2.25
 Dansi \$1.50
 Orange Juice \$1.75
 Cranberry Juice \$1.75
 Apple Juice \$1.75
 Milk \$1.75
 Monin Flavors \$.50 per shot

* Prices for 1/4 pound burgers all \$2.00 less

From The Oven

Grilled Chicken Breast \$8.50
 Served with your choice of one side
 Baked Half Chicken \$9.50
 Served with your choice of two sides

Kids Menu \$4.95

Chicken Tenders with Fries or Chips
 Grilled Cheese Sandwich with Fries or Chips
 Corn Dog Bites with Fries or Chips

SIDES

Fries \$2.50 Baked Potato \$3.50 Spring Mix Salad \$3.25
 Chips \$1.25 Mashed Potatoes \$2.50 Green Beans \$3.00
 Onion Rings \$3.00 Sweet Potato Fries \$3.00 Spinach \$3.00
 Cup of Fruit \$1.75

3103 Ella Blvd. Houston, Tx 77018 - (inside car salon)

FACUNDOCAFE.COM

GARDEN OAKS WINERS AND DINERS: JUST DINNER

by Sue Schmidt

Has it *really* been eleven months since our last outing? It was amazing to many just how quickly this year has flown by! With Home Tours and Wine Walks taking place in the neighborhood, not to mention travels and crazy work schedules, The Winers and Diners finally said "no more excuses!" and headed out for a new adventure.

As we often share dining options and opinions, one in the group had suggested *Just Dinner*. As a small bungalow, perfect for intimate dining with friends or family, our only concern was the size of the restaurant may not be able to accommodate our group. Not to worry! After calling for reservations, I was assured there was a room large enough for our group that would allow us to visit, share our favorite wines (it is a BYOB establishment) and partake of great food and ambience.

The small bungalow in the heart of Montrose, 1915 Waugh, gives the feel of dining in the chef's personal home. We were warmly greeted and wines were promptly opened and served as the diners arrived. Special, scaled down menus were prepared for a group of our size. We were advised that some of the normal menu items were

not available to us. However, when we asked if we had chosen a good cross section of menu items for tasting, our waitress quickly suggested one pasta dish not on our menu that she felt we should include. This attention to detail was maintained during our entire dining experience at the restaurant. Several times the owner/chef, Andrew Robari, stopped by the table to visit and share some life experiences and stories. Seems after a series of very serious health issues, he closed Tutto Bene (his previous restaurant venture) and took time to heal. *Just Dinner* became his next labor of love, and providing a small venue with great service, cozy atmosphere and good food seems to be his latest mission in life.

The diners started out with a few appetizers including a country style pate with cornichon mustard and herbed crackers, goat cheese with Ya Ya Sicilian herb crackers, corn chowder and a Caesar salad. All were good, but the corn chowder seemed to stand out. One of the diners swears his pate was better.

Next a variety of entrees including **Ziti Suzanna**, penne tossed with shrimp, artichoke hearts, garlic, and parmesan, **pork tenderloin medallions** with mango chutney and mashed potatoes, **Scottish salmon** with dill butter and parmesan risotto, **Lasagna**, and several opted for the special of the evening, **Short Ribs**. There were definitely mixed reviews on our food selections. One

of the diners felt the pork tenderloin was a bit dry and served with too much chutney, while another found them to be her favorite entrée. The Lasagna was smothered in tomato sauce. Several agreed it was good, but not great. The ziti dish was filled with shrimp, but a bit bland. The short ribs, on the other hand, were fabulous and a table favorite. Although not on our menu, the pot roast also gets rave reviews on their website. Several diners agreed a return trip to try one of the beef selections would definitely be a good idea.

At the end of the evening the winers and diners of *Just Dinner* left having enjoyed lively conversation and a fun filled dining experience. The attentive wait staff did a superb job keeping glasses filled and food service prompt. The chef/owner, without a doubt, goes above and beyond in making his guest feel welcomed. I can certainly understand that regular customers of the restaurant would consider themselves part of the "family." The ambience just lends itself to that "dining in someone's home" experience. The overall opinion of the restaurant from the winers and diners was good food, great service and exceptional personal attention from the owner. While not the best food we have partaken, the dining experience itself was second to none. Reservations to this quaint and cozy restaurant are highly recommended.

HIGH CALIBER HOME BUILDER

New Construction:

Designing your new dream home

Renovations:

Designed to keep the character & charm of your home



Give us a call today for a home consultation.

Miguel Facundo III 281.235.7375

FINANCING AVAILABLE



EXTERIOR & INTERIOR PAINT
ROOM ADDITIONS
ROOFING / RADIANT BARRIER
WINDOWS (ENERGY EFF.)
SIDING
ADDED INSULATION
HVAC (ENERGY EFF.)
CABINETS
INTERIOR & EXTERIOR DOORS
DRIVEWAYS & SIDEWALKS

INTERIOR TRIM
TILE
COUNTERTOPS
FLOORS
GLASS SHOWER ENCLOSURES
FENCES
LANDSCAPING
SPRINKLER SYSTEMS
OUTDOOR KITCHENS

FACUNDOHOMEBUILDERS.COM

facundohomebuilder@comcast.net

DECEMBER 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7 Civic Club Mtg 7pm	8	9	10 GO Babies, Jingle Bell Bash, 10 - 11:30am, 4223 Apollo	11
12	13	14 GO Kids MNO 7pm, Jankowski home, 4315 Alba 	15 GOMO meeting	16 GO Kids Dad's Night Out, 7pm, Petrol Station	17	18
19 GO Kids Holiday Dinner and Caroling Party 5:30pm, 851 Azalea	20	21	22	23	24	25 Merry Christmas
26	27	28 	29	30	31	Happy New Year!

DEANNA
ZUGHERI

GARDENOAKSHOMES.COM

JUST LISTED



CALL ME ABOUT
THIS GREAT
LISTING AND
OTHERS IN
GARDEN OAKS OR
CONTACT ME FOR
A FREE MARKET
ANALYSIS OF
YOUR HOME.

846 AZALEA



THE METROPOLITAN
KELLER WILLIAMS

DEANNA@GARDENOAKSHOMES.COM ~ 281.658.4514