

# GARDEN OAKS GAZETTE

VOLUME 35

ISSUE 02

## PANCAKE BREAKFAST

by Nicole Bradford

Entertainment lineup, Katz coffee to return to 17<sup>th</sup> annual Garden Oaks community event

# FEB 2011

Garden Oaks Elementary Friends of Montessori volunteers are making final preparations for the largest annual fundraiser supporting their public Montessori program as it begins a transition to an all-Montessori magnet school.

The popular community event is Saturday, Feb. 12, 2011, from 8 to 10:30 a.m. and will feature entertainment by Arts Alive!, Wonderwild featuring Tom's Fun Band and more. Katz again will provide guests with gourmet coffee. Activities will include crafts, a fire truck display and art cars.

Each year, businesses and individuals contribute by donating auction items for the extensive silent auction. Pancakes and sausage, prepared on site by volunteers, are complimentary. The theme for this year's event is Around the Block, Around the World.

Principal Lindsey Pollock says the annual benefit exemplifies a successful collaboration among parents, teachers and businesses to create a Montessori program accessible for all students through H.I.S.D.



"Hope you can join us for a morning of food, fun, entertainment and some shopping, all to support the children and families of Garden Oaks Elementary!"

Sponsorships for businesses, organizations and individuals are available and include signage and recognition, press and online materials, a full-page advertisement in the school yearbook and a banner on campus.

Friends of Montessori began in 1994 when a small group of parents and community members were interested in changing educational opportunities within the public school system, specifically at Garden Oaks.

The school is located at 901 Sue Barnett. For more information, call 713.696.2930 or visit [www.fomhouston.org](http://www.fomhouston.org).

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### CIVIC CLUB MEETINGS

#### February 1, 7 p.m. Civic Club Meeting

*The Multi-Billion US 290 Program*  
Garden Oaks Elementary School

A massive multi-billion transportation project is underway at the doorstep to Garden Oaks. The February Garden Oaks Civic Club is your opportunity to hear about the immense, \$4.6 billion US 290 Project firsthand from TxDOT's Houston District representatives.

The US 290 Project is designed to cope with population growth along the US 290 corridor that's expected to soar from 543,000 to 888,000 by 2035.

Come hear what's planned for the US 290 / 610 interchange, when construction will start, and what else is in store for one of Houston's busiest transportation corridors. It's your chance to ask questions and get answers on a project that will surely affect our neighborhood.

**CITIZENS' PATROL PROGRAM**

by Carl Waters, Jr.

According to the statistics on the Houston Police Department website, 52 crimes were reported in Garden Oaks last year. This makes the third consecutive year reported crime in Garden Oaks is down.

I looked at the numbers from 2007 through 2010. We had 102 crimes reported in 2007, and last year we had 52. By my somewhat limited math skill that is a 51 percent reduction in crime since 2007.

Let's not stop there. If you have some time to give, the patrol program can use more patrollers. Requirements are you must be 18 years of age or older, a resident of Garden Oaks and able to pass a criminal background check by the

Houston Police Department

**December Crime Statistics: 4**

*Assault: 1*

200 block of W 34<sup>th</sup> St. on Sunday, December 5 at 2 a.m. (residence)

*Theft: 3*

700 block of W. 41<sup>st</sup> St. on Tuesday, December 7 at 7 p.m. (street)

700 block of W. 34<sup>th</sup> St. on Monday, December 20 at midnight (street)

500 block of W. 30<sup>th</sup> St. on Monday, December 27 at 10 p.m. (driveway)

*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.*

**Emergency Numbers**

Emergency Services 911

HPD Non-Emergency Services  
713.884.3131

Constable Dispatch  
713.755.7628

All Other City Services 311

**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 15<sup>th</sup> 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.

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**Open Position—Vice President**

Volunteer needed!  
vicepresident@gardenoaks.org

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**Heather Leverett—Secretary**

319 W. 31st 832.455.6254  
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**Standing Committee Chairs**

**Open Position—Beautification**

Volunteer Needed!  
beautification@gardenoaks.org

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constable@gardenoaks.org



**HEARD UNDER THE OAK TREE**

by Terry Jeanes

**Welcome New Neighbors**

We hope to see you at a civic club meeting soon.

- 846 Azalea
- 216 West 30<sup>th</sup>
- 431 West 33<sup>rd</sup>
- 219 West 34<sup>th</sup>
- 730 West 41<sup>st</sup>
- 827 West 43<sup>rd</sup>
- 3102 Randall
- 3006 N. Shepherd
- 1543 Sue Barnett
- 1587 Sue Barnett

**February Birthdays**

- Tonya Knauth – 9
- Alisha Cunningham, Lela Cunningham – 12
- Brenda de Alba, Eddie Battenfield Jr. – 17
- Maya Gabrielle Rahman – 23

**Happy Anniversary**

**Erica & Darin Duncan** – 3rd  
**Will & Deanna Zugheri** celebrate their 20th, on the 23rd with a trip to the Bahamas.


**Out and About**

**Nancy Polasek** enjoyed a trip to NYC in January that included a snowy walk in Central Park. **Robert DeVeu** and **Rebecca Stark** attended a trade show in Vegas in January. On Robert's flight, he was seated next to Miss Dallas and Miss Tarrant County who were on their way to support Miss Texas at the Miss America Pageant.

To highlight an event, celebration, or other tidbit, contact Terry Jeanes at [terry@terryjeanes.com](mailto:terry@terryjeanes.com) or 713.812.9154.




**Will Zugheri**  
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**GOMO Board of Directors****Section 1:**

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

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235 W 33rd  
Home: 713.861.7994  
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msaranie@comcast.net

Melissa Haselden Zepeda (2013)  
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713.459.5339 or 713.426.6413  
melissahaselden@gmail.com

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Home: 713.692.0408  
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744 W. 43rd  
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742 Sue Barnett  
gale\_gorman@mac.com

**Section 3:**

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871 W. 41st  
Home: 713.822.3175  
jbutler1982@att.net

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

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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.

**GOMO UPDATE**

by Tim Weltin

Members of the Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization (GOMO) passed a ballot measure at its annual meeting in October to continue funding two full-time constables to patrol our neighborhood. The annual cost of the two patrols is approximately \$150,000.

Currently three 40-hour constable patrols provided dedicated security for the neighborhood. One of the patrols is funded by direct donations of residents as well as fundraising activities such as the Wine Walk and new neighborhood cookbook. The other two patrols were initiated by and have been funded for the past several years by GOMO. The constable measure for use of surplus funds passed with 95 percent of the votes cast, with ballot responses being 185 in favor to 9 against.

GOMO also is providing \$20,000 in 2011 for maintenance of neighborhood green spaces under a previously approved measure.

Director elections were held at the GOMO annual meeting in October. Four directors were elected to terms that end in 2013: Section One, Melissa Haselden Zepeda; Section Two, Ed de Alba; Section Three, Kelly Mathews; and Section Five, Teresa Coleman. Thanks go to those neighbors for agreeing to serve.

Three directors are elected from each represented section of the neighborhood. They compose a 12-member board of directors. The terms of board members are staggered so that each section elects at least one director annually (occasionally more depending on resignations by directors.) The board has a monthly business meeting

on the third Wednesday of the month in Suite 216 of the Garden Oaks Professional Building, 4001 N. Shepherd. An informal plan review session at 6:30p.m. precedes the monthly civic club meetings on the first Tuesday of the month.

At its monthly business meeting in November, the GOMO board of directors elected new offices for the year: Tim Weltin, president; Mark Saranie, vice president; Adrian Berry, secretary; and, Kelly Matthews, treasurer. A list of current directors is included in this publication.

Special thanks go to Ed de Alba who completed his fifth consecutive term as president. Ed has volunteered a tremendous of time and effort over the past five years in that capacity. He will continue serving Garden Oaks as a GOMO director and in many other volunteer roles but you are encouraged to give him a pat on the back for his half-decade of service to our community in his role as head of the property owners association.

For plan review, bring two copies of the plans to a scheduled GOMO meeting, including a site plan and elevation with full dimensions; a survey of the property; and, if the construction includes changes to a detached garage, elevations of the residence.

Meetings are open to all members. Additional information about the Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization is online at GardenOaks.org. Property owners in Sections 1, 2, 3 and 5 of Garden Oaks are all members of the Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization.

**GOMO Review Meetings**

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

**GARDEN OAKS GARDEN CLUB**

by Chris Lindsey

The Garden Oaks garden club held their December meeting at Trish Mehrkam's home with a traditional Christmas dinner and gift exchange. Officers elected for 2011 are: Cathy Wahren as president; Chris Lindsay as vice president; Robert De Veau as treasurer and Mary Lynn Porter as secretary.

The garden club meets the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Kroger community room on W. 43rd, on the mezzanine level. Members bring pot luck refreshments.

Our topic for the February 10 meeting will be making bird feeders out of found objects. Janet Cones will lead the meeting and show how to make the feeders. Materials will

be supplied; however, participants may bring their own items such as an old glass fixture.

An open invitation is extended to all interested parties. You do not have to be a member to participate.

**GARDEN CLUB OFFICERS**

**President**

Cathy Wahren 713.686.8686  
catalinaw2@yahoo.com

**Vice President/Communications**

Chris Lindsay 713.819.8412  
Chris.Lindsay@sbcglobal.net

**Treasurer**

Robert DeVeau 832.659.7797  
RobertDeveau@sbcglobal.net

**Secretary**

Mary Lynn Porter



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**OUR NEIGHBORHOOD – THE SUBTLE QUALITY**

*By Kathy Highlander*

Many times we get caught up in our own lives, with our own routines, only occasionally reach out to others. We sometimes forget the power of kindness. My family is fortunate to live in a neighborhood that quietly excels in practicing neighborly kindness.

In 2001, my family moved my dad, Mr. Sims, to Garden Oaks from the Rio Grande valley to live a couple of blocks from us. He hated to leave the area he lived for 60 years but knew it was time to move closer to family after my mother died.

Dad loved his garden and dogs and was amazed at the number of walkers, runners and bicyclists that passed his house. Many of the neighbors waved and talked

with Dad.

As the years passed, his eyesight got worse, but he still enjoyed pleasantries with his neighbors. He identified the neighbors by the barks of their dogs and Dad's dogs that patrolled his yard added to the conversation.

Dad's plants are unusual. How many yards can boast mesquite, papaya and grapefruit trees planted next to oak and pine trees? He frequently would share his crop of papayas and grapefruits, plant cuttings and seeds.

At 92, he was fiercely independent. Fortunately, his neighbors looked out for him. I can't remember the number of times I was called through the years to let me know he was on the roof trying to get the pine needles out of the gutters, even at his age and with his

limited vision.

Unfortunately Dad's health recently declined rapidly, due to his failing heart condition. Dad loved to sit in the sun and fell when trying to walk the few feet back to the door. The postal carrier found him right away, and several walking neighbors who knew him came to his aid. While in the hospital, he commented on the great neighborhood we live in, and the outpouring of genuine concern for each other. Dad didn't make it back to his house, but he did make it Home the day after Christmas.

I offer a very heart-felt thank you to the neighbors who warmed his heart with kindness through the years and to the neighbors who stopped to help him that Saturday in December. My Dad was an amazing man, and he had kind and gracious neighbors.

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**CONSTABLE PROGRAM**

by Terry Jeanes & Susan Love-Saranie

The constable mailer has been mailed with your civic dues statement. Please complete your 2011 supporter form and promptly return it. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Reminder: all supporters need to complete a current profile. Your updated information is important, especially your email address, which we use for security alert blasts.

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 to make accounting, recognition and volunteer work flow more smoothly.

Vacation watch form:  
[www.gardenoaks.org/Resources/VacationWatch.pdf](http://www.gardenoaks.org/Resources/VacationWatch.pdf)

Supporter Form:  
[www.gardenoaks.org/Resources/2011Constable.pdf](http://www.gardenoaks.org/Resources/2011Constable.pdf)

An updated 2011 supporter list can be found on page 10. Thank you to the 181 homes and businesses who have already completed their 2011 renewal.

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

**GARDEN OAKS OUTREACH**

a classified listing  
 Classified Ads are \$20 per run for residents, and are for personal services only (help wanted, items for sale, infant care needed, etc.).



Look for the opening of the newly expanded and remodeled Oak Forest Library, scheduled to open in March with LEED Gold Certification.

**OPEN VALENTINE'S DAY 5PM ~ 11PM**  
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**GO CIVIC CLUB MEETING MINUTES**

**January 4, 2011**

Garden Oaks Elementary School  
by Heather Leverett, Secretary

**Welcome:** President Mark Klein called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

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

**President's Announcements:**

**Vice President Opening:** President Klein reported that the civic club has identified a new vice president candidate, who could be voted on at the February meeting.

**Gazebo:** A line item has been added to the membership form to support donations for the replacing the gazebo. Additional discussion covered potential ways to fund the

cost of the gazebo replacement and the need to obtain a cost estimate for the materials.

**SNAP (Super Neighborhood Action Plan) Funding Requests:**

President Klein explained the difference between projects covered under SNAP and CIP (Capital Improvement Projects). The city's SNAP program facilitates smaller projects that can be done to improve a neighborhood such as signs, mulch and park barbecue pits. Mark is gathering a list of items to be submitted prior to the deadline on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Garden Oaks parks may not qualify for some SNAP improvements as the majority of the parks in the area are adopted.

**Technology Project Initiative:**

At the February meeting there will be an update on progress and estimated costs.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Phil Ramirez reported that the

Constable Program cost will be closer to \$75,000, based on the updated contract for 2011. More people are sending in automatic payments. The December financial numbers for the Gazette are slightly misleading as they do not yet reflect the December printing payment due to the cash-based accounting rules. The revenue from the GO Cookbooks is not reflected in the numbers. The surplus from the Wine Walk and Home Tour is in the reserve account. There is no material impact in financials as compared with the same timeframe in 2010.

**Standing Committee Reports:**

**GO Citizens Patrol:** Carl Waters reported four crimes in December. There were 52 crimes in 2010 compared with 59 in 2009.

**Constable Program:** Terry Jeanes reported that a recent resident's concern regarding ticketing at a stop sign was reported to the

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captain. There was additional commentary about the physical descriptions in describing crime suspects. It was noted that any neighborhood alerts online use the same information as provided by the authorities. Please keep in mind that the constables are cognizant of crimes in nearby areas and work diligently to keep our neighborhood safe. If you have any issues or concerns, call your constables.

Membership: No update.

Beautification: No update.

Gazette: No update.

GardenOaks.org website: No update.

GOMO: No update.

President Mark Klein adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

**BEAUTIFICATION CHAIR**

If you have a passion for our green spaces and are interested in serving, contact  
 beautification@gardenoaks.org

**GAZETTE ASSISTANT EDITOR**

Interested in putting your own personal touch to the Gazette? Assistance in editing, layout and publication is needed on an occasional basis. Training will be provided as needed. For more information, contact  
 gazette@gardenoaks.org



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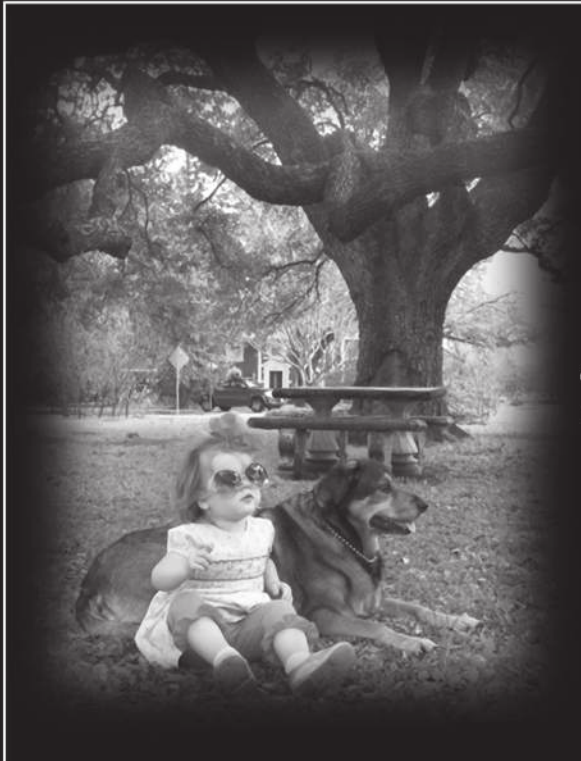


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(posted as of 1/15/11)

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Brockman-Weber  
Bullock  
Camarena-Botello  
Capfer/Peters  
Carney  
Caudill  
de Alba  
Deaton/Sarlay  
Debien  
Doran  
Duggin  
Edwards  
Elmore  
Evans  
Forbes  
Francis/Davidson  
Getz  
Giles  
Gomez/Hendrickson  
Groneman  
Hall  
Hamilton  
Huffman  
Hunter  
Jez  
King  
Lewis  
Lightfoot  
Lilly  
Lopez  
McBee/Bielinski  
McCullough  
Meyer  
Mink/Leverett  
Morris  
Mullins  
Neathery

Neff/Mooney  
Perez  
Porter  
Radwanski  
Rasco  
Rauch  
Reno/Mc Quade  
Rogers/Buron  
Runge  
Saranie  
Scarborough  
Schirmbeck  
Scott/Sheffield  
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Spinks  
Stanfield  
Star  
Starustka  
Taylor  
Tipton/Kissling  
Villman  
Walters/Ryan  
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Whitlow  
Wilson  
Winford  
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**SECTION TWO**

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de Alba  
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Gorman  
Janssen  
Klein  
Knauth  
Mischlich  
Morgan  
Muscara/Kennedy  
Rhea  
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Seghers  
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Tapscott  
Tatum  
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Glaze  
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Gurrola  
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Mueller  
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Andrews  
Bergen  
Broughton/Anastasia  
Chisholm/Callahan  
Cunningham  
Curran/Jennings  
Funk  
Gardiner

George  
Graff  
Larsen  
McKinney  
Motzel  
Ochoa  
Price  
Schultz  
Seabold  
Shaughnessy  
Stein/Harrison  
Stender  
Theriot  
Warhol

**SECTION FIVE**

Barrow  
Coleman/Park  
Daly  
Harbert/Martin  
Hauschildt  
Hester  
Kirby  
Mehrkam  
Mullen  
Peoples  
Pfeiffer/Traum  
Purma  
Restrepo  
Rude  
Salazar/Wooten  
Seyffert  
Shepperd  
Smith, I  
Smith, P  
Terrell  
Waldau  
Weisinger  
Willburn

**BUSINESS**

The Orchard at Garden Oaks

Thank you! Your support is greatly appreciated.

**GAZETTE DELIVERY  
SECTION COORDINATORS  
IN PLACE**

by *Dian Austin*

Thanks to the overwhelming responses from my plea last month for *Gazette* section coordinators, we've got a full delivery team!

The following section coordinators will be delivering the bundled *Gazettes* to the block captains in their sections:

- Sections 1 and 1A – Lynda Spinks
- Section 2 – Sue Schmidt who will remain my able back-up as overall delivery coordinator.
- Section 3 – Jim and Mary Ellen Willburn
- Section 4 – Linda Sparks
- Section 5 – Shawn and Cindy Jorgensen

Lindsey and Bob Gabriel (Section 1), Sheree Peoples (Section 5) and Dinah Sultanik (Section 3) volunteered to be back-ups. Thanks to everyone who responded so quickly to help with delivery.

It truly takes a huge group of volunteers to get the newsletter delivered to your door each month, in addition to Jessica Jarvis and her editorial and advertising team.

A big round of thanks to each of the block captains who volunteer their time every month to hand deliver the newsletter to your door. Please take a minute to say thanks to your neighbors for their help!

**Section 1A**  
Craig and Peggy Kramer  
Carl Waters, Jr.  
Mary Lynn Porter

**Section 1**  
Lorie Reno  
Bill Edwards  
Mary Martinez  
Jackie O'Brien  
Jim Capfer and Lisa Peters  
Grant Holt

Al Jasso  
Mark and Susan Saranie  
The Klein Family  
The Roberts Family

**Section 2**  
The Prince Family  
Ellie Golshan  
Joe and Martha Rhea  
Jonathan Morgan  
The Hall Family  
George Taylor  
Joe Muscara and Lori Kennedy

**Section 3**  
Cindy Bartos  
The Zamora Family  
Neil Ferguson  
Don Sievers  
David Tinkey  
Lewis Goodkouski

**Section 4**  
Marlene Caldwell  
Joan Tracy  
Julie Fox  
Oscar Ochoa  
Ray Trantham  
Bryan and Paula Motzel  
Bill and Amy Shaughnessy

**Section 5**  
Ken Tomchesson  
Lucy Gillmore  
Trey Kuchar  
Shelley Ragsdale  
The Zugheri Family  
Caroline, Josh and Lucy McLean  
Johnny Murphy  
The Carlin Family

And a big thanks to Gale Gorman, who has handled routes for all sections numerous times, many months. He has told me, "I'll deliver whatever shows up on my porch." Thanks, Gale, for being ever ready to help out.

If you are interested in joining the great *Gazette* Delivery team, email me at [FallingwaterT@yahoo.com](mailto:FallingwaterT@yahoo.com), or call me at 713.691.6505. As always, if you are getting your newsletter routinely late (or never), please let me know. But if you don't volunteer, don't complain too loudly.



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**GARDEN OAKS ELEMENTARY PUBLIC SCHOOL  
MONTESSORI MAGNET**

by *Lindsey Pollock, Principal, Garden Oaks Elementary*

Garden Oaks Elementary is in its first year as an H.I.S.D. magnet program thanks to funding provided by a federal magnet school program assistance grant. This grant provides a three-year revenue cycle during which the campus will transition to an all-Montessori campus with an emphasis on environmental sciences, the branch of biology concerned with the relations between organisms and their environment.

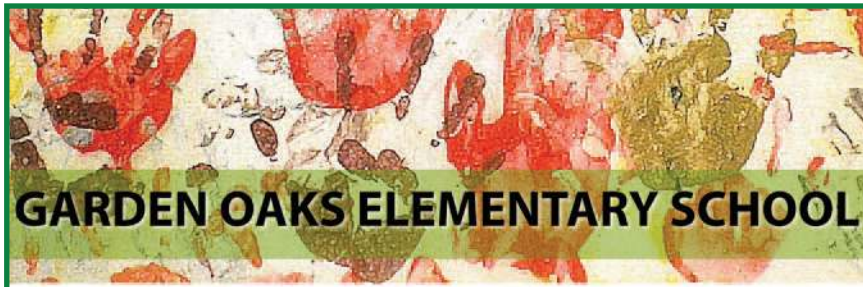
Dr. Maria Montessori recognized the importance of teaching children this as an integral concept. She included this in her philosophy of education in what she described as “cosmic” education. In other words, the Montessori curriculum not only focuses on the important academic subjects of reading and writing, but also finds value in helping children achieve their individual potential in their life’s work in context of a place in the universe. Montessori believed that when we recognize the importance of each individual’s contribution and our inter-relatedness to one another, we can impact positive change in the world. In recognition of her endeavors, Montessori was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize three times prior to her death in 1953.

This focus on environmental sciences is a timely subject as we face the daunting task as a society of practicing responsible stewardship of our natural resources. Recycling, reusing and reducing are key concepts in examining our relationship with our environment. This year, we are focusing on the implementation of our environmental science initiatives including alternative energy displays, community gardens, bird-watching platforms and integrating more hands-on lessons for our students to experience composting and rainwater harvesting.

As one of the three public school Montessori campuses in H.I.S.D. and one of only 70 public school Montessori campuses in the nation, I invite you to stop by and see the excitement as we continue the tradition of academic excellence in a socially responsible context.

Join us at our Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten Round-up. All entering students at these levels will be enrolled in Montessori classes for the 2011-12 school year. With more than 250 applications received, I encourage our neighbors to register now to secure your spot for next year.

If you have any questions, call 713.696.2930 or email [lpollock@houstonisd.org](mailto:lpollock@houstonisd.org).



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Thursday February 10, 5pm - 7pm  
Friday February 11, 8am - 10am

For details call 713-696-2930

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**RENEWAL AT FRANK BLACK MIDDLE SCHOOL**

*By Tim Weltin*

We are fortunate to live in a community with access to a wide variety of options for our children’s education. Several outstanding examples of established and emerging schools show what is possible when parental involvement, community support, administrative focus, adequate resources, excellent faculty and eager students are combined on the same campus.

One school, though, which most of the kids in our area are zoned to, has not enjoyed that same combination of fortunate circumstances in recent times. Frank Black Middle School has fallen out of favor as a middle school of choice for many families in our area. In fact, enrollment at the 6th, 7th and 8th grade institution is only around 560 students, considerably smaller than the enrollment at Oak Forest Elementary, which is in the same block.

In addition to Oak Forest Elementary, four elementaries are designated feeder schools for Black Middle School: Garden Oaks, Durham, Sinclair and Stevens. The Frank Black campus is designed to accommodate more than three times its current enrollment. Demographic changes in the surrounding neighborhoods, most notably a wave of young children, make this an opportune time to join together to help create a change for the better. It is time for renewal at Frank Black Middle School. Working together as a community we can make it a vibrant, thriving institution that offers a viable middle school option to area parents and students.

Frank Black Middle School is scheduled for physical upgrades

in the coming months and contemporary efforts by faculty and staff to improve the institution already are yielding tangible results. A workgroup of parents, teachers and community members has been meeting in recent months to help foster long-term renewal and improvement at the school.

As part of that effort, community tours of the school will be held on four nights beginning in February. The project has been dubbed Le Tour De Black, and you, fellow parents and community members are invited to attend. The tours will start in the school library at 6:30 p.m. Childcare will be available. A short informational session, followed by a school tour, will take about an hour. For interested participants who are able to stay longer, a question and answer session will follow the tours.

Each of the four nights is dedicated to a specific feeder elementary school but people are welcome to attend on any of the evenings. Monday, February 7 is Garden Oaks night; Tuesday, February 15 for Durham; Wednesday, February 23 is for Oak Forest; Thursday, March 3 is for Sinclair and Stevens.

You can RSVP for a specific night via email at FriendsOfFrankBlack@gmail.com.. See for yourself some of the little-known and under-utilized amenities like a first-class gymnasium, a music room with individual practice suites and an indoor swimming pool. Find out more about the coming changes that are in the works. Tell others about the tour event as well as the new initiative to transform the school. Your help in spreading the word about Le Tour De Black – and the renewal project in general – is appreciated.

With collective effort and attention, Frank Black Middle School can enjoy the right combination of those circumstances and our community, and its students will be the beneficiaries. Please pass this information along to friends and neighbors. Let’s work together to make Frank Black Middle School a great scholastic option for the children of our area.



**HELP US MAKE IMPROVEMENTS AT GARDEN OAKS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL -- FOOT BY FOOT!**

*By Claire Bonilla, GOES PTA Beautification Chair*

Garden Oaks Elementary School needs your help to further beautify our campus. This initiative is part of the front of school project which can be viewed in full in the front office. The current phase of work is to secure an iron fence to follow the circle drive.

A \$20 donation buys one linear foot of restored frontage. How many feet can you help us restore?

**Goals**

- Increase campus security at Garden Oaks Elementary School.
- Continue beautification efforts of our students and community.
- Provide a safe and enjoyable learning environment for all.

**Donate**

Donate securely through our online donation page: <http://goes.bbnw.org> or contact the school office and leave a message for Claire Bonilla at 713.696.2930.

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**VALENTINE'S DAY TRIVIA**

73% of people who buy flowers for Valentine's Day are men, while only 27 percent are women.

About 1 billion Valentine's Day cards are exchanged each year. That's the largest seasonal card-sending occasion of the year, next to Christmas.

About 3% of pet owners will give Valentine's Day gifts to their pets.

Alexander Graham Bell applied for his patent on the telephone, an "Improvement in Telegraphy", on Valentine's Day, 1876.

California produces 60 percent of American roses, but the vast number sold on Valentine's Day in the United States are imported, mostly from South America. Approximately 110 million roses, the majority red, will be sold and delivered within a three-day time period.

Cupid, another symbol of Valentines Day, became associated with it because he was the son of Venus, the Roman god of love and beauty. Cupid often

appears on Valentine cards holding a bow and arrows because he is believed to use magical arrows to inspire feelings of love.

Hallmark has over 1330 different cards specifically for Valentine's Day.

In the United States, 64 percent of men do not make plans in advance for a romantic Valentine's Day with their sweethearts.

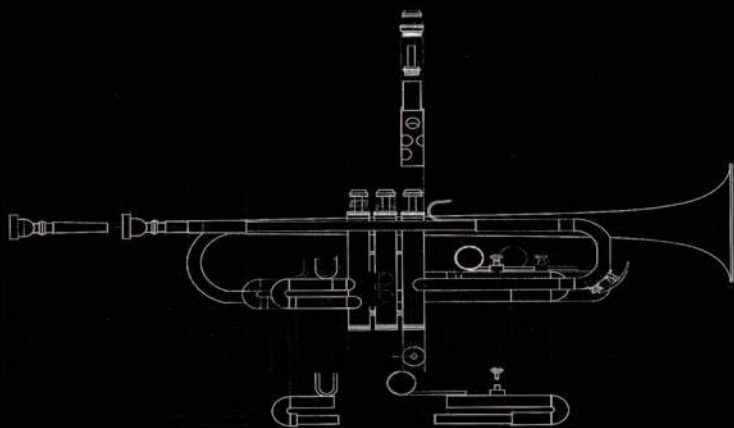
In Victorian times it was considered bad luck to sign a Valentine's Day card.

In Wales, wooden love spoons were carved and given as gifts on February 14th. Hearts, keys and keyholes were favorite decorations on the spoons. The decoration meant, "You unlock my heart!"

It wasn't until 1537 that St. Valentine's Day was declared an official holiday. England's King Henry VIII declared February 14th a holiday.

Only the U.S., Canada, Mexico, France, Australia and the U.K. celebrate Valentine's Day.

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**AIR CONDITIONING TIPS FOR THE WINTER**

by Mitch Weigand

**Tip No. 11: Replacing Your Furnace: Do It Now or Do It Later**

It's February, and your home's furnace almost has made it through another winter. It ain't broke, it's still working, so why should you replace it?

Here in Houston, we don't really use our furnaces that much. However, with if you have one that's 10 years or older, it's not if it breaks, but when.

The two most common furnace repairs are a blown circuit board and burnt-up fan motor. Both are costly to fix, around \$800 to \$1,000 each. That's a lot of money, especially considering a typical brand-new furnace runs \$2,000 to \$3,000 installed.

Fixing a decade-old furnace is like

putting a new \$3,000 transmission into a 10-year-old pick-up truck that has more than 400,000 miles on it. Yes, you now have a truck that works, but it is still 10 years old and has more than 400,000 miles on it. False economy never pays.

**Greater efficiency equals greater savings**

If your furnace is more than 10 years old, consider replacing it with a more energy-efficient one. Since 2000, the heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) industry has made amazing strides in technology. A 2010 furnace typically uses only half the gas to heat your home as a 2000 model plus does it in half the time.

More importantly, the new furnace's blower motor uses only one-tenth the electricity as the one found in the decade-old furnace. This blower motor also is used by your air conditioning system to distribute cool air throughout your home

during the summer. Imagine the savings all year long!

Lastly, your new furnace will have a 10-year parts and labor warranty compared to the old furnace that usually came with a five-year, parts-only warranty. Labor was not covered. In some cases, the new heat exchanger will have a limited lifetime warranty as well.

With a new furnace, you will experience comfortable, even heating throughout your home, improved humidity balance and control from room to room and reduced noise level while it runs. Best of all, you can keep your home as warm and cozy as you please without burning a hole in your wallet.

*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](mailto:mitch@airwisehouston.com) or write to 1590 Sue Barnett Drive, 77018.*

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*David L., Oak Forest*

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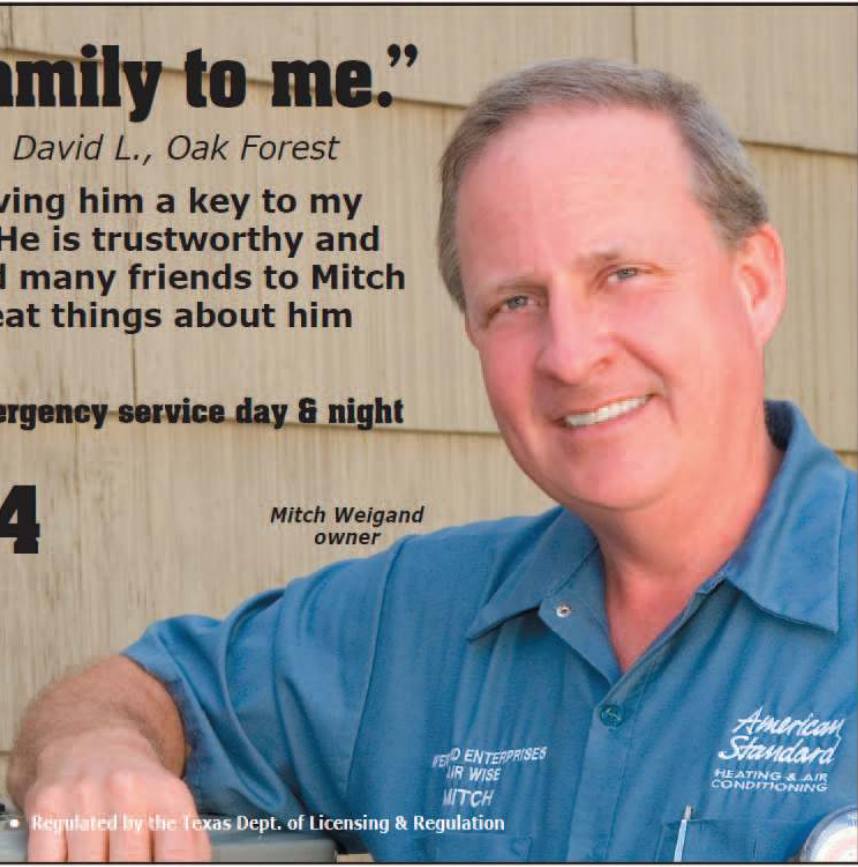
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**JUNIOR ACHEIVEMENT BIZTOWN**

by Catherine Perry

Garden Oaks Elementary fifth graders experienced being a grownup on Monday, Jan. 10, at Junior Achievement’s BizTown, located at 3710 Dacoma.

The students donned attire appropriate for their job and ran a mock city. Some children served as mayor, judge and attorney. They appraised property and assessed taxes, collected for charity and provided utility services.

Students ran the radio station and newspaper, provided web design, sold books, nature crafts that they made and sports merchandise.

They ran the bank where students deposited their paychecks and received cash back for the student-run snack bar serving popcorn and lemonade, which was prepared by the students.

As shop customers, they wrote checks from their bank accounts. If they wrote a bad check or walked on the painted grass, they were likely to be issued a ticket and fined.

In short, they ran the city and got a taste for adult life.

And they liked it. One student said, “I want to stay. I want to live here.”

As most of us reading this know, he’ll be there soon enough!

**READING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Garden Oaks Elementary is seeking community men to read once a month to our kids on the second Friday of each month at 10 a.m. for an hour. Volunteers are screened through the VIPS Program and welcomed by teachers and students alike.

Please apply at the school’s front office.

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



PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Saluting the flag during the opening of BizTown was (left to right): Laura Childs, Riley Tatum, Tyler Jones, Kimberly Garcia, Dariah Goosby, Austin Fenn.

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## HEAVY TRASH

### **What can I set out, and when?**

by Dian Austin

Are you confused about what you can set out for heavy trash pick up and when? Well, you're not alone. After the city revamped the heavy trash program a year or so ago, we all may be confused. The city no longer picks up both tree waste and junk waste every month.

The year starts off with tree waste being picked up in January and then alternates each month from tree waste to junk waste.

The tree waste months are January, March, May, July, September and November. During these months, any tree waste that is picked up will be recycled/composted, thus diverting it from the landfills. Tree waste is defined as tree branches, stumps, limbs and other foliage-related materials.

Junk waste is picked up only in the alternate months: February, April, June, August, October and December. Junk waste includes furniture, appliances and other bulky materials.

Junk waste will not be picked up during tree waste months. However, tree waste will be picked up during junk waste months but will not be recycled or composted.

Also, per the city's website:

- The Solid Waste Management Department is not allowed to collect any material that was generated by contractors who were retained by a resident to perform work on residential property. It is the responsibility of the contractor to remove all

debris that may arise from the contractor's activities. These contractor-related activities include, but are not limited to: trimming and removal of trees, remodeling, new construction and roofing.

- If authorized items placed for collection are mixed with unauthorized items, city crews are not be obligated to sort the materials and may refuse the entire load.
- Tree or junk waste should be placed adjacent to the front curb (or street side for most of Garden Oaks) between the hours of 6 p.m. the Friday before, and 7 a.m. on the scheduled collection day, not days or weeks ahead of time.

So when is heavy trash scheduled to be picked up? It is on our regularly scheduled day of the week for regular trash pick up, Tuesday, but whether it's the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month, depends on where you live.

Generally, for Garden Oaks, heavy trash will be picked up:

1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday

of the month: All of Section 1A, the 700 block of Sue Barnett and the south side of the 700 block of W. 38<sup>th</sup>.

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month: All of Section 1 and any residences between W. 43<sup>rd</sup> and W. 38<sup>th</sup>. This includes the south side of all blocks of W. 43<sup>rd</sup> and the north side of the 700 block of W. 38<sup>th</sup>.

3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month: All residents in any sections living north of W. 43<sup>rd</sup>, including the north side of W. 43<sup>rd</sup> St.

Further information can be found at the City of Houston's website: [www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/treewaste.html](http://www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/treewaste.html).

The poster features the Solid Waste Management Department logo at the top left. The title "TREE WASTE SCHEDULE" is centered in green. Below is a table with two columns: the month and the type of waste accepted. The background of the poster shows a city skyline.

TREE WASTE SCHEDULE	
January	Tree Waste ONLY
February	Junk Waste
March	Tree Waste ONLY
April	Junk Waste
May	Tree Waste ONLY
June	Junk Waste
July	Tree Waste ONLY
August	Junk Waste
September	Tree Waste ONLY
October	Junk Waste
November	Tree Waste ONLY
December	Junk Waste

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AT COMPANY ONSTAGE**  
*January 14 - February 19, 2011*  
by Christine Weems

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For more information and directions, please go to [www.companiononstage.org](http://www.companiononstage.org) or you can contact Christine Weems at [cweems21@gmail.com](mailto:cweems21@gmail.com)



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Half Page 7 ½ W X 4 ½ H	\$110.00	\$550.00	\$1065.00
Full Page 7 ½ W x 9 ½ H	\$180.00	\$900.00	\$1745.00
Half Page Back Cover	\$150.00	\$750.00	
Full Page Back Cover	\$225.00	\$1125.00	
Inserts (full page only, single sided)			\$180.00
Inserts (double sided)			\$225.00

1. Placement of the ad is at the discretion of the editor.
2. Camera-ready artwork must be submitted by the 15th of each month for publication the following month and emailed to: [gazette@gardenoaks.org](mailto:gazette@gardenoaks.org)
3. Artwork must be emailed in the following formats:  
JPEG (.jpg) or GIF (.gif)



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**AMERICAN LEGION EVENTS**

*By Jim Acker*

Join us for movie afternoon every Sunday afternoon until football season starts again.

On Sunday, February 27 we'll be showing all 10 episodes of the Steven Spielberg movie, *The Pacific*. Episode one will begin at 11 a.m. For those of you who saw the first three episodes in November, plan to come about 3 p.m. Food and drink will be available. This will be a non-smoking event.

On Sunday, March 6 at 1 p.m. we will show Stanley Kubrick's *Full Metal Jacket*. Future Sundays will feature movies shown by request. We plan to schedule historical lectures with maps and photos regarding some of the campaigns the Legionnaires participated in or are knowledgeable of.

Don't forget to join us for our monthly steak night with live entertainment Friday, February 18 where \$14 buys you a 16-oz. rib-eye with sides.

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**CRITTER CORNER**

by Casey and Dorothy Dan Farris

Has your life gotten back to normal from all the holidays? Well hang on to your hats because February is chocked full of holidays. Besides being National month of this and that, every single day is a holiday. (1) National Freedom Day; (2) Ground Hog Day and Candlemas; (3) The Day the Music Died Day; (4) Create a Vacuum Day and Thank a Mailman Day; (5) National Weatherman's Day; (6) Lame Duck Day; (7) Wave Your Fingers at Your Neighbor Day and Send a Card to a Friend Day; (8) Boy Scout Day and Kite Flying Day; (9) Toothache Day; (10) Umbrella Day; (11) Make A Friend Day, White T-Shirt Day and Don't Cry Over Spilled Milk Day; (12) Abraham Lincoln's Birthday and Plum Pudding Day; (13) Get a Different Name Day; (14) Clean Out Your Computer Day, Ferris Wheel Day, National Organ Donor Day, and Valentine's Day; (15) National Gum Drop Day and Single Awareness Day; (16) Do a Grouch a Favor Day; (17) Random Acts of Kindness Day; (18) National Battery Day; (19) National Chocolate Mint Day; (20) Cherry Pie Day, Hoodie Hoo Day and Love Your Pet Day; (21) Card Reading Day and President's

Day; (22) George Washington's Birthday, Walking the Dog Day, and International World Thinking Day; (23) International Dog Biscuit Appreciation Day, Tennis Day; (24) National Tortilla Chip Day; (25) Pistol Patent Day; (26) Carnival Day, National Pistachio Day and Tell a Fairy Tale Day; (27) Polar Bear Day and No Brainer Day; (28) Floral Design Day, Public Sleeping Day and National Tooth Fairy Day; (29) Leap Day once every four years. In between holidays here are some tips to get your picky canine to eat.

**Critters 101: Canine Picky Eaters**

Loss of appetite or losing interest in food choices is a frustrating and worrisome situation for dog owners. Owners often will switch foods or offer tempting choices to help entice their pet's appetite. My first suggestion when a dog loses interest in food is to get an examination by a veterinarian to rule out physical reasons. Many health issues can cause loss of appetite and those need to be ruled out first.

Whenever you have a dog that is a picky eater, regardless of what food you may feed or are trying to switch them to,



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remember some important points. Do not hover over the dog anxiously, to see if he or she will eat. This often is more fretful for the dog who may become averse to eating because it makes you appear so anxious. Try to act nonchalant and put the bowl down and turn away or go to another room. If the dog won't eat it, put it up and try again for the next meal. Sometimes we unwittingly teach our dogs 'not to eat' with this behavior.

Try to feed the dog on a regular schedule, and stick to it so the dog automatically will become hungry at those times and anticipate the meal. Act happy while preparing the meal, and act like this is an exciting event. If you have another dog that eats heartily, so much the better. If the dog still won't eat, pick up the bowl casually after ten minutes and put it away. Act like this is no big deal. Do not get upset if your dog won't eat.

Give your dog a regular exercise program to promote appetite hunger. This could be a daily walk, throwing a ball or taking your dog to the park. Exercise will help build an appetite, as well as provide mental stimulation.

Remember, some puppies go through periods of fast growth and then have slow down times. The slow down time can cause decrease appetite. Also teething can cause loss of appetite due to sore gums.

Hormonal changes in intact females can cause loss of appetite changes, as well for males if a female in heat is within scenting range.

Always be aware of any changes in your dog when appetite decreases. Stress can cause loss of appetite, which can include moving, changes in their owner's mood, weather changes and grief. Be aware of changes in the environment as well as your dog's health. These can all offer clues to loss of appetite changes and help in resolving the problem.

*Casey Farris is owner/operator of Bone Voyage Pet Sitting Services and Go Dog USA. Dorothy Dan is owner/operator of Casey. Please forward your questions and pet news to Casey@GoDogUSA.com or call 713.688.6363.*



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# FEBRUARY 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Civic Club mtg 7:00pm, GOES	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 	9	10 Garden Club 7 pm Kroger community room	11	12 Pancake Break- fast, 8-10:30 am, GOES
13	14 HAPPY VALENTINES DAY	15	16	17	18 American Legion steak night	19
20	21 Presidents Day	22 	23	24	25	26
27 American Legion showing of The Pacific, 11 am	28	1 March Civic Club mtg 7:00pm, GOES	2	3	4	5



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