

GARDEN OAKS GAZETTE

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MAR 2011

PANCAKE BREAKFAST SUCCESS

Pleasant weather and droves of supporters made the Garden Oaks Elementary Friends of Montessori Community Pancake Breakfast another success this year. "Everything went wonderfully: the pancakes were delicious, and many families had a great time," said Friends of Montessori President Tonya Knauth. "Preliminary numbers show that we raised about \$10,000 in one fun-filled morning."

The annual event, which includes a silent auction, live entertainment and family activities, is the organization's largest of the year. For 17 years Houston ISD has partnered with Friends of Montessori to provide the public school Montessori program, and private funds generated through



volunteer parents and community partners have always been necessary to meet its annual budget. Houston ISD officials announced last Spring that Garden Oaks is the recipient of a federal grant that would expand Montessori throughout the entire campus.

"Thanks to the tireless efforts of the Garden Oaks Elementary Chapter of the Friends of Montessori, the annual Pancake Breakfast and Silent Auction was a tremendous success!" said Principal Lindsay Pollock. "Seeing so many people here to support the transition of the school to an all-Montessori Magnet was a wonderful way to celebrate the implementation of the federal Magnet School Assistance Program grant."

First developed in the early 1900s by Italian educator Maria Montessori, the teaching method has proven successful for children of all socioeconomic, learning and ethnic backgrounds.

Garden Oaks Elementary School is located at 901 Sue Barnett, Houston, Texas 77018. For more information, call 713-696-2930 or visit www.fomhouston.org.

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CIVIC CLUB MEETINGS

March 1, 7 p.m. Civic Club Meeting
Garden Oaks Elementary School

REMINDERS

Be sure to complete your Civic Club and Constable membership forms today!

HEARD UNDER THE OAK TREE

by Terry Jeanes

Welcome New Neighbors

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

4214 Alba

4219 Alba

519 West 30th

730 West 30th

959 Lamonte

1070 Lamonte

966 Gardenia

737 Sue Barnett

1336 Sue Barnett

March Birthdays and Celebrations

Sydney Grace Null – 3

Lori Kennedy – 5

Taylor Langdon–Crownover – 8

Dodie Davis – 11

George Appling – 13

Kenneth Santos – 14

Curtis Hall – 15

Marshall Heath –18

Will Zugheri – 30

Happy Anniversary

Mark & Susan Saranie (21)– 24

Sean & Caroline McLean – 27

Out and About

Dian Austin enjoyed a few extra days in London while on a courier trip.

Terry Jeanes and Patrick Kelley traveled to Nevada, enjoying the western Arizona Route 66 and the Grand Canyon.

Emma Maltbie and her family had an exciting trip to Disney World thanks to Make A Wish Foundation. A fundraising garage sale benefit will be held for Emma and her family on Saturday, March 5, at the Baptist Temple at the back side parking lot on W. 19th. Please stop

by and support this fundraising event for a special little Garden Oaks girl.

Congratulations

On a job well done by all the **Garden Oaks Friends of Montessori** members who helped make this year's pancake breakfast a success.

Condolences and Special Thoughts

To the **McLean family** on the recent loss of their beloved pet, Alex.

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



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.

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Volunteer needed!

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Open Position—Beautification

Volunteer Needed!

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CITIZENS' PATROL PROGRAM

by Carl Waters, Jr.

Residents in Section 4 and 5 may have heard the commotion in late January with HPD, constables and the HPD Air Patrol circling in the area. I understand they all responded to a burglary call at a house under construction where thieves were stealing copper. In addition to this there was a reported break-in to a motor vehicle in Section 1 on the Yahoo list serve. I have heard of another motor vehicle break-in which occurred in Section 1. Officially only the residential burglary was reported on the HPD website.

For many years we have heard and seen the anti car theft public service announcements telling us to lock our cars and take our keys. They have added a new item to this: remove your valuables. It does not matter how expensive, anything left

in sight tempts a burglar to break your car window to take it.

January Crime Statistics: 1

Theft: 1

900 block of W. 42nd St. Saturday, January 29, 10:00 p.m. (vacant residence).

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.

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 Constable Dispatch 713.755.7628
 All Other City Services 311

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1003 Gardenia
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teresa.coleman@pobox.com

Terms expire October of year in parentheses.

GO CIVIC CLUB MEETING MINUTES**February 1, 2011**

Garden Oaks Elementary School
by *Heather Leverett, Secretary*

Welcome:

President Mark Klein called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. A motion was made and carried to accept the January minutes as published in the *Gazette*.

President's Announcements: Beautification Committee Chair:

A volunteer is still needed. **Vice President Opening:** A candidate will be nominated at the March meeting.

Mayor's Super Neighborhood Council Meeting: President Klein gave an update on the Mayor's commentary which included the budget issues, redistricting, and the Renew Houston initiative.

US 290/601 Interchange Project:

Mike Zientek, the public involvement representative for the US 290/610 Interchange project, gave a presentation about the justification and scope of the project. Work on the interchange will begin in mid-2011 and continue throughout 2015. Allocated funding for early project phases is \$700MM dollars. Additional information on the project can be found at www.my290.com.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Phil Ramirez was not present. President Klein reported that over \$35,000 toward the \$75,000 needed to fund the Constable Program has been received. The *Gazette* is doing well and still self funding.

Standing Committee Reports:

GO Citizens Patrol: Carl Waters reported one crime on Jan. 29. January had five fewer crimes than in 2010. Burglaries under a certain dollar amount can be reported online instead of calling the police. Terry Jeanes noted that Shepherd Park Plaza had a crime reported. A woman approached an older woman at her home asking for directions and offering to help carry groceries. She grabbed the woman's purse. The victim may have been followed home from Kroger.

Constable Program: Terry Jeanes reported not everyone was included in the constable list of contributors. Apologies are extended to anyone who was excluded. Houston Councilwoman Brenda Stardig will be working with crime prevention organizations in the areas. A meeting is scheduled at Durham Elementary in February.

Membership: No update.

Beautification: No update.

Gazette: Jessica Jarvis reported that there are three new advertisers in the *Gazette*.

GardenOaks.org Website: No update.

GOMO Update: Tim Weltin, the new President of GOMO, thanked Ed de Alba for his five years of service as president. GOMO is undertaking a technology initiative in 2011.

Tim Weltin discussed a grassroots effort to accelerate progress at Frank Black Middle School, which is adjacent to Oak Forest Elementary School. A group of parents, faculty, staff and community leaders is working to support Black Middle School and its transformation into a top-flight academic institution. The school currently has 560 students,

with a capacity for 1,800. Several tours of the school and its facilities, such as an indoor swimming pool, are planned for February. For more information, please join "Friends of Frank Black Middle School" on Facebook.

President Mark Klein adjourned the meeting at 7:53 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

GOMO Review Meetings

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

GARDEN CLUB OFFICERS

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Treasurer

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Secretary

Mary Lynn Porter

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

Supporter Form:
www.gardenoaks.org/Resources/2011Constable.pdf

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2011 TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE

Civic Data Management Tool (GODAT)

By Heather Leverett

The GOCC is sponsoring a technology project this year that will improve the efficiency and organization of our communication and processes. The Civic Data Management Tool, or GODAT initiative, will allow our neighborhood to implement technology designed to save our volunteers time and effort while improving organization, communication, event management, and budget management.

In late 2010, the idea of having a 2011 technology initiative was launched when a team of civic committee members reviewed the processes used to manage dues,

constable donations, membership, and individual events. A centralized database to track all members, donations, and events did not exist. An easy way to email a certain section of neighbors about an event or opportunity did not exist. The processes to organize payment data and communication were manual and time consuming. Reviewing or reporting on historical information was another manual process.

As of February, high level requirements for GODAT have been gathered from membership, the constable program, the civic officers, and some of the event managers. Research has been completed on vendor solutions available for implementation. Multiple custom development options have been explored and estimated.

We expect late February and March

to be very busy. Requirements will be finalized with the selected software developer, technical design will be completed, and the development of the GODAT should begin. Upon sign off on the detailed requirements, we will finalize budget numbers and project scope. In late March and early April, we will develop our test cases and determine the resources needed to participate in the testing and data validation of the CDMT. Completed implementation is expected before the end of second quarter.

It is very exciting to be involved in a technology project that will have real impact on our civic community.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Heather Leverett at treasurer@gardenoaks.org.



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GO KIDS UPDATE

by Sarah Heath

Thank you to Brandy Groth and Jessica Padilla for taking on the role as our new Moms' Night Out (MNO) coordinators. Be on the lookout for lots of new and exciting gatherings in the next few months. It's always a good time when we mix the GO mamas and wine.

Jenny Odinet is hosting a book signing for us on March 8 at 7:00 p.m. Jennifer Solak, the author of the children's book *Goodnight Houston*, will visit with us. The book takes its readers to locations for children to visit in Houston. Jenny, who lives in Garden Oaks at 4129 Apollo, will have a few books available for purchase. Books can be purchased at the Children's Museum, Borders at West Alabama and Kirby, Kid to Kid, Houston Visitors Center, Doodles or Blue Willow Bookshop if you'd like to have them signed. Please contact Brandy Groth (brandy.groth@yahoo.com) or Jessica Padilla (needhamjessica@hotmail.com) for more information.

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).

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 please contact our Dinner Drop coordinator, Amber Berend, (amber.berend@yahoo.com).

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



PET PARENT NEEDED

Sleek, attractive 3 y.o. Lab/Dobie mix seeks pet parent with lots of love and energy for lasting, loyal relationship.

Molly Dog is a super sweet girl who is energetic and loving. She needs a pet parent who has the time and energy to play ball, take walks, and when the day is out snuggle. She is up to date on shots and healthy as a horse.

Please email shawn_jorgensen@yahoo.com if you can provide Molly with the home she deserves.

GARDEN OAKS OUTREACH

a classified listing
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GOES SCIENCE FAIR

by Catharine Perry, Garden Oaks Elementary School

The science fair is over, the winners announced and the displays dismantled. But the smiles and instilled confidence remain. The overall winner of the upper grade is Tyler Jones, but many more were winners.

Science Fair Winners

Class Projects

3rd place tie: Ms. Gutierrez's class, Ms. Bruce's class and Ms. Kuhnen's class

2nd place tie: Ms Scott's class and Ms. Blanco's class

1st place tie: Ms. Morris/Schwausch 2nd grade class and Ms. Pousson's class

3rd Grade

3rd place: Emma Lozano

2nd place tie: Sebastian Hernandez and Rachel Medioza

1st place tie: Ripley Saltzmann-Barrera and Jerilyn Tennison

4th/5th/6th Grade Individual Projects

3rd place: Troy Saltzmann Barrera

2nd place: Tobin Russell

1st place: Tyler Jones

4th grade Team Projects

3rd place: America Lemus, Edith Acosta and Leonso Trochez

2nd place: Thomas Anders and Coley Barnes

1st Place: Joseph Lawerence and Martin Rodriguez

5th and 6th Grade Team Projects

3rd place: Austin Fenn and Riley Tatum

2nd place: Isabella Muraywed and Alexander Muraywed

1st place: Garrett Holmes, Phillip Stengler and Jacob Holmes

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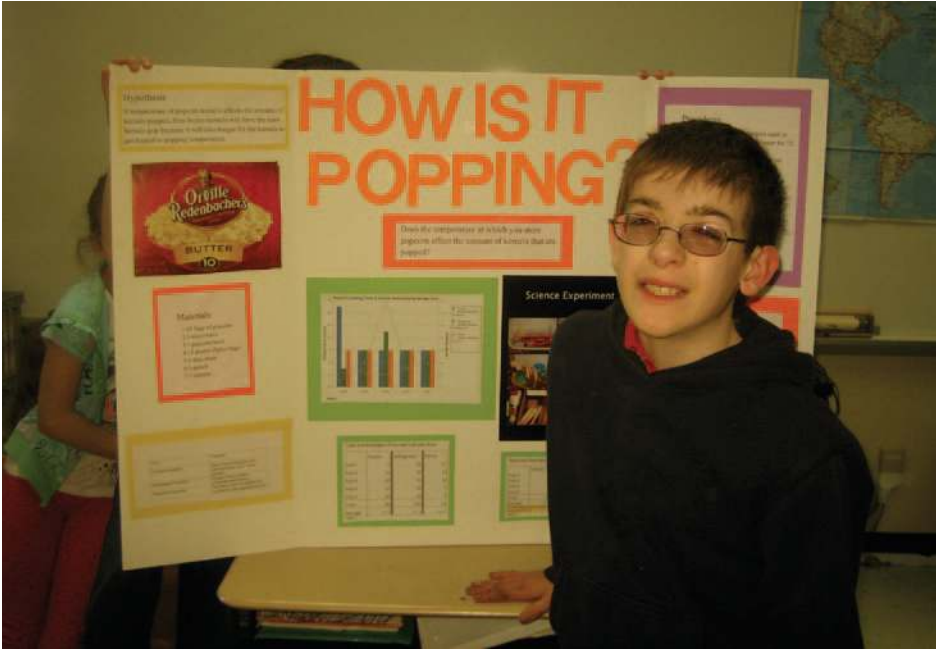
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Student Choice Awards


3rd place: Laser Power - Garrett Holmes, Phillip Stengler and Jacob Holmes
 2nd place: Goldilocks and the 3

Crystals – Candace Asmus and Caroline Hamilton
 1st place: Best Engino – Isaac Sanchez




Tyler Jones winner of the 4th/5th/6th grade individual projects at the 2011 GOES science fair. Congratulations to all science fair winners.

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LEO TORRES WINS DISTRICT SPELLING BEE

by Catherine Perry

Leo Torres, a sixth grade student at Garden Oaks in Ms. Carson's Montessori class, has won the HISD District Spelling Bee. He will be competing for the state title on March 26th. The competition will be televised on PBS, Channel 8, at 2p.m. The winner will advance to the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington D.C. in June.

While Leo reports that his mother often quizzed him on the words, he says that he owes his success to his sister. Apparently, she won the school spelling bee five years ago when she was his age, and competed at the district level. In trying to compete with his sister, Leo rose to the occasion and then some. His winning word was "grotesqueness." We wish him the best of luck in March!



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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
3. Artwork must be emailed in the following formats:
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GARDEN OAKS

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The Children's Museum of Houston

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Anna Eastman, Trustee, HISD Board of Education
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Moses Diaz, Assistant Principal
Virginia Oswald, Art Teacher
Steve Chapin
J Harding & Co Printing
Elizabeth Olivares-Reed, Translator
GOES Elementary Teachers & Staff
Montessori Teachers/Staff
Beverly Carson, Upper Elementary
Laura Aasletten, Upper Elementary
Sara Cotner, Lower Elementary
Shana Steinhardt, Lower Elementary
Thomas Johanson, Lower Elementary
Luz Torres, Lower Elementary
Rebecca Blanco, Children's House
Marie Pousson, Children's House
Rebecca Scott, Children's House
Terah Kuhnen, Children's House
... and all the wonderful Teaching Assistants

Special thanks for participating in class silent auction baskets:

Mr. Coppes
Ms. Gallegos
Ms. Anderson
Mr. Valladares

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GARDEN OAKS ELEMENTARY



Shown clockwise from top left: Garden Oaks Montessori student Heath Webber enjoying pancakes; Corey Russell, father of two in the Garden Oaks Montessori program, also a GOES alumnus, making pancakes; Terry Jeanes, City Council member Brenda Stardig and friends bidding in the Silent Auction.

On the cover: Phillip Hagger, Garden Oaks Montessori student, enjoying breakfast.

Ms. Kilmer
Ms. Oswald

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Marya Minter, Classroom Auction Items & Silent

Auction Support
M.T. Herring, Classroom Auction Items & Silent Auction Support
Heather McKeown, Silent Auction Baskets
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Mary Sharon Komarek, Outdoor Entertainment
Cheryl McCosh, Indoor Entertainment, Slideshow
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Parent Volunteers for class projects

FOM Parent's Night Out Supporters – Fall 2010
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MARCH HOUSTON EVENTS

With the arrival of spring also comes a variety of exciting events around Houston. Below are just a few things you and your families can enjoy.

Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo

March 1 - 20
 For more information visit:
www.hlsr.com

River Oaks 67th Annual Azalea Trail

March 4 - 6, 11a.m. to 6 p.m.
 For more information visit:
www.riveroaksgardenclub.org/AzaleaTrail.cfm

Cirque du Soleil: Ovo

Beginning March 10
 For more information visit:
www.cirquedusoleil.com

39th Buffalo Bayou Regatta

March 12
 For more information visit:
www.buffalobayou.org

Blue Man Group

March 12-16
 For more information visit:
www.joneshall.org

Future VetFest

March 12, 11am
 Are your kids begging for a puppy, kitty, bunny or that favorite pet? Children will be part of an interactive demo which will show them about the responsibilities that come with owning a pet. For more information visit:
www.cmhouston.org/

Impressionist and Post-Impressionist Masterpieces from the National Gallery of Art

At the MFAH through May 23
 For more information visit:
www.mfah.org

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AIR CONDITIONING TIPS FOR THE SPRING

by Mitch Weigand

Tip No. 12: Repair or Replace Your A/C - Consider the 50% Rule

If you're like most homeowners, you probably don't think about your A/C system until there is a problem with it. It's virtually impossible to ignore when the temperature is 90 degrees inside your home. What do you do?

You get your A/C service technician to inspect it and he's got good news and bad news. The good news is your home can be back to 75 degrees by tonight but the bad news is that the repair will be very expensive, around \$3,000. Should you repair or replace? How do you make an informed decision?

Let's look at the 50% rule

Consider the 50% rule. When the cost of repairs nears 50% of the replacement value of your A/C

system, it's time to replace it. The average life expectancy of an air conditioner or heat pump is 10 to 12 years. If your unit is nearing its end, you'll need to weigh the repair cost against the genuine possibility that additional repairs may be needed very soon or even a complete replacement.

As discussed in last month's column, fixing a decade-old furnace or air conditioner is like putting a new \$3,000 transmission into a 10-year-old pick-up truck that has over 400,000 miles on it. Yes, you now have a truck that works but it is still 10 years old and has over 400,000 miles on it. False economy never pays.

New means improved efficiency

Equipment that is approaching the end of its life expectancy will typically be much less energy efficient than today's new equipment. Typically, a 10-year-

old A/C will have a 6 - 10 SEER*. Compare that to a new system whose SEER may be as high as 20.

Also, keep in mind the savings on your monthly energy bills. Energy costs (gas, oil and electricity) have risen significantly in the last decade and will continue to do so. Consider the energy consumption of your old unit versus a new one and the potential savings over its lifetime. If your old system has a 10 SEER, a brand-new, full system with a 15 SEER will have you 47%. Cool!

**SEER - Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio, a rating that measures the cooling efficiency of an air conditioner or heat pump. The higher the number, the more efficient the unit.*

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.

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

by Jessica Jarvis

Spring is beginning to reveal its beautiful signs as brown grass slowly turns green and buds burgeon from our trees and vines. Just as we enjoy the new color that comes with spring, I am reminded how the character of our neighborhood is also best shared in color. I enjoy receiving my hand-delivered *Gazette* each month as much as anyone but the coming of this new season reminds me that you may also enjoy the color version of the *Gazette* which is produced and posted each month online at www.gardenoaks.org/involvement/gazette.html. Online

versions not only allow you to view photos and ads in full color but give you an early peek at the news of Garden Oaks.

Each month once the print version has gone to press and the color version has been produced and posted, I send out notification to neighbors on my email list of its availability. If you'd like to be a part of this distribution please email me at gazette@gardenoaks.org.

Timely information about events can also be found on the Garden Oaks Yahoo group which can be found at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Houston_GO.

Whatever you enjoy most, I encourage you to share your photos, stories and submissions with your neighbors via the *Gazette*. We're richer as a community when we know more about our neighbors and our neighborhood.

Happy spring to you all!

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



A pleasant spring discovery. A nest with three perfect eggs hidden in the jessamine vine on the back porch of the Jarvis home. This editor wonders who is more doting and expectant, mama robin or my husband Eric.

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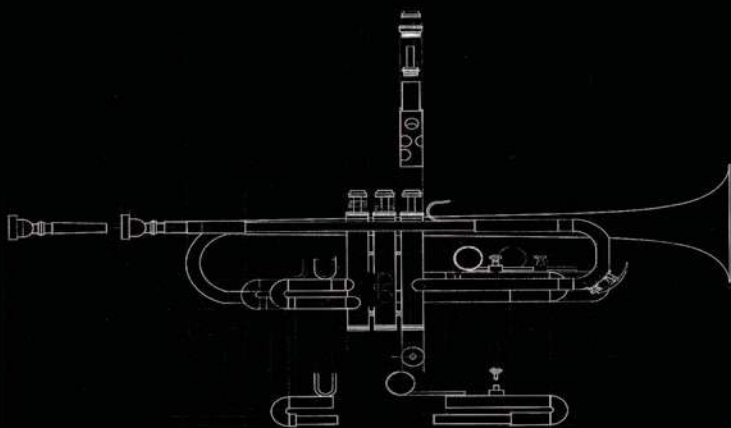
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PUBLIC MONTESSORI

by Lindsey Pollock, GOES Principal

The transformation of Garden Oaks Elementary is underway as we move to become an all-Montessori campus with an emphasis on Environmental Sciences. This move is possible thanks to the vision of a forward-thinking superintendent and school board who pursued a federal magnet school program assistance grant.

Starting with two early childhood classes in 1994, the GOES Montessori program has expanded to a total of 10 classrooms and offers four early childhood, four lower elementary and two upper elementary.

With the Montessori program now comprising almost a third of the campus and growing in demand, the change to an all-campus Montessori

program has met resistance. Why in the world would anyone be opposed to educational practices at a time when widespread calls for innovation and transformation in the public school setting are heard nationwide?

For teachers and parents who are presented with the possibility of moving to a Montessori school, the change means letting go of familiar and traditional means of education. Sorted by developmental stages, groupings of students are encouraged to learn to learn. Information that was once disseminated by one instructor is now presented by a fellowship of peers. Once an idea is presented, students work with Montessori materials at their own pace. Most of the materials are self-correcting, allowing students to realize and fix their own mistakes, as opposed

to seeing the outcome reflected in a final grade. Students who fall behind are mentored by other students, while students who are ahead may continue to explore independent challenges. Instead of listening to lectures, student work in the same societal structure that they will face as adults.

A common misperception perpetuates the idea that Montessori is a free-for-all method of education in which children do their own thing and spend the day playing. While students are free to choose individual work, with this freedom comes responsibility. Most often these conditions are met within peer groups. Students will strive harder to show individual progress, rather than trying to live up to directives set by an adult.

Many parents believe that



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Montessori is limited to preschool settings when, in fact, Garden Oaks has multi-age classrooms through sixth grade. A Montessori classroom is a place of great activity and discovery that may be misinterpreted by a casual visitor who is not familiar with a Montessori setting. Parents and teachers are accustomed to seeing children seated at desks working on paper and pencil tasks and may be disconcerted by children moving freely about the room. Many studies have proved that this kind of activity is far healthier for children. Numeric grades are replaced by intensive observation and accounting of each individual's progress.

Aligning Montessori lessons with the state or district objectives and curricula is a challenge, but has proven successful in meeting

individual mandates for diverse states. Although curriculum alignments are helpful, we encourage each child to work at a level that ensures mastery. The transition to an all-campus Montessori is planned as a gradual transition to minimize disruption to students, teachers and parents. As such, this transition allows the opportunity to focus on sharing information with the community in ways that are sensitive and affirming to everyone involved in the process.

Strategies to facilitate the transition include honoring the work of colleagues in the traditional program, while offering opportunities for teachers to attend Montessori training and receive new credentials. With traditional classrooms still operating on campus during the transition,

teachers in this program have time to consider and plan for their own transition to Montessori guide. The faculty at Garden Oaks has been hosting meetings to help parents understand the Montessori philosophy and classroom environment. We continually will provide open communication to address all concerns and needs of families. Together, we are working to create a public education environment that will provide education for children. In the words of Maria Montessori "One of the most urgent endeavors to be undertaken on behalf of the reconstruction of society is the reconstruction of education. It must be brought about by giving children the environment that is adapted to their nature."

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 Classic Breakfast Platter \$5.75
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 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

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 Chicken Salad \$6.25
 Chicken Salad, Lettuce and Tomato, served on Toasted Ciabatta, Try it with Fruit or Nuts
 Turkey, Swiss and Avocado \$7.75
 Turkey, Swiss Cheese, Avocado, Romaine Lettuce and Tomatoes served on a Croissant
 Club \$8.50
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Burgers - Served With Your Choice of Fries, Chips or Sweet Potato Fries and a Pickle Spear

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 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
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IS YOUR DOG ITCHY?

by Dr. Jessica Killingsworth Parkerson

Texas veterinarians have the honor and privilege to attend to some of our country's itchiest pets, and this winter has given us little reprieve. Although the reasons for itchy skin, over-grooming, ear infections and hot spots can be wide and varied, you can tackle pesky fleas very well on your own. Let's review some of the reasons fleas might be difficult to control in your environment.

"But I put my dog on (insert product name here) when I see fleas and I don't think it works anymore." If a dog is getting a treatment only when adult fleas are seen, those adults have left eggs, larvae and pupating stages all over your home and yard. Those show up for another three to six months. Under the most ideal conditions, a flea egg will become an adult in about two weeks. But in the dry and cold winter, the pupating stage will camp out until the time is right. As soon as the air is slightly warm and humid, and carbon dioxide and vibrations occur in the vicinity of those pupae, out they will burst looking for

some blood meal. This process can happen year round inside our homes.

"I am a clean person, and my pets do not have fleas!"

Fleas lay microscopic eggs that fall off our animals and develop all over our homes and yards, in spite of how clean we are. Still, a life of defense against the life cycle is to vacuum and wash bedding and things our pets play and sleep on, as well as rake up debris and trim grass in the yards to reduce the survivability of those eggs, larvae and pupating stages.

"Well, Fido has bad allergies to fleas, but Fifi and Fluffy don't need anything because their skin is always fine." or "But I don't see fleas on my cat!"

Cats often will groom the fleas off of their bodies before human eyes detect the little rascals. If a cat or dog in the house is without flea control while one dog has a flea problem and is receiving flea control, the life cycle will perpetuate through the untreated animals, while the allergic dog or cat will never have an opportunity to recover.

Although we are blessed with a variety of effective flea control products, flea infestation and flea allergy are still the most common underlying causes of itching in dogs and cats. It is important to treat cats, use reliable flea control as the label directs all year round and have every animal in the home on a flea control plan to be as flea-free as our weather will allow. Consider these possible reasons for flea control failures, and you will see more comfortable pets this spring and summer.

Dr. Jessica Killingsworth Parkerson is one of the veterinarians at Oak Forest Veterinary Clinic located at 2120 West 34th Street. For more information, contact 713.682-6351 or visit www.oakforestvetclinic.com.

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CRITTER CORNER

by Casey and Dorothy Dan Farris

Critter Corner

By Casey and Dorothy Dan Farris

Dorothy and I are huge fans of the Krewe of Barkus and Meoux Mardi Gras parade in Galveston. This year the parade will be Sunday, March 6, 2011, on the seawall in Galveston. This is one of the best parades of the Mardi Gras season and a wonderful event for the whole family, including Fido.

This month we outline all the specifics about being in the parade or just being a spectator. Our Pets of the Month are long-time paraders. Marching is unbelievably fun and rejuvenating and dogs love it, too. So grab your umbrella and your pets and march on!

Pet of the Month: Our highlighted pets are you guessed it – seasoned

paraders. The Gregory family in Section I is originally from New Orleans. Elinor and Philip have shared their love of the Saints, parades and beads with the animals, Zulu (black Doberman), Gus (blue/tan Doberman), Pitamakin (black cat) and Frank (fish). Zulu and Gus are nine years old and littermates but Gus came as a puppy and Zulu came at five years old after he lost his family home during Katrina. The boys like to wear beads, socialize and parade around the neighborhood. They also love to wrestle and have their Kongs filled with peanut butter. Pitamakin, named for a trail at Glacier National Park, is 15 years old and is the boss keeping the boys on the right path. Frank is on the float, too. He says “Who Dat?” and “Throw Me Something, Mister.” Sunamagun dey havin fun at the Gregory’s!

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Barkus and Meoux Parade

Presented by Galveston Island Humane Society (GIHS) and set for Sunday, March 6 at 1 p.m. The theme this year is "A Wonderful World of Paws... There's No Place Like a Home." This popular Mardi Gras event will kick off from 27th and Seawall Blvd. and continue west to 46th and Seawall Blvd. before disbanding in the Academy Sports parking lot. Parade marshalls include Dorothy and Toto who will lead pets and their humans down the parade route.

This parade is sponsored by and benefits the Galveston Island Humane Society and proceeds from the parade will be designated to the organization's many spay/neuter programs implemented to decrease the number of unwanted pets on the island.

Advance registration is \$20 per pet with the deadline for advance

reservation by close of business on Wed., March 2. The first 300 entries will receive a T-shirt. On parade day, registration is \$30 per pet. Each pet owner receives a wrist band as proof of entry and a surprise gift.

Proof of current rabies vaccinations is required for each entry and all pets walking must be on a leash no longer than six feet. No retractable leashes are allowed.

Pets and pet owners are encouraged to dress in Mardi Gras costume. A costume contest and judging will take place before the parade. Winners will be announced and recognized at the end of the parade.

Beads are not provided. Parade participants who want to throw beads need to bring their own. This is a long parade (20 blocks), and owners are encouraged to stop if their animal becomes distressed or overheated.

Check in and on-site registration begins at 11 a.m. in the lot at 26th and Seawall Blvd. To request a registration form or for more information about the parade, contact GIHS at 409.740.1919 or register online at www.galvestonhumane.org.

Spectators should park as close as you can to the Seawall on one of the numbered streets that intersect the Seawall between 26th and 46th. Bring your lawn chair and make a camp on either side of Seawall Blvd. or settle in at one of the restaurants along the parade route.

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.

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MARCH 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Civic Club mtg 7:00pm, GOES	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 MNO 4129 Apollo, Jenny Odinet booksignin 7pm 	9	10 Garden Club mtg 7pm	11	12
13	14	15	16 GOMO mtg 7pm	17 St Patrick's Day	18	19
20	21	22 	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

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