The 2012 Garden Oaks Home and Garden Tour will once again showcase the hidden treasures and eclectic character that make our neighborhood such a sought after location. Come stroll through our featured homes and gardens and be inspired.

Homes:

224 W. 34th – A newly completed renovation of an original footprint, this home has surprising interior features, modern touches and a tremendous focus on details and finishes. The exterior’s mitered corners, custom steel work and outdoor spaces as well as vaulted interior ceilings and a large working kitchen reflect the contemporary yet comfortable lifestyle that the owners desired. High windows provide natural light for Asian, Indian and African carvings as well as humorous antique store finds.

811 W. 41st – This newly renovated 1940’s era home features an open plan family room, beautifully expanded kitchen and garage turned outdoor living space. Vivid wall finishes and colors, an inviting backyard casita and stunning custom built doors complete this urban oasis.

424 W. 32nd – A lush succulent and moss rock garden welcomes visitors to this custom new construction. The house features a stunning entry, one-of-a-kind great room, well-appointed gourmet kitchen and upscale game-room. Vintage signs and toys, dramatic furnishings, unique lighting, old west artwork and Texas touches complement the lodge/ranch house style of the home.

811 W. 42nd – Newly renovated, the cozy warmth of the living area is made for entertaining. A lovely, appealing sunroom offers soothing views of a backyard filled with pathways, covered porches and cool shade. Several seating areas throughout the home showcase the three fireplaces in addition to exquisite custom stained glass windows.

continued on page 6
CITIZENS’ PATROL PROGRAM by Carl Waters, Jr.

The various message boards in and around the Garden Oaks community were a buzz with suspicious vehicle reports in late February and into March with some residents following suspicious vehicle to get license plates for the police and their neighbors. I applaud the effort, but ask everyone to use common sense and be safe in these endeavors. You don’t know the person you are following. You don’t know if he has a firearm and is prepared to use it on you because to him you are suspicious for following him. Get the authorities what you have seen it several times, ladder caught your attention (driving slowly, pickup truck. Tell the authorities what two door, four door, SUV, minivan, etc.). If you can SAFELY get on top and no business markings on the vehicle, etc.). If you have had a quick review of the HPD website, and it appears crime may be slowing down in the neighborhood. Through the 14th of March only one theft was listed on the HPD website. Here’s hoping for a quiet spring.

February Crime Statistics: 10
Burglary: 6
400 block of W. 33rd St. on Thursday, February 9 at 9:15 a.m. (vacant residence).
1000 block of W. 41st St. on Friday, February 10 at 3:00 p.m. (residence).
200 block of W. 31st St. on Monday, February 13 at 12:10 p.m. (residence).
200 block of W. 31st St. on Monday, February 13 at 12:15 p.m. (residence).
200 block of W. 31st St. on Monday, February 13 at 12:15 p.m. (residence).
900 block of W. 41st St. on Thursday, February 16 at 11:10 a.m. (residence).
Theft: 3
900 block of W. 42nd ST on Monday, February 20 at 11:00 p.m. (driveway).
900 block of Sue Barnett Dr. on Wednesday, February 22 at 2:45 p.m. (street).
400 block of W. 30th St. on Friday, February 24 at 5:30 a.m. (residence).
Auto Theft: 1
2900 block of N. Shepherd DR on Friday, February 24th at 6:00 p.m. (street).

Inquiries about joining the Citizens Patrol Program or about other community safety issues can be directed to me via the COP email account at GOCDFP791@AOL.com or by phone at 713-864-1992.

Garden Oaks Gazette
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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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Out and About
Tony and Debbie Padon enjoyed a wonderful weekend in Charleston, SC seeing the sights and eating the fabulous crab cakes and dining at McCrady’s Restaurant where George Washington once ate.
Trent, Megan, and Kylie Salch had a great spring break visiting family in both Galveston and at the family ranch.
Bill Holden and Scott Easterly enjoyed a road trip to the Florida coast.

Condolences and Special Thoughts
To Brian O’Leary on the loss of his mother.

SAVE THE DATE
3rd Annual Garden Oaks Old Fashioned Picnic Sunday May 20, 2012
To highlight an event, celebration, or other tidbit, contact Terry Jeanes at 713-812-9154 or terryl@terryjeanes.com.

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.

April Birthdays
Kylie Salch — 7
Keith Kostelecky — 9
Melissa Neiser — 10
Lily Bowman — 18
Leslie Waters — 21
Diane Morish — 22
Robert Deveau — 23
Nicolas J. Marruffo — 26

Happy Anniversary
Tina Sabuco & Shelly Arnold — 6
Melissa and Trey Kuchar — 16

Fashioned Picnic Sunday May 20, 2012
To highlight an event, celebration, or other tidbit, contact Terry Jeanes at 713-812-9154 or terryl@terryjeanes.com.
GO CIVIC CLUB MEETING MINUTES
by Secretary Heather Leverett

Garden Oaks Elementary School March 6, 2012

Welcome: Vice President Vic Seghers called the meeting to order at 7:14 p.m. A motion was made and carried to accept the February minutes as published in the Gazette.

President’s Announcements:

GO 2012 Home Tour Update: Publicity is in full swing. Sue Schmidt’s article ran in The Heights Pages. The GOHT website www.gardenoaks.org. Property owners in the GOHT area please accept the February minutes as published in the Gazette.

Sections 1, 2, 3 and 5 are all members of the Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization.

Standing Committee Reports:
GO Citizens Patrol: Carl Waters reported ten crimes in February including six burglaries, three thefts, and one auto theft. There were eight crimes in January for a total of eighteen in the first two months of the year. The same timeframe in 2011 had three crimes. We need more eyes on the streets and more communication. If it does not look right, call the Constable. If you plan to be away, please tell your trusted neighbors and use the watch tower. Know your lawn service. Do not use strangers to do any work. Be vigilant about soliciters. We have had some additional volunteers to help with the Patrol but we need more. We have 1500 homes and need more than 12 volunteers to help patrol our streets.

Constable Program: No update.

Memberships: No update.

Beautification: Kimberly Horowitz reported that the green spaces have been cleaned up in the area near Sonic. Next projects include mulching and weeding before the Home Tour. Volunteers are needed to help pick up trash before the Home Tour.

Gazette: No update.

GardenOaks.org Website: Joe Muscara reported that the website has been updated with Home Tour information.

GODAT Update: Heather Leverett reported that GODAT sent the first official security update to 576 email addresses. Some email addresses bounced or were caught in Spam filters. We will work on a way to make the communication more real-time. Membership and Constable updates are current through February. Please send your email address, home address, and name to secretary@gardenoaks.org if you want to be included on the email distribution.

Treasurer’s Update: Phil Ramirez reported that the Go fund has been operating with a surplus for the last two months. It is typical cash flow for this time of year.

The Home Tour has brought in about $12,000 in sponsorships and is already in the black.

GOMO Update: No update.

Garden Club: Chris Lindsay, Vice President of the Garden Club, announced a clean-up and planting effort on Sunday from 9 a.m. to 12p.m. at the Friendship Garden. Contributions to the Garden Club are needed so more “color” can be planted in the area.

Guest Speaker: US 290 Construction Update. Mike Zientek, Senior Public Involvement Representative from the US 290 Program, gave a presentation on the project. Started in summer of 2011, the K phase of the project is due to be completed by January of 2015. The presentation is available on the website www.my290.com. The hotline is 1-866-958-7290. Neighbors expressed concerns about lack of lighting, access lanes for emergency vehicles, and narrow lanes.

Vice President Vic Seghers adjourned the meeting at 8:08 p.m.
GARDEN OAKS SISTERHOOD REUNION

Spring is here and it's time for a Garden Oaks Sisterhood Reunion. This fun group met regularly for three years, but has been on hiatus for a while. Let's reunite to make new friends and share a glass of wine. It's a great way to catch up on the latest news around the neighborhood. All Garden Oaks women -- long-time residents and new arrivals -- are welcome to attend.

Tina Beddow has offered to host the Sisterhood Reunion on Wednesday, April 18 from 7:30pm to 9:30pm at 811 W. 42nd Street. Her newly renovated home is on the GO Home Tour, so come for a sneak peek at Garden Oaks' unique architecture.

For more information, contact Dea Larson at dealarson@aol.com or 713-699-3634.

2012 HOME TOUR SPONSORS

We would like to thank the many generous Sponsors for the upcoming Home & Garden Tour! Due to their willingness to contribute to our neighborhood, we have raised more sponsorship funds than ever before! At the time this Gazette went to press, we have a total of $20,500 in sponsorships, which is fantastic and will benefit our neighborhood tremendously.

Many of the sponsors listed below have contributed repeatedly throughout the years, and we are also pleased to recognize our numerous first-time sponsors as well. We can all thank these generous companies by patronizing their businesses and using their services in the future.

Corporate ($2500)

Platinum ($1000)
Facundo Home Builders Florascape
GOMO (Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization)
Heritage Oaks School RAM Industries
SCM Construction

Gold ($500)
Blake Woods Design Campos Roofing
Deanna Zugheri, Keller Williams-Metropolitan
Ferguson Bath Kitchen & Lighting
IndyQuest Realtors – Creston & Holly Inderrieden
Molly’s Mutt House OD’s Printing
Perfection Supply
Sue Schmidt, Keller Williams-Metropolitan
Stan-Co Home Improvement
Sherwood Forest Faire
Tony’s Mexican Restaurant

Silver ($250)
Ace Tree Specialist
Adolf Hoepfl & Son Garage
Balisnkas Imports
Ergos Technology
Green Thumb Stone & Landscaping
Design
Jack Johnson Upholstery
Jennifer Klein Physical Therapy & Pilates
McIntyre & Robinowitz, Architects
Neumann Landscape Designs
Pat Walker, Better Homes & Gardens/Anderson Properties
Robyn R. Harlin, Attorney
Pelton Law Offices
Terry Jeane, Re/Max Metro
Tyler Flood, Attorney

2012 HOMES AND GARDENS
Continued from page 1

1071 W. 41st – This original 2 bedroom/1 bath bungalow was creatively expanded to provide functional and well-designed space for a young family. A new master suite, family room, kitchen, study and entry along with creative use of windows make this room, kitchen, study and entry along with creative use of windows make this a house a study in maximizing space and light.

802 W. 42nd St - This Garden Oaks home was dramatically transformed with an eye-catching new roof design and added living space. A soaring ceiling, concrete floors and plenty of natural light enhanced by Moroccan accents the home and front yard, but tended beds were planted to provide a habitat for birds, butterflies and bees and specially selected to provide color year round. Want to learn about beekeeping as a hobby? The owner will gladly share his knowledge.

1325 Sue Barnett – The explosion of color in this whimsical garden was designed to showcase the beautiful creation of our young residents who will eagerly show you their work.

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GEARING UP FOR THE HOME TOUR AUCTIONS
by Missy Alwais

The 2012 Garden Oaks Home Tour Auction Committee is working hard to ensure that this year’s auction is full of exciting and unique items. While the auctions are always great fun, they are also integral to the success of the home tour. During the home tour preview party, we will have both a silent and, the ever fun star of the show, the preview party, we will have both a silent and live auction.

While the auctions are always great fun, ensure that this year’s auction is full of Auctioneer Extraordinaire!

The Live auction will be held only during the Preview Party and near the end of the evening at the Preview Party. Tina Sabuco is in the process of starting a neighborhood support group for those with loved ones diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease or dementia. Tina provided care for her mom, Evie Sabuco, during Evie’s journey through the various stages of Alzheimer’s. During that time, both Evie and Tina were touched by innumerable individuals from Michigan to Texas who helped make their road a little easier. Tina sees that starting this support group is a way to give back.

While shepherding her mom’s care for over five years, Tina attended seminars, read books, learned of a number of Houston resources and had many experiences that she feels could be useful to others in a similar situation. Tina envisions that this neighborhood group “would be a place for talking and sharing and could create a safe space for people to discuss their situations, and not be judged.” In addition, Tina has amassed a number of resource books that she is willing to share.

Tina and her mom participated in many of the monthly themed “gatherings” that are provided by the various churches and synagogues affiliated with Interfaith CarePartners. These free 3-4 hour gatherings provide activities such as bingo or other games, arts and crafts, exercise periods, entertainment of all types, and lunch. The gatherings can be used as respite time for caregivers or for bonding time between loved ones. Tina chose to use the gatherings as “special times” to spend with her mom. Tina now is a monthly contributor herself to several of the gatherings in which she and her mom participated.

Tina, the founder of Arts Alive!, loves any reason to celebrate or wear costumes. She used her special talents to create many fun times for her mom and helped to make an adventure out of this chapter in Evie’s life and is willing to become a neighborhood resource herself.

If you’re interested in participating or learning more, please contact Tina at goddesssabuco@directemail.com or call her at 713-692-6778.
The Corkscrew: a useful key to unlock the storehouse of wit, the treasury of laughter, and the nature of the crust that just sets off the tastes of all the toppings perfectly. And speaking of toppings, the Arugula and Cranberry was definitely the first choice of the group. YUM! The Margarita was a close second. In fact, these two were such crowd pleasers we decided to order more just to make sure before we declared a winner. The Corkscrew was just the place to relax, enjoy good conversation and the folly of friendship after the hectic holiday season. With the addition of Tuesday Steak Nights and Thursday Fish Taco Nights, The Corkscrew will definitely be the place to wind down and chill on the patio. Owners Andrew and Doyle Adams are sure to make everyone feel welcome. Visit www.houstoncorkscrew.com and head over to The Corkscrew now that they are just around the corner!
Now that Spring Cleaning is well under way, volunteers are needed to make the weekend of the Home Tour festivities happen. There are so many ways to participate in the Home Tour. For one, volunteers are needed for the shuttle buses. It is our volunteers and their stories that breathe life into the history of our community. Also, volunteers are still needed for the showcased homes, as well as for set-up, when the homes are prepped for the big event. We are very lucky that Brenda de Alba has graciously stepped up to organize this year’s volunteer efforts. If you want to volunteer, email Brenda at brenda.dealba@svsconnribli.com or call (713) 694-5934. Volunteerering for the Home Tour is a wonderful way to meet people in the neighborhood and feel a part of the community.

Given the state of our economy over the past few years, we are very appreciative of our many sponsors who support the Garden Oaks 2012 Home and Garden Tour. Most of our sponsors are small business owners who decide carefully where their advertising dollars must be spent. Most of these individuals are residents giving back to our community. Many of us know them on a first-name basis. Without their support we could not accomplish the first-class efforts put forth by our civic association into beautification, security, communications and other neighborhood activities. Please support these business owners by taking advantage of their many talents and services. A list of sponsors can be found on page 7 of this edition of the Gazette and online at www.gardenoaks.org/sponsors.

Let’s say a special thanks to all of those individuals who generously donate and make Garden Oaks the great neighborhood it is. With their support we have been able to match sponsorships of 2012 levels which is a remarkable feat in itself. Thanks to Susan Kostelecky for once again1 bringing this vital part of any fundraising event!

The weekend of activities for the Home Tour will kick off with a Preview Party on Saturday, April 21st, in honor of this year’s sponsors and home and garden owners. The party will start with a self-guided preview of the homes from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. A dinner and silent/live auction will follow at The Bell Tower on 34th, 901 W. 34th from 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. The Foundry (wine room) and water wall areas will once again be the location for the 2012 party. Tickets are $1,250 for a reserved table for 10, and individual tickets are $100. An order form for tickets is found as an insert in this edition of the Gazette and online at www.gardenoaks.org/previewparty. Tickets are limited to the first 200. If you are new to the area, don’t be shy…come join the fun and meet your new neighbors for a fantastic celebration of Footprints and Blueprints in our neighborhood. We would love to see you there!

The Silent/Live Auction items will be set up for viewing/bidding and we expect “spirited” bidding to take place! A delicious buffet will be served from 8:15 until 9:30 p.m. followed by a fabulous Live Auction headed by Tina Sabuco, our favorite Garden Oaks Auctioneer. Missy Alwais and the auction committee members have also done an outstanding job in coming up with unique and interesting items and experiences for the Silent and Live auctions: there is a relaxing stay on the Frio River up for grabs, along with a fabulous wine dinner for 8 at the Bell Tower, one of a kind art by local artist Janet Cones, and so much more.

On Sunday, April 22, Garden Oaks residents will once again roll out the red carpet to showcase one of Houston’s best kept secrets! Our winding streets, nine beautiful parks, and fabulous gardens will welcome visitors from all over Houston. The Command Center at Garden Oaks Shopping Center at 9390 N. Shepherd will once again be the starting point for the 2012 Home and Garden Tour. Pre-sale tickets are now available online at www.gardenoaks.org/presaletickets, as well as numerous locations throughout Garden Oaks and The Heights. Pre-sale tickets are available for $17 until Friday, April 20 and must be brought to the Command Center the day of the tour to exchange for a Day of Tour ticket. Day of Tour tickets available at the Command Center are $20. The free shuttle bus service will depart from the Command Center and provide a leisurely and entertaining journey through Garden Oaks to each of our wonderful home and garden stops. Ample parking is available at the Garden Oaks Shopping Center. Riding the shuttles to the various locations will help alleviate traffic congestion and keep the shuttle buses running smoothly. It also provides yet another great way to meet neighbors and learn interesting facts about our community.

All in all, the Home Tour weekend is always a whirlwind of activities and celebrations that helps show Houston just what Garden Oaks is so special. I want to encourage all of you to participate by attending the Preview Party and the Home Tour. Call friends and family with a reminder to visit the Home Tour. Become a fan through Facebook (http://tinyurl.com/GOHomeTour2012) and spread the word! Come join the fun! It benefits each and every one of us in so many ways to support the Garden Oaks 2012 Home and Garden Tour, Blueprints and Footprints!
AIR CONDITIONING TIPS FOR THE SPRING
by Mitch Weigand

Tip No. 23: Conquering Springtime Allergies

Normally, my A/C service truck is a nice silver metallic. But recently you wouldn’t know that because it’s been covered in multiple coats of yellow tree pollen.

With the mild winter temperatures and record rainfall this Spring, it’s predicted to be a record year for all sorts of pollen and other allergy-provoking particulates.

Here are some tips to help nip those springtime allergies in the bud.

Reduce your exposure to things that trigger allergic responses

• Stay indoors on windy days. The best time to go outside is after a good rain because it clears the air of pollen.
• If possible, delegate lawn mowing, weed pulling and other gardening chores that stir up allergens. If this is not possible, wear a dust mask when doing outdoor chores.
• Shower more frequently to remove pollen from your skin and hair.
• Check your local TV or radio station, newspaper or Internet for current pollen levels and future pollen forecasts.
• Avoid outdoor activity in the early morning when pollen counts are at their highest and close doors and windows at night.
• Be sure to use the air conditioning in both your house and car.
• Keep indoor air clean in your house by using high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filters and replace them every month. Air Wise has a nice filter you can get from us to help with all airborne allergens.
• Clean floors frequently with a vacuum cleaner that has a HEPA filter.

Free A/C filter for Garden Oaks residents

Want to learn which is the best air filter for your system and get one installed for FREE? My company, Air Wise, will install a pleated air filter at no charge during a Spring A/C check. This offer is exclusive to Garden Oaks residents only and lasts until May 31, 2012. One free air filter per household please. Just let us know what size filter you will need when you schedule an appointment.

Mitch is the owner of Air Wise™ and a member of the Garden Oaks Civic Club. You can email Mitch with any A/C questions at mitch@airwisehouston.com or write to 1590 Sue Barnett Drive, Houston, TX 77018. All of his previous columns from the Garden Oaks Gazette can be found at www.airwisehouston.com.

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Retirement May Be Far Off, But the April 17 Deadline for IRA Contributions Isn’t.

You have only so many years to prepare for retirement. That’s why contributing to your Individual Retirement Account (IRA) is so important. Fortunately, you still have time to maximize your 2011 IRA contribution before the April 17 deadline.

By contributing now, your retirement savings can have more opportunity to grow. Even if you already have an IRA elsewhere, it’s easy to transfer it to an Edward Jones IRA, call or visit today.

By contributing now, your retirement savings can have more opportunity to grow. Even if you already have an IRA elsewhere, it’s easy to transfer it to an Edward Jones IRA, call or visit today.

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Upcoming Events
Mom's Night Out — April 5
The Zugheri Home
Join us for a fun ladies night out and Egg Stuffed Party at Deanna Zugheri’s Home – 1054 Gardenia. Deanna will have pizza, wine, and eggs ready to stuff. See you there 7:30pm on April 4th.

Eggstravaganza — April 7
3pm – 5pm – Spark Park
Don’t forget your basket! Egg hunt will begin at 3:30pm for kids of all ages. Light snacks will be provided and you might see a furry friend hopping by.

Friday Fun Day – April 20
Houston Arboretum
Come join us for a Tyke Hike at the Houston Arboretum and Nature Center on April 20th at 10am! We will be reading a book about animal tracks before exploring the trails and ponds on a nature hike! We will end up at the playground and have plenty of time to play before we go home! The class is geared towards toddlers but all ages are welcome! Strollers are recommended! The hike is $2 per children ages 12 months and older. Please pay by April 13th! Money can be left in an envelope in my mailbox at 1050 Lamonte Ln.

Playgroups
GO Babies will have their next playgroup on April 9th from 3-5. Location and more information will be sent out on bigtent.
GO Buddies will also be scheduling a playgroup during April. Watch your emails for dates and times.

All-Ages Playgroup – Saturday April 14th 10am at the Garden Oaks Elementary Spark Park.
Potluck – April 28th
Save the Date & watch your emails for more information about our first potluck of the year!

Group Information
Cookbook
GO Cookbooks will be for sale during the Home and Garden Tour at all of the homes. If you can’t wait ’til the end of April for your book, order today at GardenOaksCooks.com.

Bouncy House – We are still collecting bouncy house money. It is a $30 donation. Payment by mail (check or cash); Kristin Jordan 4223 Apollo Street Payment By Paypal (credit/debit);
gardenoakskids.com
RAISING A RESILIENT CHILD
by Lindsey Pollock, Principal, Garden Oaks Elementary

Resilience. This characteristic is one that many experts point to as a key to success. How do we develop resilience in children? As I ponder this question, I am surrounded by examples of this trait. At the moment, I am attending the American Montessori Society Conference in San Francisco with a group of teachers and realize how different our world is due to resilience.

Muir Woods National Monument. John Muir along with a group of dedicated naturalists never gave up on the dream of saving the beloved forest near San Francisco. The groves of trees thousands of years old, were scheduled to be cut and milled into lumber yet Muir and his friends persevered without regard to their personal comfort or financial obligations. They were determined to make a difference in the world for generations to come in spite of overwhelming odds. As the battle continued to through the courts, they remained undeterred. Their resilience ended with President Theodore Roosevelt declaring the forest a national monument and preserving this treasure for us today. How do we encourage children to follow their dreams and to think beyond themselves? How do we ensure that future generations will understand the importance of preserving our earth and the treasures it holds?

Redwood trees. The tallest living things on earth. They are perfectly designed for the conditions of the California coastline. Their uniqueness includes the ability to filter the moisture from the foggy air and support the vast forest through a system of interconnecting roots that provides strength and stability to the stands of trees. How do we teach our children the importance of community and caring, of support for one another and the tremendous gifts that each member brings to our world?

Maria Montessori. The first female physician in Italy, she continued to promote non-traditional approaches to education throughout her life. Her contributions to a field dominated by men revereberate in an expanding educational arena around the world. While it would have been comforting and safe to give up her path, Montessori’s resilience kept her going through the challenges she faced. How do we teach children to keep trying when their ideas are unpopular, when their paths are unconventional and their personal comfort is compromised?

Nancy Rambusch... She is credited for sparking the revival in Montessori education in the United States in the early 1960’s. In spite of critics and set backs, she persevered and established the American Montessori Society to ensure that educational options to embrace the whole child were made available to educators in the United States. Her commitment to a philosophy centered on fulfilling each child’s potential in a peaceful classroom, her one voice has grown to thousands.

Albert Einstein. Many of the adults around him wrote him off as having minimal intellectual capacity. He didn’t speak until he was almost 4 years old and his attempts in traditional school were dismal. He was a dreamer, a theorist, a genius who did not fit the mold. How do we build these capacities in children? Can we measure them on a test?

In education today, the very characteristics that we value and that contribute to the overall well-being and sustainability of a peaceful world are not quantified on a test but are essential to our humanity. As I meet with other Montessori educators from across the country I am reminded of the tremendous gift and responsibility we have to develop the whole child for a world of hope and a promise of peace. Our children will need to be resilient to the pressures of our world to fulfill their potential. This is our charge.

AMERICAN LEGION UPCOMING EVENTS
The American Legion Post 560 is having their monthly fundraiser BBQ Saturday, April 7 from noon until the BBQ is gone. You can eat in or take out. We will be serving brisket, chicken, sausage, and ribs that are cooked using mesquite and served with potato salad and beans. The price per plate is $10.00. You can buy meat by the pound or ribs by the slab. Proceeds go to support veteran’s organizations, Boy’s State and various patriotic charities. Come in and join us to meet your veteran neighbors.

American Legion Post 560 will host their monthly steak night Friday, April 20. Entertainment will be provided by Larry and Company from 6 – 10p.m. Plan to eat one of our famous steak dinners and take a swing around the dance floor. The fare is a steak cooked to order by our steak chef, salad bar and baked potato until gone. Come and enjoy the food, dance and comradeship, all for $13.00. Steak night is an important part of revenue for supporting our favorite charities.

The American Legion Post 560 is located at 3720 Alba Road next to the F4 Phantom Jet of Vietnam fame...
GAR DEN OAK S

CRITTER CORNER
by Casey and Dorothy Dan Farris

Critters 101: Herding and Guarding

There are two types of dogs used on livestock farms: herding dogs and guardian dogs. Herding dogs are used to manage the flock (or herd). Guardian dogs are used to protect the flock from predators. Herding dogs need to show dominance, whereas the guardian dog needs to be more submissive in his behavior.

Livestock guardian dog breeds were probably among the first dogs to be domesticated. One of the most common breeds used in the U.S. is the Great Pyrenees of France. This is a very old breed, and has been used for millennia by the shepherds, and are considered an aristocratic relative of the St. Bernard and Newfoundland. Most livestock guardian dogs are large and imposing, weighing 75 to over 100 pounds. They are large enough to startle or intimidate predators.

Not just any breed of dog is used for herding. Common herding breeds include the Border Collie, Australian Shepherd, Australian Kelpie, New Zealand Huntaway, and Australian Cattle Dog. Other breeds with herding instinct include Corgis and Shetland Sheepdogs.

Dogs can work other animals in a variety of ways. Some breeds, such as the Australian Cattle Dog, typically nip at the heels of animals (for this reason they are called heelers) and the Cardigan Welsh Corgi and the Pembroke Welsh Corgi were historically used in a similar fashion. Other breeds, notably the Border Collie, get in front of the animals and use what is called strong eye to stare down the animals; they are known as headers. The headers or fetching dogs keep livestock in a group. They consistently go to the front or head of the animals to turn or stop the animal’s movement. The heelers or driving dogs keep pushing the animals forward. Typically, they stay behind the herd.

If you live with a livestock guardian dog you have probably noticed it guarding your family and home. Likewise, a herding dog will herd you and the kids if you don’t give it a job and enough exercise.

Pet of the Month: April’s Pets of the Month are Rosie (Welsh Corgi) and Effie (Great Pyrenees). They live in Section V with Peter and Kathleen Zama. Rosie is about 12 years old and was struggling with an extra 15 lbs and kennel cough when adopted from the Houston SPCA in 2002. Her previous owner had a number of cats. Rosie realized cat food was a great finale to the daily kibble and table scraps she received. Hence, the extra weight. Following a vet prescribed weight loss program, Rosie got down to her fighting weight of 20-25 lbs and has maintained her girlish figure since.

Effie is about 10 years old and was adopted from the Great Pyrenees Rescue of Texas in 2004. She apparently experienced a rough time with her previous owner and had to be carried to and from the car when first adopted. All 85 lbs. of her! With care and attention from Peter and Kathleen, as well as some help from Rosie, Effie is now a gentle giant at 110 lbs and is sometimes mistaken for a miniature polar bear by neighbors and passersby!

Rosie continues to believe she is a German Shepherd in a Corgi body. Effie on the other hand seems to understand she is a Great Pyrenees with nothing more to be said. No matter what the weather, Rosie and Effie can be seen on their daily strolls with Peter and Kathleen.

Dorothy Dan is owner/operator of Casey and Dorothy Dan Farris, LLC. Please forward your questions and pet news to Casey@GoDogUSA.com or call 713-688-6363.

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HOUSTON’S ANNUAL POND TOUR
Splash down to Houston’s annual pond tour on May 5 - 6 featuring a Garden Oaks location!

Sparkling waterfalls, splashing fish, colorful water lilies, frogs, dragonflies, and relaxing back yard vignettes welcome visitors to the Houston Pond Tour, Saturday and Sunday, May 5 - 6.

More than twenty ponds will be open to the public in this self-guided tour across the Houston metro area. The Garden Oaks neighborhood will be in the spotlight once more on Sunday, May 6 when Ed & Brenda de Alba’s pond (744 W. 43rd St.) will be a stop on this annual tour.

Featured is everything from patio-sized, pre-form ponds to water habitats that encompass the entire back yard. There are fat wobbly fantail goldfish and show-quality koi, bog gardens, water lilies, and lotus plants. It’s a pond tour, yes, but it’s equally an opportunity to see stunning gardens and landscaping.

All private residential settings, some ponds are professionally installed, and others are owner-built. Owners love to talk ponds, so we will be on hand to answer questions about construction, filters, finned friends, aquatic gardening, successes, failures, and what they would do differently.

Sponsored by the Houston Pond Society and the Lone Star Koi Club, this self-guided tour spans two days and is spread over the greater Houston area, with half the ponds open only on Saturday and half open only on Sunday (so be sure to take notice what days which ponds are open). Hours are from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. A $10 ticket is good for both days (what a deal!), and can be purchased in advance at Nelson Water Gardens in Katy or at any of the tour homes on the day of the tour. Go to www.houstonpondsociety.org or www.lonestarkoi.com for a list of the tour locations, and plan your route. Tickets include a brochure with a brief description of each pond, a map, and detailed driving directions to each home.

GAR DEN OAK S
The event will focus on can-do attitudes in modern day public education—celebrating the grass roots efforts and achievements of Wilson Montessori. Attendees will enjoy cocktails and delicious food, while learning more about recent events at Wilson and how they can support the realization and completion efforts of the Wilson Wonderground. Come and reconnect with old friends and meet new ones.

E-mail Hannah Jans.

hsh_126@yahoo.com
832-647-9506

If you are Alumni, type the word “Alumni” in the subject line. If you are not Alumni but are interested in being invited to the event, type “EVENT” in the subject line. Please give us: your mailing and e-mail address (we will not share this information). Alumni please give us the years you attended and let us know if you were a teacher or a student; if you have a maiden name, please list it as well.

VISIT us on Facebook: Woodrow Wilson Elementary Houston Texas Group Page

www.facebook.com/groups/204972969519047/

Information about the park for which the funds are needed: http://wilsonspark.org/p/WilsonWonderGroundSparkPark.pdf
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<td>20 GO Kids Friday Fun Day Houston Arboretum 10am</td>
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**APRIL 2012**

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