

GARDEN VILLAS

NEWS

Mission: To organize our residents for the purpose of preserving the standards of our single-family community and promoting the civic and social wellbeing of the residents.

Garden Villas Community Association, Inc.
A Deed-Restricted Community

P. O. Box 266282, Houston, Texas 77207-6282

www.gardenvillas.org

832-268-4822

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Why You Should Start a Prairie in Your Yard

Summer is just around the corner, and the fear of having your perfectly trimmed lawn turn as yellow as an abandoned wheat field under Texas' scorching heat is likely looming overhead. But with lawn maintenance contributing to groundwater pollution, adding to the infernal din of leaf blowers on our city streets, and perhaps offering its own perils—hundreds of thousands of Americans are injured by lawn mowers each year—isn't it time to start thinking about your lawn in a new way?

Gabriel Durham, a sustainability coordinator at the University of Houston, certainly thinks so. Durham believes that prairie grass is the key to maintaining a more cost-efficient yard while also contributing positively to our flood-prone environment. But before you picture all our high-end neighborhoods and suburbs looking like wild

grasslands, consider the benefits.

Typical carpet grasses such as St. Augustine and Bermuda are the most expensive crop in the nation, says Durham. "And they don't produce anything," he adds. "No food, no clothes, no fuel, no nothing, but we spend more money on them than on any plant collectively in the nation."

Prairie grass is more affordable. It only needs to be mowed once a year. It aids in soil's carbon sequestration, effectively pulling carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere and reducing climate change. It attracts birds and pollinators that are native to prairies. It's drought tolerant, and the deep root system also helps offset soil erosion and flooding by soaking up excess stormwater and bayou overflow, thus reducing the rate at which a flood hastens downstream and the time it takes the water to recede.

So, wait, why are we not all clamoring to turn our yards into pocket prairies already?

The City of Houston Department of Neighborhoods, for one thing, is a huge barrier due to restrictions stipulating how lawns should look. Grass cannot be taller than 18" without risking a trip to court. However, several City Departments are now getting on board with the prairie movement.

There's the long-held tradition of owning a perfectly kept lawn, which came from developer William Levitt, who worked alongside his father and brother to introduce the concept of affordable cookie-cutter homes with cookie-cutter lawns in America following World War II.

(Continued on page 2)



Why You Should Start a Prairie in Your Yard

(continued from page 1)

The invention of the lawn mower during the Industrial Revolution had already made tending a lawn less time-consuming, but the Levitts also emphasized the importance of homeowners keeping their lawns perpetually green—something that had primarily existed only among European elites—which meant more water use and more maintenance. Today, lawn maintenance is a billion-dollar industry, and that's not even including the grass itself.

How then, can we adopt more prairies into the Houston community?

Houston was originally part of some 6.5 million acres of coastal prairie along the Texas Coast. Plants that can help solve our flooding problems have always been here, serving as resilient green infrastructure. But fewer than 1 percent of our native tallgrass prairies remain today.

Today, Rice University, M.D. Anderson, and the University of Houston all have their own prairies. The Katy Prairie Conservancy offers education and outreach to increase awareness about the prairie conservancy in the local community. Even Lady Bird Johnson set a precedent of embracing native plants through her beautification of the highway system in the 1960s. “That’s why you’ll see bluebonnets and other native flowers up and down the state

highway,” says Durham.

But he also suggests that our local government could cultivate more pocket prairies in areas that are city-owned and in Public Works corridors. “The more they pop up,” he says, “the more seriously people will take them.”

Thankfully, there’s a way we can help, too. “In neighborhoods, the gaps between houses and also places with empty grass could be prairieland,” he says. “The initial cost might be high, but the maintenance fees will be lower.”

The [Katy Prairie Conservancy](#) offers seed collecting days (when you can help collect seeds and get some to plant in your back yard), and their grounds are open to volunteers every Tuesday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and Friday-Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. You can also purchase native grasses and plants—here [are a few](#) to look for— at [Houston Audubon](#) plant sales, the [Native American Seed](#) online, or learn more about plants that work best for your yard (and how to get started planting) at [wildflower.org](#).

*Tom Brents
(see photo on page 6)*



Dreams Really Do Come True at Mount Carmel Academy

Matthew Carreon is not only a top student but a top athlete. He always dreamed of playing college football, and his dreams came true.

He is shown signing his contract with Gustavus Adolphus College with a great scholarship and a spot on the football team.



Matthew had many offers with scholarships from other great schools: University of Texas, Texas A & M, Houston Baptist, University of Houston, LSU, Northeastern University, Sam Houston, Stephen F. Austin, and Texas Tech.

Pictured are his mother (Monica), his coach (Dave Davila), and his long-term coach (Lacey Wolf) proudly standing behind him.



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Crime Report

There were no reports of crime in Garden Villas over the last month from the two websites I follow (Spotcrime.com and the Nextdoor Garden Villas website).

But there were reports of crime, even murder, in surrounding neighborhoods, and theft in the Kroger parking lot on Telephone Road. Always be aware of what's going on around you and stay safe!

If you are the victim of a crime, always report it to the authorities. If you have crime information concerning Garden Villas, contact Peggy@gardenvillas.org so it will be included in the Garden Villas newsletter crime report.

Peggy Taylor

July 2019

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Friday, June 21st

The July newsletter will be mailed and also available on-line at Garden Villas' website. A few printed copies will be at Gateway Hardware Store.

Send newsletter articles to peggy@gardenvillas.org. Send pictures as an attachment with the emailed article.

If you would like to be added to the newsletter deadline reminder email, please email Peggy Taylor.

Senior Citizen Crime Prevention

Often our senior citizens are the most vulnerable to become victims. They are the ideal targets to one who wants to defraud someone or commit theft and victimize others. Please beware of the people around not only you, but the elders in your life.

There are home diversion techniques for perpetrators to come to a residence and ask for a drink of water, use the bathroom, or use a telephone to gain entry into your house. The person will divert the victim's attention while an accomplice searches for valuables.

Be aware of anyone claiming to represent companies, consumer organizations, or government agencies that offer to recover lost money from fraudulent telemarketers for a fee. As a twist to this same theme, cons sometimes pretend to be officials trying to "catch" a thief with your assistance. Never go along with these schemes.

Be aware of individuals offering to perform various home repair jobs such as your roof or lay down ceramic tiles for cheap. The suspect claims to have materials left over from other jobs. Once the job is completed, the cost of the work is more than the first quote and payment in the form of cash is demanded. Also, the suspects might demand money up front to buy materials for the job and leave without coming back.

- Emergency 9-1-1
- Police Non-Emergency 713-884-3131
- For General Information, Contact Your Local Police Station - Southeast (832) 394-1600 or Contact Public Affairs at 713-308-3200
- For more information, visit www.houstonpolice.org

Sr. HPD Officer Trenesia Harris

Helen Guillory Real Estate

713-643-4611
HGuillory1@aol.com



FREE Notary Service for GV Residents
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Promposals at Mount Carmel Academy

Promposals are a daily event at Mount Carmel Academy (MCA) during Prom Season. This is a joyful and memorable time for the students. Everyone at the school loves to see the new and creative ways to ask someone to prom.

The Chick Fil-A proposal was a big hit.

MCA, a 350-student, 9 through 12 grade, Houston ISD Charter School in Garden Villas, is now accepting applications for next year. For more information, please call 713-643-2008.



Garden Villas Community Center Activities

FREE ACTIVITIES

- Morning Fitness Classes: Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8:30 to 10:00 am
- Evening Fitness Classes: Monday and Thursdays from 6:30 to 7:30 pm
- After School Enrichment Program: Monday through Friday from 3:00 to 6:00 pm
- Tae Kwon Do Class: Wednesdays from 6:30 to 7:30 pm
- Meal Program for youth (18 years old and under) Monday through Friday, 3:00 to 6:00 pm
- Adult Soccer Fitness: Wednesday 7:00 to 8:00 pm

For more information, call:
 Garden Villas Community Center
 713-847-5168
 6720 S. Haywood, Houston, TX 77061



Mount Carmel's (MCA) Prom King and Queen

The King of MCA's Prom (Daniel Dobelman) and the Queen (Laura DeLaGarza) made a beautiful couple at the Prom. The Prom was held at Golfcrest Country Club in Pearland. All the students had dinner together and then danced the night away.



Scout Troop 16
meets each Monday
at 7:30 p.m.
Contact Mark Pacheco
at 713-206-4715
email: masterpt16@aol.com

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Garden Villas Radio Programming Schedule

Weekdays:

12am-12pm - Fun Oldies 24/7

6pm-9pm - Greatest Hits USA hosted by Chuck Taylor (Friday Evenings only)

Weekends:

Saturday

12am-6am - Classic Hits

6am-10am- That Thing Radio Show with Rich Appel (oldies)

10am-6pm- Classic Hits

6pm-9pm - Greatest Hits USA hosted by Chuck Taylor

9pm-12am - Classic Hits

Sunday

12am-4:30am - Classic Hits

4:30am - 5:30am Garden Villas Civic Association Meetings (as announced)

4:30am - 5:30am - Classic Hits (If no GVCA meeting)

5:30am-6am - License To Parent

6am - 9am - Sunday Morning Memories with Johnny Goyen

9am-9:30am - Garden Villas Baptist Church

9:30am-10am - Classic Hits (time also reserved for special programs of community interest)

10am-1pm - That Thing Radio Show with Rich Appel (oldies)

1pm-6pm - Classic Hits

6pm-12am - Classic Country Show

Request Line - 713-641-4022



INVITATION TO NEXT PIP MEETING

I hope you are enjoying your summer so far! I would like to extend an invitation to our next PIP meeting.

The PIP meeting will be held on Thursday, June 13, at 7:00 p.m. at the Stringfellow Command Police Station located at 8300 Mykawa.

We will have our Sergeant's Workshop where our supervisors are on hand to answer your questions and/or concerns. So please plan to join us, and we hope to see you there!!

Trenesia Harris, Sr. HPD Officer

Garden Villas Baptist Church

7403 Fauna St
713-643-5554

Pastor: Rev. Ricky Moore
Cell: 713-503-4690



Services Spoken in English and Spanish

Sunday Morning
Sunday School: 9:45 am
Morning Worship: 11:00 am

Sunday Evening
Adult and Youth Bible Study: 6:00 pm

Wednesday Evening
Adult Bible Study & Prayer: 7:00pm

Visit our web site or contact us by e-mail.

www.gvbchurch.org email gvbaptist@sbcglobal.net



ATTENTION GVCA MEMBERS

Garden Villas Community Association members are eligible to apply for membership at

CE FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Located at the corner of Kopman and Fauna

CE-Credit Union is a full service financial source offering an array of products and services

For information stop by or contact us at 713-645-4961 or www.cefedcu.org



"Neighborhood Credit Union"

GV residents must join the Association and have membership dues paid up to date.



Gateway Ace Hardware and Rental

Gateway Ace Hardware and Rental
6860 Telephone Road
Houston, TX 77061
713-643-0623

Location & Hours  



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US Postal Service

US Postal Service

At Gateway Ace Hardware and Rental, we have everything you need to get your package from packing supplies and boxes, to delivery with mail and shipping services, with you in a stop USPS place. We can make your holiday gift mailing easy!

About Us

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6860 Telephone Road
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Hours
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Saturday: 8:00am - 6:00pm
Sunday: 10:00am - 4:00pm
Phone:
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Sunday: 10:00am - 4:00pm

Contact Us
713-643-0623
Fax: 713-643-5104
Email Us



Garden Villas Community Association, Inc.
 P. O. Box 266282 77207-6282

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

www.gardenvillas.org



Contact Numbers

GVCA voicemail.....832-268-4822

BOARD MEMBERS:

- [Tom Brents](#), President.....713-645-2702
- [Bob Parker](#), Vice President.....713-643-3023
- [Peggy Taylor](#), Secretary.....713-454-1863
- [Stacey Merritt](#), Treasurer.....713-376-5677
- Cathy Rascoe, At Large Member.....
- [Sonia Pérez](#), Social Secretary.....713-641-3127
- Oscar Alvarado, At Large Member.....832.607.6409

Webmaster@gardenvillas.org.....713-539-4170

Newsletter Editor, [Peggy Taylor](#).....713-454-1863

Garden Club, [Beverly Burns](#).....

Garden Villas Park, 6720 S. Haywood.....713-847-5168

Council Member [Robert Gallegos](#), Dist. I...832-393-3011

3-1-1 Helpline (dial 3-1-1) or.....713-837-0311

SNAP (Spay/Neuter Assistance Program)...713-522-2337

Call 3-1-1 if you have a problem with stray or loose dogs

Parking enforcement (City of Houston).....713-837-0311

Mount Carmel Academy.....713-643-2008

HISD Charter Schools Office.....713-807-5181

Mayor Citizens' Assistance Office.....713-928-9585

Airport Noise Compliance Hotline.....281-233-3900

Garden Villas Elementary School.....713-845-7484

Garden Villas Radio Request Line
 713-641-4022

- Mon 7:30 pm Every Monday, Scout Troup 16 meeting (contact Mark Pacheco at 713-206-4715 email: masterpt16@aol.com)
- 7 Fri Recycling
- 13 Thu 7 pm PIP meeting, 8300 Mykawa police station (2nd Thursday each month)
- 14 Fri Okay to put out heavy trash (tree waste and junk waste in even-numbered months). Starting at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, you can put out heavy trash. There is a \$200 per day fine from the City for each day heavy trash is placed out earlier.
- 17 Mon Heavy trash pickup (tree waste and junk waste this month)
- 21 Fri Recycle