

The February Garden Club meeting was held in the beautiful home of Ellen Clare Caldwell. She was a most gracious hostess, and after a short chit chat, the meeting was called to order by Kathy Crouchet.

The first item on the agenda was a brief update on the front gate area progress. OCI and the HOA board will go back to court on February 24th, unless all items previously agreed upon and entered as exhibit 3 in court documents, have been finished and approved by the HOA prior to February 16th. It was reported that David Guidry is still planning on planting live Oaks, and providing planting areas for shrubs, flowers, etc. The Garden Club has been asked to step aside and allow David Guidry to finish planting, as he sees fit, to avoid conflict with our preferences, and David Guidry's agreed upon work. At this rate, we can assume we will be back in court. The small fountain, that will be placed between the trees in the median in front of the guard house, is also on hold until approval is given on all front entrance area work. Thanks to the efforts of Carl Rebouche and David Caldwell, we now have lights, and road paint, and are very close to having a working gate again. Thank them as you see them out and about. They have worked very hard, and get little appreciation.

The "Wow" wall plans have been approved by the Front Gate Committee, and were presented to both Carl Rebouche, and David Guidry. At this time, the project is at a standstill until we receive written permission from OCI to place it on the property where our existing information board is located. It is a beautiful concept that will make us all proud, so we won't give up hope, but must learn patience. Funds may also be an issue.

Sandy Miller discussed the plans for adding three flag poles to the area behind our old Lake Ramsey sign. Her committee has collected \$711.00 towards this project and plans are in progress. Sandy will fill in the details for all of us, as plans develop. Stay tuned.

The Planning Committee, has been very busy making plans for future events. Susie first thanked Nancy Arnold for the Mardi Gras container event, and told those of us that missed it, it was a lot of fun. No doubt!

Congratulations to Linda Rowe for being named Vice President of the St Tammany Master Gardeners! We are honored and blessed to have her in our club. You make us proud, Linda.

We will have an opportunity to tour the Craig McMillin pottery workshop in Folsom, on Saturday, February 21st. You may remember from last month, Susie telling us what gorgeous plates he has become famous for, and may have even seen them at The St Tammany Women's Pavillion, or for sale at Simply Southern. He will have some available for purchase if you desire. We will meet at 10:00am at the front gate, and will go somewhere local for lunch following the tour.

March possibilities include The Gomez Customer Appreciation Party, date to be determined. Friday, March 20th, we will again head to NOMA for the Art In Bloom Festival. Time will be announced at a later date, but mark your calendar now! Susie also advised that the neighborhood garage sale will be Saturday, March 21st.

April tentative plans include lots of options: a trip to The Bamboo gardens, Bantings Nursery; The Abita Earth Festival, A Nature Preserve walk to see the wild flowers, and a speaker on rain gardens.

May may include a trip to West Farm Nursery to see their exquisite daylilies.

Our Treasurer, Jane Griffiths, reports a balance of \$1015.53. Three hundred dollars of that balance have already been committed for the small fountain by the guard house. That leaves a working balance of \$715.53.

Birthdays this month include Sandy Stella and Nancy Hotard. Happy birthday to you both!

The next meeting is scheduled for March 2nd at the home of Susie Cochran. See you there!

Respectfully submitted, Kathy Hymel, Secretary