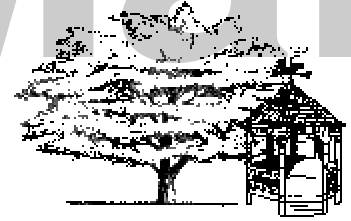


The Garden Oaks

Gazette

Mar



What a Glorious Day!

The excitement, the anticipation, the thrill of the new house. I remember the day that my realtor forced me, against my will, to come look "outside the loop". I was determined to stay inside the loop but what a glorious day when he picked me up from my Heights residence near Yale and 15th and drove me to Yale and 31st (big distance, ah?).

Well, the moment we turned into W. 31st I saw the beautiful majestic oaks, the tall and proud pine trees, and the green and well manicured lawns that seem to span for miles. In the middle of this beautiful forest there were small gingerbread houses of yester years. The attraction was immediate.

While my friends and family were buying houses in suburbia with all the latest amenities and stucco finishes, I was contemplating the romantic beauty, and embracing the peaceful serenity of old homes.

I moved to my Garden Oaks house the week of thanksgiving 1999. Neighbors were prompt to greet me and make me feel welcome -It was another Glorious Day. I don't have to tell you about living in an old house; the kitchens are small and the cabinetry non-existent. Dishwasher, what's that? Kitchen island, pantry - you must be kidding! Oh and we must not forget "closet space"... well in spite of all of those shortcomings, I love old houses.

Garden Oaks is the perfect neighbor-

hood with the perfect location; close to downtown, a skip and a hop to the Galleria and short distance to I-45 or 290, no need to ride the freeway when you have N. Shepherd that takes you right into Memorial Dr., River Oaks, and with a few twist and turns you can get to the Museum District and the Medical Center without ever getting on the freeway.

I love Garden Oaks.

A few years ago we underwent the revitalization of deed restrictions - GOMO- I really wasn't sure what to make of it; I hoped for a supervisory body of neighbors who would ensure that Garden Oaks would remain as I had come to know it -a Neverland in the middle of concreteland -but now I understand the limited scope of GOMO.

In the recent months we've been hearing about "Historical Designation" and once again I'm not sure what to think of it. HD has its good and bad points. At the end, I have come to conclude that the same people that have kept Garden Oaks an example of township and friendship will continue to ensure that the beauty of Garden Oaks continues whether we have a governing body that tells us what to do with our houses or not.

What do you think? Can we trust ourselves to preserve the beauty and charm of Garden Oaks or do we need a "big brother" to watch over us?

Jonathan Lanz

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Civic Club Meeting Tuesday March 1st



The next Civic Club meeting will be on March 1st at 7:00 p.m. in the Garden Oaks Elementary School cafeteria. Babysitting services are available at the meeting at a cost of \$1.00 per child. Hope to see you there!

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Letter From The Editor Sue Schmidt

Where did February go? It seems the month flew by. There were so many activities in our community. The Memorial Rose Garden is beautifully refreshed and groomed after a morning of work by the Beautification Committee and a terrific pancake breakfast and successful silent auction helped to support the Montessori Program at Garden Oaks Elementary School.

In February, Jonathan and I stepped in to deliver the Gazette to the block captains when Amanda Carlin was unable to do so. We both found we enjoyed meeting our volunteers so much that we decided to continue delivering the Gazette to their doorsteps. We would like to personally thank each of you for the time you spend delivering the Gazette to your neighbors each month. The Gazette is such a vital link in our community and the task of getting it "on the streets" could not be done without each and every one of you. On that same note, we have noticed that a few blocks are without block captains and will be updating our list to make sure the entire neighborhood is covered. Thanks again to Amanda for her years of service in delivering the Gazette, and we hope to do an equally outstanding job.

On to March...that can only mean one thing. Have you dusted off your boots and grabbed your hat for rodeo days in Houston? This time of year the urban cowboys really do show up in our area. Hope you enjoy all of the activities this annual event brings to town. I wanted to share a little personal rodeo history with you. The article on pages 4-5 shares a story of someone special in my life. Who knows, it may inspire a road trip!

If rodeo isn't your thing, the Azalea Trail will be happening and several local home tours are scheduled. Let's not forget the wearin' of the green on St. Patrick's Day, spring break activities and Easter. Sounds like an eventful month in the neighborhood once again. Enjoy!

Heard Under the Oak Tree Terry Jeanes

Welcome new neighbors who recently joined the neighborhood.

983 West 42nd **1042 West 43rd**
1083 West 41st **951 West 43rd**
Congratulations on joining us. We hope to see you at a civic club meeting soon.

Birthdays and Celebrations...

Sydney Grace Null the 3rd
Taylor Crownover the 8th
Ralph Hayes the 7th
George Appling the 13th.
Skyler Sorun the 21st

Belated birthdays to

Brenda de Alba February 17th
Tom Peden January 30th.

Happy (belated) Anniversary to...
Erica & Darin Duncan February 3rd

New Celebrities?...Sandy Altman and Dian Austin...who recently returned from their St Regis New York trip and Live with Regis and Kelly... after winning the trip on the Garden Oaks 2004 home tour live auction.

Congratulations... Susan Kostelecky won 2nd Place in a window treatment trade contest Decorative Hardware and Trims category and will be featured in the April issue of an international trade magazine. Tina Rowe's tour home featured the winning design. Kudos to photographer Pat Burton, who took the entry photo!

A Big Hooray!!! To all the Garden Oaks HP Marathoners January 16 ... John Goodman and daughter, Desiree Goodman, Sheila Briones, James Clyde, Jesse Lopez, Tom Cronin, and Lisa McBee ran the half marathon. Desiree (age 11) finished First in the Girls Age 10-11 Division. She won last year too. Full marathon... Ginny Howard, Kelly Gould, Alaina Metz, Nelda Prince, Perri Grandstaff, Heather Barr, and David Cook.

To highlight an event, celebration or other tidbit, contact:
Terry Jeanes
713-812-9154
terry@terryjeanes.com.

Garden Oaks President Report

Chris Lindsay

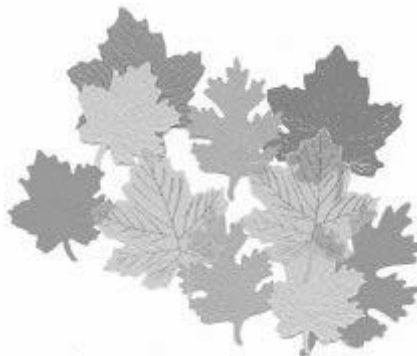
Historic Designation is a hot topic of conversation in Garden Oaks. Should we or shouldn't we become one of the very few neighborhoods with this distinction in Houston? That is the question facing us. Last fall the Civic Club voted to form an ad-hoc Historic Designation Committee to look into the pros and cons of becoming just such a district. At our March 1st Civic Club meeting we will have guest speakers from the Old Sixth Ward Historic District give insight into what it took to become a district and why. Will this designation make my property more or less valuable, easier or harder to sell, how much more difficult will it be to make changes to my house? Do I have to seek approval to change the color of my front door? What about the style? What happens if I don't comply? Will this help to preserve the character of our neighborhood? To get answers to these and many more questions come to the meeting so you will be prepared to vote on this issue later this year. Remember, you have to be a dues paying Civic Club member in order to vote on Civic Club issues.

This is the time of year for the City of Houston to hold public meetings on their Capital Improvement Plan. Citizens and civic organizations have an opportunity to request improvements they would like to see in their neighborhoods. In a recent conversation I had with our District Council Member, Toni Lawrence, she said she was going to try to move some drainage projects, scheduled three years from now for Garden Oaks forward in the plan. We have already submitted to her some requests for our green spaces. I would be interested in knowing what you think needs improving in Garden Oaks, please bring your suggestions to the March meeting, or send me an email.

I have been in touch with the Oak Forest Civic Club and they have expressed an interest in joining us for requesting a Rail Road Quiet Zone through our neighborhoods. I am waiting to hear from Independence Heights to see if they are interested in joining us. The

intent is to seek a quiet zone from I-45 to T. C. Jester or beyond. The train horns are becoming more frequent due to increased train traffic. The increased noise is playing havoc with many of our residents sleep. We are trying to limit the required sounding of the horn by seeking improvements to the railroad crossings in our neighborhoods. By making safety improvements at the crossings, the required horn blowing can be waived.

I look forward to seeing you at the March Civic Club meeting and hearing your ideas for improving our neighborhood. Which reminds me, we still need people to head up the July 4th Bike Parade and the Fall Festival. Let me know if these are of interest to you.



Bicycle Parade

**Volunteers
are needed to
organize the
July 4th
Bicycle Parade.**

**Contact
Chris Lindsay
President@
GardenOaks.org.**

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Trish Ricklefsen

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The sign of the times....

Citizens on Patrol

GO COP

Carl Waters Jr.

A tip of the COP cap to Section One resident Alex Martinez. Alex and neighbor recently noticed three young men spending much of their Saturday afternoon and evening hanging out in Section One. Upon seeing these individuals still in the area well after dark Alex and his neighbor followed them around until one disappeared in the area of Lawrence and the Graham Park. A quick change of direction on the young man was spotted near a home. Alex used the bright lights on his car to illuminate this individual and he his friends left the area changing their clothes several times along the way. Alex stated the police were called about these individuals. Hopefully they will not be returning soon. I don't recommend this type of activity for everyone but it does point out the need to be alert as to what is happening around your home, street and section.

Crime statistics are slowly coming in from HPD for the last quarter of 2004. Here are the statistics of November (5):

Assault (1)

2900 block of N. Shepherd Dr. on Sunday, November 28th at 1:45 a.m. (restaurant parking lot).

Burglary (2):

900 block of W. 43rd St. on Saturday, November 20th at 3:00 p.m. (residence).

3000 block of N. Durham Dr. on Monday, November 29th at 11:20 p.m. (restaurant).

Auto Theft (1):

500 block of W. 30th St. on Tuesday, November 9th at 7:00 p.m. (driveway).

Driving While Intoxicated (1):

800 block of W. 34th St. on Sunday, November 21st at 1:20 a.m. (street).

This brings the total number of crimes listed by HPD for the neighborhood to 94 through November. That is the same number as reported through November 2003.

As always inquires about joining the Citizens on Patrol program can be sent to me via neighborhood website

GardenOaks.org
GOCOP77018@AOL.com
713-864-1992

Reference Numbers

Emergency Services	911
HPD Non Emergency	713-884-2121
All other City Services	311

It's Rodeo Time In Houston!

Sue Schmidt

This is it. The time of year everyone in Houston gets rodeo fever. We dust off our boots; sometimes even buy a hat—what the heck. I thought I might add a little bit of rodeo history and share a story that has been inspirational in my life. Who knows it might even inspire you to make a trip to Cowtown (Fort Worth for all you city slickers) to see the Cowgirl Museum and Hall of Fame.

In 1903 a baby girl was born on the plains of Nebraska, just outside of Cody. She was one of twenty four children. For the record, the 24 were from two marriages. Her father had a trading post and the Indians were frequent visitors to their area. Growing up she learned to ride with her brothers and sisters. She had a natural instinct for it. Occasionally the Indians would come into town and sometimes pass through the ranch. They would "borrow" her pony and she and her brothers would have to go retrieve her ride. It got to the point the pony would get up on the wide porch of their home to hide when she heard the Indians coming! Hard to believe this was less 100 years ago!

At an early age Tad and her brothers would go to town, and the boys would enter her in bull riding contests. She

It's Rodeo Time In Houston!

continued

would win against all the competition—male or female. She was good. She got the name Tad because she was so small the family called her tad-pole. Fully grown she stood 5 feet tall. That nickname stayed with her throughout her life.

When she was all of sixteen she and her sister headed to Texas. They began to enter rodeos in the area. In the early days rodeos were part of the Wild West Shows. Those who participated in the rodeos would also be in different acts of the Wild West Show. In fact, she learned daring feats of riding with the help of the Russian Cossacks who worked with her during their travels through Mexico with the show. She later became one of the most daring trick riders in history.

Fearless, Tad rode broncs and bulls. She performed dangerous stunts and invented new tricks to perform with

her favorite horse, Candy Lamb. At that time women were still allowed to enter those events and compete against the men. At the height of the popularity of the Wild West Shows and rodeos an elite group was put together to travel to England to perform for the King and Queen. Tad was part of that group and married a handsome steer wrestler on the voyage over to England. She never did believe in taking too much time off! She would just work it into the schedule.

By this time she had developed a reputation and fought hard to climb to the top of the rodeo world. She would become the only woman to hold the title of World Champion Cowgirl for eight consecutive years. She met many dignitaries, world leaders and other sports stars. Her daughter still has the ball Babe Ruth signed for her while they performed at Madison Square Gardens.

Tad Lucas was the first woman inducted into the Cowboy Hall of Fame. Her trophies remain there to this day. She is also honored in the Cowgirl Museum and Hall in Fort Worth where she made her home. If you haven't seen the stockyards, Sundance Square and the museums of Fort Worth, it is worth the trip.

This time of year I always look back on rodeos of my childhood. My grandmother, Tad, and her friends would gather to talk about the old days. We grew up in a house filled with rodeo treasures. We played in an attic filled with clown costumes, an Indian war bonnet and trunks of newspapers and pictures from around the country acknowledging her career. More than anything though, she taught me never to doubt that I could do whatever I wanted in life

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Section 5

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Constable Program

Terry Jeanes

Who is watching your house? Let's make sure it is the good guys Become a supporter of our Constable Program!

As of this writing 2/15/05..our contract is before the County Commissioners Court for finalization. Due to an unforeseen delay with "Red Tape" & paperwork, our officer will not be on the street until first part of March. Realize we need you still to be assured our own constable stays here patrolling our streets for his 40 hours per week. In future issues watch for the names of our added supporter households. Make sure your name is there by sending in your supporter form today. Take the time now to fill out the form in the Gazette, on www.gardenoaks.org, or use the form mailed to you with your Civic Club dues statement.

REMEMBER THESE BENEFITS :

- 40 hrs of our own designated Harris County Constable
- Vacation Watch by Harris County Constable (forms available to supporter households)
- Security Check for Insurance Discount
- Alarm Contact/ Response by Harris County Constable
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Terry Jeanes, 713-812-9154
terry@terryjeanes.com

Good Neighbor Nominees Wanted

Terry Jeanes

In order to acknowledge the giving nature of the special residents of Garden Oaks nominees are being sought for the first Garden Oaks Good Neighbor Award. No matter the age, those who give of themselves whether it is a civic club, school, or other community volunteer, or simply to assist with the basic tasks for one of our neighbors...it is time to acknowledge them and say "Thank You" you make a difference. What better way than through special recognition of a Good Neighbor Award?

If you know of someone special who gives unselfishly of their time contributing to the community or making the life of someone else more comfortable, nominate them. No matter the age - youth, adult or senior adult, a special thank you is well deserved.

This quarterly acknowledgement, the first to be given in April, will include a certificate and gift. A team of greater Garden Oaks community leaders will make each awards selection. To nominate a deserving neighbor, simply contact

Good Neighbor Award Sponsor
Terry Jeanes
713-812-9154
terry@terryjeanes.com



Civic Club Meeting Minutes

January 4, 2005

Approval of January 2005 meeting minutes

Treasurer's report: Mike Dishberger

Half of the GO income was from the constable program. Mike will break out in future. The big expense is the Gazette. Mike also shared the figures as of 1/31/05.

President's Report

- a. Loop 610 reconstruction begins at the end of 2005 but will just be to reconstruct and improve ramps, etc. The bid will be in September – October with work starting in November-December 2005. Chris will request bigger and better sound walls since that was mentioned as a possibility earlier.
- b. Communications Tower (city emergency center): a local association is still fighting the 500 foot tower, which is being built to increase bandwidth for cell phone organizations. The concern is that a 50 foot to 100 foot tower would be sufficient and not such an eye sore. One suggestion was to camouflage the tower.—The city seems eager to support the building of the tower so GO should get involved in &/or get more information on this. Chris will contact Tony Lawrence and the association fighting the local tower.

Committee Reports

- a. **Beautification:** Brenda de Alba – As mentioned last month, we have captains for all GO parks except one. Complete details are in the February Gazette. — A beautification work day will be Saturday, Feb. 12 at 9 a.m., which will not conflict with GO Elementary's pancake breakfast. Another work day will be held in March. — Beautification committee is considering having metal edging inserted at park trails this summer. Read the Gazette for more details. Of course, volunteers are always needed. — A landscape architect is interested in helping plan the new landscape for the Art Park. Brenda will meet with this architect in February and get a phased plan for 2005. If funding won't cover all the expenses, the beautification committee will push some expenses into 2006.
- b. **GO Elementary School Liaison:** Shawna Tatum
GO Elementary won the 2nd place prize at the national "Read, White & Blue" contest. — The Montessori Middle School plan was rejected but HISD is still hoping to announce a Montessori preschool - 8th grade school somewhere in Houston. — GO Elementary needs \$55k to pay teacher aides and only has \$6k. — This is the 11th year for the pancake breakfast and donations are still being accepted. To make a donation, please contact the phone number listed in the Gazette. The pancake breakfast banner will be posted this weekend at the GO neighborhood entrance - temporarily over the neighborhood sign. The breakfast theme is "fantastic fun with food." — GO Elementary now has applications available for its Montessori program and will accept transfer students. Applications are available at the school & online. — The school also needs volunteers to read to the students.
- c. **Constable Program:** Terry Jeanes
Terry received the contract today (2/1/05) and will sign and submit it on 2/ 3. The official start date for the program will be 2/26/05 (not 2/12 as initially expected). All of this is pending the County's approval of the contract which is a formality. — An additional 17 or 18 supporters forms were received this week — Gig will write the check from GOMO to the constable program soon and we'll be ready to go. — Victor Torres patrols the night shift in Shepherd Park Plaza Wednesday – Saturday nights. So, the GO patrol will be at another time so there is no overlap. Most crime is happening during the day so the different patrol shifts will give GO more coverage at key times. — The GO patrol will use the Citizens on Patrol statistics. The handbook will be available online. However, vacation watch forms will not be online because only the program supporters should be using these forms, although the GO patrol protects all.— Automatic bank withdrawals will begin this month and Terry will e-mail draftees

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Civic Club Meeting Minutes January 4, 2005

to notify them about the 1st draft. — 2006 fundraising for the constable program will likely start in October.

d. **Membership:** Trey Wood

There are 70 new paying members, which leads to 300 members vs. 43 members last year.

e. **Web page:** Joe Muscara – no update

f. **Gazette:** Jonathan Lanz

1. General – Please remember that this is a volunteer position but Jonathan wants feedback. Please notify him if your phone number or e-mail address has changed from what's listed in the Gazette. — Staff added the calendar to the back page of the newsletter. Please e-mail dates for calendar in a dedicated e-mail because the newsletter staff can't read through all submissions/articles to find those key dates.
2. Distribution Coordinator – Amanda Carlin is no longer available so Jonathan Lanz & Sue Schmidt will begin coordinating the newsletter distribution and they'll rotate sections so they can get to know other neighbors.
3. New advertising rates – page 11 of the February Gazette has the advertising rate changes. The rates are not cast in stone but are being tried for now. — Civic club activities will not be charged for ads, if Gazette staff can incorporate those into the layout, rather than feature as a standalone ad.

g. **GO Citizens on Patrol:** Carl Waters – the February article in the Gazette lists the 17 patrollers for the *entire* neighborhood. We really need more volunteers. — Carl reviewed the crime statistics, noting most crimes occur in the afternoon or early evening. — Mayor White did not show up for the Interaction Meeting last month but it was a great meeting with strong attendance. These meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of each month at the North Command Center on W. Montgomery. Contact Carl for details.

h. **Home Tour:** Sue Schmidt – Sue & Sheila Briones met to discuss the home tour last year. Sue will start contacting volunteers from the last home tour to see if they'd be interested in volunteering again.

i. **Garden Club:** Ed de Alba – The next meeting is next Thursday 2/10 at 7 pm at 10219 Chatterson about African Violets. See the Gazette for details. Last month's meeting was about good & bad garden pests.

Ad hoc committee

1. Historic Designation: Trish Ricklefsen – The next meeting will be held on Thursday, 2/3 at 7 pm at Kroger. No other updates.
2. Rail Road Quiet Zones: Craig Lee was not present.

Old business

1. Committee chair vacancies: we still need volunteers for the July 4th bike parade and the 2005 fall festival. Send suggestions to Chris.
2. GOMO: Sam said the GOMO money will be distributed as previously discussed amongst the GO committees after Sam speaks with Gig. The next GOMO meeting will be 2/16 at 7 pm at the GOMO office, in room 216.

New business

GO Neighbor of the Quarter Award: Terry Jeanes — Jonathan Lanz has recommended Amanda Carlin for 3 years of distributing the newsletter. What a neighbor! — This award will begin on a quarterly basis but may evolve into a monthly award. It's a great way to recognize your neighbors for their kindness. Details are in the February Gazette. — Terry has been recruiting area leaders to serve on the award review committee. The 1st award will be given in April.

j. Adjournment at 8:05 pm.

Critter Corner

Casey and Mau Mau Farris

Hi neighbors! Thank goodness March is here and it is sure to be busy with the Houston Rodeo, St. Patrick's Day, Spring, and Easter being celebrated. This month I want to dedicate this column to a wonderful person and fellow animal lover, Ms. Pat Streeter. Pat is an avid gardener with a beautiful home and garden in Section IV. Last year her garden was on the Garden Oaks Home Tour and she is famous for her annual Easter party. Pat loves all animals, especially cats. She has been and continues to be a major contributor to Cat Catchers, a task force that traps, neuters and releases any feral cats in the neighborhood. Pat makes Garden Oaks a better place to live so I tip my Easter bonnet to you, Pat!

Pet of the Month: Our Pet of the Month is Pat Streeter's pair of orange tabbies. Charley is seven years old with short-hair and so many facial expressions. His younger brother, Pippin, is two years old and has long-hair. They have a fabulous set-up at their house. They have a cat door leading to screened porch which has a cat door to the back garden. Two sides of the fence are eight feet tall and the third side is hurricane with deer netting installed on top so the kitties cannot climb out of the yard. The trees have a band of galvanized steel around them so they cannot climb too high or over the fence. They also have a tree house where they can hang out and watch down on Pat while she gardens. Life with a cat is never dull and recently I received this email from Pat.

"I was sitting in the sunroom this morning drinking my second cup of coffee and trying to wake up. You know my eyes were still glassy because I didn't notice the cat come barreling through the cat door. I heard a commotion, focused my eyes, and saw three airborne animals: a full grown sparrow in the lead, and Pippin and Charley right behind him, all flying through the kitchen about 4 feet off the ground. THAT woke my up. I uttered a reli-

gious expletive, spilled my coffee, and headed for the kitchen. Happily, I did not have to become airborne as well. Somehow the sparrow ended up on the floor in a corner with Charley crouched over him. I reached in and picked up the sparrow, looked for signs of damage (none), and carried him out to the front bushes. After a minute he was gone, so I think he got his breath back and flew away. I got my breath back. Mopped up the coffee. Admired the cats and told them what superb hunters they are. Mentioned in passing that I'd prefer they not bring the trophies in and release them in the house. Reminded them to please not hurt the little animals. Got another cup of coffee. I would propose this as a cure for sleepiness, but I'm not sure everyone could coordinate the event to occur at the right moment to get one to work on time."

Critters 101: Cheap Cat Toys

Most cats love to play and not all cat toys need to be expensive. Many are simply and easily made.

Plastic straws can't be easily caught or held onto. Cats are amazed when it slides between their claws. You can even draw a piece of string or yarn through the straw, tying a large knot at the end so the yarn doesn't slip through the straw. You can pull this along the floor, and have the cat chase behind you or suspend it from a hook, and let it dangle for their amusement.

A ping pong ball in the bath tub makes an instant miniature racquet-ball court. Up and down the sides of the tub, the ball spins around for the chase.

Weed Whacker stripping can be cut to a 2-3 food piece and as you swirl it and turn it the cat is enticed to stalk and play.

Casey@goDOGusa.com
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Historic Designation Ad-Hoc Committee Report February 2005

Trish Ricklefsen

At the March Civic Club meeting the Old Sixth Ward Neighborhood Association will present the 'pros and cons' of historic designation - a professional caliber comprehensive account of historic efforts in and around Houston. Don't miss this informative presentation by Jane Cahill and JD Bartell. We expect a Civic Club (CC) vote on the issue of historic designation at the May 2005 CC meeting. A favorable vote will establish the Historic Designation (HD) Task Force as a Committee, enabling the committee to proceed with boundary setting and obtaining the 67% needed for historic designation. Keep in mind that if CC members do not support designation, the designation effort can still continue outside the CC realm. Only CC members are allowed to vote so if you want to vote in May, your 2005 dues must be paid (see the Membership Form in the *Gazette*.)

The committee, along with assistance from the City of Houston Preservation Officer, clarified that:

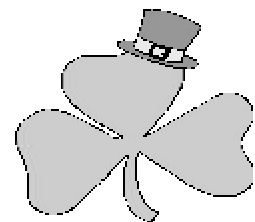
- In practice, if a violation occurs, 'stop-work orders' are issued, not fines. If plans are determined incompatible, design consultations seek a solution. If a homeowner still wants to proceed with original plans that is an option after waiting 90 days from the date of the original application.
- The '90-day waiver removal issue' died before reaching city council 2 years ago and there has been no recent attempts to resurrect it.
- Any proposed historic district would *only* include residential property not churches, City or commercial property. If churches want to become a part of the district, they can do so willingly. Nothing in the ordinance requires churches to be included.
- They were asked to remove the comment about 'grandfathering' because it is not factual and only confuses people. (The preservation ordinance regulates future changes.)

Many people continue to ask committee members if HD is affiliated with GOMO. We are not. GOMO enforces deed restrictions in all sections except 4. If historic designation is successful, it would address architectural compatibility of the block face - what is visible from the street - in sections showing sufficient support.

Whatever happens in the end is about majority opinion. If the majority of people value the older homes and the character of the neighborhood, they will sign a petition in support and historic designation will happen. If not, it's anyone's guess what will happen to our large lots and the character of Garden Oaks, which property owners have enjoyed for over a half-century. The preservation ordinance is about control - control to protect the character and charm of our community. The Historic Preservation Ordinance can be found at: www.houstontx.gov/codes/chapters31to35.html. Join us the first Thursday of every month at Kroger's on W. 43rd at 7:00 p.m. in the upstairs conference room to discuss issues of importance to the HD Committee.

In the end, the ordinance requires support from 67% of the property owners who own 51% of the land in any designated area. If you haven't signed as a supporter, your vote is cast as a 'no' vote by default. Come to the March and May Civic Club meetings to learn more about historic designation and what it will do for Garden Oaks.

**Trish Ricklefsen,
Chairperson,
Garden Oaks Historic Committee
Section 1 - 832.618.1606**



Advertising or Submitting Articles to the Gazette

The Garden Oaks Gazette is the official publication of the Garden Oaks Civic Club and is published on a monthly basis.

The primary purpose of the Gazette is to disseminate information about Civic Club activities and Community events.

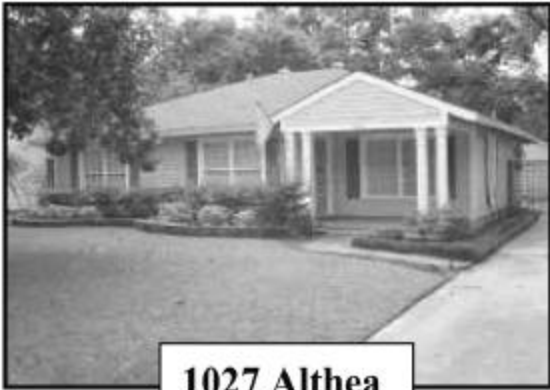
All articles must be submitted by the 15th of each month for publication the following month; contributing articles will be printed at the Editor's discretion and edited according to space availability. Publication of any article, non-civic club related, does not imply endorsement by the Garden Oaks Civic Club and is solely the opinion of the author.

The Gazette is hand delivered to 1,550 homes the first week of each month.

For additional contact information see page 2

Size	Single	Six Months	Twelve Months
2 1/4 x 2 3/8	\$50.00	\$250.00	\$480.00
4 1/5 x 2 3/8	\$75.00	\$405.00	\$765.00
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Beautification Plans for 2005

Brenda de Alba

Our first volunteer workday of 2005 was February 12th at the Memorial Rose Garden (W. 34th & Lawrence). While one crew was trimming the roses, weeding the bed, planting additional roses and agapanthus, and spreading compost, another crew was digging up the posts that previously supported the Garden Oaks entrance sign damaged last fall. The sign has been repaired and needs to be primed before it's reinstalled in the park. Thanks to all who showed up to help!

One of the major Beautification projects intended for 2005 is to rebuild the path through the Garden Oaks Boulevard Esplanade from N. Shepherd to Sue Barnett. Through the efforts of City Councilwoman, Toni Lawrence, we've learned that the City will provide us with the 50 yards of crushed granite needed to rebuild the path. We're also looking into adding edging and placing several benches along the path.

I mentioned last month that one of our goals was to identify Captains for the parks and greenspaces maintained by the Civic Club. We'll work with the Captains to schedule work days and plan budget items for park maintenance. Captains' names and phone numbers are listed below.

Section 1 & 1A

- Memorial Rose Garden : Sheila Briones (713-861-8091)
- Randall St. "Berm" Park : Matt Roesler (713-862-8655)

Section 2

- Art Park : Ed de Alba (713-694-5934)
- Gazebo Park : Carol & Tom Hazel (713-695-5358)
- Garden Oaks Boulevard : Shana & Jay Tatum (713-699-4166)

Section 3

- Triangle Park : Tina Nieto (713-956-4822)

Section 4

- Garden Oaks Community Garden: Bob Gabrysch (713-686-5493)

Mark Saturday, April 23rd on your calendars for our next Spring work days.

We will be having work days in the Gazebo Park AND in the Triangle Park on April 23rd beginning at 9am. The Gazebo Park needs much loving care...the beds have been neglected for several years and potato vine is taking over the park, so we'll be doing a variety of maintenance there. The main activity for Triangle Park will be adding compost to the beds.

If you'd like to join our Beautification team Please contact

Ed & Brenda de Alba
(713-694-5934).
We Need Your Help!!!

Lenten Offerings

St. Michael's Episcopal Church will host a variety of services and activities this Lenten season. Wednesday Night Lenten Soup Suppers will begin on February 16. A light soup supper at 6 p. m. in the Parish Hall will be followed by a service of Quietude and Healing in the Chapel at 7 p. m. In addition, each Wednesday morning at 10 a.m. a service of Meditation and Intercessional Prayer will be offered in the Chapel. On Sundays, Adult Education at 9:00 a.m. will focus on [A Purpose Driven Life](#) by Rick Warren. Participants are encouraged to read one lesson each day, and join in a series of discussions on concepts presented in the book. Classes are also offered for children and teens at 9:00 a.m. Services of Holy Communion are offered each Sunday at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

1613 W. 43rd. St.
Info: 713-681-6422

Thank You Garden Oaks for a successful Pancake Breakfast!

Gig Runge

A great time was had by all at the 11th Annual Garden Oaks Montessori Pancake Breakfast. Record numbers of families and community members came out on February 12th to enjoy pancakes and coffee and learn more about the Montessori program at Garden Oaks Elementary School. Civic leaders such as Chris Lindsey GO civic club president, Ed and Brenda de Alba, and Sheila Briones, VP of GO Civic Club were spotted sipping coffee and bidding on Silent Auction items. Council member Toni Lawrence came by to visit and hear the latest community news. District Director for State Representative Dwayne Bohac, Jeannette Trail was able to come in from Austin to share some pancakes with her son, Bo and meet Principal Jeff Amerson. The children seemed to have the most fun dancing with ART'S ALIVE!. Tina Sabuco led the group in her inflatable chef suit while they had fabulous fun with food!

The Friends of Montessori would like to thank the community for its support not only for Saturday's event but for the many years it has offered support to the neighborhood program. Maria Montessori's philosophy included community as a foundation from which families and children can grow in their educational journey. The Garden Oaks program strives to do this and invites interested families and individuals to get to know this local program. Because of the communities support, this year's event raised almost \$5000 for the program, double the proceeds from last year! A big thank you also goes to our principal Mr. Jeff Amerson and Vice Principal Ms. Kathy Drago.

The list of event underwriters is large. Do please forgive us if we have left anyone from our list. Please thank the following individuals with your business.

(see list attached)

Applications are currently available in the school office or online at www.houstonisd.org/gardenoakes.

houstonisd.org/gardenoakes. The deadline for submission is March 7th. Children age three through sixth grade are eligible for enrollment. The school district has recently approved space available transfers into the program. This means neighborhood children will be submitted for the lottery drawing first. Spaces unfilled by that group will then be open to "out of neighborhood" children. A transfer form should accompany the application, available on the houstonisd.org site. The school will announce acceptance into the program for the 2005-2006 school year by April 6th. Please feel free to come tour a classroom and get to know us. Pamela Anderson is the President of Friends of Montessori and she may be reached at 713-861-8896 for more information. We look forward to more opportunities to involve Garden Oaks Elementary School with the neighborhood. If you are interested or have ideas or suggestions, let us hear from you! Many thanks again for such a fun day!

Next up is a really fun event for the children - it's a Monopoly Tournament on Saturday, February 26th from 1-5 pm. The event is for children ages 7-12 and will be hosted by the Live Oak Grill at 10444 Hempstead. We are looking for the next generation of real estate moguls to play. Registration is \$15 and must be done in advance. All proceeds go to support the Montessori program at Garden Oaks Elementary. Current sponsors are Harry James Builder, Ventura's Dry Cleaners, Cascade Pools and Compass Bank (they may even help as a banker for one of the boards); however additional sponsorships are certainly welcome. Please call Gig Runge at 713-869-5623 for more information on registration.



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Pancake Breakfast Collage



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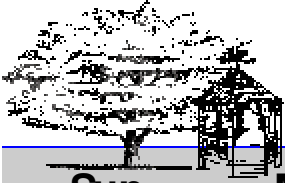
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March 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Civic Club Meeting 7 p.m.	2	3 Historical Designation Mtg. 7 p.m. @ Kroger	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 Garden Club Meeting -Orchids 7:00 pm	11	12
13	14	15 Gazette Deadline For Submissions	16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 Easter Holiday	28	29	30	31		

Useful Numbers

All City Services (city information or services ranging from traffic court dates and sewer concerns to pothole problems and neighborhood complaints) 311
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 Deeds Restriction Violations City of Houston Legal Department 713_247_2000
 Toni Lawrence (District A) 713_247_2010

2005 Garden Oaks Civic Club Membership Form

Name(s): _____ **Phone:** _____

Address: _____ **Email:** _____

(A) Annual Dues

\$25.00 Crepe Myrtle (Basic) \$50.00 Magnolia (intermediate) \$75.00 Golden Oak (Patron)
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