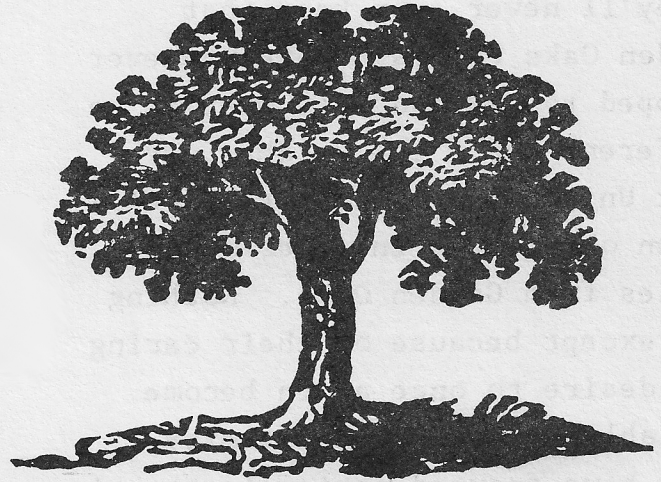


Garden Oaks Gazette

October, 1981



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§ President's message §

Dear Neighbors:

This will be a very unusual letter, one that at times may ramble but one which will actually be bits and pieces from the whole year because 1981 is rapidly drawing to a close and the remaining time that is left must be spent in ensuring the success of your home tour which will be held, Sunday, Dec. 6.

It has been a frustrating, extremely demanding year both professionally and as President of your civic club and, if it had not been for the moral support and assistance of neighbors I could not have done it. But you, each one of you have helped too; by coming out of your own private worlds and getting to know your neighbors. Not just next door and across the street but from 2 and 3 blocks away. Think back, how many of you at the start of the year without the Gazette or your civic club meetings would wave, or stop and talk to your neighbors as you do now. There have

also been other advantages to you - increased pride in your community. Our original residents and those who have lived here a long while are excited, they are seeing new growth, babies, young children and homes being improved and cared for; all things that attracted them 30 and 40 years ago.

Something that each of us must realize is that this is almost the end of the 20th century and the 21st century (year 2000) is just around the corner and we can no longer afford to isolate ourselves from the rest of the world. We are much like a small town in a big city but for our own self preservation we must shout it from the rooftops.

Why, Because if you don't no one will ever know you are here and as people reach out to partake of a lifestyle that has gone by and preserve that lifestyle with modern improvements

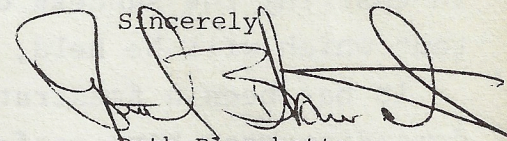
they'll never even know that Garden Oaks exists. Have you ever stopped to ask yourself what is so different about the Heights, or West University or any other well-known older area in other major cities from Garden Oaks. Nothing - except because of their caring and desire to once again become a viable, prosperous community they have focused national attention on themselves and they are profiting by increased home values, city hall support and special assistance from major organizations.

So can we but, it can not be done by 1 or 2 or 10 or 30. There are 1500 homes in Garden Oaks and each one of you must become involved. That old excuse - It's not my job - has got to be removed from your vocabulary because it is your job! If each and every one of you would just do one little thing and get actively involved in your civic club all that would be taken out of your life would be a couple of hours a month. Can you deliver Gazettes, either to your neighbors or to local businesses which surround us? Or, can you act as a distributor of the Gazette for your section - both 1 hour a month. Can you take charge of a committee which sees that our weeds along Shepherd get kept cut? That would, once the connection is made, take 1 phone call a month. Can you get 1 local business to advertise for \$10/month in our Gazette? This newsletter is

not being printed free and with support from our local business community will cost us less leaving money for other things which we as a community and as a civic club need. Or, can you help us by doing the necessary paper work for us to become a non-profit organization? We aren't and that too is costing you lots of dollars. There is so very much that each of you could be doing and a lot of you already are.

When I took office in January, a lot of people felt I was reaching too high in my expectations of what could be accomplished. Well you've done it - I've only tried to show you the way. For a long time you were afraid to stand up and run but you did it. You can't stop though because you are only getting started and you still have so very far to go. But do I think we can do it - YOU BET - I KNOW WE CAN!

Sincerely,



Ruth Blanchette
President

*** Editors Note

I wrote this letter over a week ago, on Sunday, September 20th. This afternoon, Monday, September 28, I received an open letter from Mr. Frank Oidtmann regarding his address to us on home security. I suddenly realized the similarity in both our perceptions on Garden Oaks as a community. His comments were unsolicited and we did not communicate as to content at any time. If you question the parallel of comments - about becoming involved - well

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE RESIDENTS
OF GARDEN OAKS

"We met, we ate, we talked but, in my heart I know I failed to meet your expectations for the evening. Maybe I should have prefaced the entire evening with a short speech of surrender. You see, I don't have the magic answer you were looking for. I don't know that it exists.

As I mentioned, I've been in this business for a lot of years, and talked to many different groups and organizations. I guess I'll never get used to, or accept, what has come to be know as the "normal" response. I still believe that when people take time out to meet and discuss the security and safety of their homes and loved ones, they genuinely want to do something.

"Do something" generally involves work, time, and often money. "Do something" involves an effort both independently and collectively to pursue and solve a common problem.

Why is it that we are not willing to make this committment? We do a lot of talking, a lot of agreeing, but very little action takes place. Oh sure, each group has 1 or 2 "doers". How long do you think they will last. How long will it be before they get burned out, frustrated, and disgusted enough to walk away. It's tough to be the captain of a team that has many managers but no players.

America is a country of enterprise, achievement, success and much more. Our way has always been to enjoy the fruits of our labors and work for what we get. I mentioned that "magic answer". The one that takes no work or effort, cost nothing, and won't cause us to interrupt our established lifestyle. I didn't have it then, don't have it now, and don't imagine I'll find it in the future. Do you know were to look? Have you already found it? If so, share it with us all. Take charge and lead us all to the promised land. You see, many of us still believe we can work together to find a solution.

I ofen think I've chosen the wrong path. Crime is still increasing and each day the law of averages closes in on us. Its like Russian Roulette. How much longer will it be before I am burglarized, robbed, or maybe killed. But, I still have this idea. A wagon is easier to pull with 2 men instead of 1; or 5 men instead of 3; or ten men instead of 6, I can't be right. That idea has been around for years and we haven't even tried it. I guess we just know it won't work."

Frank B. Oidtmann



THE GAZETTE APOLOGIZES

For several months now the Gazette has made a very honest mistake and we owe you, the residents of Garden Oaks and one of our very special supporters a huge apology. Mr. Eldredge Langlinais is not only a resident of Garden Oaks but a strong supporter of this neighborhood and all it represents. As we begin looking for advertisers to assist in the financial cost of publication of the Gazette (Over \$100/monthly) he ask if he might assist. Mr. Langlinais is a real estate broker who happens to live in Garden Oaks but works out of his office on North Loop. Due to a typing error which we kept accidentally overlooking we had listed his home address and telephone number and not his North Loop address and number. We apologize to you for our error and to him for any inconvenience that it may have caused him and hope that he will understand and continue to assist and support us.

The Gazette

NEXT CIVIC CLUB MEETING:

October 6, 1981 7:00 p.m.

Civic Club Building

CHEERS FOR VOLUNTEERS

I'm a little fearful of listing names here because I am so afraid I will accidentally, as I may have in the past, leave someone's name out. If I do, or have, please let me know because you deserve to be recognized for your help.

To all the Gazette deliverers - Cory Byrd and his friends; Betty, Tommy & Jennifer Cole; Bill and Pat Eckert; Sandra Schisser and her brother Diane Austin and Sandy Altman; Maria and Freddie Gibson; Alex Mair and his kids (who we will be losing as they move to their new home); Lucille Carter and her faithful dog; Rose Fitch, Willard Mills and Vee Gaines, (three people who have given me more support and assistance than I'll ever be able to thank them for); John Cato; Judy, Janette & Jackie Scruggs and their friends; Robert & Amy Vorhees; Kris Knoble; Johnny & Cindy Murphy; Rick Armstrong and his 2 boys; Waldo Townley; Dorothy & Henry Blanchette and Zalie and Jimmy Dyer (four very, very special people); Steve & Linda Masera; Ms. Leon Gilbert; John & Linda Ross; Robert Taylor; Pearl Lesikar; Terry Jeanes (who we will lose for a short while when her baby is born very soon), Tommy Crockett and Mark & Mary Lehmann who without their editorial assistance and ability to cut and paste you never would have gotten your Gazette, and Raymond & Myrtle Shores, 2 very supportive original residents - to all of you I say THANK YOU for all of GARDEN OAKS.