

Garden Oaks Gazette

circulation 1500

MARCH 1986



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I want to say a belated but heartfelt thank you to our friends at the Paulette Partin Agency. Until very recently, they had been shouldering the considerable burden of preparing the Gazette for mailing and paying for postage. We appreciate your efforts and hope to enjoy your continued concern for our neighborhood.

At our last Civic Club meeting, an issue was raised that, unfortunately, continues to be on everyone's minds: security. There has been a rash of afternoon burglaries. Some folks have suffered major losses. In all but one reported case, response from police and/or the security patrol was very prompt. However, most break-ins occurred while homeowners were at work or away, so the police were called after the fact.

Our best defense against these crimes is alert neighbors. Exchange telephone numbers with your neighbors. Tell them when you will be away. If an unknown car or person arrives while a neighbor is away, politely ask their business or, if necessary, call the police or security. Section I has had good experiences with the Security Patrol. If someone in another section would like to initiate a similar patrol, contact either me or Kay Paul for information. The police are doing all that they can, but I believe that the most effective deterrent to crime is an alert and close-knit community. Take action!

JIM ALEXANDER, PRESIDENT

CIVIC CLUB MEETING: MARCH 4, 1986
SPEAKER: TERRY ALLEN, AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR ACHIEVEMENT

This will be a covered dish supper at the Garden Oaks Baptist Church. If you submitted a recipe to the recently published Garden Oaks Cookbook, please bring your recipe and a card telling the name of the recipe and the page number it is on in the cookbook. This is a great way to sample your neighbors' cooking!

DOOR PRIZE donated by Sharon Lauder of the Real Estate Professionals

REPORT FROM THE FEBRUARY MEETING

The featured speaker for the February 4 Civic Club meeting was Charles Key, Houston Fire Department, who showed a brief film on a home gutted by fire and the lessons that can be learned from such an experience. One specific safeguard to prevent your family from being trapped in a burning house is to use smoke alarms on at least every floor and preferably in every sleeping area. "Child Find" stickers are available from the Houston Fire Department and should be placed in every child's bedroom window. If awakened by fire during the night, go next door to call the Fire Department rather than risk being trapped in a burning building.

Charles also reminded everyone that the 911 emergency number is now in effect. A call placed to 911 is immediately traced by a computer, expediting dispatch of an emergency vehicle to your phone number.

NOTES FROM THE GARDEN CLUB

Join us at the Garden Club meeting this month. Our special guest speaker will be Jim Keeling. His topic will be "Getting Your Beds Ready for Spring" plus general gardening tips. The meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on March 13 at 1543 Sue Barnett. Everyone in attendance will receive a free packet of seeds. Come and join us!

December Yard of the Month: Frank & Lucy Stautberg, 228 W. 34th Street

March Yard of the Month: Gary & Cindy Weed, 523 W. 32nd Street

Congratulations to these hard-working families who managed to have healthy, attractive yards in the very worst months of the year!

HEARD UNDER THE OLD OAK TREE

Wedding bells will ring on March 8 for Suzanne Spinks, daughter of Bert Spinks, 308 W. 32nd, and sister of Linda Spinks, 520 W. 31st. Then it's off to London where Suzanne's fiancé, Frank Thomas Sobol, now lives. Best wishes, Suzanne!

On March 14, Mr. and Mrs. A. T. Froehlich, 946 LaMonte; will celebrate their 22nd wedding anniversary! Congratulations! (Suzanne, this is quite a goal! How old will you be in 22 years?)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to each of these March birthday kids:

Blake Comeaux	March 2	age 9
Ryan Hall	March 28	age 6
Lauren Rogers	March 19	age 4

Neighbors in the news: the Parisi/Bush backyard, 512 West 34th, was recently chosen as one of the locations for the filming of the "I Love Houston" commercial. Look for the man in the hammock--that's the one! You may recall that this was one of the backyards featured in the Summer of 1984 Garden Club Backyard Homes Tour.

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During this entire month, residents will be going door-to-door to encourage and remind their neighbors to pay their Civic Club dues. At only \$10.00 per family (\$5.00 for Senior Citizens), this is a great bargain. If the neighborhood block walkers miss you, they will leave a membership form that may be forwarded to our Treasurer, Willard Mills. If you would like to assist on your block, please phone Terry Jeanes, Membership Vice President, at 680-8550 or 697-5220. Help reach the goal of a 100% increase in dues-paying members during 1986!

SECURITY UPDATE by Kay Paul

If you are a client of the Security Guard Service, you should have received a letter stating that fees have increased. Not only is this a very small increase, it is the first one they have had in the three years that we have used their services.

Anyone who is new to Section I or II and would like information about this service may call Kay Paul at 861-0328. Please tell your new neighbors about this service. We do not want to drop below the 50% level which is needed to receive security patrol coverage.

CRITTER CORNER by David Horsley

I wish you could have seen those baby owls. We had put up a homemade nesting box in the oak tree out back and then forgotten it. One evening last April, we were sitting on the patio when a little owl flew up with something in her beak and disappeared into the box. Curious, I pointed a flashlight at her when she came back the next time, and saw the large roach in her mouth. She was fattening up her babies with fresh roaches imported from Shepherd Park Plaza! Later, when the babies were big enough to emerge from the box, they paraded up and down the oak branch, looking like hairy baseballs with legs.

Those owls got some of us in Section V started on a career of wildlife-watching. Now we are erecting feeders and birdhouses and nesting boxes as fast as we can. In order to involve more of our Garden Oaks neighbors in our fun, we will be giving away nesting boxes at each Civic Club meeting during 1986. These are free to anyone who will agree to hang them in a tree and report on what moves in. Mrs. Fitch and Mrs. Mayfield received nesting boxes built by Elmer Slater at the February meeting. More will be available at the March 4 meeting.

Garden Oaks is a wonderful old forest which luckily is not yet completely civilized. Would you believe we have flying squirrels, screech owls, downy woodpeckers, ground snakes, elegant sliders, mudpuppies and much, much more? We'll be using a corner of the Gazette each month to tell you about the rich variety of wildlife your neighbors are spotting in their yards. Just write down what animals you are enjoying and we'll share your tales with the rest of Garden Oaks. Send to: David Horsley, 1550 Sue Barnett, 77018.

680-9598

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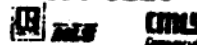
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WANTED

GARDEN OAKS RESIDENT as MOTHER'S
HELPER

2 1/2 hrs. per day, Mon.-Fri. Prepare
evening meal, light housekeeping,
some child care and occasional
errands. \$50/week. Call 861-3605.

FREE RIDES TO SENIOR CITIZENS: doctor, grocery shopping, etc.
call Sharon Lauder, 683-0733

GARDER OAKS CIVIC CLUB MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

I would like to assist in the:

- Membership Drive
- Neighborhood Cleanup
- Refreshments for meetings
- delivery of Gazettes
- Other _____

Make checks payable to: Garden Oaks Civic Club

Mail to: Willard Mills, Treasurer, 907 W. 41st Street, Houston, TX 77018