

Garden Oaks Gazette

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DECEMBER 1986

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

If you have not already done so, drive by the new Garden Oaks sign at 43rd and Apollo. It is the first of several that the Beautification Committee is planning. It looks great! It's nicely landscaped, has a brick barrier for easy maintenance and a terrific oak tree planted behind the sign. These signs and the triangle beautification project are important because they add beauty and identity to the neighborhood and because they are outward signs of the pride, vitality and prosperity of Garden Oaks. Take a moment to thank the people you know on the Beautification Committee for their efforts.

Come to the CIVIC CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY on Tuesday, December 9. It's a great time for new folks because we don't have any business, only fun! The Garden Club is bringing sweets; other Civic Club members may bring chips, sandwiches, etc. Coffee will be provided. We'll gather around the piano and sing carols and generally have an easy-going good time.

Finally, it is important for me to take this opportunity to thank all of the many people who have contributed their time, effort and money to the betterment of our community this year. There are too many to list individually, but you know who you are and the people in Garden Oaks thank you. For those of you who are not yet active, I invite you to join us. You will meet some of the nicest, most enjoyable and friendliest people in Houston.



JIM ALEXANDER, PRESIDENT

THE DECEMBER MEETING IS A CHRISTMAS PARTY!!
7 p.m., 12-9-86, GARDEN OAKS BAPTIST CHURCH

AS A "THANK YOU" TO THE CIVIC CLUB AND TO HER NEIGHBORS,
TERRY JEANS IS DONATING A HONEY-BAKED HAM AS A DOOR PRIZE FOR THE PARTY.

This is a good time to pay your dues for 1987. Mr. Mills will be at the party to accept checks, cash and any other currency. \$10 per household or \$5 for senior citizens.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Wayne Carlson	Dec. 04	age 8
Wendy Taylor	Dec. 10	age 4
Elissa Lipham	Dec. 12	age 3
Jacqueline Debien	Dec. 24	age 5
Lauren Mabry	Dec. 28	age 3
Thomas Lipham	Dec. 31	age 1

A belated HAPPY ANNIVERSARY to Bill and Thelma Mayfield who celebrated their 50th year together on November 1!

GARDEN CLUB NEWS

The NOVEMBER YARD OF THE MONTH belongs to Orlan, Vivian and John Hill of 1007 Gardenia. The next meeting will be the Christmas party with the Civic Club on Dec. 9. Please bring desserts to share with everyone. Kay Paul is making a special Peppermint Ice Cream Punch that sounds delicious!

Someone brought Potato Chip Cookies to a recent Garden Club meeting and there were so many compliments that we thought other cooks might enjoy the recipe. So here it is:

1 lb. butter	3 1/2 C. flour
1 C. sugar	1 C. pecans
2 tsp. vanilla	1 C. crushed potato chips

Cream butter, sugar & vanilla. Add remaining ingredients. Drop by teaspoonfuls on ungreased cookie sheet. Bake 15 min. at 350 degrees.

- REMINDERS:
1. Please take down your garage sale signs after the event!! Numerous signs like this detract from the neatness of our neighborhood.
 2. There is a leash law in Houston--and that includes Garden Oaks. Phone the Houston Animal Control Center at 222-3501 if you have problem with stray animals on your street.

	\$200 REWARD! For info. or return of 2 BOSTON TERRIERS
	Black & white, male and female Wearing blue collars Missing since Oct. 20th
686-6639 Any time 700 Block West 41st. (No Questions Asked!)	

LAST SEEN (11-20-86) at
Black Jr. High & Safeway on 43rd

****CRITTER CORNER by David Horsley****

Congratulations to the new owners of the four owl boxes distributed at the November meeting: Danny and Sherry Brown, Rick Luck, Sandy Altman (who confessed she already has an owl box but wanted one for her friend Rayma Clements in Bellaire. Sure, why not? Owls are owls--they're not particular about where they nest. On the other hand, if we find out that Sandy gave Rayma the box as a Christmas present...!), Craig Kramer and Tom Brown. Say, isn't that five names? I thought there were only four boxes. Guess I need to keep better notes...

Between now and next February is the ideal time to get your nesting boxes up. Or to clean out last year's nest if your box was up then. But please note the following word of caution: DON'T climb up on tiptoes to the top rung of your highest ladder and attempt to clean out your owlbox in that precarious position. You don't know what might be living in there and you sure don't want to find out suddenly while balancing 18 feet in space. The safe method is to gently remove the front screw that holds the bottom closed, slowly swing the bottom open, then get down to the ground and use a long stick to pull the old nest out. Don't let it fall in your face, either. I did this once and a large rat (no doubt visiting from Shepherd Park Plaza) came tumbling out, causing my dog and myself momentary apoplexy. By the time we got ahold of ourselves, the rat had fled into the garage, where it still resides.

Tom Brown reports that he enjoyed seeing the kites this year, along with other migratory birds that stopped over in Garden Oaks. Tom admitted that he wasn't sure what those large birds were until he checked with David Veselka, Garden Oaks' resident bird expert, who suggested they were Mississippi Kites. They pass through Southeast Texas each fall en route to wintering spots further south, and can be observed soaring several hundred feet high. Tom was lucky enough to see some kites sitting in a pine tree, too.

Best wishes for a happy holiday season.

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