

# GARDEN OAKS GAZETTE

CIRCULATION 1500

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Grace Blair, President  
328 W. 30th Street  
Houston, Texas 77018  
862-9623

Willard Mills, Treasurer  
907 W. 41st Street  
Houston, Texas 77018  
686-6592

Marcelle Kinser, Editor  
1058 W. 42nd Street  
Houston, Texas 77018  
688-2883

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CIVIC CLUB MEETING  
APRIL 7, 1987  
GARDEN OAKS BAPTIST CHURCH

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our next Civic Club Meeting is Tuesday, April 7, 1987 at the Garden Oaks Baptist Church, 3206 N. Shepherd at 7:00 p.m. We will reorganize the Beautification Committee and make plans for our Spring picnic in May. Come join in our efforts and share your ideas with us.

Saturday, April 4th, 1987 is the election day for the District I seat on the Houston Independent School District's Board of Trustees. This seat represents the Garden Oaks residences. The winner of the election will finish out Ray Morrison's term, which is the rest of 1987 and all of 1988 and 1989. This period is crucial as the School Board deals with Houston's economic situation and the transition period in the administration of the new Superintendent, Joan Raymond.

A healthy school district is important to all of us in Garden Oaks. In addition to managing the public school system, important decisions are made which directly affect our property values and the tax rates we pay.

In order to elect someone who is responsive to our community's needs, each of us should vote. A big turnout could make a decisive mandate and possibly save the cost of a run off election. The seven candidates are as follows:  
Clifford R. McBride, Ginia Wray Wright, Jean Rote Schmid, Louis R. Cano, James L. Novarro, Brian E. Boyd and Thomas Kelly.

Vote on Saturday, April 4th, 1987 at your regular polling place or vote absentee at Black Middle School, 1575 Chantilly, between 8:30 and 4:30 on school days between March 16th and March 30th, 1987, in the auditorium.

So don't forget to vote, and I hope to see you at the next Civic Club Meeting.

Grace Blair, President



## CRITTER CORNER by David Horsley

Last week I came in and found this message on my answering machine: "Hello, David, we have an owl! This is Anita Gentry and we have an owl!" And just in case I didn't fully comprehend, the next message was this: "Hi, this is Doug Wilson (Anita's hubbie). I guess you heard about our owl. What should we put out for them to build their nest with?" I imagined that Doug would be handing out cigars soon...

Anyway congrats to Anita and Doug, whose owl box has been up for a couple of months. At the March meeting of the Civic Club, more owl boxes were given to Tim Pagel, Joann Stone and Joan Harmon. Come to the April meeting if you don't yet have a box, and we'll fix you up. If you already have one, better get it cleaned out: The owls have arrived!

While we're on the subject of cleaning out the owlbox, here is a description of How NOT To Clean Out An Owlbox, Part Two: the reader may recall that last year I wrote about finding a medium size rat in my owlbox, which luckily was lying on the ground at the time. So this week when I went to clean out the box, I noticed that it was stuffed full of leaves and figured that Mr. Rat had moved back in. Not wishing to be attacked while standing on a tall ladder, I devised a clever method of extracting the rat from the box.

First, I cut a small board and drilled a hole for a screw. Then I climbed back up the ladder with my cordless drill and quickly screwed the board over the entrance-hole of the owl box, sealing whatever was in there temporarily inside. Just as I was about to remove the box from the tree, I happened to notice another entrance hole, on the backside. It was smaller than the one I had made on the front, but more importantly, it was occupied by a small, bewhiskered snout. I rightly assumed that the owner of the snout was testing the air, trying to decide whether to jump out and bite me now, or wait until I got halfway down the ladder. But what the snout didn't know is that I went to college for eight years to prepare me for moments such as this one. So I backed down the ladder and revised my strategy.

Equipped with a long rope, I once more ascended the ladder to my waiting adversary. My plan was to tie the rope around the box, throw the other end over a branch and then unfasten the box from the tree, allowing it to swing freely in space. Then I would go down and simply lower the box to the ground with the rope. You savvy? Well, so did the creature in the box because as I was tying the rope around the box, out it came. Then it surprised me by vanishing into thin air.

Carefully I got down from there pronto. Like any trained naturalist would do, I went in the house and got my wife, and the binoculars. As we were gawking up at where the animal had last been seen, suddenly something came flying in overhead, landed on the box, and dashed in the hole. Whaaaa? I rubbed my eyes. "What was THAT?" I heard myself ask. A rat bird? An owlsquirrel? "I think it was a flying squirrel," said the naturalist's wife-assistant. And so it was indeed. My next course of action was to remove the ladder and leave 'em be. Like Bullwinkle used to say to Rocky, "Watch me pull a flying squirrel out of my hat". Or words to that effect.

**ATTENTION GAZETTE DELIVERY PEOPLE:**

The Mailman recently reminded us NOT to put the Gazettes in the mailboxes, that the Civic Club has been fined in the past by the post office.



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**GARDEN OAKS CIVIC CLUB MEMBERSHIP FORM**



Membership dues become due on January 1, 1987

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

- I would like to assist in the:
- \_\_\_\_\_ Neighborhood Cleanup
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Refreshments for Meetings
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Delivery of Gazettes
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Beautification Project

\$10.00 per household. \$5.00 for Senior Citizens  
Make checks payable to: Garden Oaks Civic Club  
Willard Mills, Treasurer,  
907 W.41st St.; Houston, Texas 77018



Kelly Alexander	April 18	Age 2
Michael Bruns	April 5	Age 2
Phillip Kennedy	April 14	Age 1
David McFarland	April 30	Age 1
Jenny Larson	April 24	Age 11



#### Notes From The Garden Club:

A rummage, plant, homemade craft and bake sale is planned for Saturday, April 11, 1987 at 9:00 a.m. at the Garden Oaks Civic Club Building on W. 34th. All proceeds will go towards renovation of the pocket park located at W. 30th and Lawrence. Plans include landscaping, benches and a Garden Oaks sign.

General clean up of our adopted pocket park will be Thursday, April 2, from 5 p.m. till 7 p.m. Anyone interested is welcome to pitch in.

The April meeting will be held on Thursday, April 9th, at the home of Elisabeth Dismuke, 411 W. 32nd St. at 7:00 p.m. All are invited to attend.

Elisabeth

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