

History of Garden Oaks

Garden Oaks began in 1937 when Edward Lillo Crain obtained 750 acres and set out to build a “beautiful, but not expensive” community. Mr. Crain formed the Garden Oaks Company with Mr. Brace as his VP, and Mr. Carruth and Mr. Sushold as salesmen in offices on the corner of W. 30th and Shepherd. Garden Oaks ultimately came to have 5 sections, each a separately platted subdivision.

By 1941, most of sections 1, 2, and 3 were sold and the Garden Oaks School, billed as the most modern facility in the South, was completed. At this time, the company moved its offices to a colonial-style mansion on the corner of Garden Oaks Boulevard and Shepherd. Section 4 was a wartime development. A freeze on building materials caused delays in construction. Mr. Crain opened his own lumberyard and warehouses so he could finish his homes. Young couples moved into the area, with most paying \$195.00 down with a mortgage of \$2500. Section 5 was completed when VP Brace and salesman Carruth formed Brace and Carruth Builders and carried on quality construction.

Separate deed restriction documents were recorded by the Garden Oaks Company for each section. Specific deed restrictions for each section can be found at gardenoaks.org.

The Garden Oaks Civic Club was founded in the 1940s and has worked for the betterment of the community throughout the years. It is a voluntary organization funded by annual membership dues. The Civic Club has sponsored successful Home and Garden Tours, cookbook sales, fall festivals, 4th of July Parades, an annual wine and food tasting extravaganza, and other activities. Monthly Civic Club meetings as well as a monthly newsletter, the Garden Oaks *Gazette*, keep residents up to date on neighborhood activities. Civic Club meetings are open to all residents, whether you own or rent, and feature guest speakers on topics of community interest.

We welcome you to Garden Oaks and hope you will become active in the Civic Club and other neighborhood groups and events.