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Garden Oaks Gazette

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January

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718 W. 42nd Street
Houston, Texas 77018
695-8245

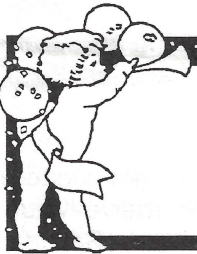
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907 W. 41st Street
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686-6592

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Margaret Hall, Secretary

Isabella & George Keegan,
Guest Editors



HAPPY NEW YEAR

Civic Club Meeting Tuesday, January 3, 7pm at Garden Oaks Baptist Church

From the President

Garden Oaks has long been a neighborhood with a penchant for nostalgia. Swept along on this trend, the general membership elected its' first "recycled" president. The last time I was president of the Garden Oaks Civic Club I was caught up with concerns about my children in elementary school and their imminent entry into Jr. High. Days were spent with treasured neighbors over cups of herbal tea and macrame. The Civic Club was small, but burgeoning with new ideas. A second-hand hand crank mimeograph in our garage gave us an opportunity to communicate with all our neighbors via THE GAZETTE. Gathering up all our pride we decided to compete with "the other Oaks" (River) and put on a Spring Home Tour. Those generous

enough to offer their homes were "lavishly" rewarded with one of our paper (one color) posters in a plastic frame.

Some things change; during this next year I'll be concerned about my kids in college and the imminent wedding plans (next August) for our oldest son. Days are now more likely to be spent in meetings at the office, or working on District A concerns for Councilman McKaskle, in my job as Assistant to him at City Hall. And although I still like herbal tea, most of the macrame is moth eaten. Some things only get better. The Gazette is a great source of pride for our community (so professional looking), and I'd like to think the competition now worries about the date of our Home Tour when they plan their own. We can afford a little nicer token of appreciation for

generous homeowners these days (weren't last year's photographs wonderful!) and the attendance at our meetings swells each year.

I suppose the thing that still charms me the most about Garden Oaks though, is the wonderful mix of people. That reporter who referred to us as "a neighborhood populated by Yuppies and retirees" missed the whole spectrum of our rainbow. Leave the claims of "RESTORATION!" to others. Garden Oaks is a community of "PRESERVATION". It has been saved for us carefully, as a treasured antique.

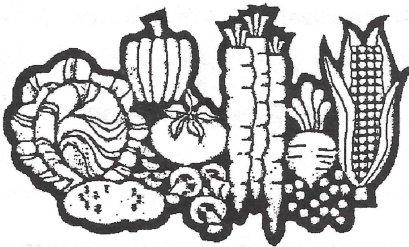
My hope is that you will all join the Civic Club and work with this "recycled" President to continue our "preservation" efforts of our own heirloom, Garden Oaks!

Susan McMillian

Home Tour Report

The Home Tour Committee is excited to announce it has selected the six homes to be featured in the Garden Oaks Civic Club's 1989 Spring Home Tour. All of the homes beautifully represent the quality of homes we have in Garden Oaks.

The Home Tour project will be moving rapidly now, and all interested persons are asked to join us at the next meeting scheduled on Wednesday, Jan. 4th, at 7:30, at **Terry Russey's** house. We will be selecting an artist to design the publicity poster. Any artists interested, please call **Terry Russey** at 680-1455, or 956-9207 (work).



Community Garden

Work is progressing on the community Garden. In addition to the \$950 authorized by the Civic Club for this project, we have received a donation of 25 timbers from the HOME DEPOT and 8 yards of soil from the county. Basic construction of the garden, begun in December, will be continuing. If you wish to participate in this project, contact **Jan Koenig** at 869-8997.

Recycling Update

Last month's Critter Corner asked if anyone was interested in starting a recycling project in Garden Oaks. Reader response to that question was sufficient to warrant further investigation, so I have gathered a few facts.

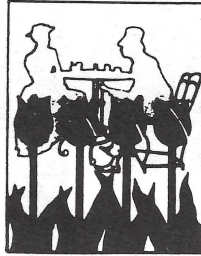
The three easiest materials to recycle are newsprint, glass, and aluminum. The current market prices for these materials are:

newsprint: \$30 - \$45 per ton (about 2 cents/lb.)

glass: \$35 - \$40 per ton (just under 2 cents/lb.)

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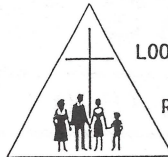


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HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

aluminum: \$1000 per ton! (50 cents/lb.)

I checked with Glenn Green, who is in charge of recycling for the City of West University. He suggests we start simple, keep costs down, and then build on whatever interest arises from our initial effort. West University currently grosses several thousand dollars per month from the sale of recycled materials, but they use city employees to pick up materials at curbside and city trucks to move the stuff, so their net take is reduced significantly.

Aim Recycling Inc., on N. Shepherd at the railroad tracks, has expressed interest in talking with us about buying our recycled materials. They don't buy glass but might let us park a dumpster for glass on their property if the details can be worked out.

Kelly Green Industries does buy glass, as well as aluminum and paper. Their price for paper is slightly better than Aim Recycling, but they aren't located in our neighborhood. Glass can have labels on, but should be separated into clear and colored.

What do we need to get started? First, about eight to twelve volunteers willing to give one Saturday morning per month to the effort. Second, we need three pickup trucks to do the collecting. Third, we need enough neighborhood participation to make it worth the effort. Finally, we need a big bank vault to store all the money in.

I did some rough figuring about the money. If every household in Garden Oaks (1500 total) saved one can per week, one newspaper per week, and one glass jar or bottle per week, we would clear \$375 per month for one morning's effort, or \$4500 per year. I suspect we could do a lot better than that, but it's a basis for thought.

If this tickles your fancy and you are willing to get involved, give me a call at 680-9598. I'm willing to host a meeting at my house to discuss it further.

David Horsley



Heard Under the Oak Tree

- **Ronnie Sledge and Anne Stewart** were married on December 10th. Welcome to Garden Oaks, **Anne**.
- **Anne Christine Fruge**, daughter of **Christine Adams** and **Ernie Fruge**, was selected as the female grand prize winner of the national Fisher-Price Baby Face Contest. The prize winning photograph was taken by **John Everett**, another Garden Oaks resident. As the winner, **Anne** and her parents will receive a free trip to New York City for a professional photo session. Say cheese in the Big Apple, **Anne**.
- **Kay Paul** won the door prize at the December Civic Club Christmas party. The prize turkey was donated by our neighbor, **Terry Jeanes**. (Century 21 **Bill Hartman**)

New Sewer Project

As a part of the City's planned capitol improvements the City of Houston will be inspecting and rehabilitating, removing and replacing some of the sanitary sewers in




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Garden Oaks beginning in a few months.

The area included is roughly Section III, South of Lamonte (including its' South Side) and Section IV and V, South of Gardenia (including its' South side). Areas may vary as necessary.

Rehabilitation work includes *sliplin-ing*, or feeding flexible tubing into existing sewers to prevent leakage and facilitate flow. This construction should greatly reduce the number of sewer collapses experienced and also reduce the wet weather backup problems caused by the influx of rainwater into a system that is not closed from elements.

Northwest YMCA News

January is "Try the new You" at the YMCA. The Y will be having "Try Us Week" January 3 - 7, With all fitness, dance, gymnastic, karate classes being offered on a free trial this week. On Saturday Jan. 7 there will be an open house with opening day for all-youth basketball, tours, door prizes, cholesterol testing and free work out. Register for afterschool and childcare, call Tina for a free one day visit. A New afterschool program is opening at Garden Oaks Elementary beginning Jan. 3rd. On-site activities include sports, quiet games, arts and crafts, homework, snacks, and a variety of interest centers for all ages. This program is licensed and all staff are trained and certified. January also kicks off the YMCA Partner of Youth campaign sponsoring youth in a variety of programs. This year's campaign is chaired by **Kathy Marek** and will raise \$27,000 to subsidize over 750 youth from the Garden Oaks-Oak Forest area. For more information and a program brochure call 869-3378.

Membership 1989

We are looking forward to a busy 1989 in Garden Oaks. The Civic Club is planning many activities that will ensure our neighborhood's maintaining its very special quality of a small home town in the midst of a big city. We will continue our improvement plans - visible changes that directly enhance your property values and social events that help bring us together as a community.

Some examples:

- **Beautification Committee** work on common esplanades and pocket parks.
- **Adopt a Park Committee** efforts to improve Graham Park.
- **North Sheperd Mowing Committee** established to keep our main thoroughfare looking good.
- **Home Tour '89**, our biggest fundraiser as well as our opportunity to show Garden Oaks to neighboring communities.
- A fantastic **Mother's Day Eve Children's Parade**.
- Participation in the **Heights Festival** and **YMCA Fun Run**.

We are blessed to call Garden Oaks home, and we find ways to share our blessings. Our **Community Garden** at Garden Oaks Elementary will be a full scale 5 bed garden which will yield fresh produce for the Food Bank Coalition. Our **Safeway receipts** continue to make significant contributions to worthy charities.

Your membership in the Civic Club is what enables us to continue these efforts. You really count with us, fill in the form today and let us COUNT YOU IN!!!

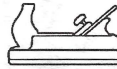
Thank You,

Grace Blair,
Membership Committee Chair

Jenkinnes Interests

- EVENT COORDINATING
- CATERING
- PARTY DECORATING
- ENTERTAINMENT
- INVITATIONS

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New Gazette Editors

Darla and Rick Englert will edit the Garden Oaks Gazette during the months of February through July. Please call them at 864-TREY with your news, committee updates, other information or suggestions. **George and Isabella Keegan** will coordinate Gazette advertising. If you are interested in placing an ad, dial 681-4306. Today.

The Gazette is our major source of neighborhood information.

Let's all help **Darla and Rick** bring the News to Garden Oaks.

Safeway Receipts

A special thank you to everyone who has been saving Safeway receipts over the past few months. Because of your help, we will be able to make two donations to worthwhile organizations. The first will be to Garden Oaks Elementary in the amount of \$167.80. The second donation, for \$180, will be made to the Houston Food Bank which is operated through St. Matthew's Methodist Church. Please continue to save your receipts. With very little effort, we will be able to continue to help organizations that do so much for our community. You can bring your receipts to the Civic Club meeting or mail them to Cindy Weed at 523 W. 32nd St.

Critter Corner

by David Horsley

Elsewhere in this issue is an article about recycling, so I won't talk your ear off about it here. Suffice it to say that a lot of us are already doing recycling -- setting newspapers out in a separate sack on trash day and saving aluminum cans for the Boy Scouts or church -- so recycling is nothing new to Garden Oaks. Maybe we ought to get a little more organized so we could do something fun with the money we would make.

Harvey Hillin of W. 43rd wrote to tell me about his birdwatching. He has been a Garden Oaks resident for under a year, but already has spotted over 30 different birds in his yard, and the list includes some surprises: a great blue heron, a myna bird, and a mallard duck! Now that's entertainment! The Hillins have a birdbath in their yard and they sprinkle crumbs to attract their feathered friends.

We had a tremendous crop of nuts and acorns this year. The squirrels in our yard are so fat they are breaking the limbs off the trees. They jump onto our roof and the whole house shakes. I noticed them building their winter nest the other day, dragging steel rebars up the tree to brace their leafy home. Those are some heavy squirrels.

Cooler weather is bringing our roaches indoors. You haven't lived until a roach wakes you up by crawling across your face. Rather than rely on poison, I trap ours for release in the wild (my neighbor's yard): get a big jar, like a mayonnaise jar, and grease the inside of the jar's neck with vaseline. Put an applecore or potato peelings down in the bottom, and put the jar where you have seen roaches. I guarantee that you will have some slick-footed roaches in a couple of days. They go down into the jar to eat and can't climb back out because of the vaseline. Note: roaches are nocturnal creatures, so check the trap each morning, before they figure out a way to pole-vault out.

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GARDEN OAKS RESIDENT

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We need volunteers for edging, weeding, cleaning of sign areas. Help beautify your community by volunteering for a month. Call **Kathy Marek** at 688-6811 or **Peggy Kramer** at 869-0440

Good Neighbor Award Announced

A way of recognizing some of our wonderful Garden Oaks residents has been announced by Suzanne Debien, Realtor. Nominations are now being solicited for the Garden Oaks Good Neighbor Award. The purpose of this award is to recognize neighbors whose citizenship traits and caring manner in dealing with others make them a great neighbor. This award will be made four times a year to a Garden Oaks resident.

Nominations for the first quarter of 1989 will be accepted January 1 to February 11, then will be reviewed by a committee of community leaders to select the first honoree. The winner will be announced March 30. For complete rules and a form to nominate a good neighbor, come to the January 3rd Civic Club meeting, stop by Suzanne Debien, Realtor at 1235 North Loop West #1120 or call 697-5220.

There are a lot of great neighbors out there so take a few minutes to think of someone you would like to receive this honor.

Welcome Wagon

About a year ago we started a hospitality committee for our new neighbors. Any home that is bought is given a packet with information about our neighborhood. It is our way of saying that you are special to us and we are proud that you chose Garden Oaks for your home. If you have bought a home in the past year and have not received a new neighbor packet please call Kathy Marek at 688-6811. We want everyone to feel welcome.

GOOD NEIGHBORS

- **Santa Claus** and all his helpers for making a special visit to Garden Oaks. We hope you can visit our neighborhood every year!
 - **Suzanne Debien, Realtors** for instituting the quarterly Garden Oaks Good Neighbor Award.
 - **Frank and Linda Wiseburn**, who did a terrific job as guest editors for the December Gazette.
 - **Chris, Jeanette and Curtis Simmons** for their care and concern for Red (Max), the Mabry's dog, during his wanderings.
 - **HOME DEPOT** for donating landscape timbers to be used in our Community Garden.
 - Sponsors of the "Light Up Garden Oaks" contest. Our neighborhood really shone during the holidays.
 - Legato, the Hair Salon
 - Regency Title
 - Garden Properties
 - Suzanne Debien, Realtors
 - **Sam Frazier, (Nancy Rogers' dad)**, for his time, effort, and tractor which provided a wonderful hayride for the children of Garden Oaks at the Harvest Moon Party.
 - **Southwest Sundowners Square Dance Group** provided a lively exhibition at the Harvest Moon Party.
 - **John's Christmas Trees** for donating a Christmas tree for decoration at the December Civic Club meeting.
 - **Bobby Blair**, whose Fun Run efforts netted the Civic Club \$200.
- Many thanks to all of you!!!



January Calendar of Events						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1	2	3 Civic Club Meeting	4 Home Tour Meeting 7:30	5	6	7
8	9	10 Gazette Deadline	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

New Neighbors

Earl and Maryanne Thomas and son **Taylor** 520 W 32nd
Rusty and Jennifer Day and son **Nicholas** 717 W 42nd
Terry and Lynn Hanks 1434 Sue Barnett

"A PRAYER FOR TODAY"

"This is the beginning of a new day. God has given me this day to use as I will. I can waste it or use it for good, but what I do today is important, because I am exchanging a day of my life for it. When tomorrow comes, this day will be gone forever, leaving in its place something that I have traded for it. I want it to be a gain and not loss; good and not evil; success and not failure; in order that I shall not regret the price that I have paid for it."

January Birthdays

Michael Kriechbaum - Jan. 3 11 yrs
 Amy Ross - Jan. 13 3 yrs
 Linda Ross - Jan. 16 ?
 Matthew Horsley - Jan. 19 2 yrs
 Ben Rogers - Jan. 23 5 yrs
 Tom Peden - Jan. 30 ?
 John Ross - Jan. 30 ?
 Holly Veselka - Jan. 31 8 yrs

New Baby

Congratulations to **Shirley and Jeff Ralston**, W 43rd, on the birth of their daughter **Margreta Kathleen**, born November 20th. Their son **Alex** is a proud big brother.



**REAL ESTATE
 UPDATE
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HAPPY NEW YEAR, GARDEN OAKS!!!

SUZANNE DEBIEN, REALTORS -13 years Real Estate/14 years Garden Oaks