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Garden Oaks Gazette

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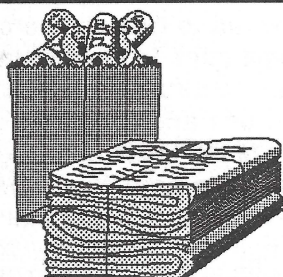
August

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

Willard Mills, Treasurer
Grace Blair, 1st V.P.,
 Membership
Margaret Hall, Secretary

Anita Scherer,
 Editor 956-7809
Arthur Smith,
 Advertising 861-0321

Civic Club Meeting Tuesday, August 1, 7pm at Graham Park



Recycle, Recycle, Recycle, Recycle

Another Successful Recycling Day!!

Saturday, July 8 was another solid winner for Garden Oaks Recycling! Our team of volunteers made their monthly rounds of the neighborhood and came up with more encouraging figures:

Glass	1210 lbs	\$36.30
Metals		\$105.62
Aluminum	95 lbs	
Brass & Copper	155 lbs	
Batteries	5.5	
Newspaper	6560 lbs	<u>\$49.20</u>
TOTAL		\$191.12

A check for this amount was turned over to the Civic Club.

Can you see how this is starting to add up?

About ten percent of the homes

in our neighborhood are currently participating in the recycling effort. If we can make \$200 a month from ten percent, then we are sending about \$1800 EACH MONTH TO THE TRASH DUMP! That ain't hay, it's cash.

If you are one of the 1350 households that is waiting a while before you start recycling, wait no more. Even if your monthly accumulation of glass, aluminum, or newspapers isn't a lot, WE WANT IT! Every little bit really does help.

Starting in August, we will also be picking up scrap aluminum, copper, and brass in addition to our "regulars" of glass, paper, and cans. That old piece of aluminum guttering lying behind your house is worth cash to the Civic Club. Those brass plumbing parts in a drawer in the garage are too! So is that old

aluminum awning leaning against the back fence, and the bathroom faucet that the plumber took out when he installed the new one. Place these items on the curb the morning of the first Saturday of every month with the regular recyclable items.

If you would like to drop your recyclable items off at Graham Park, you may do so between 8 and 10 am on the Recycling Pick-up Day. Volunteers will be available to help you unload.

Remember: Please put glass in containers that can be hauled away, such as boxes or bags. Glass should be separated into clear and colored. Lids should be removed, but labels can be left on.

Pepsi cans are not aluminum. Use a magnet to check.

Newspaper can be placed in

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paper bags, bundled, or stacked. No junk mail, telephone books, or magazines.

Look in your garage for scrap aluminum objects, brass faucets, copper tubing, etc.

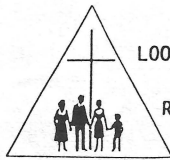
If you missed the July Civic Club meeting, you missed the videotape about recycling entitled "No Deposit - No Return." This is an excellent show from the series "Fueling the Future" which was shown on Channel 8 last November. The tape is approximately one hour long, and copies are available for viewing in your own home. Call Rusty Day at 699-8417 to check out a copy.

The next recycling pick-up day is Saturday, August 12. The pick-up caravans will start at Sections 1 and 5. See you then!

From The President...

Sometimes you just have to say "Uncle". I hated that word when I was a kid. I was quite a tomboy and never did like to admit that there was anything I couldn't do (if I suspected it in advance, I'd just pretend I never wanted to do it in the first place!).

Over a year ago, the old Garden Oaks Civic Club Building appeared on a list of buildings to be demolished and the property sold by the city. Councilman Larry McKaskle, who had worked with us on this project over the years, stepped in and negotiated an agreement with Public Works and Real Estate to stop the plans and give Garden Oaks Civic Club a chance to renovate the building in exchange for a long term low cost lease to the property. I can still remember how some of you cheered when I announced that news at a Civic Club meeting. Some of you may also recall the one caveat to the announcement I made that night. "We must have someone who will agree to spearhead the project and get several bids on the renovation to present to the city so that negotiations can continue." To date we still have no one who has volunteered to undertake that job. If we go forward, it will be a massive project. It will require a corporate



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fundraising effort, investigation of insurance requirements, exploration of possible tenants, the formation of a separate Board of Directors to manage the property, and much more. It is a project that cannot be undertaken lightly. It could be the greatest asset to our community OR the greatest liability.

For those of you who just came in (remember how we used to say that when we went to the movies....i.e. "This is where I came in..."oh well, another column) the history of the building is as follows:

When Garden Oaks was developed, it was not a part of the city, and the building at 822 West 34th housed our water district office and our volunteer fire department. When the city annexed our neighborhood, it became City of Houston property, and since it was previously a water district, it became City of Houston Water Department property, even though for many years it housed City of Houston Fire Station #32 (now moved to Crosstimbers). Through some quirk in the system, the Garden Oaks Civic Club retained the use and operation of the East half of the building through those years. We kept the keys, handled all the rentals, and maintained that half of the building. We paid for paint and painted. We cleaned and replaced windows, etc.; an arrangement that was apparently never official. After the fire department moved out, the building needed major renovations, which our club just couldn't afford without some guarantee that we could retain use and control of the building. At that time, the club attempted to get ownership or a lease of the building, but since the property is included in an Enterprise Fund Account with the city it must be sold or leased at a full fair market price, and cannot be given away. Meeting that stone wall, we stopped maintaining the building and moved our meetings. Now the building is almost destroyed and vagrants have been sighted inside. The once fine meeting place of Garden Oaks has become a hazard. Part of the problem is that the property is no longer contiguous to

From Pres. - Continued from pg. 2

our residential area. In the original "Planned Community" of Garden Oaks, small duplexes occupied the Northwest corner of Shepherd at West 34th. They were called Garden Oaks Village, and were a real part of our community, as was the adjacent Civic Club Building. Now the apartments separate us from our building and the widening of West 34th (scheduled to begin early next year) will put us across a major thoroughfare from the club building.

At best: The renovated building could house our meetings and activities without cost. We could maintain a Civic Club office, with an answering machine and permanent files. Perhaps some Senior Citizens or church organization could rent the building for a community pantry or food service activity. We could derive income from the building rental, and enjoy a real home for our club once again.

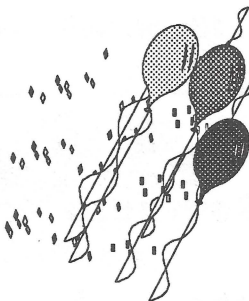
At worst: We could be burdened with costly insurance and utility expenses on a building that we only need once or twice a month. We could fail to raise enough outside money to fund the renovations and lose money in the attempt.

Or, the building could be demolished and the property sold by the city and the beautiful building we once enjoyed, could become a memory.

You tell me! If I sound undecided, it is because I am. Debate training made me able to argue on either side of an issue convincingly, but this time I am ON both sides. So, you consider all the pros and cons, and at the September meet-

ing, we will ask for a full discussion of the matter. We won't make this decision quickly or in just one meeting, but we must either go forward or give up.....Say Uncle.....The word still leaves a bad taste in my mouth, but I guess if we have to, we can say it together. Maybe it won't hurt so badly that way!

Susan McMillian



Heights Festival

If you weren't at the July 11 Civic Club meeting then you haven't heard the news — Garden Oaks Civic Club will be in the Heights Festival again! The Heights Festival will be Sunday, October 1. Margaret Hall has reluctantly agreed to lead this day of revelry if everyone that helped last year will come back and help again. That means we need canned soft drinks (Cokes, Diet Cokes, Pepsi, Diet Pepsi, Dr. Pepper, and Sprites) donated for the food booth. You can catch canned drinks on sale this summer at various stores for 99 cents per six-pack. So buy a case next time you're in the grocery store and bring it to 718 W. 39th for storage in the Hall's garage. Call Margaret at 691-1576 if you want to help in the festivities or if you want to run the whole show.

Editor's Note

The quill and scroll have passed (actually I don't use a quill, but a computer keyboard). **Darla and Rick Englert** have contributed their time and talents to this community as editors of the Gazette and during their six month tenure have made a positive impact on the community. As a result the Gazette is an excellent and reliable source of community news as well as a professional looking newspaper.

I hope to continue the good work they have done. I know the Garden Oaks community will be very supportive as I fumble through the first few issues. (Typos and misinformation will be forgiven, right?) Everything this community undertakes together is a success, so how can we go wrong? I know I speak for everyone as I express a heartfelt thank you to Darla and Rick.

To assure the timely delivery of the **Gazette**, please get your news to me the day after the Civic Club meeting. Don't forget about birthdays, anniversaries, and weddings. Also don't forget to thank good neighbors who do good deeds.

New Advertising Volunteer

Please welcome **Arthur Smith** as the new advertising committee of one. Arthur has kindly volunteered to take over the difficult task of finding advertising support for the Gazette. If you know of any businesses which may want to advertise with us or if you can volunteer your help, please contact Arthur.



1990 HOME SELECTION

If you know a home you would like to see on the 1990 Home Tour,
Please give us the details on the next page.

Good Neighbors

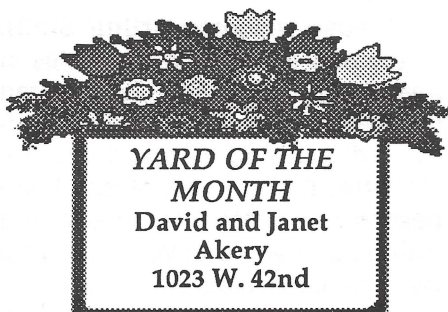
Thank you to **Pete and June Stamp** at 1582 Sue Barnett (Section 5) for the use of their xerox machine at Pete Stamp's office on Wakefield. They have been residents of Garden Oaks for 13 years.

Thank you to **David Bell** and resident at 4310 Apollo (Section 5) who mowed the esplanade at 43rd and Apollo in May and June and to **Michelle and Kim Raymond** at 1574 Sue Barnett (Section 5) who mowed it in July. A big thanks to all the volunteers!

Thank you to **Neal Talmadge**, a W. 31st neighbor (Section 1) who works for the Houston Rockets, who volunteered to collect the newspapers from his office (hundreds per week) and donate them to our recycling effort. A Garden Oaks High Five for that!

August Meeting

The August 1 Civic Club meeting will be held at Graham Park. Bring lawn chairs and a freezer of homemade ice cream. A prize will be given for the best tasting recipe. The program will include stories of "old" Garden Oaks from native residents. Come at 7pm and share an old-fashioned evening with neighbors and friends.



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Musicians Billboard

I am trying to put together a Jammin group of amateur musicians to play together and maybe start a Garden Oaks Rock Band. Mainly, I would like to put people together that would like to play music of any sort with others in the neighborhood. Therefore, I am willing to act as a coordinator. If anyone is interested, call me and let me know what instruments you play, what sort of music format you like or what ideas you have. I play electric and acoustic guitars, a little bass, some jazz piano and five string banjo. Lets get down!!!

On another note, (quarter note?) I am also interested in forming a plant exchange for fellow gardeners. Like every other plant freak, I have a lot of some species and none of others, I am not greedy, but I want them all, and I really enjoy plants that are free. We could donate lots of extra stuff to the Gardening Committee and contribute to the already great job they are doing. If anyone is interested, call me. Let's recycle plants in addition to inorganic materials.

Scott MacClymonds 691-3020

Home Tour Dates

Home Tour Dates have been announced! Mark your calendars for the twelfth annual Garden Oaks Home Tour on April 22, 1990. The Premier Party is scheduled for March 18, 1990, and the Preview Opening will be April 21, 1990. If you know a home you would like to see on the 1990 Home Tour, please contact Terry Russey at 680-1455 or 956-9209.

GARDEN OAKS HOME TOUR 1990 HOME SELECTION

Homeowner _____

Home Address _____

Telephone Number _____

Submitted by _____ Telephone Number _____

Send to: **GARDEN OAKS HOME TOUR**
C/O Mr. Terry Russey
1062 Lamonte Lane
Houston, Texas 77018

Critter Corner

by David Horsley

Somebody ran over a snapping turtle on 34th near Graham Park. I happened to see it while helping out with recycling last month. This particular turtle was about the size of a fryer hen, and was lying on its back in the road in a big clump of astonishingly red blood. It must have been squashed just before I came along, because it was still alive, though broken in a hundred pieces, and this amazing creature had the presence of mind to snap at the toe of my shoe as I scooted him into the grass along the street. Talk about the durability of life!

Some people call any turtle that snaps a snapping turtle, which is sloppy taxonomy since nearly all turtles will snap if you make them mad. One, however, elevates snapping to an art, and that is Chelydra serpentina, the pit bull of turtles, the one I found lying in 34th: the common snapper.

Native Americans revered the snapping turtle along with the grizzly, the eagle, the coyote and a few other creatures whose indomitable spirit and tenacious grip on existence they admired. I imagine the Indians also liked the taste of the turtle, which is said to make an excellent soup. I personally prefer to avoid eating animals I admire (which tells you my opinion of cows, chickens, and pigs), but I have friends who would rather eat turtle soup than almost anything.

About a half hour later I returned to the turtle and found him gone. There is no way on earth he could have crawled off, so I assume someone came along who is fond of turtle soup. Maybe that person will phone me and let me know how the soup came out? It would be a comfort to know that the turtle was not wasted.

Claire Bresnahan tells me that she came out one morning to find two young owls sitting on her pickup truck. Now Claire can rest easy, knowing she has been blessed by the owl god. Way to go, Claire.

Tony King called to say she had found an injured woodpecker in her

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yard. I have lost the name of the woman in Bellaire who takes care of injured birds. Does anybody know about this lady?

Speaking of woodpeckers, Rusty and Jennifer Day report that the peckerwoods are waking them up in the morning by hammering on the gutters of their house. That must be some racket! Maybe they are trying to determine if the gutters are recyclable?

One of the many benefits of all the rain we had in July is the critters which prey on insects are doing quite well in the nutrition department, owing to the swarms of bugs -- mostly mosquitoes -- produced by the rain. Take our little anoles, for instance, the green or brown lizards we have lots of. Lately the ones at my house all look like Jabba the Hut, the horrendously obese monster in Star Wars. My lizards have eaten so many mosquitoes they make a whining noise if you approach them. Even so, the mosquitoes are thicker than campaign promises this year.

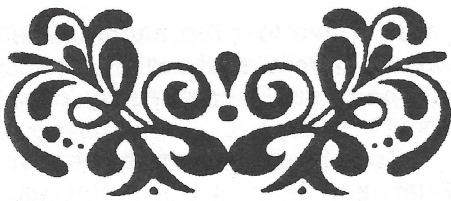
Do you have a fig tree at your place? We do, and as I write this (mid-July) the figs are about to break the tree down. The birds are trying to help by making each fig slightly lighter, which they accomplish by pecking one or two holes in each one. Why don't they just go ahead and eat the whole darn fig?

Hospitality Chairman Needed

We are looking for a volunteer for Hospitality Committee Chairman.

The person would be in charge of the new neighbors packets. Any person that buys a home in Garden Oaks 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. We want everyone to feel welcome.

If interested, please call Kathy Marek at 688-6811.



Happy 20th Anniversary

Sammie and Carol Broadrick will celebrate their 20th wedding anniversary on August 4. Sixteen of those years have been in Garden Oaks. Neighbors and friends wish both of you much happiness on this special day.

New Neighbors

Welcome all new neighbors at:

- 971 Althea
- 1054 Althea
- 3110 Lawrence
- 1108 Sue Barnett
- 1511 Sue Barnett
- 1555 Sue Barnett
- 503 W. 30th
- 224 W. 31st
- 817 W. 31st
- 411 W. 32nd
- 503 W. 32nd
- 508 W. 32nd
- 211 W. 33rd
- 219 W. 33rd
- 220 W. 33rd
- 511 W. 33rd
- 850 W. 41st
- 839 W. 42nd
- 862 W. 42nd
- 903 W. 42nd
- 946 W. 43rd
- 1043 W. 43rd

Correction

The total quoted in last month's Gazette for the Recycling proceeds was \$350.31. The correct total is \$250.31.

August Calendar of Events						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
		1 Civic Club Meeting 7:00 pm	2	3	4 Gazette Deadline	5
6 Volleyball 4:00 pm	7 Recycle Meeting 7:30 pm	8	9	10	11	12 Recycle Pick-Up Day
13 Volleyball 4:00 pm	14	15	16	17	18	19 Adopt A Park 9:00 am
20 Volleyball 4:00 pm	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 Volleyball 4:00 pm	28	29	30	31		

Cut calendar out and place on your refrigerator in order not to miss anything!

Congratulations

Congratulations on the August 5th marriage of Miss Lisa Daniels to Mr. David McMillian (son of Susan & Bill McMillian, 718 W. 42nd; grandson of A. W. & Mable Smith, 1471 Sue Barnett; and great grandson of Addie Lyons, 815 W. 43rd). With all that Garden Oaks family, they have bought a house in Shepherd Forest!



Birthdays

Happy Birthday to Laura Rhea who turns 5 on August 17.

Happy Belated Birthdays to Bill and Sue McMillian on July 15 and July 28 respectively. They turned ??? Hope they were happy!

Friendship Day is Sunday, August 6.

Volleyball

Want some exercise on a Sunday afternoon?

Come join your neighbors and friends at Graham Park for volleyball at 4pm on Sundays.



Suzanne Debien
Owner/Broker

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