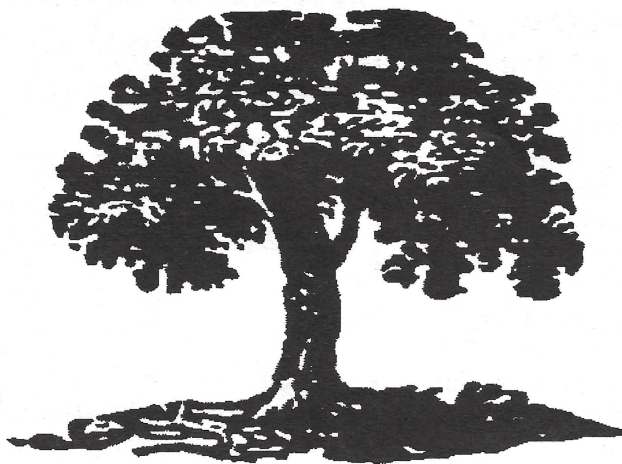


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Garden Oaks Gazette

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Editor 956-7809

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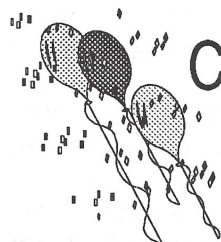
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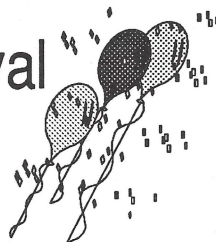
Deadline for November Gazette is October 6

October Meeting To Be Held Outdoors

The October Civic Club meeting will be held on **Tuesday, October 3** at 7:00pm on the north grounds of Garden Oaks Elementary School (the location of the community garden, Sunday volleyball, and the proposed SPARK park). Bring your own lawn chairs or blankets; refreshments will be provided. Baby-sitting will be available during the business portion of the meeting at the playground for \$1.00 per child. Please park on the street and NOT on the school grounds! If it rains, the meeting will be held at Garden Oaks Baptist Church. Come join us this month and bring a neighbor to the meeting with you.



Come to Heights Festival Sunday, October 1



It's Not Too Late...

To come to the Heights Festival on October 1 between 12:30 and 6:30 p.m!

Garden Oaks Civic Club will be sponsoring an ice cream booth with cold drinks. Our location is the west side of the 1700 block of Heights Blvd. Come and visit or work in the booth.

We are still taking donations of canned drinks or \$5.00. Please call **Margaret Hall** at **691-1576** if you care to donate or help.

The Heights Festival Committee members are:

Sammie Broadrick

Darla Englert

Rick Englert

Jan Forster

Wayne Forster

Jim Hall

Margaret Hall, Chairman

Richard Lipham

Rick Luck

Mark Myers

Jaime Pierce

Anita Scherer

Cindy Weed

Gary Weed

Any of these members can accept your donation of canned drinks and ice chests or can sign you up to volunteer to work in the booth.

Building Demolition Requested

Garden Oaks will soon say good-bye to an old friend. Demolition will begin shortly on the old Civic Club building on W. 34th Street. Lively discussion on the subject marked the meeting last month. Estimates of \$100,000 in remodeling costs plus liability potential seemed to be the deciding factors in the decision to advise the city that the Civic Club no longer wished to delay demolition. T. E. May, a twenty year president of the Garden Oaks Board of Trustees and Section 1 resident, made the motion which passed without objection. Those present agreed that our limited funds would be better spent on continuing the many fine improvement efforts in the neighborhood such as our pocket parks and community garden.

Continued on pg 4.

From The President...

My decade long commitment to Garden Oaks Civic Club and my years with Councilman McKaskle have convinced me that Deed Restrictions are misunderstood by 99% of all Houstonians. Before I really understood them myself, I knew that whatever they were, Garden Oaks had **STRONG ONES!**

One of my first jobs was with a major law firm here in town. At that time we had just bought our present home in Garden Oaks and were busy dreaming of all the ways we could renovate it. One of those dreams involved building a screen (read:"fence" in "legalese") in front of the house... just a "few feet forward of the mandatory setback" as set forth in the deed restrictions. (How many times have you heard that?) I asked one of the real estate partners at the firm about our chances of having a problem with the plan. After learning that we lived in Garden Oaks he advised us to forget it as it was a subdivision famous for enforcement! Soon after that we met our new neighbors across the street, Luther and Verda McGary. Luther was on the Board of Trustees, really committed to Garden Oaks, and fortunately one of that 1% who truly understood Deed Restrictions. He taught me a lot and I am still learning.

The restrictive covenant or deed restriction document governing each section of Garden Oaks was drawn up by the original developer. Our particular document renews "in perpetuity", meaning that anyone who tells you that our deed restrictions have expired or will expire on some future date are badly mistaken. Action would have to be taken long in advance to alter or abandon the deed restrictions in Garden Oaks as a whole. Individual property owners may petition for permission for a specified land use otherwise prohibited. These petitions must be very specific on the variance requested and have the notarized signatures of the majority of the owners of the front property footage in the pertinent section to be valid. Neither the Civic Club nor the Board

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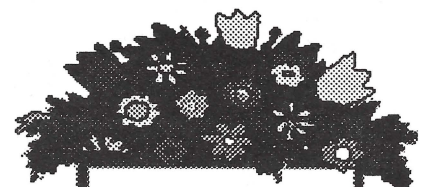
Jerry W. Lemon, Ph.D., Pastor

of Trustees can grant variances themselves. The Board is charged with reviewing all plans for improvements only to assure compliance. No architectural review rights were granted to that body. It is their duty to watch for violations and to fight against them. Successful petition drives have been held in Garden Oaks and probably will be again as specific sites have specific problems. It is important to note that a successful petition drive creates no precedent for anyone else who wants to do a similar thing. Each must be considered on its own merits and petitioned separately.

It is also important to understand why we can't just ignore something that "looks good". Justice is blind when it comes to deed restrictions. That screen/fence that we dreamed of years ago is precisely the same violation that a chain-link/barbed wire enclosure around a vehicle would be in the eyes of the courts. If we closed our eyes to several aesthetically pleasing violations it could be construed as an abandonment of our rights to enforce our deed restrictions and Garden Oaks could become unprotected.

It is also a matter of money. One of the reasons Garden Oaks keeps showing up on those lists of most stable property values is our reputation for tough deed restriction enforcement. Why pay extra for something and then allow it to deteriorate? Deed restriction enforcement should be a priority for every property owner in Garden Oaks. It is a matter of dollars and sense!

Susan M. Millian



**YARD OF THE
MONTH**
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Garden Oaks Elementary School News

Welcome back to school! The new year was off to a great start as over 500 students began a new school adventure September 5th. Squeals of delight at seeing friends again and a few tears of anticipation both set the first week pace.

The first PTA meeting was September 12, and was held in conjunction with a school open house. Parents and friends attended a short business meeting and then dismissed to grade level meetings and visitation of booths concerning school activities.

October's PTA meeting will be **Tuesday, October 10**, at 7:00 pm. **Dr. Greg Tharp**, Clinical Psychologist and Garden Oaks neighbor, will present a program about learning abilities, the differences between children and their response to presentation of material, what teachers can do and how parents can contribute to good learning experiences. Whether a child is affected by a learning disability or easily manages new material, the process of learning can be complicated. Dr. Tharp will present valuable information on meeting the needs of most children.

Character education has been introduced to HISD schools this year. September was devoted to "self-esteem," and October will emphasize "honesty." Each month will provide a new opportunity to reinforce positive characteristics in our young students.

The PTA Board has elected **Susan Light** as President and **Debbie Connaster** as Treasurer. Also, welcome new third grade teacher **Georgla Cashin** and new teacher aide **Peggy Kramer**.

You don't have to be a parent or a teacher to join PTA. For \$2.25 anyone can show support of their neighborhood school. There are cake drawings at every PTA meeting. All friends of Garden Oaks are welcomed and appreciated.

Kindergarten Screening (assessment of basic skills) will be October 11. Volunteers will be testing 5 year olds for basic skills and, as experience has shown, learning a lot



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Did you know that you could volunteer to read to a kindergarten or 1st grade class for one hour a week? One example of what VIPS (Volunteers in Public Schools) offers and needs. For one hour or more a week could you cut out teaching aids, help tutor basic skills or phone absent student's homes? Give us a call.

Danese McWhorter
Outgoing PTA President

Dear Neighbors:

Recently we were the lucky recipients of our raffle prize for the 1989 Garden Oaks Home Tour raffle. We were fortunate to be the winners of a dinner for six at **Rick and Darla Englert's** home. This undoubtedly should be considered the 1st prize as it was no "fish dinner". The entrees included chilled shrimp, chilled steamed crab, snapper with crab dressing, soft shell crabs, marinated bacon-wrapped smoked scallops and shrimp, crab florentine with Alfredo sauce and super-jumbo fried shrimp tempura. All of this was graciously prepared fresh and served in their home by Rick and Darla. While we enjoyed this sumptuous repast our children were happily entertained by **Trey Englert**. After we were thoroughly stuffed, Rick carried us all home in a large wheelbarrow. Our advice is to buy as many raffle tickets as you can to increase your chances of winning "1st prize" next year.

Jack and Muffie Welker, Section 1

The Garden Oaks Rock Band is considering a different name. Here are a few I thought of:

1. Nosy Neighbors
2. Paint Your House
3. Civil Unrest
4. Broken Streets

If you have an idea, call me. The winner will have an original song named after them (sort of). We are still looking for amateur musical people to flesh out the group. Whatever you play, strings, horns, percussion or vocals, we need everything.

Scott MacClymonds, 691-3020



Who is this motley crew? The recycling volunteers from the historic June 10 pick-up day, that's who. From left to right they are: Don Musselwhite, Rusty Day, Jennifer Day, Jim Alexander, Tim Pagel, Kay Parisi, David Horsley, Ann Kilgore, Grace Blair, Sammie Broadrick, Anita Scherer, Pam Parks, David Epstein, Claire Bresnahan, Teresa Coleman, Steve McMillian (standing), and Wynn Gajkowski. Not pictured are Steve Parisi and Scott MacClymonds.

Recycling Update

*Well, I heard it on the grapevine,
That Garden Oaks people were the recycling kind.
They know a new planet will be hard to find,
So we better stop trashing this one
Before it's too late and we're out of time!*

Lyrics by **Scott MacClymonds** with help from Marvin Gaye.

The September figures are in, and they are proof that the Garden Oaks community can continue to make a difference. Last month the participation increased to 17 percent. Let's keep up the good work!

Metals		\$192.79
Aluminum 280 lbs	\$126.00	
Stainless 53 lbs	\$ 15.90	
Other	\$ 44.02	
Batteries 5.5	\$ 6.87	
Paper 12,710 lbs	\$139.81	
Glass 2,945 lbs	\$ 88.35	
TOTAL	\$420.60	

On September 12, the Garden Oaks recycling committee was represented at Garden Oaks Elementary School PTA/Open House. Information about our recycling program and recycling in general was distributed and displays were presented to demonstrate what kind of materials can be recycled. All in all, it was a good educational program for the parents and kids.

The next pick-up date will be **Saturday, October 14**. Remember to set out your recyclables by 8am. If you would like to help, call **Pam Parks** at 868-5223. We could use volunteers and trucks.

Halloween Party Benefits Food Pantry

St. Matthew's United Methodist Church invites all children to come to a Halloween Party from 6:30 to 8:00pm on Tuesday, October 31st in the Fellowship Hall at 4300 North Shepherd (at Crosstimbers). Fun and games will be provided for children ages infant to 5th grade (accompanied by parents). Admission is the donation of any non-perishable food item for the Food Pantry.



Demolition - Continued from pg. 1

We wish to thank Councilman Larry McKaskle for his intervention which gave us the luxury of two years to investigate our options. Thanks also to the past presidents who devoted so much time to the effort.

Theatre Suburbia Announces New Season

Theatre Suburbia, located at 43rd and Oak Forest, has announced seven productions for the 1989-90 season, its 28th year of continual non-equity theatre. The season opens with the classic American play "The Wisdom of Eve," by Mary Orr and Reginald Denham from September 15 through October 14. Dame Agatha Christie's "Spider's Web," a murder mystery will play from November 3 through December 2.

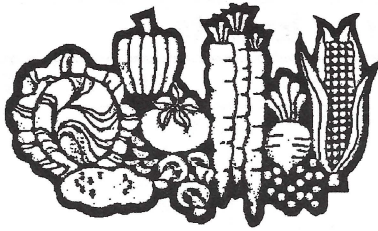
The Texas comedy "Daddy's Dyin' (Who's Got the Will)" by Del Shore will run from January 5 through February 3, 1990. "An Act of the Imagination," a suspense thriller by Bernard Slade will play from February 23 through March 24.

Running from April 13 through May 12 will be "One for the Road," a British farce by Willy Russell. Next, Thomas Strelch's "Neon Psalms," a dark comedy will play June 1-30. Finally, "The Face on the Barroom Floor," by Tim Kelly will end the season running from July 29 through August 25, 1990.

Theatre Suburbia is a non-equity theatre with performances Friday and Saturday nights. Season tickets are available through the box office. For more information, call 682-3525.

Scout Fair Tickets Available

Tickets will go on sale beginning October 14 for the 75th annual Boy Scout Fair on Saturday, December 2. The fair will be held at the Astrohall from noon until 6pm. Tickets are \$3.00 per family and can be purchased from any Boy Scout. For more information call Sammie Broadrick at 686-1684.



Notes From The Garden

by Jan Koenig

This past week marked my return to the Community Garden after a two week vacation. I was anxious to see how everything had held up through the hottest and driest weather so far this summer. I figured the okra would continue to thrive, since the hotter it gets, the better it seems to grow. The peppers could probably hold their own as well. But the recently planted fall tomatoes, the yellow squash, and the cabbage were bigger question marks.

As it turned out, all of our "vegies" performed admirably. Even the cabbage, which is really a cool weather plant, grew nicely and showed no ill effects from the heat.

Thank heavens for irrigation! Although I understand that our "leaky pipe" watering system was interrupted several times, it was in operation frequently enough that our plants never got too thirsty. Plants are a lot like people. If you give them enough water to drink, most of them can survive even miserably hot conditions.

Of all the vegetables we've grown so far, okra has been the most surprising to me. I knew it was supposed to be tall, prolific, and pretty - but nothing prepared me for

what we got. Some of our okra plants are now almost seven feet tall with stalks over two inches in diameter and gorgeous, cream-colored flowers three inches across. The okra "fruits" grow from almost nothing to eight inches long and become too tough to eat in the space of four or five days.

You really have to see it to believe it. So come see your Community Garden. Better yet, come help us out on Saturday mornings. We're located on the grounds of Garden Oaks Elementary School, just outside the fence on the north side of the campus. The October Civic Club meeting will be held there. Hope to see you soon!



Critter Corner

by David Horsley

Last month I forgot to mention the lizard eggs. Remember all those creepy-crawlies we found while digging up a flowerbed? Add to the list eight white lizard eggs, looking almost like navy beans. As of this date, one has hatched and escaped.

In the Silver Lining department: my son and I hauled the trunk of our lightning-killed tree up to a sawmill near Cleveland and had it cut into the prettiest lumber you ever saw (haw haw!) Now won't that make some fine furniture, born and raised in Garden Oaks, Texas?

And now come three critter stories from you, the readers. First, Martha Kennedy of W. 30th called to share the good news - she finally

got owls in her box! That would be worth mentioning by itself, but she also said that one of the babies flew (or fell) to the ground and she got some great photos of the little daring in various cute poses, sitting on her hand, etc. It's true - I've seen the pictures.

Next, James Moller of W. 41st called to confess that he brought some geckos into our neighborhood when he moved here. I think he said they were originally from Corpus Christi. At any rate, that might account for gecko sightings in the area. (Maybe you are wondering what in the heck is a gecko. It's a spotted lizard the same size as our anoles, but nocturnal and can walk across ceilings like Spider Man.)

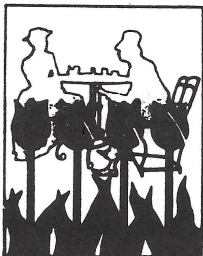
Finally, I got a hair-raising call from Linda and Rusty Reichle of W. 41st. They had a hurt bird in their yard and suggested I come look at it. I hemmed and hawed and then they said it looked like a falcon. Holy Toledo! A kite! So I rushed over and sure enough, it was a young kite with a badly broken wing. I wish you could have seen this bird - magnificent grey and white plumage and two huge black eyes that looked like pools of black ink. It was so beautiful it was scary. We boxed the bird up and called the Texas Wildlife Rehabilitation Coalition, 941-8972, who sent someone out to pick it up. Five days later it was still alive, its wing pinned by a vet and mending nicely. We will keep you posted on this creature's progress.

By the way, the people who fixed this bird said it had been shot. I don't want to believe that!

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Good Neighbors

Thank you to **Robert Finley** of Gilbane Building Construction Company, who has volunteered to be the SPARK park construction advisor.

Also, thank you to **John Means**, Section 5 resident, of Horizon Landscaping who has also volunteered his services to help out with the SPARK park.

Big thanks to **Suzu Wright** of 931 Lamonte and **Phil Richey** of 1054 W. 42nd Street who are the new Hospitality Committee volunteers for assembling and distributing the Hospitality packets.

The Garden Club wishes to thank the Beautification Committee for the sprinkler system at the pocket park on 30th and Lawrence.

Thank you to **Walter Stowell** of Section 1 who mowed Graham Park in August and whose name we didn't have when the last issue of the *Gazette* was printed.

New Neighbors

Welcome all new neighbors at:
 228 W. 32nd Street
 236 W. 32nd Street
 327 W. 32nd Street
 403 W. 32nd Street
 1031 W. 41st Street
 709 W. 42nd Street
 710 W. 42nd Street
 959 Althea

Congratulations

Welcome **Braden Benjamin Glass** born on August 22, 1989 to Tom Glass and Kathie Youngblood. Braden weighed in at 8 lbs and 1 oz.

Congratulations to **Susan and Bill McMillian** who will celebrate their wedding anniversary on October 15. When asked how many years they have been married, Sue replied, "Forever."

Sympathies Extended

Heartfelt sympathies go to **Danny and Sandra Weisinger** and family on the tragic loss of their son **Johnnie**. The Weisingers live in Section 5 of Garden Oaks.

October Calendar of Events						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1 Heights Festival 12:30 pm	2	3 Civic Club Meeting	4	5	6 <i>Gazette</i> Deadline	7
8 Volleyball 4:00 pm	9 Columbus Day (Observed) Yom Kipper	10	11	12	13	14 Recycle Pick-Up 8:00 am
15 Volleyball 4:00 pm	16	17	18	19	20	21 Adopt A Park 9:00 am
22 Volleyball 4:00 pm	23	24 United Nations Day	25	26	27	28
29 Volleyball 4:00 pm	30	31 Halloween				

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



October Birthdays

Scott Pierce	Oct	2	30 yrs
Joseph Weinberger	Oct	3	3 yrs
Jackson Blair	Oct	8	6 yrs
Megan Burns	Oct	12	6 yrs
Heather Wheat	Oct	13	3 yrs
David Epstein	Oct	14	? yrs
Christopher Roberts	Oct	18	1 yr
Teresa Coleman	Oct	22	36 yrs

Belated birthday greetings to **Rusty Day** who turned 33 on September 15 and to **Willard Mills** who turned 75 on September 5.

Volunteers Sought

Esplanade

Volunteers are still needed to mow, edge and weed the esplanade on the corner of 43rd Street and Apollo. Also, the sign at 43rd and Apollo needs to be touched up with white paint. Any volunteers willing to undertake either task, please call **Kathy Marek** at 688-6811.

Advertising

Volunteers are still needed to help with soliciting advertising support for the *Gazette*. These advertisers are necessary to help defray the costs of printing and delivering the *Gazette* each month. Please contact **Arthur Smith** at 861-0321 if you can volunteer your help or if you know of any businesses which may want to advertise with us.



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