



Garden Oaks Gazette

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Civic Club Meeting January 9

The first Garden Oaks Civic Club Meeting of the new year will be held on Tuesday, January 9 at 7:00 pm at Garden Oaks Baptist Church on N. Shepherd. The date of the meeting was changed from January 2 because of the holidays. The Civic Club meetings are normally held on the first Tuesday of the month.

The meeting will feature a film about how to protect your car from theft. The film, entitled "The Chop Shop," is being furnished by the State Department of Highways and Public Transportation and is less than 15 minutes long.

Baby-sitting will be available during the business portion of the meeting for \$1.00 per child. Come join us and bring a neighbor to the meeting with you.

New 1990 Civic Club Officers Introduced

The 1990 Garden Oaks Civic Club Officers will begin their term January 9, 1990. New Officers are **Susan McMillan**, President; **Terry Weinberger**, 1st Vice-President in charge of Membership; **Martha and Joe Rhea**, 2nd Vice-Presidents in charge of Programs; **Jaime Pierce**, Secretary; and **Arv and Barbara Vilutis**, Treasurers. Susan McMillan grew up in Garden Oaks and has been a Garden Oaks resident just about all her life. In addition to being the current President of the Garden Oaks Civic Club, she was a past president eleven years ago. She is Councilman Larry McKaskle's assistant.

Terry Weinberger and her husband Jim, Section 2 residents, have lived in Garden Oaks for six years. She is a native Houstonian and currently is a full-time Mom for Joseph, age 3 and Maren, age 7 months. Terry previously was an elementary school teacher and an aerobics instructor.

Martha and Joe Rhea, Section 2 residents, have lived in Garden Oaks twelve years. Joe, a Houston native, is a sales and marketing representative of pressure vessels made by a metal fabrication company. Martha, originally from Lake Charles, Louisiana, is a degreed interior designer. They have a five year old daughter, Laura.

Jaime Pierce, a native Houstonian, has lived in Garden Oaks for two years. A Section 5 resident, Jaime is a tax supervisor for a mortgage company. She and her husband Scott are expecting their first child in July.

Arv and Barbara Vilutis have lived in Garden Oaks eleven years and are Section 2 residents. They have two daughters Katherine, age 3, and Sara, age 8 months. Barbara, originally from Jackson, Mississippi, is a Vice-President for Texas Commerce Bank, and Arv, originally from Chicago, is a financial planner and investment advisor. Arv also has lived in Germany.

Fourth Quarter Garden Oaks Good Neighbor Named

Leroy Richardson of Section 5 is the winner of the fourth quarter Garden Oaks Good Neighbor Award. He will receive a handmade certificate and a dinner for four at Cavatore's.

Betty Crain and Carol Warren of Shepherd Park Plaza nominated Leroy because he "keeps his eye out for anything that does not look right in the neighborhood, and is the first to try to help his neighbors or friends..." For example, he had been watching out for

an elderly couple in the neighborhood for years. He helped fix the roof when it leaked, mowed their grass, and provided transportation to the doctor and hospital when needed. After the wife died, he continued to help the husband, checking on him every day to see if he needed anything. Leroy continued to take it upon himself to help his neighbor bringing his neighbor's groceries, maintaining the yard, and providing transportation.

The judges were Dr. Jerry Lemon, Pastor of Garden Oaks Baptist Church; Councilman Larry McKaskle; and

Roseanne Oelfke, Marketing Director of Northwest Memorial Hospital.

The Good Neighbor Award recognizes residents whose citizenship traits and caring manner in dealing with others make them a great neighbor. Please take time out in the new year to nominate someone who has been a good neighbor to you. For more information, contact Suzanne Debien, REALTORS at 697-5220. Letters of nomination may be submitted to Suzanne Debien, REALTORS at 1235 North Loop West #1120, Houston, Texas 77008.



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From the President...

Happy New Year! Happy New Decade. When I stopped to think how many decades this made for me, I was amazed to realize that I had now seen at least parts of six. It made me feel incredibly "experienced" (for a less optimistic person that might translate as old).

I do love to reminisce about old times in our neighborhood, though. The great cafeteria that used to be at the Binswanger location on Shepherd. If you finished all of your food you could choose a prize from what seemed like a giant treasure chest. The most exciting activity of our year, though, was climbing on our neighbor's garage, to watch the chain gang of convicts dig the drainage ditch between our street and the woods. It was a very real deterrent to a life of crime! The woods are now Shepherd Park Plaza, but until the late fifties that was a deep, dark forest in our imaginations. The wild animals were actually cows, but for a "dyed-in-the-wool" city kid, even that was pretty exotic.

Ditch fishing was a pretty good time, too. Before underground storm sewers, the end of each block had a large culvert which ran under the street and would usually yield crawfish, tadpoles and occasionally minnows (if the fishing was good). Since my maternal family's business was raising bait minnows in Arkansas, I had tried before (without success) to convince my playmates that MY FAMILY raised minnows a FOOT LONG! So during one Summer's visit I convinced my uncles to let me bag up a few of their breeder minnows to impress my friends. Unfortunately, that was the same Summer that my aunt, who was bringing me home, bought a new car whose approved passenger list did NOT include minnows, so they were consigned to the trunk. The sad ending was the totally unimpressive flaking mass of cooked fish that resulted from an eight hour August trip in a car trunk that was not even recognizable as a minnow. My reputation suffered.

Another Summer favorite was picnicking at the "triangles". My friends and I were obviously on the cutting edge of chic, now that the Civic Club is landscaping and furnishing those same "triangles" and

renaming them "Pocket Parks". In those days, we had only the wonderful old trees and the weeds, but it seemed pretty special even then; they must seem incredible to new little picnickers.

My old Garden Oaks pals have all turned out pretty well. One is a successful contractor living in Hawaii, another a professor in California, and all others doing well by last report. We seldom ever see each other now, but I suspect they remember those long Summers as fondly as I do. The nicest part of reminiscing though, is coming back to reality and realizing that we are now making memories for a whole new generation of Garden Oaks children. They will surely remember Santa in the Pocket Park, Fall Harvest Parties, and so much more. But most of all they will remember growing up in a neighborhood that cherishes children.

Susan M. Millian

Thank You Good Neighbors:

Garden Properties; Regency Title; Legato, The Hair Salon; and Suzanne Debien, Realtors for sponsoring the annual Christmas decoration contest in Garden Oaks. Thank you for helping to spread the Christmas Spirit throughout Garden Oaks.

Larry Nordenstrom of Section 2 for mowing and maintaining Garden Oaks boulevard every month. Although this thank you is long overdue, we really appreciate your efforts to keep the entryway into Garden Oaks beautiful for visitors and residents.

T-Shirt Works on 34th Street which is owned by Garden Oaks resident Patti Bloomer of Section 4 for making the T-shirts and magnetic signs for the Recycling Committee. They really help in identifying the "official" recyclers and are nice, comfortable shirts too!

Resource Building Material on W. 38th Street which is owned by Robert and Debbie Swift of Section 1 for donating plate glass to the recycling effort in October. The name of the business was not mentioned in the previous acknowledgement.

Critter Corner by David Horsley



I saw something new the other day: one of our yard squirrels missed a branch he was leaping toward and fell with a THUD to the ground from twenty or thirty feet up. Surely such a fall would have killed a human, but the little daredevil jumped up and scurried right up the tree before any other squirrels could see his faux pas. Imagine the ribbing he would get if his buddies had seen that!

Earlier this week I heard a loud crash in the front yard, and looked up just in time to see a huge hawk flapping to regain altitude. I didn't see what he had crashed into — maybe the side of a car or perhaps even the house — but you can bet the flock of blackbirds saw it: they all took off like they were part of the same brain, a brain which was telling its wings to flap for all they were worth. The hawk flew away empty-handed.

And speaking of large raptors, we stopped to investigate a recently road-killed great horned owl on our way back from Big Bend last month. Its eyes were still moist, so it couldn't have been dead long. And what eyes! Even in death they suggested a living presence. It was easy to imagine many a small creature glancing up to see those eyes coming in fast and low, and then feeling the clamplike talons. What a way to go.

Lots of woodpeckers have been sighted in Garden Oaks recently.

We have them drinking out of our birdbath. What is this a sign of? No, besides thirst.

One more note from Big Bend. We were out hiking far off the beaten track (this is in a land where even the beaten track is off the beaten track), a land so dry and dusty that you have to have water flown in just to spit, when we turned over a rock and what did we find? Termites. Ordinary household termites. Who was it told me that termites had to have moist conditions to live? These seemed to be holding up admirably, miles and miles from the nearest molecule of water.

This advice for overworked yuppies who are struggling to please two sets of grandparents at Christmas time: stay home this year. Tell them to come to you instead. On Christmas Eve, go to mass at St. Rose. Next day, sleep in, then take a walk through the neighborhood. Celebrate New Year's at home, too. Set out a special treat for the birds. Go out at night and consult the stars to see what sort of ending decade this century has in store for us.

The 1990 Garden Oaks Home Tour is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, April 22. If you would like to volunteer to help in planning and organizing this event or if you know of a home you would like to see in the home tour, please call Terry Russey at 680-1455 or Denise Epstein at 691-0727.

Count me in – I want to help!

I want to support the Garden Oaks Civic Club in its efforts to create and maintain a great neighborhood.

Please fill in opposite side and mail to

Garden Oaks Civic Club
Terry Weinberger
831 W. 41st Street
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Terry Jeanes

a Garden Oaks resident

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Garden Oaks Recycling Activities Featured in Leader

The Leader featured the December Garden Oaks Recycling pick-up in a recent issue (December 20, 1989). Even though it was very cold that morning we had a good turnout. December figures are:

Paper			\$ 207.45
Newsprint	15,620 lbs	\$ 117.15	
Computer	670 lbs	\$ 60.30	
White Ledger	600 lbs	\$ 30.00	
Metals			\$ 86.54
Aluminum cans	194 lbs	\$ 81.48	
Other			\$ 1.06
Batteries	4	\$ 4.00	
Glass	2570 lbs	\$ 77.10	
TOTAL			\$ 371.09

In November 14,950 lbs of newspaper were collected to bring in \$112.12. The revised November total is \$346.81.

Year-to-date figures are reported below:

Gross Income:	\$ 2284.70
Expenses:	\$ 676.31
Net Income:	\$ 1608.39

Expenses include such items as the Recycling T-shirts, magnetic signs, parts and material for the glass crushers, and fuel reimbursement. A budget will be prepared for 1990.

Special recognition is in order for the dedicated volunteers who organize this effort and who come out and lend a hand (and a truck and/or trailer) every second Saturday of the month. Garden Oaks would not be able to recycle without you!

Mike Abrams	Wynn Gajkowski	Suzanne Pagel
Jim Alexander	Becky Hansen	Kaye Parisi
Grace Blair	David Horsley	Steve Parisi
Claire Bresnahan	Ann Kilgore	Pam Parks
Sammie Broadrick	Richard Lipham	Jaime Pierce
Dennis Carter	Rick Luck	Jeff Ralston
Teresa Coleman	James Mabry	Joe Rhea
Rusty Day	Scott MacClymonds	Anita Scherer
Jennifer Day	Bill McMillian	Arthur Smith
David Epstein	Willard Mills	Sandy Zager
Denise Epstein	Don Musslewhite	
JoAnn Fudge	Tim Pagel	

The Recycling Committee volunteers can be identified by green "Garden Oaks Recycling" T-Shirts and matching magnetic signs on all "official" recycling vehicles. Anyone picking up your recyclables on Garden Oaks Recycle Pick-up Day without these distinguishing features should be reported. Take down their license number and call **Pam Parks at 868-5223**.

Currently approximately 17% of Garden Oaks households are recycling. Although this is a very good percentage we would like to increase participation in this effort. In the first few months of this year recycling committee volunteers will be going door to door to ask a few questions about how you feel about recycling and what can be done to make it easier for you to recycle. These people will be wearing the green recycling T-shirts in order to be easily identified.

The next pick-up date is **Saturday, January 13**. (Rain-date is the following Saturday.) Remember to set out your articles before 8am. You can also personally drop off your recyclables at Graham Park on the Recycle Pick-up day from 8am until the volunteers go home (between 10 and 11 am). Please be timely; the volunteers work very hard on this day and do not want to wait around anymore than they have to. If no one is at the park when you bring your stuff by, please keep it until the next pick-up. If you will be out-of-town on the pick-up day or need special help with setting your items out on the curb, call **Sammie Broadrick at 686-1684** or **Pam Parks**. If you would like to help, come to Graham Park at 8am on the second Saturday of the month. Or just come out to see our operation. We can use you!

Remember: we recycle newspaper, cardboard, paper grocery sacks, glass containers (without lids), aluminum cans and non-ferrous (NOT STEEL) metals. Several bottlers of soft drink companies are using steel cans instead of aluminum. Use the magnet test if you are not sure. (A magnet will not stick to aluminum.) Please be considerate to those of us who handle your empties - RINSE empty aluminum cans and glass containers. This will cut down on the odor and the slime. Also, please separate the clear glass from the colored glass and remove the lids before placing out to recycle. If you don't do it, we do, and it really slows our progress down. (The labels can be left on.) Newspapers and cardboard should be bundled, tied or placed in paper grocery sacks. Please avoid using plastic bags to contain your recyclables. Paper grocery bags can do the job and are recyclable to boot!

GARDEN OAKS CIVIC CLUB MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Children/Birthdates: _____

Years lived in Garden Oaks: _____

- Annual Membership Fees Due February 1, 1990**
- \$10 Family Membership \$5 Senior Citizens (Garden Oaks Roots)
- \$25 Business Membership

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: GARDEN OAKS CIVIC CLUB
MAIL TO: TERRY WEINBERGER, 1st V.P., MEMBERSHIP



Notes From The Garden

by Jan Koenig

Some of the things I like best about working in the community garden are the experiences that are totally unrelated to the soil and the plants. A week rarely goes by without some small but memorable event brightening up my garden visits.

Most of the time, working in the garden is a solitary affair, but occasionally, a visitor makes things interesting. A few weeks ago I was working alone when I saw a well-dressed young Hispanic man walking across the ball diamond towards the garden, carrying a small piece of luggage on a strap over his shoulder. As he approached, it was clear that he wanted to speak to me. But soon after we began to talk, it became even more clear that we didn't share a common language.

Although I literally could not understand a word my visitor was saying, I got the impression that he was trying to find the Mexican community in Houston. But even if my guess was right, I was at a loss to respond. Not only did I not speak his language - I would not have known what to tell him if I had.

It was a frustrating and thought provoking experience to fail so miserably at such a simple attempt to communicate with another adult. I

wanted to assist him, but as he smiled and walked away, all I could give him was a shrug of helplessness. Since that encounter, I've often wondered where he came from, how he arrived in Garden Oaks, and whether he reached his destination.

On another, less serious occasion, my hoeing was interrupted by what sounded like a fully automatic assault rifle firing at ten rounds per second. When my heart started beating again, I looked in the direction of the noise and discovered what turned out to be a very ambitious woodpecker.

Not content to find his next meal under tree bark like most of his friends, this silly bird thought he might find some breakfast if he could just peck through one of the galvanized tin wind turbines on top of the school building. To his credit (and my relief), the woodpecker learned his lesson quickly and soon flew on. Unfortunately though, I haven't seen another woodpecker at the garden since.

So a day at the garden is more than just toiling among the turnips. It's a chance to experience a slice of life that you might otherwise miss. Come visit and find out for yourself. See you at the garden!

Neighbors in Action

We have just entered the last decade of not only this century, but also this millennium. We are approaching the year 2000, which to us has always seemed both mystical and promising. Given what has happened globally in the latter half of 1989 (the uprising in China, the fall

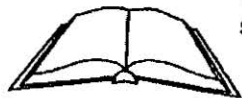
of the Berlin Wall, the new government in Czechoslovakia), the 1990's look as if they will be an exciting time to be alive.

And yet with all the promise of this decade, there are fundamental issues and concerns for us as neighbors in Garden Oaks, residents of Houston, citizens of the United States, and inhabitants of this planet, that have not yet been resolved. Issues such as our environment, education, the drug problem, the care of our children, elderly, hungry, and homeless, to name only a few, directly or indirectly touch all of us.

Maybe the opportunity of the 1990's is for each and every one of us to participate in some way in resolving our issues and concerns, so that by the year 2000 we can say: "The tide has turned."

This new monthly column, "NEIGHBORS IN ACTION," will be a "bulletin board" for opportunities to volunteer and make a difference. Many residents of Garden Oaks are involved in volunteer activities, either right here in our neighborhood or in the Houston area at large. If you belong to a group or organization that has openings for volunteers, OR if you have a desire to participate in or start up a group or organization, call **Brian or Denise Sherwood at 686-9643**, and we will make sure that you are included in next month's column.

There is no idea or opportunity that is too large or too small. Anything and everything you can do can make our neighborhood, thus our city, thus our state, thus our country, thus the world, a better place to live.



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MOTHER'S DAY OUT - Thursday, Friday

4300 N. Shepherd at Crosstimbers
697-0671

Heard Under the Oak Tree



In honor of his eleven years of service as Treasurer of Garden Oaks Civic Club, **Willard Mills** was presented with lifetime membership to the Civic Club at a special presentation during the December meeting. In addition, Willard was given a certificate, balloons, and a dinner for two at Adrian's. Past presidents who have served with Willard were on hand to watch him receive his award from the current Civic Club officers. Garden Oaks greatly appreciates all the work you have done for the Civic Club all these years. **Thank you Willard!**

January Birthdays

Amy Ross	Jan	13	4 yrs
Linda Ross	Jan	16	??
Matthew Horsley	Jan	19	3 yrs
Ben Thomas	Jan	21	1 yr
Ben Rogers	Jan	23	6 yrs
Chelsea Carter	Jan	24	1 yr
Tom Peden	Jan	30	??
John Ross	Jan	30	??
Holly Veselka	Jan	31	9 yrs

Belated birthday greetings are extended to **Margaret Peden** whose birthday was December 6. She says she celebrated her first 39th birthday.

Also belated birthday wishes to **Kay Paul** whose birthday was in December and **Terry Jeanes** whose birthday was December 11.

The Garden Oaks Civic Club would like to recognize first time attendees:

Harry Kirchner of Section 2 (An original resident of Garden Oaks, Harry has lived here 48 years!)

Billy Scherer of Section 5
Charles and Fay Trotter of Section 3

Thank you for coming to the December meeting and we hope to see you there again.

Garden Oaks Civic Club Numbers

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

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Editor
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Houston, Texas 77018
956-7809

Arthur Smith, Advertising
861-0321

Arv and Barbara Vilutis,
Treasurers
692-0581

Terry Weinberger,
1st V.P., Membership
692-7248

Joe and Martha Rhea,
2nd V.P., Programs
691-4433

Jaime Pierce, Secretary
688-3237

Gazette Ad Rates
\$35 per month • \$100 - 3 months • \$175 - 6 months
Deadline for February Gazette is January 15

January Calendar of Events

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

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



Suzanne Deblen
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