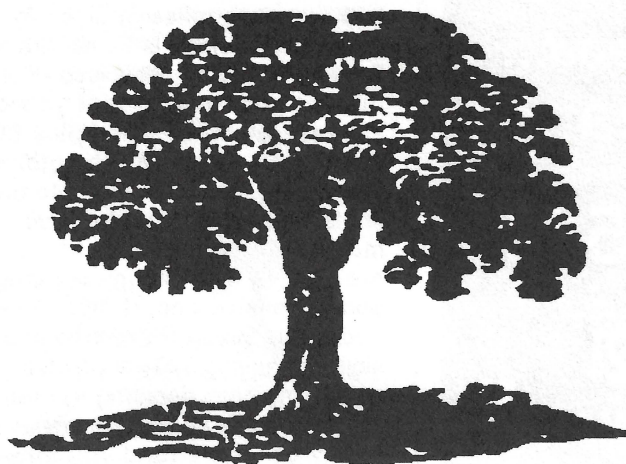


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Garden Oaks Gazette

Vol. 12, No. 3

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March 1990

Civic Club Meets At St. Matthew March 6

The Garden Oaks Civic Club will meet on **Tuesday, March 6** at St. Matthews United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall with refreshments beginning at 7:00 p.m. and the meeting convening at 7:15 p.m. The church is located on the corner of W. 43rd Street and N. Shepherd; Fellowship Hall is located on the east end of the building.

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.

Membership Report

As of February 12, we have 115 paid Civic Club members for 1990. Congratulations on your promptness! This is an excellent start, however, with 1500 homes in Garden Oaks we have our work cut out for us. Civic Club dues are \$10.00 per dwelling (or \$5.00 for senior citizens), and may be sent to **Terry Weinberger**, 1550 Sue Barnett. Your Civic Club uses this money to finance many worthwhile projects.

A Blockwalk is being planned for early April to hopefully get the few stragglers who meant to pay but just haven't gotten around to it. If you would be interested in helping with the Blockwalk, please call Terry at **692-7248**. I will need volunteers to ask for dues from neighbors who have not paid this year. If you don't have time to volunteer, just pay your dues, and we'll have one less house to go to! Deadline for 1990 dues is **April 15**.

From the President:

The "Z word"! If you picked up a paper or listened to a radio or T.V. recently, you couldn't miss the zoning discussion sweeping Houston.

John Mixon, a Houston law professor and resident zoning expert, is proposing legislation allowing for Neighborhood Zoning. His proposal would allow an area of at least 5 square miles to hold a binding zoning referendum and, if successful, adopt a land use map for their area and zone it (with City Council approval). These areas would be overseen by five member zoning boards appointed by City Council. Residency requirements for board members are as yet unclear. Legislative action is required because current zoning statutes require a comprehensive plan (i.e., the entire city) prior to the implementation of zoning. Proponents of the "Mixon Plan" feel that his method would allow parts of Houston to get started on zoned land use controls long before we could ever draw a comprehensive plan for our entire city.

The emergence of this Neighborhood Zoning discussion has brought forward new proponents for Comprehensive Zoning. Councilmember Jim Greenwood has formed an Ad Hoc Committee to study the issue and others are joining in. For the first time in any really significant way, developers are expressing an interest in exploring the option. Reviews are mixed as to why that is happening. The "pro" side says that responsible developers are seeing the errors of unchecked growth and want to build a great planned city. The opposition, however, sees that zoning could all but eliminate potential competition with existing strip centers, office buildings, and retail complexes by not zoning additional land for those purposes and charges greed as the real cause for the new zeal. The truth is probably somewhere in between (it usually is!).

Some things are important to remember, however, as lines form on both sides of what is sure to be THE ISSUE OF 1990-91. Houston is now

Continued on pg. 2

Proposals Sought For Civic Club Building Salvage

When the Civic Club building was demolished in September, 1989 the City of Houston gave the Garden Oaks Civic Club some of the salvageable materials from the structure. The old oak flooring from the stage, some light fixtures, doors, firemen's pole, some windows, and the cupola are among the items saved.

The idea was to use these materials to benefit the Civic Club financially and toward that goal we would like to receive ideas from residents as to how this could best be accomplished. It has been suggested that a neighborhood craftsman could make small commemorative pieces from the oak stage flooring in return for a percentage of the sales or that someone might want to clean and repair all the items for an auction. The materials are not in good condition from the exposure to the elements while the building was vacant. Perhaps you think it best to just hold a sealed bid warehouse sale of the items in "as is" condition. Before we divest ourselves of this "one of a kind" memorabilia we would like to get your thoughts on the method we choose. Please call **Susan McMillian** at **695-8245** or send your ideas in writing to 718 W. 42nd Street. We will keep you posted on the results.

Ask a friend...
Terry Jeanes

a Garden Oaks resident

868-2511

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REVIVAL: March 4-7

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Monday - Wednesday 7 p.m.
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Monday - Wednesday 11:50 a.m.

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Continued from pg. 1

579.3 square miles in size. By comparison, Cleveland is 79 square miles, Boston 47.2, San Francisco 46.4, and the list goes on. In fact you could squeeze all those cities plus Miami, Denver, St. Louis, Washington D.C., Pittsburgh, and Baltimore into our city limits and have room left over. That makes the task of creating a comprehensive land use map a massive and expensive one. It also, however, under the Mixon Plan, means a possibility of having 500+ appointed zoning commissioners deciding the future of neighborhoods all over the city.

My concerns (and you may have heard some of this in an interview I did on KTRH radio in January) are these. Money; this city has not yet been willing to put adequate resources into the land use tool we already have; deed restrictions. We have only one attorney to handle all the deed restriction cases in our city. He currently litigates only commercial encroachment cases, and although he believes that he could legally assist in those involving building line violations (a major concern in Garden Oaks) current resources simply do not allow that participation. Will Houston really commit the resources to fund a new method any better than the old one? I have yet to hear any realistic discussion of the funding issue. Secondly, if we zone we will have to "grandfather" most existing businesses at least until they have recouped their investments. This means it would be years before any appreciable difference is realized in our commercial buffer zones. Lastly, however, is just perhaps a strong sense of "we-can-do-it-better-ism." Garden Oaks has survived and even prospered despite a less than ideal residential configuration; bisected by a highway and bounded by a Freeway and major thoroughfares. Would we have survived as residential property if our fate had been in someone else's hands? The great building boom scooped up a lot of land around our city in the last few decades. Would our great access have spurred a request for a zoning variance during the boom and replaced Section One with "Greenway Plaza North?"

I want to be a true zoning believer. I think we all want to find that magic bullet which will keep Garden Oaks safe from harm without lawsuits and lawyers fees. And I do hear some potentially good points about zoning. Toward that end, I'll keep on attending all the seminars and meetings possible on all methods of land use control and learn all that I can. But as of this date, my jury is still out.

**Beautification Meets
March 15**

Beautification... I bet you thought we disappeared. Here we are! It is time for a round table meeting. We will meet **Thursday, March 15** for an hour beginning at 7:30 p.m. at 1079 Lamonte. Bring a hatful of ideas. 1990 promises to be the best year yet. Be there or be square!

Beautification
Thursday, March 15
7:30 to 8:30 p.m. 1079 Lamonte
956-9469

**Garden Club Meeting
March 8**

The Garden Oaks Garden Club will hold a planning meeting **Thursday, March 8** at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Vee Gaines. Everyone is welcome to join. Annual dues are \$5.00. The Garden Club meets once a month and strives to stimulate a knowledge of flowers, trees and birds. In addition, the Garden Club maintains the pocket park on Lawrence and W. 30th Streets in Section 1. The Garden Club recently obtained permission from the City of Houston to officially name this park Friendship Garden. For more information about the Garden Club, contact **Candy Foster**, president, at **869-0343**. Come help us make Garden Oaks Houston's loveliest garden!

**Dangerous Building
Hearing Attended by
Residents**

On Tuesday, January 30, 1990, a public hearing was held on the future of the vacant and burned property located at 702 W. 41st Street. Interested residents Shirley Cato, Linda Reichle and Susan McMillian attended and gave testimony as to the dangerous conditions at this property. While all city departments concurred about the conditions and recommended demolition, it was determined that ownership was not clearly established and therefore an owner may not have been legally notified of the hearing. A new hearing was scheduled for **February 27, 1990**, following legal notification of the newly identified owner. Unless substantial changes in the condition of the building occur prior to that date, it is expected that an order to demolish within thirty to forty-five days will be issued at that time.

Spokes for SPARK

Plans are underway for a fundraising to be held jointly by the Garden Oaks Elementary School and the Garden Oaks community to benefit our SPARK park being built on the north end of the school campus. Mark your calendars for **Saturday, May 5, 1990** at the school (times to be determined). Festivities will include a bike ramble for adults, children, and tricycle tots. Stationary bike pedal pushers may be included in the events. There will be refreshments, balloons and T-shirt sales. The committee is hoping to be ready for an actual groundbreaking on that date also. Dedication of the park (the first two phases) is planned for the beginning of the 1990-91 school year.

Thus far approximately \$30,000 is available for Phases I and II. Plans for Phase I and II of the park include several large pieces of excellent play equipment, the necessary fall surface bordered by landscaping timbers, four benches, three picnic tables and benches, and three trash receptacles. Phase III is the construction of a 1/4 mile track (8 foot wide) which would encircle the play area. Funds will continue to be raised, and private sector donors solicited, to construct Phase III as soon as possible.

The SPARK Park Committee consists of: Susan McMillian, President of Garden Oaks Civic Club; Jean Dodd, Garden Oaks Elementary Principal; Linda Reichle, Garden Oaks resident and nearest neighbor to the proposed park; Nell Kerr, Garden Oaks resident, former Garden Oaks Elementary parent, and school employee; Jane Bevil, Garden Oaks resident, former Garden Oaks Elementary parent, and school employee; Danese McWhorter, Garden Oaks resident, Garden Oaks Elementary School employee; Kay Paul, Garden Oaks resident, and SPARK veteran from Oak Forest Elementary; Ann McGinty,

Garden Oaks resident and Graham Park Adopt-a-Park liaison; Teresa Tejera, Garden Oaks Elementary physical education instructor; Susan Westmoreland McConkey, SPARK liaison employed by Entex; and John Williams, SPARK liaison employed by Southwestern Bell.

Readers' Forum

Zoning Harms the Poor *by Tom Glass*

In 1962, 59% of Garden Oaks and Oak Forest voters rejected zoning, while 57% of all Houstonians rejected it as well. As a Garden Oaks resident, I oppose it in 1990.

Zoning is wrong for both moral and practical reasons. The moral reason zoning is wrong is that those who own housing benefit at the cost of the poor. Ultimately, by restricting new housing creation, zoning creates more homelessness. The practical reason that zoning is harmful is that any practice that decreases the efficiency of production decreases the total prosperity in the community.

The red tape of zoning slows down construction, driving up the value of existing housing. This, of course, makes it harder for young families to buy into the market for the first time and drives up rent for non-homeowners.

Zoning has traditionally been advocated by a majority of wealthier property owners because they believe it to protect their property values. In 1962, River Oaks, Memorial, Tanglewood, and Post Oaks had some of the highest percentage votes cast for zoning. It was the lowest income parts of town that cast the largest percentage votes against zoning.

The price increase can be offset somewhat by two factors. Garden Oaks owners and other neighborhoods which protect deed restrictions would lose their relative advantage to neighborhoods

who have not historically done so.

The other counteracting factor is that zoning would eliminate one of Houston's major draw to new businesses - low-cost housing. Rather than becoming lost in the crowd of other cities with zoning, Houston should continue using its uniqueness as an advantage.

Zoning creates a new bureaucracy that taxpayers have to support, and it increases the opportunities for corruption and bribery in local government. It gives advantages to developers with political pull at expense to new or out-of-favor developers.

Zoning is the attempt of the elite to force their aesthetic choices on others. Many times, zoning eliminates lower income family-owned businesses from operating in their homes. In Garden Oaks, we choose to live in a neighborhood with different standards, but should we bar alternate ways of living to others?

Finally, zoning is based on force, while deed restrictions are based on the freedom of contract. Zoning is at odds with the fundamental freedoms that are the foundation of the success of this nation. I hope Garden Oaks residents will help the poor and maintain freedom of choice by saying no to zoning in Houston.

Readers' Forum is a column designed for you to express your opinions, ideas, or just if you would like to share something with the rest of the neighborhood. The ideas and opinions expressed in this column are not necessarily endorsed by the Civic Club or the Gazette.

Garden Oaks Runners ---

Let's ALL get together! Each Saturday at 7:00am at the pocket park on Sue Barnett and W. 42nd Street. All caliber of runners are welcome. For more information contact **Tim Pagel at 686-4424.**

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, Secretary
1550 Sue Barnett
Houston, Texas 77018



Garden Oaks Elementary School News

Apples for Students

Spring semester has kicked off with a lot of activity at Garden Oaks Elementary School. The second "Apples for Students" contest is underway with a class party being awarded by the PTA for best class participation. **Veronica Lusk**, a second grade student in Dianne Evans' class, was the winner of the first receipt drive this fall. Veronica, who turned in more than \$24,000 in receipts, won a bicycle donated by Lange Mechanical.

Students and parents have really worked hard saving Apple Tree receipts. An Apple IIe computer package with lots of additional software has already been won this year. Apple Tree says Garden Oaks Elementary is one of their best participants and will award the computer at an Apple Tree cake party upon the arrival of the equipment. We can't wait, and we plan to need another party by the end of the year!

Spelling Bee

Three students went to the Spelling Bee district finals on February 15:

- 1st place **Toysha Keeton**, 5th grade
 - 2nd place **Mimi Maya**, 3rd grade
 - 3rd place **Jennifer Black**, 5th grade
- Congratulations and Good Luck!

Testing

Students in 1st, 3rd and 5th grades endured TEAMS testing the first part of February. Test results are used to assess student aptitude and teaching skills. MAT6 (a standardized achievement test) testing will be done later in the year for all grades.

SIGHTS applications (Special Instruction for Gifted, High Achieving and Talented Students) will be accepted throughout the semester, and testing will begin toward the end of the school year. If you are interested in the SIGHTS program, stop by the school office for an application and any additional information.

SPARKS

Students are collecting aluminum cans for their participation in the SPARKS project. With plans well underway, everyone is looking forward to a beautiful new park next fall. Students and teachers have been anxious to do their part by donating lots of cans. Just ask the counselor Mrs. Gibson, who has been collecting them in her office.

Rodeo Art

Rodeo Art winners recently had their work exhibited at the HISD administration building. What an honor!

- Conrad Robertson**, 1st grade
- John Amalfi**, 2nd grade
- Mary Deming**, 3rd grade
- Alisha Torres**, 3rd grade
- Caley Elchenlaub**, 4th grade
- Justin Ferguson**, 5th grade
- Michael Silva**, 5th grade
- Marlo Stoneham**, 5th grade

Dental Health Week

"There's Magic in Your Smile" was the theme of the recent dental health week. Twelve students' posters were chosen from Garden Oaks Elementary.

- Allison Diedel**, Kindergarten
- Christina Flores**, Kindergarten
- Crystal Haynle**, 1st grade
- Elizabeth Kennedy**, 1st grade
- Neetaya Keeton**, 2nd grade
- Mark Soto**, 2nd grade
- Jeremy Garrett**, 3rd grade
- Sean Stockdale**, 3rd grade
- Sara DuBose**, 4th grade
- Tiffany Mohr**, 4th grade
- Mike Kurtz**, 5th grade
- Keona Smith**, 5th grade

Elizabeth Kennedy won an "Honorable Mention" in the district. Congratulations Elizabeth and "Great Job" to everyone.

Employee of the Month

The Employee of the Month for February was **Cecilia Gabrysch**. Cecilia has been a Resource teacher at Garden Oaks Elementary for sixteen years and is certainly an important part of our school. Congratulations!

Security Steering Committee To Be Formed

Feeling secure in your home is essential to feeling good about your neighborhood. A Security Steering Committee is being formed, initially for Section 1, to plan a neighborhood watch network. If the committee is successful and obtains adequate response, then it will encompass other sections of Garden Oaks. The Houston Police will support neighborhood security groups with Citizens on Patrol. If you are interested in finding out more about this committee or if you would like to be on this committee, contact **Suzanne Deblen** at 697-5220.

Garden Oaks Baptist Church Revival March 4-7

Garden Oaks Baptist Church will hold a revival entitled "Here's Hope. Jesus cares for you." March 4-7. Revival will begin on Sunday, March 4 with meetings at 11:00am and 7:00pm. Luncheon and worship service will be held at 11:50am Monday through Wednesday, March 5-7. In addition revival meeting will be held each night at 7:00pm Monday through Wednesday, March 5-7. For more information contact the church office at 864-4447.

GARDEN OAKS CIVIC CLUB MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Children/Birthdates: _____

Years lived in Garden Oaks: _____

Annual Membership Fees Due
April 15, 1990

- \$10 Family Membership
- \$5 Senior Citizens (Garden Oaks Roots)
- \$25 Business Membership
- Additional Donation of _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: GARDEN OAKS CIVIC CLUB
MAIL TO: TERRY WEINBERGER, 1st V.P., MEMBERSHIP (address on other side)

Get Involved! Join A Committee!

Get involved and help improve your neighborhood! Join a committee. There are several active committees in the Civic Club that need your talents.

The **Adopt-A-Park Committee** coordinates activities to improve and maintain Graham Park. Such activities include painting the play equipment, and keeping the park neat and litter free. A future project under consideration is a fence along the back of the park which borders the businesses and railroad tracks. For more information call **Richard Lipham**.

The **Beautification Committee**, which originated in 1986, started with three pilot projects with the idea of keeping Garden Oaks a beautiful place to live. The three pilot projects were the two newly designed entry signs into the neighborhood and a magical touch to the pocket park on Sue Barnett/Lamonte/41st Street. Beautification has since funded the irrigation at Friendship Park (maintained exclusively by the Garden Oaks Garden Club) and started a three phase project on Garden Oaks Boulevard. The next meeting of the Beautification Committee will be **Thursday, March 15** from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. at 1079 Lamonte. Come join this fast paced, exciting representation of our neighborhood. For more information call **Marian Mabry**, Coordinator, at 956-9469.

The **Community Garden** provides fresh produce to the Food Pantry of St. Matthew's United Methodist Church for distribution to Houston's needy. The Community Garden is located on the north side of Garden Oaks Elementary School. A planting work day is scheduled for **Saturday, March 3** from 9 a.m. to noon. If you enjoy working in the dirt and want to see the fruits of your

labor help those who need it most, volunteer to work in the garden. For more information call **Jan Koenig** at 869-8997.

The **Garden Oaks Gazette** Committee publishes a monthly newsletter for the residents of Garden Oaks. Volunteers are needed to help solicit advertising for the Gazette. Our goal is to have the Gazette a self-sustaining publication; we are halfway there. Also a Co-Editor is being sought to help collect, organize, (sometimes) write, type and edit news articles and to help coordinate the different stops this publication makes in order to get to residents' homes. For more information call **Arthur Smith**, Advertising, at 861-0321 and **Anita Scherer**, Editor, at 956-7809.

The **Home Tour Committee** organizes the annual home tour that takes place in the spring. This event helps to promote Garden Oaks as a desirable neighborhood. The tentative date for this year's home tour is **Sunday, April 22**. For more information call **Terry Russey** at 680-1450 or **Denise Epstein** at 691-0727.

The **Hospitality Committee** puts together "New Neighbor" packets to the newcomers of Garden Oaks. The packet includes such things as a copy of the deed restrictions, information about the school district, information about the various churches in the area, and a brief history of Garden Oaks. For more information call **Suzy Wright** at 683-3805 or **Phil Richey** at 956-2943.

The **Recycling Committee** organizes and promotes the monthly recycling pick-up activities. Recycle pick-up day is the **second Saturday of the month** from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Volunteers and pick-up trucks are always needed and welcomed. For more information call **Pam Parks** at 868-5223.

The **Refreshments Committee** organizes the refreshments for Civic Club

activities. Volunteers are sought to provide refreshments for the monthly meetings. Expenses may be reimbursed from the Civic Club. Do your part! Bring something delectable for the next Civic Club meeting. For more information call **Denise Epstein** at 691-0727 or **Jennifer Day** at 699-8417.

Neighbors in Action

G.O.P.A.X.

I am starting a political discussion group to provide an exchange of information concerning environmental and social concerns. We will explore what we as private citizens can do as a group to influence our elected officials. At the moment, I am calling this group G.O.P.A.X. (Garden Oaks Political Awareness Exchange).

If you are interested, we will meet at 729 W. 39th Street the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. This group will not be affiliated with the Garden Oaks Civic Club. For more information call **Scott MacClymonds** at 691-3020.

*"NEIGHBORS IN ACTION" is 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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Clip and Save Recycling Reminders:

WHEN: Second Saturday of the month 8am
WHERE: Curbside (by 8am) or drop-off at Graham Park at W. 34th Street and Lawrence (8am-11am)
WHAT AND HOW:

ALUMINUM CANS: Non-magnetic, RINSED.

NON-FERROUS (Not Steel) METALS: Items such as copper, brass, and aluminum. No refrigerators, dishwashers or other appliances.

GLASS: Separated into clear and colored glass; RINSED and CLEANED; No LIDS; Labels can be left on; NO PLATE GLASS!; Please avoid using plastic bags for the glass.

NEWSPAPERS: Bundled or placed in paper grocery bags

CARDBOARD: Brown cardboard only (grey cardboard has already been recycled); Flatten and bundled or placed in paper grocery bags.

COMPUTER PAPER: Bundled, boxed or placed in paper bags; No carbon inserts, no binding.

WHITE LEDGER: Bond paper bundled, boxed or placed in paper bags; NO glossy junk mail, NCR (No Carbon Required) paper, or telephone books, no binding.

BROWN PAPER GROCERY BAGS are also recyclable so use them whenever you can.

Please follow these guidelines to make the recycling pick-up more efficient and pleasant. Cleaning glass containers and rinsing empty aluminum cans cuts down on the odor and mess. If you don't remove the lids or separate the glass, we have to and it slows the process down.

QUESTIONS OR FOR SPECIAL PICK-UPS: Call Pam Parks at 868-5223 or Sammie Broadrick at 686-1684

Recycling Report Card

WOW! In February we had over 300 households recycling which puts us at 22% participation! (Most volunteer programs only get a maximum of 20% participation.) Way to go Garden Oaks!

If you still are not recycling, we would be interested to know why. If you think you have a good reason for not recycling, call Pam Parks at 868-5223.

The next pick-up date is **Saturday, March 10.** (Raindate 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). 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** at 868-5223. If you would like to volunteer, come to Graham Park at 8am on the second Saturday of the month and ask for **Scott MacClymonds**. He will direct you where you will be needed. Or just come out to see our operation. We can use you!

February figures are:

Paper				\$282.17
Newsprint	15,770 lbs	\$ 118.27		
Computer	1,270 lbs	\$ 127.00		
Mixed Ledger	630 lbs	\$ 18.90		
Other	360 lbs	\$ 18.00		
Metals				\$103.18
Aluminum cans	241 lbs	\$ 84.35		
Other		\$ 11.83		
Batteries	7	\$ 7.00		
Glass	3530 lbs			\$105.90
TOTAL				\$491.25

The Recycling Committee is working hard in February to compose a budget for 1990. As we have never had a budget before (because we didn't exist before) it is a complicated process. We have some really interesting ideas on what to do with the money received from your recycled material, so you should be seeing benefits coming back to you soon.

Thank you all 300 households that recycled in February. Together Garden Oaks can make a difference. Remember, if you are not recycling, you're just throwing it all away!

Hazardous Materials in the Home

Much attention has been given to the hazardous materials that are found in industrial settings. But have you ever considered the hazardous materials that you may have in your home?

Just look in your garage, your basement, and especially under the sink. You'll find ammonia-based cleaners, drain cleaners, insecticides, disinfectants, carpet/upholstery cleaners, furniture polish - the list goes on. Few people realize that most homes contain anywhere from 3 to 10 gallons of materials that are classified as hazardous.

The following is a list of some of the most common hazardous materials found in the home and some alternatives you could try.

REPLACE THIS:

Ammonia-based cleaners
 Abrasive cleaners
 Floor/furniture polish
 Toilet cleaners
 Disinfectants
 Drain cleaners
 Carpet/upholstery cleaner
 Insecticides

WITH THIS:

Vinegar, salt water mix, baking soda and water
 Rub with 1/2 lemon dipped in borax, then rinse
 One part lemon juice, 2 parts olive or vegetable oil
 Baking soda and toilet brush
 1/2 cup borax in 1 gallon water
 Plunger, flush with boiling water, 1/4 cup baking soda, 1/4 cup vinegar
 Dry cornstarch, sprinkled; vacuum
 Roaches: baking soda, powdered mix. Ants: chill powder (stops entry)



Notes From The Garden

by Jan Koenig

January was a slow month in the garden. We didn't have a lot left to harvest after the freeze, and for one reason or another we didn't put a lot of new crops in the ground last month. We do still have a few rather scrawny heads of lettuce left and the carrots still need to be pulled, but other than that our harvest is finished for at least a month or two.

One crop that did get planted last month was our bulb onions. Bulb onions (as opposed to green onions) can be planted either as seeds or as "sets," which are nothing more than little-bitty, immature onion bulbs. We chose to plant the sets rather than the seeds for three different reasons. First, it's easier to get the sets spaced properly. Second, it leaves the bed open to plant something else during the three months it takes for a seed to grow large enough to become a set. Third, it eliminates three months of exposure to the hazards of growing up in our garden (dogs, school children, freezes, etc...)

We planted about 750 sets of Texas 1015Y onions in 1/2 of the bed on the far west end of the garden. In case you're not familiar with this variety, they are just about the sweetest onions you can put in your mouth. The only problem with 1015Y onions is that you can only buy them in grocery stores from about May to June each year.

The 1015Y variety was developed by Texas A&M researchers for commercial onion growers in the Rio Grande Valley. The seeds are supposed to be planted in South Texas on October 15th, hence the name of the onion (October 15 = 10/15, get it!!). Our sets were probably planted somewhere about that time, but we put them in the ground on January 21.

They should be ready to harvest about mid-May. The bright green foliage that grows above the ground reaches 12-18" high. When the foliage starts to fall over, that's the time to pull up the onions. They then have to be set aside to dry for a week or so before cutting off the tops. After that, they'll last for quite a while if they're kept in a cool, dry place (and if they don't get eaten up!).

If things go well, we should harvest

between 100 and 200 pounds of onions late this spring. That's not too bad for \$7.00 worth of onion sets and a few hours of work! Come find out for yourself what a baby onion looks like. See you at the garden!

Heard Under the Oak Tree



Congratulations to **A. W. and Mable Smith**, Section 4 residents, for being selected "Man and Woman of the Year" at St. Matthew's United Methodist Church. They were honored at the annual Valentine Banquet in February. Mable and Smitty operate the Food Pantry at the church. The Food Pantry accepts the produce from the Garden Oaks Community Garden and distributes it to the area needy.

The February Civic Club meeting honored the recipients of the 1989 Quarterly Good Neighbor Awards with a cake and a special presentation. Suzanne Debien presented each award winner a framed certificate and read excerpts from the nominating letters. The 1989 recipients were **Frederic Cowart** (not present), **Stan Jones, Dennis and Doris Koebelen, and Leroy Richardson.**

Congratulations to **Paul and Kathy Marek** of Section 5 on the birth of **Joel Christopher Marek** born on February 6. **Joshua and Amy** are proud big brother and sister.

Welcome **Taylor Austin Pierce** who was born on February 7 to proud parents **Fred and Cindy Pierce** of Section 3. Congratulations to big sister **Morgan**, too.

In Appreciation of Good Neighbors

Thank you to **Jim Alexander** of Section 5 for mowing and edging the esplanade on W. 43rd and Apollo during the months of December 1989 and January 1990. Thank you to **Winston Barton** of Section 5 for maintaining the upkeep of this esplanade during February.

Thank you to all those residents who contributed computer paper to the February recycling pick-up. You really made a difference. Look at the figures!

Thank you to **Bill McMillian** who lent the use of a truck from work at the last minute to load and transport the newspaper (all 15,770 lbs) at the February recycling pick-up.

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Garden Oaks references

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ST. MATTHEW'S

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

God's Family Reaching Out

With Christ's Love.



SUNDAY WORSHIP - 10:30am (children's
word 3rd Sun)

CHURCH SCHOOL - 9:15am (all ages)

MOTHER'S DAY OUT - Thursday, Friday

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Volunteers Sought

Volunteers are needed to help clean out the Garden Oaks Civic Club storage room. If you can spare an afternoon, please call **Sammie Broadrick** at 686-1684.

Lost and Found

A set of keys were found on the north end of the Garden Oaks Elementary School playground on February 5. If you think they are yours, go to the school office to identify them.

Craig Kramer has a case of cassette tapes that a would-be thief dropped in the driveway running from the Kramer's house. The tapes may have been stolen from someone in the neighborhood. If you think these are your tapes, call **Craig** at 869-0440. But hurry, he is really enjoying them and may not want to give them back!

March Birthdays

- 3: **Randi Easterling**, 30-something
- 5: **Jerry McWhorter**, 39 years
- 6: **Caitlan Easterling**, 4 years
- 9: **Grace Blair**, 30-something
- 19: **Lauren Rogers**, 8 years
- 20: **Rachel Horsley**, 1 year
- 28: **Ryan Hall**, 10 years

Happy belated birthday to **Anne Kilgore** who turned 30-something on February 11.

Apple Tree Receipts Still Accepted

Continue to save those Apple Tree receipts! These receipts are being collected to help neighborhood schools purchase computer equipment. Either give your receipts directly to the schools, or give them to **Richard Lipham** at the Civic Club meetings.

The Garden Oaks Civic Club would like to recognize first time attendees:
Kent Danna of Section 3
Patty Beach of Section 1
Tricia O'Neal of Section 1 and guests **Josephine and Eddie Taylor**.
 Thank you for coming to the February 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

Anita Scherer,
 Editor
 4223 Apollo
 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

March Calendar of Events

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
<i>Runners Club - 7am every Saturday</i> <i>Volleyball - 4pm every Sunday</i>				1	2	3 Community Garden 9 - 12
4	5	6 Civic Club 7:00 pm	7	8 Garden Club 7:00 p.m.	9 <i>Gazette</i> deadline	10 Recycle Pick-Up 8:00 am
11	12	13 Vote in Primary	14 GOPAX 7:30 p.m.	15 Beautification 7:30 p.m.	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Gazette Ad Rates

\$35 per month

\$175 - 6 months

\$325 - 1 year

Deadline for April Gazette is March 9

Welcome

all new neighbors at:

507 W. 33rd
 4252 Apollo

Spring is almost here. Time to clean, plant, paint, and remodel. If you are thinking about remodeling your house just remember that all new construction, and remodeling or exterior alterations must be approved by the Board of Trustees. All plans must be approved prior to any construction. For more information call **James Doyle**, President of the Garden Oaks Board of Trustees, at 694-4134.



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