



# Garden Oaks Gazette

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## Christmas Decoration Contest Dec. 15

Christmas just isn't Christmas without festive lights and yuletide decorations. On **Saturday, December 15** all homes in Garden Oaks and Garden Oaks Plaza will be judged in the Garden Oaks Outdoor Christmas Decoration Contest. Raindate is December 16. The sponsors of this annual contest are Garden Properties; Regency Title; Legato, The Hair Salon; and Windfern Pest Control.

The judges will drive down each street and choose first, second and third places for the following categories: "Best Home Decoration", "A Child's Delight", and "Best Entryway or Door". In addition, a prize will be given to the "Most Original Decoration". Also, recognition will be given to the best decorated block. Share your festive spirit and decorate your home for the holidays.

## Santa Visits Garden Oaks in the Pocket Park

Santa Claus will be visiting Garden Oaks again this year. He will be in the Pocket Park at West 42nd and Sue Barnett on **December 18th, 19th, and 20th from 7p.m. to 9p.m.** (weather permitting). All ages are invited to come by and visit with each other as well as Santa. Wassail and cookies will be served to welcome visitors.

## WANTED: 1991 Home Tour Chairperson

No experience necessary.  
Requirements:

1. Must be able to delegate responsibilities to committee members (so you're left with nothing to do).
2. Must be able to accept help from others (especially former chairpersons).
3. Must enjoy meeting with new friends.
4. Must have sincere interest that the Garden Oaks Home Tour tradition continue.

All applicants notify **Susan McMillan** at **695-8245**.

## Beautification Meets November 29

The Beautification Committee will meet **Thursday, November 29** at 7:30 p.m. at 814 Azalea.

## Covered Dish and Carolling December 4 Civic Club Meeting

The last Civic Club meeting of 1990 will be a covered dish dinner on **Tuesday, December 4** at the Garden Oaks Baptist Church Fellowship Hall. We will begin eating at 6:45 p.m. and the business meeting will start at 7:15 p.m. Background Christmas music will be performed by Cheryl Cato of Section 1. Drinks will be provided by the Civic Club. Share a favorite recipe and some holiday spirit with your neighbors. Please bring your dish accordingly:

A-G Desserts  
H-P Vegetables/Salads  
O-Z Casseroles/Meats

If you have any questions, please call **Jennifer Day** at **699-8417**. Baby-sitting will be provided during the business portion of the meeting for \$1.00 per child. See you there!

## 1991 Officers Elected

The following officers were elected at the November meeting for 1991:

**Anita Scherer**, President;  
**Jennifer Day**, 2nd Vice-President  
(Membership);

**Jaime Pierce**, Secretary;  
**Arv and Barbara Vilutis**, Co-Treasurers.

The position of 1st Vice-President (*Gazette* editor) will be elected at the December meeting.

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## From the President...

Happy Holidays and farewell! This wraps up my term as President of the Civic Club and, therefore, these columns. These have been a special part of the privilege of the presidency and I will miss having an opportunity to share my views of Garden Oaks with you.

It has been a great two years. New programs have been phenomenally successful and have recruited talented new participants. Cherished friends have moved away, but new neighbors have arrived and are already an integral part of our group. We have a tight, but elastic bond between us, always with room for more. We disagree but care and challenge but listen; and most importantly we all work FOR Garden Oaks.

You will be in capable hands. If you've been reading your *Gazette* over the last two years, you have seen the handiwork of your new President. The current editor of the *Gazette*, Anita Scherer, was elected to the presidency last month and will take over the gavel at the close of business at the December meeting. She has been a major factor in our recent successes and it is to our good fortune to have her serve.

If you look over the list of past presidents just during the last twenty years I have been active, you will find no two alike. Each of us has brought to the task different strengths (and at least in my case, weaknesses) and all the while the club has continued to flourish. That says something very positive about our community that I hope will never change. Everyone has something to give us if we allow ourselves to accept it. As the saying goes "A friend is a gift you give yourself". These past two years have given me countless new friendships and that's the greatest Christmas gift I've ever given to myself. Thank you all and Happy New Year!

*Susan McMillian*

## Heard Under The Oak Tree



Belated thank you to Walter Kennon, Regional Construction Manger of Austin Bridge, who helped clear and grade the old civic club building site on W. 34th Street for the recycling committee to use as their monthly headquarters.

A sheriff's deputy pulled **Jaime Connor Pierce** over because her license plate tag read 1987 instead of 1991. Someone had stolen her tags. A tip she would like to pass along is to cut the tag with a razor blade after it is applied to your plate so that only one small piece will come off if someone tries to steal it. This tip may save you time, trouble and money.

Special thanks to **Richard Lipham** for organizing the Trick or Treat Trail again this year. It is nice to know that our kids can enjoy a tradition we all loved as kids. Thank you to all the people that helped out through donations of time and money and to those who opened their home to the little ghosts and goblins, and Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. Let's keep this great tradition alive!

The Community Garden will be moving to its new location at 4405 Alba soon. Check the *Gazette* for future notices for volunteers, shovels, etc.

## Garden Club On Hiatus

Garden Club held the last meeting of the year on November 8 at the home of Katherine Hardin. Officers for 1991 are **Candy Foster**, President; **Jackie Batis**, Vice-President; **Lisabell Katzer**, Secretary; and **Christine Winkelmann**, Treasurer. Members made arts and crafts items. Meetings will resume in March 1991.

The *Garden Oaks Gazette* is printed on recycled paper.



Gazette Ad Rates

\$35 per month - \$175 - 6 months

\$325 - 1 year

Deadline for Jan. *Gazette* is Dec. 10

## Waltrip Ram News

The Waltrip Ram Band thanks everyone who supported their spaghetti fest on October 19, 1990. The winners of the door prizes were as follows:

Phillip Kirkpatrick of Garden Oaks  
- Zenith Color T.V.

Beth Crabb Arriola of Timbergrove - Sony Audio System

Chris Stephens of Humble - X. R. 1000 VCR

Wrapping paper sale is now in progress. It includes wrapping paper, bows, two-year planners and porcelain candle holders. Orders can be taken through November 26, with final delivery November 30. For more information call **Eva Cummins** at **686-4068**.

## Scout Fair December 1

The 76th Annual Boy Scout Fair will be held on **Saturday, December 1** at the Astrohall from noon until 6 p.m. Twenty thousand scouts and their leaders from 16 counties will display scouting programs at their best. Outdoor exhibits will be displayed in the parking area. Tickets are \$4.00 per family and can be purchased from any scout or at the door. Advance purchased tickets will be entered into a drawing for a variety of prizes.

Give the scouts a chance to show you what scouting is all about and how you can become involved in scouting!



## Christmas Programs

Garden Oaks Baptist Church on North Shepherd will present special Christmas events Sunday evenings in December beginning at 7:00 pm. The programs are:

December 2 - After Dinner Players, 7:00 pm

December 9 - Service of Carols, 7:00 pm

December 16 - Christmas Cantata, "The King", 11:00 am

December 16 - "A Traditional Christmas" presented by the Youth and Children, 7:00 pm

December 23 Christmas Candlelight Service, 7:00 pm

Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy these special presentations.

## Beautification Update

As I am preparing to relinquish my chairmanship of the Beautification Committee, I am writing this message to all Garden Oaks residents to share my appreciation for the many members of the committee, present and past, who have contributed to the enrichment of our neighborhood.

Thanks to **Jim Alexander** for putting the committee together in the first place and for structuring the character of the committee to permit neighbors to follow their inspirations in beautifying Garden Oaks. Also, to past chairperson **Grace Blair**, who did an excellent job pulling this group together and coordinating the execution of our three pilot projects (Entry and sign on 43rd and Apollo, Pocket Park at 42nd and Sue Barnett and entry sign on 34th at Lawrence.) Thanks also the **Lisa Miller** who followed Grace's lead by holding the energies of the committee together during a time of typically disparate opinions and conflicts and at the same time followed through on beautifying the Pocket Park at 42nd and Sue Barnett. **David Veselka's** energy on this same park was boundless and essential and thank you **Debra** for keeping the faith.

**Kathy Marek** has worked tirelessly and continues to spend many hours with her neighbors in Section 5 to preserve the beauty of our entry and sign on 43rd and Apollo. **Ken Foyt**, his wife **Jane** and some of their neighbors are putting in countless hours making Santa's visiting spot at 42nd and Sue Barnett gorgeous all year round. The Garden Club has created an environment of hospitality in the Friendship Garden at Lawrence and 30th. **Larry Nordenstrom** has given an enormous amount of time and effort keeping the Boulevard free of debris, as well as, handling the erosion problem and bringing grass back to our Boulevard. **Sam Quisenberry** offered his priceless expertise in furthering our vision of added culture to the neighborhood by providing for the transportation of the new sculpture to Garden Oaks. **Bernadell Larson** and some of her neighbors ended the deterioration of our triangular island on Azalea and Alba with

a small planting and TLC.

So many neighbors have given of their time and talents I couldn't begin to list them all, but I thank every one.

Finally, there are a few I want to thank for long standing support, for attending countless meetings and for sharing their enthusiasm, ideas and professional talents for a mere "thanks". **Rick Englert** has been a background catalyst for many of the wonderful additions in place today. **Cheryl Luck** has provided professional design guidance and talent. Also, **Doug Wilson** who is able to put things in perspective.

There are many unmentioned (**Anne Balsom, Mike Johnson, Rusty & Jennifer Day, Scott MacClymonds, Anne Kligore, Ted & Judy Hackworth, Belle Katzer, Barbara Vilutis** and on and on.....) I hope you all know I appreciate your time, good thoughts and support.

Last, but certainly not least, thank you to my husband **James** for being there for me and allowing me to chase dreams and causes I thought were so important.

Thank you Garden Oaks for supporting our projects these past couple of years to see dreams become tangible realities.

Garden Oaks is a great neighborhood and I wish luck and patience to the next Beautification Chairman. What has taken place thus far is merely a beginning.

Sincerely,

MARIAN MABRY

Beautification Chairperson

## Breakfast with Santa



St. Matthew's United Methodist Church is sponsoring a Breakfast with Santa for area children and their parents on **Saturday, December 15th at 9:30am**. The church is located on the corner of North Shepherd and Crosstimbers. There is no charge for breakfast, but reservations are required. Photos with Santa will be available at a nominal charge. Call **Sara Burns** at **862-8559** or the church office at **697-0671** to make reservations. Everyone is welcome to attend.



*Ask a friend...*  
**Terry Jeanes**  
 a Garden Oaks resident  
**868-2511**  
  
**BILL HARTMAN** 

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# Garden Oaks

## COP

### Citizens On Patrol

Can you believe it? Only 2 reported incidents for September! Let's give a hand to all our patrollers and base station operators.

We participated in the First Annual COP fair. We gave away "free" COP T-shirts to people who signed up to patrol and then patrolled. If you missed the fair and want a T-shirt call one of the schedulers below. We also sold hot chocolate and cookies and raised some money.

At the end of the month, probably Wednesday, November 28 (as of press time the date was not confirmed) we will have a general meeting for all patrollers, base station operators and any one interested in becoming one. Look for a flyer for more information. The holiday season generally shows an increase in the number of burglaries. If we can increase the number of patrollers we may be able to buck that trend. So come on out!

A few people already know this, but we are in need of a COP coordinator. I'm moving to Dallas. Not really excited about it because I haven't found a Garden Oaks equivalent. If anyone would like to volunteer please call Susan McMillian or Anita Scherer (phone numbers on back page). The duties involve running periodic meetings with officers (once every couple of months) and the group at large (once every 4-6 months). You will also answer phone calls about burglaries, thefts or possible incidents in the making (as you can see by September's data this isn't too many phone calls). About once every 10 months (we rotate this among the officers) you attend the monthly PIP meeting to pick-up the crime statistics. Oh yes, you are responsible for this article. If you want you can also

patrol and/or be a base station but that isn't required (experience in one or both would be nice though).

I have really enjoyed my brief term. I met a lot of new people, and we definitely are getting results! Thank you—I hope to move back to Garden Oaks in a couple of years.

*Teresa Coleman*

September Crime Statistics	
Patrol Area 1 = Section 1	
Hours Patrolled 30.25	
Auto Theft	0
Burglary	1
Assault	0
Patrol Area 2 = Sections 2 & 3	
Hours Patrolled 20.5	
Auto Theft	0
Burglary	0
Patrol Area 3 = Sections 4 & 5	
Hours Patrolled 61.5	
Auto Theft	0
Burglary	1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Total Hours Patrolled</b>	<b>112.25</b>

## Recycling Update

The Recycling Committee has done it again! **Pam Parks**, Recycling Committee Chairperson will accept the Clean Houston Proud Partner Award at a luncheon on **Friday, November 30**.

The next recycling pick-up is **December 8**. Drop-off location is at the old fire station (and Civic Club building) on 34th Street between N. Shepherd and Brinkman. Due to the tremendous participation and increase in the amount of materials collected, we are encouraging those who are able to drop-off recyclables from 8 am to 10:30 am. Curbside pick-up will continue from 8 am to 10 am. Volunteers and trucks are always welcome to join in the fun. Please call **Scott MacClymonds** at **691-3020** if you would like to help.

If watching your little ones is keeping you from recycling, baby-sitting is available free of charge to recycling volunteers. Please call **Jennifer Day** at **699-8417** by **Friday, December 7** to reserve baby-sitting for your children.



## Notes From the Garden

by Jan Koenig

Composting is too much trouble, too expensive, and too messy - and who wants a pile of rotting waste in their back yard, anyway? Too many people think about composting this way, and they miss out on a cheap and convenient source of superior fertilizer as a result. Composting is nothing more than helping Mother Nature do what she's going to do anyway - that is to turn material that was once living (but has since died) into dirt. This isn't just any dirt either. It's the kind of dirt that makes plants very happy.

A lot has been written about the "right" way to compost. Gardening supply houses help out as well by offering a variety of products for storing, turning, aerating, starting, feeding and accelerating your compost pile - all for a price of course. The truth is that making compost is incredibly simple, requiring nothing more than a sufficient volume of yard or kitchen waste, a place to put it, and time for it to decompose. Anything else you choose to do simply improves the process.

As easy as it is, there are still a few guidelines worth following. First of all, it's better to use a variety of raw material for your compost. Combining green grass clippings with fallen brown leaves gives the compost a more balanced mix of nutrients. You can (and should) add just about any kind of kitchen waste to your compost, with the exception of meat products (which attract vermin). Egg shells, coffee grounds, vegetable peelings, etc. are all fine. Some folks advise against putting dairy products in compost, but I've thrown in sour milk, moldy cheese, and leftover yogurt and cottage cheese without any apparent problems.

Compost decomposes more quickly when it is moist (not soggy), and when it is exposed to oxygen.

The purpose of turning a compost pile is to allow the air to circulate. Turning is not necessary - but it will make the compost pile work faster. Large woody pieces decompose very slowly. A good rule of thumb is to avoid adding any dead branches bigger around than a pencil. Pine needles will decompose, but they tend to take their own sweet time about it.

A compost pile needs to be of a certain minimum size to work properly. A free standing pile less than 3 feet across and 3 feet high is relatively inefficient. Enclosed piles can be somewhat smaller, since they do a better job of retaining the heat produced in the process of decomposition. You can make compost in a large garbage can, a 55 gallon drum, a cinder block enclosure, a big wooden box, or a "store bought" compost bin. My compost pile is a 4'x4'x4' chicken wire enclosure in a back corner of my yard with one detachable side to give me access to the pile.

To start your compost pile, simply add a mix of materials and make sure the ingredients are moist. Give the pile a place to drain so that water doesn't accumulate in the bottom. The volume of material decreases rapidly as settling and decomposition occur. You'll be surprised how much new material you can add without running out of space. Turn the pile every so often if you feel like it, or let it take care of itself if you prefer.

Three to six months later, (depending on weather, moisture, and the raw materials you used) you'll find that the material at the bottom of the pile has become a dark brown, odorless substance with the texture of cake crumbs. Take that stuff and mix it into your garden beds - your plants will love you for it. After all, you've just given them the best fertilizer that money can't buy, home made compost - the gardener's "black gold".

## 1991 Home Tour Meeting Dec 10

All those interested in helping with the 1991 Home Tour please come to 1550 Sue Barnett on **Monday, December 10** at 7:00 p.m. If you have any questions, please call **680-9757**.

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CHURCH DISCIPLESHIP - 6:00 P.M.

EVENING WORSHIP - 7:00 P.M.

WEDNESDAY PRAYER SERVICE - 5:45 P.M.

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

**Buddy and Ann Hudson** of Section 1 who moved here from California;

**Gary Myer and Spencer Jeffery** of Section 2;

**Jan Knight and Ken Brown** of Section 4;

**Yvonne and Ron Muran** of Section 2.

Thank you for coming to the November Civic Club meeting.

### Garden Oaks Runners Club

Garden Oaks runners- let's ALL get together! All caliber of runners are welcome. Questions or comments? Call Tim

Page1 at 686-4424.



### December Birthdays

- 4: **Brian Sherwood**
- 7: **Frank Panzica**
- 12: **Elissa Lipham**, 7 yrs.
- 13: **Denise Sherwood**
- 18: **Alice Peden**, 1 yr.
- 18: **Billy Scherer**
- 21: **John McKenney**
- 24: **Jacqueline Debien**, 9 yrs.
- 27: **Ted Hackworth**
- 28: **Lauren Mabry**, 7 yrs.
- 29: **Stacy Broadrick**, 15 yrs.
- 30: **Jordan Person**, 4 yrs.
- 31: **Thomas Lipham**, 5 yrs.

### Garden Oaks Civic Club Numbers

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

**Anita Scherer**, Co-editor  
4223 Apollo  
956-7809

**Cindy Ballard**, Co-editor  
717 W. 41st Street  
697-6244

**James Doyle**, President, Board of Trustees 694-4134

**Arv and Barbara Vilutis**,  
Treasurers  
692-0581

**Terry Weinberger**,  
1st V.P., Membership  
680-9757

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

**Jaime Pierce**,  
Secretary  
688-3237

### December Calendar of Events

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
				NOV. 29 Beautification 7:30pm		1 Scout Fair Noon - 6pm
2	3	4 Civic Club 6:45 pm	5	6	7	8 Recycle 8:00 am
9	10 Home Tour Meeting 7:00pm	11	12 Chanukah	13	14	15 XMAS Decoration Contest
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
		SANTA VISITS 7 - 9 pm				
23	24	25 Merry Christmas	26	27	28	29
30	31					

### COP Numbers to Remember:

Coordinator - Teresa Coleman 868-5223  
 Schedulers: Area 1 - David Epstein 869-0128  
 Area 2 - JoAn Fudge 692-8822  
 or Bernise Sears 695-2192  
 Area 3 (Days) - Norris Carle 686-7201  
 Area 3 (Evenings) - Bill Bijak 688-2097

### Board of Trustees Section Representatives Numbers to Remember

Section I Dianne Austin 864-7962  
 Section II Susan McMillian 695-8245  
 Section III David Veselka 692-1384  
 Section IV Willard Mills 686-6592  
 Section V Vee Gaines 686-5042

James J. Doyle, President  
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