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Garden Oaks Gazette

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1991 Civic Club Dates Confirmed

Meeting dates will be as follows: Feb. 5, March 5, April 2, May 7, June 4, July 2, Aug. 6, Sept. 8, Oct. 1, Nov. 5, and Dec. 3. All dates are the first Tuesdays of each month. Meetings start at 7:00 pm.



Beautification

The next meeting will be Thursday, January 31, at the home of Arv and Barbara Vilutis, 747 W. 43rd. The primary topic of discussion will be bids to refine and install landscape plans for the 43rd Street/Sue Barnett Pocket Park. These plans are shown on page 7.

Fight High Taxes

Garden Oaks resident Katherine Hardin, along with the Greater Houston Tax Coalition, is trying to fight the rising school taxes. They are trying to get 72,000 signatures in order to bring this issue to a public vote. The goal is to force a recall to lower HISD taxes. These higher taxes will be used for management salaries, not for our schools. Please come to the February Civic Club Meeting and sign this important petition. If you can't be there, please make other arrangements to sign it.

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

Scott & Lisa Van Fleet, Section 1

Grant Wells & Rebecca Pratt, Section 5

Thank you for coming. We hope to see you again soon.

Civic Club Meeting

Tuesday, February 5, at 7:00. The business portion of the meeting begins promptly at 7:15, so come at 7:00 and have refreshments and visit with your neighbors. Babysitting is always available for only \$1.00 per child. Please come and enjoy being part of this energetic group. The meeting is at the Garden Oaks Baptist Church on N. Shepherd, between 610 and 34th.

A door prize will be given to a lucky 1991 dues paid member attending this meeting. Make sure you don't lose out. Your name could be the lucky winner.

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GARDEN OAKS BAPTIST CHURCH

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BIBLE STUDY - 9:45 A.M.
MORNING WORSHIP - 11:00 A.M.
CHURCH DISCIPLESHIP - 6:00 P.M.
EVENING WORSHIP - 7:00 P.M.
WEDNESDAY PRAYER SERVICE - 5:45 P.M.

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a Garden Oaks resident
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Century
BILL HARTMAN

President's Message

Community. What do you think of when you think of community? Webster says that a community is people with common interests living in a particular area; a unified body of individuals; a group linked by common policy. Is Garden Oaks a community?

You can see the fruits of community efforts in the different projects that have been accomplished around the neighborhood. It hasn't always been easy. Garden Oaks has many creative, talented and strong-willed individuals, but when they all strive for the same goals exciting things can happen. Achieving these goals involves maturity, respect, communication and, most importantly, compromise.

Becoming a community takes effort and energy. You have to listen to others (even those you don't like) and respect what they have to say. The worst thing that could happen to a community is when a member decides that he/she is not wanted or needed. When that happens you lose ideas, thoughts, perspectives and the community suffers. Everyone is needed and everyone should be welcomed with open arms. It is up to each one of us to make every effort to ensure that no one feels "shut out" of the Garden Oaks community.

There are many areas where you can become involved in the Garden Oaks community. A description of the various Civic Club committees is on page 5. But that shouldn't be all inclusive. If there is a need out there that you feel needs to be met, start a new committee. Some of the rewards for participating in a community are fellowship, new friendships, pride in accomplishments, and just plain fun. Join now and join in the fun!

anta

Anita Scherer

The Garden Oaks Gazette is Oxprinted on recycled paper.

Gazette Ad Rates

\$35 per month - \$175 - 6 months \$325 - 1 year

Deadline for March Gazette is Jan 8

'Light Up Garden Oaks' Winners Announced

The following is a list of the winners of our annual Christmas decoration contest. Winners are picked from Garden Oaks and Garden Oaks Plaza.

BEST HOME

1st place Emmett Doherty 1004

Sue Barnett

2nd place Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Cor-

nelius 739 Azaleadeli

3rd place Dianne Austin 733 W.

42nd

CHILD'S DELIGHT

1st place Paul Hager 219 W. 33rd

2nd place Kathy Thomas 4311

Apollo

3rd place Perry Gunter 1026 Gar-

denia

BEST DOOR/ENTRY

1st place Mr. & Mrs. Johnnie J.

Gunter 978 W. 41st

2nd place Jo Ann Eickenhorst 741

Sue Barnett

3rd place Rory & Karen Alonzo 415

W. 30th

MOST ORIGINAL

(Only one winner in this category) Charles Brookshire 311 W. 32nd

BEST BLOCK

1000 Block of Gardenia

Congratulation winners and thank you to everyone who participated. Thank you, too, to the sponsors; Garden Properties; Regency Title; Legato, The Hair Salon; and Windfern Pest Control.

Heard Under The Oak Tree



Terry Jeanes was installed as a new director for the 11,000 member Houston Association of Realtors in January, Congratulations Terry!

Bill McMillian reported at the January Civic Club meeting that Santa had a great time in the pocket park. Santa said it was too dark though, and would like it if we could really light up the park this year. If you would like to donate some lights for Santa's visit, please contact Bill McMillian. Thanks.



by Jan Koenig

Sometimes it's nice to know that you're a part of a bigger picture. That's how I feel about the community garden right now. While we're struggling to get permission to move our garden, the community garden program as a whole is flourishing. New gardens are springing up, old gardens are expanding, and recognition in the community is growing by leaps and bounds.

Our garden was established as a part of the Interfaith Hunger Coalition. - Community Garden Program. The Interfaith Hunger Coalition is itself a part of Houston Metropolitan Ministries. The Community Garden Program (CGP) came into being about four years ago, with one volunteer coordinator, no full-time staff, and no gardens. The initial plan was to use community gardens as a way to help the hungry people in our city better feed themselves,

Today, there are over thirty gardens in the program, spread out from League City to Sugarland to Spring. The gardens range in size from one small raised bed to the equivalent of a small farm. While the mission of the Community Garden Program has expanded, the primary goal is still the same. In 1990, community gardens produced over 100,000 servings of fresh, safe produce, three times the total production in 1989. We could very easily double the 1990 results in the coming year.

The sponsorship of the gardens in the CGP are as diverse as the population of Houston. Several of the gardens are sponsored by ecumenical organizations in different parts of the city. Others have been established by individual churches. Ours is the only one operated by a civic club. We have gardens associated with shelters for abused children and a garden supported by a hospice for AIDS patients. A few gardens have

been formed independently of any group by individuals with enough drive to make it happen by themselves.

Today I attended a meeting of representatives from all the gardens around the city, and I found myself invigorated by the spirit of enthusiasm and dedication. We had all shared common problems - lack of sufficient manpower, frustration brought on by delays of one sort or another, crop failures, etc. But we also all shared a sense of excitement about what we were doing. Gardeners are much more interested in talking about what went right than what went wrong. One bumper crop is worth a dozen disappointments.

The experience reminded me that our difficulties this year are temporary. Not only will we see our garden grow again, (soon, I hope), we'll see it grow bigger and better that it did before. Believe it or not, we planted the first seeds in the Garden Oaks Community Garden over two years ago. We've learned from our trials and tribulations, as well as from our successes over the past two years. We also have the benefit of the experiences of thirty other gardens.

The Community Garden Program is making a significant dent in an even more significant problem. We can all be proud to be part of it. See you at the garden!

*Please note: Jan can always use your help with the garden. Please call him to volunteer (number on back page). - Editor.



Recycling Update

The Recycling Committee would like to apologize to Section 1A for not picking up their newspaper in January. They were so concerned about trying to transport the vast quantity of paper already at the site that they forgot to finish the pick up. You see, there was this container problem... anyway, thanks for being so understanding!



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Editor's Notes...

Now that the holidays are over and it has finally quit raining, we need to turn our attention to something very important: Citizens On Patrol. When we first began our program last August we logged 129.5 hours of patrol time. In December, just 4 months later, we logged only 66! We expected a drop due to the holidays, but November was only slightly higher. Our program has proven itself in these few months with significantly lower crime statistics. Let's not stop now! The 'bad guys' are always watching, and when they see that we don't patrol anymore they'll be back. We also have to keep in mind that we must patrol a minimum of 62 hours each month or the police will take back the equipment and our program will end.

Please read the article by Joan Fudge in the Readers' Forum column. No one ever expects crime to happen to them, especially in broad daylight. But, as Joan can attest, it does happen.

At our first training session, 83 people signed up to patrol. Many of those people have yet to patrol even once. 107 people have taken COP T-Shirts, donated by Suzanne Debien and intended for active volunteers. Right now we are all receiving the benefits of the work done by a handful of volunteers. Won't you give a little of your time to this very important and very easy effort to fight crime? Just call any of the COP numbers on the back page, or call me for more information. Do it now, and avoid becoming the next victim.

Jaime Connor Pierce

Garden Oaks Runners Club

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

Pagel at 686-4424.





DECORATING TIPS... PICTURE THIS

by Jane Warner

Does driving nails into your walls make you nervous? Do you and your spouse disagree on the proper height? A common mistake is made when a tall man hangs a picture at his standing eye level. If the objects hung on the wall are usually viewed from a sitting position, they should be hung at the seated person's eye level. Also, never place objects so low above a chair or sofa that they will be bumped if someone leans back; allow eight to twelve inches.

It's a good idea when arranging objects on a wall to first tape sheets of paper of the exact dimension of what you plan to hang, to the wall. This will allow you to move them around until you have achieved the best arrangement. Then it is easy to mark the spot for the hanger.

Another good rule is to keep the distance between pictures half the width of the frames. Do not crowd objects together. Also, give them anchors: A table placed below a large picture keeps it from looking lost. Objects on the table also help create balance.

Halls, bedrooms and walls above stairs are excellent places to display family pictures. Family pictures or individual portraits give entries that warm welcome feeling, greeting guests as they come into your home.

Varying the size, shape and texture in a grouping is always visually pleasing. Pretty round plates are nice among rectangular and square frames, for example. And a good rule of thumb when hanging a grouping above a sofa is to use an area three-fourths the width of the sofa.

Pictures can help add the finishing touches to your room. Just as you planned the rest of the room, a little picture planning will give you the "picture perfect" room you want.

Readers' Forum

Readers' Forum is a column designed for you to express your opinions, ideas, or 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.

by Joan Fudge

I came home one afternoon and from the end of my driveway I could see white objects lying near my front walkway. Upon getting closer my heart sunk to my stomach, for there was also a lot of broken glass. The white objects were bits of wood that had been pried from my front door. The door was still slightly ajar, but being concerned about my little silky terrier Libbi, I took no precautions and walked in. Libbi was OK physically, but the house had been ransacked and robbed. My immediate feelings were mixtures of relief (that Libbi was OK), anger, fright, and hurt that someone could violate my property in such a heinous way.

Necessary precautions had been taken with double locks installed on the front door, as well as a lock on the storm door. So it took the thief/thieves ample time to chip and claw the safety bolt lock out of the door facing. This was at the front door in broad daylight.

With these thoughts in mind, I was eager to learn about the COP, attend the training session, and volunteer to patrol as a concerned citizen. Knowing that we have some caring neighbors out there patrolling has eased my mind somewhat when I have to leave my house. However, since our program was organized, our number of volunteers has gradually diminished. It has been proven that areas with COP programs have decreased crime.

Section II needs volunteers. We ask that you give only 2 hours of your time per month, one hour every other week, the equivalent of one TV movie per month. Isn't your property worth it? Only 24 hours per year? Call 692-8322 if you want to volunteer for COP in Section II.

Incidentally, I have replaced nothing that the thieves took so, if they come back, they will be disappointed. Thanks for listening.

Committees Offer Variety of Involvement

Get involved and help improve /our 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 through Houston Proud. Such activities include painting the play equipment, and keeping the park neat and litter free. Several ideas for future projects include a fence along the back of the park which borders the businesses and railroad tracks and improvements to the bathrooms. A coordinator is needed to spearhead these activities. For more information call Anlta Scherer at 956-7809.

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/42nd 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, Currently, the committee is working on plans to landscape the park on 43rd and Sue Barnett to highlight the art work installed at that location. The landscape will be designed with a xeriscape philosophy which utilizes native and regional plants which require low maintenance and minimal water consumption. The Community Garden activities have been incorporated into the Beautification Committee. The 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 currently located on the north side of Garden Oaks Elementary School, but plans are underway to move the garden to 4405 Alba. 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. The next meeting of the Beautification Committee will be Thursday, January 31 at 7:30 p.m. at 747 W. 43rd. Come join this creative and dynamic committee. For more information call Jan Koenig, Chairman, at 869-8997.

The Citizens On Patrol committee organizes the security patrols that keep a neighborly watch at various times during the day and night. For more information call any of the numbers on the back page.

The Garden Oaks Gazette is a monthly newsletter for the residents of Garden Oaks. News items about the neighborhood and the community are always needed. Also be sure and keep us informed about birthdays, anniversaries, new babies, awards, recognitions, etc. or even if you just want to express an opinion through Readers' Forum. The deadline for the March issue is February 8. For more information call Jaime Connor Plerce, Editor, at 688-3237 or Cindy Ballard, Assistant Editor, at 697-6244. 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. For more information call Susan or Bill McMillian. Advertising Coordinators, at 695-8245.

The Home Tour Committee organizes the annual Garden Oaks home tour that takes place in the spring. This exciting event shows the rest of the city what a desirable neighborhood Garden Oaks is. There are many areas where you talents can help make the "event of the year" a complete success. This year's home tour is Sunday, April 28. For more information or if you would like to help, call Susan McMillian at 695-8245 or Denise Epstein at 869-0128.

The Hospitality Committee puts together "New Neighbor" packets for the newcomers of Garden Oaks and Garden Oaks Plaza. 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 Jane Warner, Coordinator, at 695-3839.

The Recycling Committee organizes and promotes the monthly recycling activities. The recycling drop-off location is on W. 34th Street between

Brinkman and N. Shepherd. Everyone who is able is encouraged to bring your recyclable items to this location on the second Saturday of the month from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Curbside pick-up will continue between 8 and 10 a.m. Volunteers and pick-up trucks are always needed and welcomed. The next recycling pick-up is Saturday, February 9. For more information call Rusty Day, Chairman at 699-8417.

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 869-0128.





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In case you didn't read Editor's Notes... We need patrollers! Let me tell you how easy it is. You don't have to belong to the Civic Club, you don't have to go to monthly meetings, and if you travel a lot for business, we can work with you. Those who travel a lot should be especially interested in protecting their loved ones and property.

You can set your own times and days, providing they aren't already taken. The ideal is for you to patrol one or two hours every other week. You can patrol Wednesdays at 4:00 pm or Saturdays at 2:00 am or once a month or four times a month. You name it, we need it. You just might have fun. I know one man who enjoys the time away from his active toddler and a woman who enjoys visiting with her friend, who patrols with her. It allows you to get out and see your neighbors and watch the changes taking place in our neighborhood.

So now that you are ready to volunteer, call the COP scheduler for your area and you are halfway there. Only **YOU** can keep crime our of Garden Oaks.

Jaime Connor Pierce

COP Crimewatch

November Statistics

Patrol Area 1 = Section 1

Hours Patrolled 16

Crime 0

Patrol Area 2 = Sections 2 & 3
Hours Patrolled 16.5
Crime 0

Patrol Area 3 = Sections 4 & 5
Hours Patrolled 37
Crime 0

Total Hours Patrolled 69.5
Total Crime 0

After looking at these statistics, you might be fooled into thinking that our area is relatively crime free. I think you must be made aware of the bigger picture. Garden Oaks lies within a larger crime area, approximately in the borders of the Hardy Toll Road, the 610 Loop, the Northwest Freeway and, to the north, Tidwell/Pinemont. In this larger area there were 230 auto thefts, 14 narcotics, 133 burglaries, 77 robberies, 4 rapes, 25 aggravated assaults, and 2 murder/manslaughters. This was just in the period from November 1 to November 30 (December stats aren't out yet) So crime is all around us, but our COP program helps keep it out of Garden Oaks.



Good Neighbors

Ms. Laura Garza, formerly of Garden Oaks, agreed to allow the Civic Club Recycling Committee to remove the carport from her property in the 1000 block of 43rd, since it violated the Section 5 Deed Restrictions. We deeply appreciate the spirit of cooperation and expression of care for our neighborhood reflected in this decision. We hope that this is the first of many voluntary compliances in Garden Oaks.

Thank you from the Recycling Committee, too. They are always glad to have the aluminum.

Warm thanks go to the men who did the work on a cold Saturday morning: Arv, Scott & Rusty.



SPARK News

Anita reported at the January Civic Club meeting that we have a committment from SPARK to donate a significant portion (\$20,000) of the money for the proposed track, if the school and the community can come up with the remainder (\$5,000). The school feels that it will be able to raise a portion of this. The SPARK Committee will reconvene soon to discuss how to come up with the rest of the money. The committee will also need input on materials and maintenance for the track. Runners, now is your chance to get involved. This track's for you!

Note:

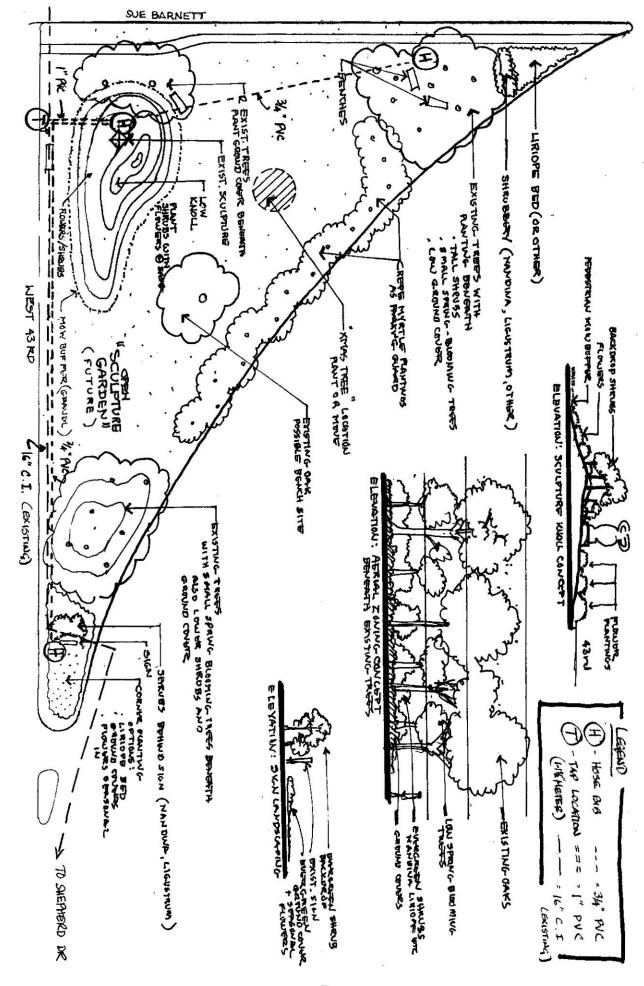
See the November 1990 issue for SPARK Park rules.

Award recognizes Good Neighbors

The Garden Oaks Good Neighbor Award is presented each quarter to recognize residents whose caring manner and good deeds make them a great neighbor. Please take the time to nominate someone who has been a good neighbor. Please take the time to nominate someone who has been a good neighbor to you. The deadline for the 1991 First Quar-

ter Garden Oaks Good Neighbor Award is Friday, February 15.

This award was started in 1989 and is sponsored by Suzanne Debien, REALTORS and Cavatore Italian Restaurant. Nominations are made by letter and are reviewed by a committee of community leaders. Letters of nomination should be submitted to Suzanne Debien, REALTORS at 1235 North Loop West #1215, Houston, Texas 77008. For more information call 861-5040.





February Birthdays

- 2: Nicholas Day, 3 yrs.
- 4: Tom Rogers, 40 something
- 6: Brett Sherwood, 2vrs.
- 6: Joel Marek, 1 yr!
- 7: Tim Pagel, 30 something
- 7: Janet Hitz, ?
- 7: Taylor Pierce, 1 yr!
- 8: Jane Sturges, 3 yrs.
- 10: Debbie Martin. ?
- 11: Anne Kilgore, 30 something
- 11: Elva Duncan,?
- 11: Cheryl Luck,?
- 14: Lauren Hall, 12 yrs.
- 15: Colin Jenkins, 3 yrs.
- 15: Andrew Bell, 8 yrs.
- 15: Susan Smith, ?
- 19: Blanca Smothers, ?
- 20: Mariena Willis, 4 yrs.
- 20: Hannah Jeffers, 2 yrs.
- 21: Georgann Paul, 13 yrs.

(a teenager!)

21: Jaime Acosta, 7 yrs.

Do you have a birthday, wedding, promotion, graduation, award, or other special event to announce? Put it in the Gazette! Call 688-3237 and make the news.

Garden Oaks Civic Club Numbers

Anita Scherer, President 4223 Apollo • 956-7809

Jaime Connor Pierce, 1st Vice President & Editor 958 Gardenia • 688-3237

Jennifer Day, Vice President, Membership

717 W. 42nd • 699-8417

Arv and Barbara Vilutis.

Treasurers • 692-0581

Susan & Bill McMillian. Advertising • 695-8245

Cindy Ballard, Assistant Editor 717 W. 41st Street • 697-6244

Jan Koenig, Secretary 869-8997

James Dovle, President

Board of Trustees

694-4314

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
		Þ		Jan. 31 Beautification 7:30	1	2 Ground Hog Day
3	4	5 Civic Club 7:00 pm	6	7	8 Gazette deadline	9 Recycle Pick-Up 8:00 am
10	11	12	13 Ash Wednesday	14 ♡ Valentine's Day	15 Good Neighbor Award Deadline	16
17	18 President's Day	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		

COP Numbers to Remember:

Board of Trustees Representatives Numbers to Remember:

Schedulers: Area 1 - David Epstein Area 2 - Joan Fudge

Area 3 (Evenings) - Bill Bijak

692-8822 or Bernise Sears 695-2192 Area 3 (Days) - Norris Carle 686-7201 Section I Section II Section III Section IV Section V

George Paul Susan McMillian David Veselka

861-0328 695-8245 692-1384

Willard Mills 686-6592 Vee Gaines 686-5042

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