



# Garden Oaks Gazette

Vol. 14, No. 12

Circulation 1650

December 1991



## Joy to the World



### Santa Claus Is Coming To Town!

Attention kids of all ages...Santa Claus will be in Garden Oaks in mid-December. **Bill McMillian**, our liaison with the North Pole, reports that Santa will arrive at the **42nd Street pocket park** on **Monday and Tuesday, December 16th and 17th at 6:30**. Santa will stay until 8:30 both nights. Bill reported last year that Santa said it was a bit dark and dreary in the park, so let's surprise Santa by really lighting up the park this year. If you have any lights, tinsel, or other decorations you think Santa would enjoy, and would like to loan them out for this auspicious occasion, please call **Bill McMillian** at **695-8245**. We wouldn't want Santa to have trouble finding us, would we? Donations of goodies such as cookies or hot chocolate will be welcome too. Come one, come all and enjoy this wonderful example of Christmas spirit!

### C.O.P. Wants You

Are you retired? Looking for a hobby, outdoor activity, or new friend? Well come join G.O. C.O.P. and share in the patrolling, information, and parties. Call **Wish Webb** at **683-8461** for more information.

### 1992 Officers Elected

Congratulations to the following 1992 Garden Oaks Civic Club Officers who were elected at the November meeting:

- Anita Scherer**, President
- Blanche Leonard**, 1st Vice-President (Membership)
- Don Howie**, Secretary
- Jan Koenig**, Treasurer

The position of 2nd Vice-President (*Gazette* editor) is still available. If you are interested, please call **688-3237**. Elections for this position will be held at the December meeting.

### Meet the District A Candidates

District A Runoff Candidates **Helen Huey** and **Larry McKaskle** have been invited to the December Civic Club meeting. They each will be allotted five minutes to address the Civic Club, after the business portion of our meeting. Come out and meet the candidates that will represent you at City Council, and remember to vote on December 7th!

### Home Tour 1992

No, it is not too early to begin thinking about Home Tour 1992. The committee will begin soliciting donations and items for the raffle this month. If you know of any businesses that may donate to the 1992 Home Tour, or if you are interested in being on the Home Tour Committee, please call **Michele Markariam-Martini** at **699-4244**.

### Civic Club Enjoys Food, Fun, Fellowship December 3

The last Civic Club meeting of 1991 will be a covered dish dinner on **Tuesday, December 3** at the Garden Oaks Baptist Church Fellowship Hall. We will begin serving at **7:00 p.m.** with a short business meeting beginning at **7:30 p.m.**

Bring a dish according to the first letter of your last name. Drinks will be provided by the Civic Club.

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

If you have any questions on what to bring, call **Denise Epstein** at **869-0128**.

After the business meeting, everyone is invited to stay, meet your neighbors, and sing Christmas carols accompanied on the piano by **Cheryl Cato** of Section 1.

Baby-sitting will be provided during the business portion of the meeting for \$1.00 per child. Share a recipe and some holiday cheer with your neighbors. Hope to see you there!

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through  
Dec. 22**

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BIBLE STUDY - 9:45 A.M.  
MORNING WORSHIP - 11:00 A.M.  
CHURCH TRAINING - 5:00 P.M.  
EVENING WORSHIP - 6:00 P.M.  
WEDNESDAY PRAYER SERVICE - 6:00 P.M.  
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## President's Message

Traditions ran deep in my family when I was growing up. Every holiday had certain customs and celebrations that were followed every year.

At Thanksgiving the plentiful turkey dinner was always scheduled around the Dallas Cowboy football game so all members of the family could watch and not be interrupted with cooking or dirty dishes. (Yes, my parents were hard core Cowboy fans.)

The Christmas tree was always decorated on the 15th of December and brought down on New Year's Day. Helping my grandmother and mother make pan de polvo (my absolute favorite Mexican pastry) was a yearly tradition even though they could work much faster without me and my sister. Every year from our Christmas money we were required to buy a gift that we would want ourselves, and give it to a needy child. Our extended family (aunts, uncles, cousins, second cousins, etc.) gathered every Christmas Eve for a traditional meal of tamales, rice and beans and various Mexican pastries and candies before attending midnight mass. And for New Year's Eve, we would all stay up until midnight and heartily bang our pots and pans outside the back door.

Families live further away from each other now which makes it harder to keep up with some family traditions. However, new traditions and customs are started all the time. One friend's family passes a silver chalice around the Thanksgiving dinner table and each member relates what they are thankful for that year. Another friend decorates his Christmas tree with ornaments he makes from past Christmas trees. Another family I know makes a birthday cake for Jesus on Christmas. Whatever your traditions and customs are, they should fit in with your personal celebration of the holidays. My family will probably combine some old family traditions with new ones that are created from our own individual celebration of the holidays.

Our community acts as an extended family in many ways. I look forward to the Garden Oaks Civic Club traditional covered dish dinner, the beautiful Christmas decorations, the Baby-sitting Coop Christmas party, and Santa in the Park. These events let me celebrate

the holidays with my extended family.

As we approach the holiday season, continue to create and maintain those customs and traditions which make your Hanukkah, Christmas and New Year's Day special for you, your friends and families. Happy Holidays!

*Anita*  
Anita Scherer



## Heard Under the Oak Tree

Congratulations to **Kaye Parisi** of Section 1, who achieved the second best time of any woman from Texas in the New York Marathon on November 3rd. Kaye competed against approximately 123 Texas women and 25,600 people overall. Her time was 3 hours 21 minutes and 2 seconds to run 26.2 miles! Kaye and husband Steve are planning to run in the upcoming Tenneco Marathon. Good luck Parisis!

Congratulations to **Kelly Benson** and her pet **Riley** of Section 3. They were awarded third place in the traditional Halloween costume category, in the Pet Costume Contest, sponsored by Suzanne Debien, REALTORS. Riley was dressed as a Labrador witch.

**Terry Jeanes** won the door prize, a book entitled *The Naturalist's Garden*, at the October Civic Club meeting. **Linda Ross** received a \$10 gift certificate from Sears at the November meeting. This is her second door prize this year! Don't miss your chance to win a fantastic door prize; join the Civic Club and attend the meetings!

The University of Houston's Center for Public Policy and Sage Realty Advisors conducted a survey of 400 subdivisions in Houston. Home values in Houston have risen 4% overall in the past 18 months. But in Garden Oaks they have risen 16% with an average price per square foot of \$65.01!

### Gazette Ad Rates

\$40 per month - \$200 for 6 months

\$385 for 1 year

Deadline for January Gazette  
is December 10th



## Notes From The Garden

In today's society most of us work in what economists like to call "service related jobs." We sell things, account for things, deliver things, expedite, litigate, teach, administer, and on and on. What we don't do is make things. Very few of us are directly involved in the work of producing goods.

Of course, there's nothing at all wrong with service jobs. Services are like drops of oil that lubricate our economy. They make our lives easier and our businesses more productive. But in my own case at least, working in a service industry has one major drawback. I miss being able to point at something and say, "I helped make that." I miss feeling the pride and pleasure that comes from creating a tangible product.

That, above all else, is why I garden. Gardeners have the satisfaction of knowing that they helped "build" the flowers, fruits, vegetables, and trees that they see around them (although if we were honest with ourselves, we would admit that we have very little to do with the process.) Gardeners and non-gardeners alike can enjoy the sight of a bright bed of smiling pansies, but the gardener who planted those pansies feels something more akin to the joy of parenthood. We nurture our gardens, and in return our gardens nurture us. Like children, our gardens can leave us frustrated and exasperated, but more than that they leave us fulfilled.

Anyone who has lived with a plant from seed to flower knows the feeling. We watch and wait for the top of the soil to swell and crack as the sprouting seed struggles toward the sunlight. The seedling begins to grow and we begin to worry. Is it too hot? Too cold? Too wet? Too dry? Like a baby, the plant finds a way to communicate without words - wilting, curling, turning pale when it needs our attention.

The seedling grows into adolescence, and as in all adolescents, sex becomes its primary concern. The forces of procreation rush through, and tiny flower

buds emerge. The buds swell and but before finally unfolding and revealing the beauty and fragrance they've been hiding. We and the plant both reach our reward; pollination for it and pride for ourselves. Its job completed, the flower gives itself up, and the seed of the next generation takes its place.

In a world with far too little sense of unity and purpose, growing a garden - or even a single plant - can help us understand what it's all about. Gardens allow us to build and create. The plants have lives of their own, but we help give them that life. We have our lives as well, but gardens can help give them meaning.

Jan Koenig



## Thanks, Neighbor!

Thank you all 1991 officers and committee chairpersons who dedicated their time and support to our community. It is evident that you love this neighborhood and are willing to do what it takes to make it the best. Thank you Anita Scherer, Jennifer and Rusty Day, Jaime Pierce, Jan Koenig, Arv and Barbara Vilutis, Tim Pagel, Trish Webb, Tom Mehrkam, Jane and Mike Warner, Denise Epstein and Barry Morris.

Thank you all committee members and volunteers who continue to work for our vision of Garden Oaks. You are too numerous to name, so thank you all who worked with Beautification, Citizens On Patrol, Community Garden, Gazette, Garden Club, Garden Oaks People Helping in Education Reform, Heights Festival, Home Tour, Hospitality, Nominating Committee, Refreshments, Recycling, Santa in the Park and SPARK. And a big thank you to the volunteers that maintain our pocket parks and esplanades, including Ken Foyt, Larry Nordenstrom, and Paul and Kathy Marek.

Once again AppleTree on W. 43rd Street has generously donated refreshments for the October and November Civic Club meetings. Thank you AppleTree for your unwavering support of our community.

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**C.O.P. Crimewatch**

September 1991

Area	Crime	Block	Street	Date	Time
1	Robbery	400	W. 33rd	9/16	2330
1	Burglary	200	W. 34th	8/31*	1700
1	Burglary	500	W. 30th	9/13	1030
1	Burglary	3100	Randall	9/19	1110
3	Auto Theft	900	W. 41st	8/02*	1500

**Patrol Hours:**

Area 1: 33.5

Area 2: 84

Area 3: 117

**TOTAL CRIMES: 5**

**TOTAL HOURS PATROLLED: 234.5**

\* This incident happened in August but was listed in the September Crime Bulletin.

**G.O. C.O.P. Report**

We have over 200 hours of patrolling for the month of October with 205.5 hours reported! That breaks down to 25 hours in Area 1, 61.5 hours in Area 2, and 119 hours in Area 3! Keep up the force!!!

We have 12 new sets of magnetic signs thanks to Norris Carle. If anyone is interested in buying a set for their personal use or sponsoring a set for the group, please call me. We need to pay for these signs!

Our Area Open Houses went very well. We had new patrollers sign up and had some very informative conversation and constructive thought towards the program. Thanks to everyone who participated and special thanks to our Area 1 Hosts, Patrick King & Heather

Barr, and our Area 2 Hosts, V. D. & Laverne Kelley.

November 12th was our meeting with H.P.D. concerning the cellular phones. Tom Merhkam attended for me and picked up our cellular phone. We will be scheduling use in all areas and will have more information in the G.O. C.O.P. Newsletter, coming out shortly.

If you have been interested in G.O. C.O.P., please sign up. We need patrollers covering the neighborhood and your support and effort to help combat crime in our area. Our newsletter is for MEMBERS ONLY because of the nature of some of the material. I will continue writing articles for the Gazette and giving reports at the Civic Club meetings.

Trish

**Recycling Report**

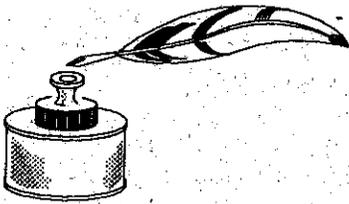
There were no figures available at press time. However, there are some important things to make note of. First, there has been talk about discontinuing our monthly newspaper collection. At this point, the recycling Committee will continue picking up newspaper. Whether this will change in the future depends on whether or not the market glut for paper subsidies. There are many alternatives to putting out the paper with your weekly trash, though. One alternative is to take it to any of the Fiesta markets. I decided to try this out myself in November. I went to the one on Shepherd at 24th, but there are also stores at Airline and I-45 and a beautiful new store on the Katy Freeway. They accept paper, plastic, glass, and aluminum, but only pay for the latter two. I took all my items there and it was quick and easy and a much better alternative to sending it all to the dump,

even though the money I received was negligible at best. For those of you who don't like to store your recyclables up over a whole month, might I suggest that you take them to Fiesta (or any recycling center) once a week? Fiesta's recycling center is open 7 days a week for your convenience. Second, for those of you who want to be part of the Recycling Committee next year, please call Rusty Day at 699-8417 or Tim Pagel at 686-4424 to obtain information. And keep on recycling...It's the least we can do!

Jaime

**Recycle Plastic Packing  
Peanuts**

Ever wondered what to do with the plastic packing peanuts that spill out of gift boxes? If you don't reuse them already, now you can let someone else reuse them. The packaging company Mail Boxes Etc. has set up drop-off boxes at its locations around town for consumers to drop-off packing peanuts for reuse.



### Editor's Notes...

It is hard for me to believe that this issue is my twelfth and final issue of the *Gazette*. Time passes much too quickly these days. I have really enjoyed being the editor. The *Gazette* is a great newspaper and Garden Oaks is a great neighborhood. In Anita's President's Message she talks about our neighborhood's role as an extended family. I definitely feel that is true in my case. My daughter Lauren is growing up with lots of "grandparents", "aunts & uncles", and "cousins" that she doesn't have through family ties, and she is really lucky to have these people in her life. It is these people that make all the hard work it takes to run the Civic Club and *Gazette* worthwhile. I'm proud to have been an officer for the past two years, and I hope that my involvement over the 3 1/2 years I've lived here has made a mark on this community. It is wonderful to see all the good that comes

from our combined efforts and the community spirit that is generated here.

Before I go, I would like to thank **Cindy Ballard** for assisting with the *Gazette* over the past year and a half. I would also like to thank **Anita Scherer**, for keeping me supplied with information for the paper and **Jan Koenig**, for always getting his column in on time, albeit at the last second! Thank you to everyone who has called in news items, birthdays, etc.- that is what makes the *Gazette* so special. And finally, thank you to all of our advertisers, past and present, long-timers and first-timers. There would not be a *Gazette* as we know it without you. Good luck to everyone in 1992!

Adieu,  
**Jaime Connor Pierce**

### In Memoriam

Garden Oaks has lost a beloved, long-time resident, **Mrs. Nell Armstrong**, who passed away on November 4. Nell was active in many community activities, especially Citizens On Patrol. She is survived by her husband Wayne, a resident of Section 5. She will be greatly missed.

§Investments §Financial Planning  
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§Retirement Planning

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*Please fill in the form on the back and mail to:*

**Garden Oaks Civic Club  
Blanche Leonard  
1015 W. 41st Street  
Houston, Texas 77018**



## A Letter to the Residents of Garden Oaks

Dear Neighbors,

Living in Garden Oaks you have the advantage that your property carries with it certain deed restrictions which help to protect your neighborhood and thus your property values. These restrictions include things like front and side building lines, prohibition of commercial or business use of residential property, and the prohibition of certain signs in your yard. It is important to remember that these protections are part of your deed and therefore, your responsibility that they are followed.

Now that the elections are over, it was commendable that most residents followed the deed restrictions and did not place signs for the candidates of their choice in their yards. For future reference, signs of this nature are prohibited in Garden Oaks. Support for a particular candidate may be expressed through the use of bumper stickers or signs in your automobile. All mayoral candidates were advised of the restrictions on political signs in Garden Oaks.

Let us respect the restrictions which continue to make Garden Oaks a desirable place to live. How these restrictions have helped the neighborhood is evident in the recent survey of 400 subdivisions conducted by the University of Houston's Center for Public Policy and Sage Realty Advisors. The survey found that home values in Houston have risen 4% overall in the past 18 months while, in Garden Oaks, they have risen 16% with an average price per square foot of \$65.01.

Help us to keep all these protections in place. Talk with your Board of Trustees representative before adding on to your house or garage, including the building of carports. A member of the architectural review committee will be happy to walk your property with you and discuss any plans you may have for building or remodeling your house before you have spent any money. All building plans must be reviewed and signed by the Garden Oaks Board of Trustees in order to obtain a building permit.

If you would like a copy of your deed restrictions, please contact your Board

of Trustees representative. Only together can we continue to preserve the character of Garden Oaks.

Sincerely,

THE GARDEN OAKS  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Editor's Note:

The Board of Trustees names and numbers are listed on the back page.

## Zoning Goals Report Available

The Neighborhood Goals for Zoning Report is available for comment from the Department of Zoning and Planning Division. The six goals are:

1. To preserve, protect and enhance the integrity, viability and livability of Houston's residential areas;

2. To provide an appropriate and balanced land use mix within neighborhoods;

3. To provide safe, attractive and well maintained neighborhoods;

4. To preserve, protect and enhance Houston's natural environmental resources;

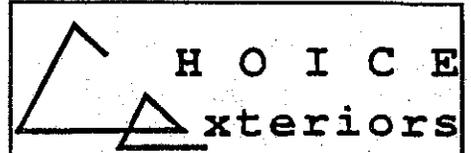
5. To ensure that the regulatory process is efficient and equitable, promotes citizen participation, and protects individual property rights; and

6. To provide safe, efficient and cost-effective infrastructure and public services.

The Neighborhood Goals for Zoning Report includes more detailed strategies on how these goals can be accomplished and issues that need to be addressed during the zoning and comprehensive planning process. Copies of this report are available to the public and can be obtained at the City Hall Annex, 900 Bagby, fourth floor reception area.

## Abandoned Building Update

The abandoned building on the corner of Shepherd and 610 has been sold to Conn's Appliance Center. Plans have been approved by the Garden Oaks Board of Trustees to renovate the existing building to accommodate the store. However, asbestos abatement of the interior asbestos insulation will be conducted prior to any renovation. Expect to see activity in this area soon.



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# CURTAINS

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## December Birthdays

- 3 Molly Moran, 7 yrs.
  - 3 Evan Klusman, 8 yrs.
  - 4 Brian Sherwood, ?
  - 6 Margaret Peden, ?
  - 6 Don Howie, 30 yrs.
  - 7 Frank Panzica, ?
  - 11 Terry Jeanes, ?
  - 12 Elissa Lipham, 8 yrs.
  - 13 Denise Sherwood, ?
  - 15 Sean Byers, 2 yrs.
  - 18 Alice Peden, 2 yrs.
  - 18 Billy Scherer, ?
  - 21 John McKenney, ?
  - 24 Jacqueline Debien, 10 yrs.
  - 25 James Gavin, 2 yrs.
  - 27 Christopher Welker, 2 yrs.
  - 27 Ted Hackworth, ?
  - 28 Lauren Mabry, 8 yrs.
  - 28 Courtney Stewart, 13 yrs.
- and a belated Happy Birthday to Diana Conover who turned 30 on November 10.



## New Babies

**Katherine Elizabeth Howie** was born on October 16 to **Lisa and Don Howie** of Section 5. She weighed 8 lbs. 6 oz. and was 20 inches long.

**Victoria Suzanne Sobol** was born on September 19 to **Frank and Suzanne Sobol**. She weighed 7 lbs. 15 oz. and was 21 and 3/4 inches long. **Elizabeth Anne** is her proud big sister. Her maternal grandparents are the late Wilma and Bert Spinks, original residents of Section 1, and her paternal grandparents are Edith Sobol of Hazel Crest, IL. and the late Elmer Sobol.

**Charles Nicholas Alsobrook** was born to **Janna and Dwight Alsobrook** on September 26. He weighed 9 lbs. 14 oz. and was 21 inches long.

Do you have a birthday, wedding, promotion, graduation, award, or other special event to announce? Put it in the *Gazette*! Call Jaime at 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

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

**Jan Koenig,**  
Secretary • 896-8997

**Garden Oaks Civic Club**  
P.O. Box 92155, Houston, 77206

## December Calendar of Events

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1	2 Hanukkah (First Day)	3 Civic Club Meeting 7:00 pm	4	5	6	7 Run-off Election
8	9	10 Gazette Deadline 7:00 pm	11	12	13	14 Recycle Pick-up 8:00 am
15	16  Santa Visits Pocket Park 6:30-8:30 pm	17 Heavy Trash Pick-up	18	19 P.I.P. Meeting 7:30 pm	20	21
22 First Day of Winter	23	24 	25 Merry Christmas!	26	27	28
29	30	31				

## Board of Trustees

### Representatives

- President  
**James J. Doyle** 694-4134
- Architectural Review Chairman  
**Herb Kellner** 692-2776
- Section 1  
**David Easterling** 862-1661  
**George Paul** 861-0328
- Section 2  
**Susan McMillian** 695-8245  
**Dian Austin** 691-6505  
**Anne Balson**  
**James Doyle** 694-4134
- Section 3  
**David Veselka** 692-1384  
**Herb Kellner** 692-2776  
**Bob Hudson** 694-1330  
**James Mabry** 695-2157

### Section 4

- Jaime Pierce** 688-3237  
**Stan Bohon** 680-1562  
**Tim Pagel** 686-4424

### Section 5

- Vee Gaines** 686-5042  
**Anita Scherer** 956-7809

## Garden Oaks Citizens on Patrol Numbers to Know

- G.O. C.O.P. Coordinator  
**Trish Webb** 683-8461
- Area 1 Leader  
**Heather Barr and Patrick King** 869-1527
- Area 2 Leader  
**Joan Fudge** 692-8822
- Area 3 Leader  
**Tom Mehrkam** 688-4008