

GARDEN OAKS GAZETTE

VOLUME 15, NUMBER 3 CIRCULATION 1650 MARCH 1992

Gophers Present March Program

The March 3rd Civic Club meeting will be held at Garden Oaks Baptist Church at 7:00 p.m. and will focus on our children's education. Garden Oaks People Helping in Education Reform will present a panel composed of the following area public school principals: Ms. Jeannie Daniels, Garden Oaks Elementary School; Mr. Virgil Fisher, Durham Elementary School, Mr. Bourke Meagher, Black Middle School; and Mr. Glen Prenzler, Waltrip High School. The panel will discuss the state of the HISD schools in our neighborhood and accept questions from the floor. This meeting is a must for parents of pre-school and school-age children.

Education is ... hanging around until you've caught on.

-Robert Frost 1874-1963

In a continuing probe of education issues, your Editor recently conducted this series of interviews to introduce our area schools and some people that work for them to interested residents. All questions were formulated by the GOPHER education improvement committee and the Editor.

Principal Daniels wants to draw the neighborhood and school together. All principals of G.O. area schools want your input and the community involved in the educational system. Ms. Daniels has expressed a desire to host Civic Club meetings in her school. Unfortunately the rates are prohibitive and are set by the HISD school board. These fees could be changed and plans are in the works to attempt to do just that.

Meet Jeanne Daniels and Virgil Fisher. Respectively they are the principals of the Garden Oaks and Durham Elementary schools.

GOPHER: What is your teacher/student ratio?

VF/JD: Twenty-two to one.

GOPHER: What special programs do you offer?

VF: We have a SIGHTS program and a Magnet program with the extended day program.

JD: Garden Oaks has a SIGHTS programs for gifted and talented, an English-as-a-Second-Language program for limited English speaking students, and several different programs for students with handicapping conditions. All of our students participate together in P.E., music, and extra-curricular activities.

GOPHER: What is the difference between SIGHTS and Vanguard?

VF: There is little difference, say for example A+ to A-. Vanguard is all day accelerated learning whereas SIGHTS is a supplement to Vanguard and is from 3 to 10 hours of accelerated learning. We have chosen to make accelerated learning all day long and are doing exactly the same thing that is done in the Vanguard program. Now is the time to sign up for these programs.

JD: The only difference is that one is a magnet program Vanguard and the other is not. Our classes follow the same curriculum as Vanguard.

Our SIGHTS teachers must have 30 hours of training, plus 12 hours additional training each year. They also participate in other inservices provided for regular faculty and staff.

GOPHER: What reading methods do you use?

VF: Phonics and sight.

JD: We focus on whole language.

The whole language approach to teaching reading involves the use of children's literature to teach skills. It includes phonics, the use of Sight Words, and a print-rich environment that teaches children to enjoy reading and writing.

GOPHER: Do you offer any foreign languages?

VF: No.

JD: No. We offer P.E., music, library, and character education programs for our students.

Editor: With the large Hispanic population in Houston, why isn't there a Spanish class?

VF/JD: We don't offer it because we can not find bilingual teachers. There is a critical need throughout the country for bilingual teachers. Also there is no demand from parents.

GOPHER: What art classes do you offer?

VF: Art is taught through the regular classes and in the extended classes.

JD: In addition to art in our regular classes, we participate in Young Audiences. Five of the teachers and I have been trained and participate in the Texas Institute for the Arts in Education program. Both of these bring performances by professional artists to our campus.

GOPHER: What is the Extended Day Program?

VF: We teach leadership skills and enrichment programs using guest speakers, music, films and computers. This program begins after school and runs until 4 or 5 o'clock. This is not a baby-sitting program but is something the child can use. We teach.

GOPHER: Do you have any drug or violence problems on campus?

VF/JD: No.

GOPHER: What is your discipline system?

VF: A combination of assertive and reality methods. Assertive is a definite set of rules that are gone through so

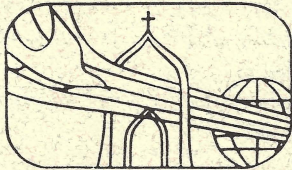


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**Charlene (Sissy) Smith
Garden Oaks Resident**

everyone knows them. We work through the brain rather than the bottom. We use examples like, "Is it right or is it wrong". The most severe thing we do is detention.

JD: Garden Oaks faculty, staff, and parents met and developed a new Discipline Management Plan this year. It includes high expectations for student behaviors and is reinforced through prescribed consequences. We also have a new Cafeteria Management Plan - the B.U.G. (Being Unusually Good) Award Program.

Editor: What opportunities do parents and interested citizens have for volunteer assistance?

VF/JD: All volunteers can work in any area of the school. In the classroom, library, computer or office. It's wide open and we encourage active participation Monday through Friday. We need as many volunteers as we can get. This participation has a direct positive effect on the students development.

We will take an hour a week, whatever time someone has to give. There is a job for you in every school.

If you have a hobby or a career. The more a student has to play with and think about the more directions they can go. Whatever school you are close to go there and volunteer. It's amazing what can happen. It is like adding water and fertilizer to plants. Those minds grow with contact.

Editor: How would a prospective volunteer make contact?

VF: Dial 682-4844!

JD: We invite all interested to come by and visit the school, or pick up the phone and call us at 695-0475.

GOPHER: What do you think it takes to be a successful school?

VF/JD: It's going to take teachers, parents and the children focused on the same goal. It has to be a happy place. It takes community interest to make the schools work. We are all in this together.

Editor: If you could have anything you wanted to improve the schools what would that be?

VF: More Moms and Dads up here working with the kids, having their kids enrolled here and all of us working together for the benefit of the children.

JD: I would have the whole

community involved in school improvement. It takes all of us to educate a child. We must all share responsibility so that we can share the benefits of having well-educated people in our society.

Editor: A lot of parents apparently expect the school system to be totally responsible for the education of the children and that obviously does not work. What can be done to inspire parents to take a more active role in the education of their children?

VF: We need to get these parents into the school and bond together for the benefit of the child. We are going to have to work with parents, especially those that are single parents in order to improve parenting skills. We may have to provide that parent with the materials they need to educate their child. We are making arrangements now to provide dictionaries to those on the East side that lack them. We may visit the home and see what they need. We do that quite often.

Editor: Anything else you want to reiterate?

VF: The doors of Durham and Garden Oaks schools are open. We want more involvement from the community, those that can give of their time and talents. I'm not asking for money. There are so many things individuals can do for us. That moment when the light came on in your child's eyes and the experience that went through your entire body when you saw he has it and he understands, and you see learning take place. You can never take that moment away. There's no greater gift than a child and no greater experience than seeing that child learn and being a part of it.

JD: Simply that the faculty, staff, parents, and community in Garden Oaks are currently undergoing a major school improvement effort. If ever you have thought or hoped for a better neighborhood school, now is the time to get involved. Please call us. Let us know of your ideas and concerns.

Editor/GOPHER: Thank you!

*Education...has produced a vast population able to read but unable to distinguish what is worth reading.
-George Macaulay Trevelyan 1876-1962*

The following is from another school official that will be identified as Unnamed Highly Knowledgeable Official or UHKO.

UHKO: As far as SIGHT and Vanguard, Vanguard was started before SIGHTS. It amounted to an elite program. Other schools saw a need for gifted and talented programs and they developed another program without the Vanguard funding because they saw the need. This is SIGHTS. SIGHTS is not a Magnet program whereas Vanguard is. We go to the same meetings and learn the same things. We serve the children's needs under a different title. Durham and Garden Oaks have all day gifted and talented programs just like Vanguard.

Editor: Should parents choose G.O.E. or Durham or private school?

UHKO: I feel these local schools have what the children need. As far as people who go to private school running away from the urban school district, it is not necessary.

Editor: How would you compare the education by private vs. public schools?

UHKO: In public schools there is more variety.

Editor: Ethnic or economic?

UHKO: Both, and that makes a big difference in test scores. A lot of children are sent to us from private school and their parents feel the education received is as good or better. They feel like why pay for mediocre private schools if they are learning as much or more. What pay for it twice? Private schools in this area don't offer any gifted and talented programs or the variety we offer as well as special needs students. They don't have the facilities. A lot of parents are coming back from the suburbs and are moving here and are trying the public schools.

Editor: They are coming back from the great white donut?

UHKO: Right, and they are satisfied.

Editor: Do you feel the ethnic variety prepares your students for the real world?

UHKO: Definitely, it's what the world is made up of.

Editor: What does the PTA do for your school?

UHKO: A lot, fund-raising, moral support, opportunities for parents and

teachers to get together, etc.

Editor: Is it more than a social club?

UHKO: Definitely. They work for the benefit of the children.

Editor: If you could have anything you wanted to improve this school what would that be?

UHKO: The children and families of the neighborhood that we don't have that go to private school without looking at what we offer.

UHKO: One of the problems that public schools have is that we don't have the power that private schools have. For example, if a child does not obey the rules in private school they can be kicked out. You can't do that in public schools due to state law.

Your roving reporter interviewed State Senator Chet Brooks (D), a member of the Texas Education Committee for fifteen years.

Editor: George Bush has styled himself as the Education President. What has that meant for public schools?

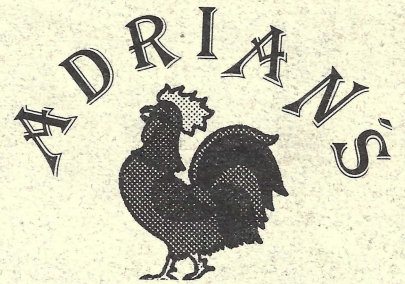
SB: For George Bush it's false advertising because in the Reagan and Bush years the federal support for education in the nation has dropped from about 12 to 6 percent of the total operating monies and there are further declines indicated.

Spotlight On Waltrip

Judy Scruggs, Section 3

Come be a part of the action as the Waltrip High School community spotlights its programs and activities. All are invited to the school on Tuesday, March 17, 1992 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Find out about one of the best kept secrets in the near northwest - an HISD school that works. Waltrip's test scores are consistently among the top six out of HISD's twenty-two high schools. In addition to excellent regular classes, Waltrip also offers an International Baccalaureate Program for advanced students as well as programs for at-risk students.

Come learn about an award winning band and drill team, our foreign language programs, our outstanding athletic teams, our demanding science and mathematics programs and much more. Students, faculty, and staff will be on hand on the 17th to answer your questions. So plan to attend whether you are the parent of an 8th grader or 1st grader or are an interested homeowner or community member.



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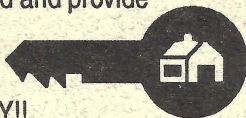
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School Dropout Rates Directly Affect States Economy

from *Texas Business Today*, TEC Commissioner Mary Scott Nabers

High Costs Associated With School Dropouts

The latest figures available from the State Board of Education show that more than 70,000 students dropped out of Texas schools during the 1989-90 school year.

What do dropouts mean to the Texas business community? Studies estimate the economic impact of Texas dropouts is as high as \$17 billion annually. This figure includes lost wages and tax revenues and increased spending for social services and prisons. Dropping out of school has a high correlation with getting arrested, becoming an unwed parent, going on welfare and being unemployed. A potential work force of unskilled and undereducated men and women creates big problems for Texas employers and for economic development efforts.

Employers Can Help

One of the leading reasons given for dropping out of school has been to pursue a job. But nationwide, earnings for males who dropped out of school declined by 12 percent from 1979 to 1987. The problem has been compounded by the fact that schools and the business community have traditionally remained isolated from each other. Today, there are major efforts underway to bring businessmen and women closer to educators. School-to-work transition has been recognized as a critical factor in such areas as economic development and world-wide competitiveness. Business leaders are being urged to form partnerships and become integrally involved with local educational institutions. The results have been good. One dropout prevention effort in Texas is the Communities In Schools (CIS) program. CIS is a partnership of public and private entities, the goal of which is to keep students in school by providing direct access to support services for students at risk. Recent legislation allows the Texas Employment Commission to accept monetary or property donations from

private, for-profit organizations to further this dropout prevention program.

Employers have the opportunity to contribute time or money to many programs working to slow dropout rates. Often, more time is needed than money. Efforts like Adopt-A-School programs, alternative schools, internships, apprenticeships and Junior Achievement programs create linkages between schools and businesses. The linkages have definitely helped to reduce the dropout rate and salvage numerous lives.

Programs Prove Successful

One indicator of the success of these dropout prevention efforts is the decrease in both the total number and percentage of school dropouts in Texas since the 1987-88 school year.

School Year	Number
1987-88	91,307
1988-89	82,325
1989-90	70,040

Bill's Safety Tips

by Bill Chastain Section 5.

HPD has supplied some advice on improving your individual home security:

1. Install large address numbers close to the entry door in a well lighted spot.
2. Park your cars towards the rear of the house, not on the street.
3. Light the outside of your house well, the lights should not be aimed to interfere with your vision when you are looking outside. Corner houses are more vulnerable and need more lighting.
4. Remove or thin low shrubs near the house that would allow a hiding place.
5. Pretend you are a thief, go outside at night and survey your home. If you see a weak point, you can bet a thief will.

The COP group is growing but needs your help. Call Trish Webb at 683-8461 to volunteer.

The Garden Oaks Gazette is printed on recycled paper using soy bean ink.



**KPFT/Pacifica F.M. 90.1
Listener Sponsored Radio**

The Gazette! will spotlight worthy and interesting non-profit organizations that are working for the common good and directly benefit our neighborhood's quality of living.

KPFT was started in 1968, founded by Larry Lee who persuaded the Pacifica Foundation to apply for a Houston license. The station's offices are located at 419 Lovett Blvd. Further information can be obtained by calling 526-4000.

KPFT went on the air in March 1970 with controversial programming and was bombed off the air twice in 1970. This station remains the only station to ever be bombed off the air even once. The political climate in Houston and much of the country was repressive. The Vietnam War and the protests it spawned were at their height. There were numerous attacks against alternative groups in Houston as well as against various civil rights groups. Threats from the KKK were received regularly at the station. Prior to the second bombing KPFT had enjoyed one of the largest increases in listener supported broadcasting in history. KPFT continues its commitment to broadcasting a wide variety of viewpoints and allowing access to the airwaves to under-represented groups.

The Pacifica Foundation is a non-profit corporation. Formed in 1946 by poet/journalist Lewis Hill and a small group of radio people, intellectuals and pacifists. They did not share the same political philosophies but did share the vital concern for the individual creative way of life in a peaceful society. Pacifica grew into a loosely linked network of five stations. For forty

years Pacifica has been dedicated to giving access to unique and often unpopular ideas. Pacifica's format is diverse. This is a listener sponsored radio. The listeners also serve as volunteers that largely operate the station and their subscriptions pay the stations expenses. The paid staff are few and underpaid. Pacifica does not accept corporate underwriting for any programming.

Right to Choose

by Dennis Carter, Section 3

It's time to vote again! The Primaries are March 10th. Historically Garden Oaks has a better turnout than most areas within the City. We are primarily independent voters and as a result it may be difficult for voters to choose one party over another in the Primaries. But voters must choose one or the other if they were registered by February 10th and are planning to vote in the Primaries. When voting, make sure you are at the correct primary station, Democrat or Republican. If unsure, ask the Judge. It's important to vote at the correct party's primary in order to be eligible to caucus after the polls close at 7:15 p.m. Seventy-five percent of the delegates are chosen by popular vote. Twenty-five percent are chosen at the precinct convention caucus held after the polls close. Voters participating in the precinct convention can submit resolutions. Resolutions are statements supporting or not supporting popular causes or issues. A precinct can go on record with its party by submitting resolutions. Attending the precinct convention allows the voter to vote for their candidate again. So get out there and Vote!

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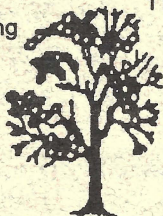
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G.O. C.O.P. Crimewatch

We had our 1st Award Program Feb 11 and gave away lots of koozies (25 hours patrolling), some magnet boards (35 hours), a few T-shirts (85 hours), with a few fanny packs (100 hours). Thanks to everyone who brought goodies and to The CHASTAINS for bringing a huge chocolate cake with "Garden Oaks Citizens on Patrol" and the HPD emblem on it.

G.O. C.O.P. will drive by each house in Garden Oaks at night and note any potential crime problem areas. Any problem areas will be brought to the homeowner's attention, and assistance in making changes will be provided. We hope to make Garden Oaks a harder place to rob with our patrolling and increased awareness. We can do very simple things to protect ourselves and our neighbors.

Johnny Murphy is our new Base Station Coordinator and carries the responsibility of scheduling and maintaining base stations for Garden Oaks. You must attend HPD's training session before you can patrol. Sessions are the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month at 10 AM and 7 PM respectively at 4333 West Little York - Bible Light Church. Call Trish Webb or your Area Leader for more information.

There are some efforts to get a Constable to patrol Area 1, and I think all the help you can get is good, but the answer lies in each one of you getting involved and taking back your area.

Trish Webb

A good many things go around in the dark besides Santa Claus.

- Herbert Hoover, 1874-1964

Muse's Muse

by Scott MacClymonds, Editor

Thanks to all that took the time to express their feelings to me about the new look and directions of the *Gazette!* The majority of the input I have received is extremely positive. With this support the *Gazette!* could easily function as a catalyst for positive changes in the community. The upbeat address delivered by our self-described Kamikaze pilot Councilmember Helen Huey during January's absolutely packed Civic Club meeting stressed that improvements are attainable tout de suite. The new mayor and councilmembers will support carefully considered feasible objectives for neighborhood improvements that have a consensus of the constituency. It's up to us to organize and develop this consensus.

What we have here is a failure to communicate.

Cool Hand Luke,

screenplay by Donn Pearce 1928-

An unfavorable rejoinder we received to the new *Gazette!* came from a neighbor who told me that she basically hated the February edition. Her sense was the issue divided the neighborhood. My protests that most of the comments received thus far were positive did not impress her. She said that I had blinders on. I asked if she preferred a dull, boring newspaper with no topical material. Yes! she said, adding that in her view the *Gazette!* was supposed to be a sales tool for the neighborhood and could not be used for that purpose in the new format. Well...

We believe that a dynamic free-spirited *Gazette!* will attract interesting, open-minded, and creative people to the community. The *Gazette!* committee certainly wants to draw neighbors of that genre to Garden Oaks and into Civic Club activities. We also believe intelligent good-natured debating between neighbors promotes interaction and personal growth. If you have any constructive criticism or comments call the Editor at 697-0069.

Opinions cannot survive if one has no chance to fight for them.

-Thomas Mann, 1875-1955

NEIGHBORHOOD VIEWS

The election of Helen Huey provides us with a long awaited, and much needed opportunity for Garden Oaks residents to be heard at city hall. Now is the time for all of us to let Huey know our concerns about the quality of our schools, our poorly maintained streets, our antiquated drainage and the threat of crime in our own backyards.

Whether Huey will listen to our concerns and act on them remains to be seen. It is up to all of us to demand accountability from our city councilmember, so we don't end up with another entrenched professional politician who believes they deserve reelection every two years simply because they have already served in office.

Garden Oaks residents deserve better. We won't get it though, unless we all become politically active. It is the only way we can protect our

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Years lived in Garden Oaks: _____

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neighborhood from inner city blight that threatens other subdivisions.

Joe Izbrand, Section 4

Spurred by an eloquent address by new councilmember Helen Huey, the last civic club appeared to break up and then re-coalesce into smaller groups buzzing earnestly or angrily about some urgent issue.

Although Huey strongly endorsed the individual letter written to government as a serious attention getter, her most cogent message may have been regarding the power of neighborhood civic organizations to effect political change.

Evidently, in an age of voters who are considering term limitation as the only remaining tool to get their concerns respected, politicians are feeling a certain uneasiness. And as many voters dream of total legislative turnovers, it makes sense that elected officials would be relieved by a clear indication of what the constituency wants.

Obviously, the Garden Oaks Civic Club is in a unique position to voice the concerns of its members as well as to represent the neighborhood as a voice in demanding action from City leaders. This position is only being enhanced by the growing membership of civically aggressive residents. And every resident of the neighborhood should feel fortunate that our organization is respected and acknowledged in the corridors of City Hall.

Talking to your neighbor across the fence can be a persuasive demonstration that people feel the same way about what constitutes a problem. A consensus can come pretty easily. The fun part is in hammering out a solution which fits the unique attitudes of Garden Oaks. That takes some personal involvement if you want YOUR ideas implemented. But once a solution is crafted, it can be directed to the city for implementation. And Helen Huey pledges her muscle behind our solutions.

It seems like a surprise to consider that while we sometimes sit about and malign that we've lost control of our self-government and that we miss the efficiency and intimacy of

the "Town Meeting", in reality we've had it all along. Our own Civic club can be a most powerful and effective political voice given the will of the neighbors to participate. A "lofty" concept around which our form of government was designed.

Huey made another important point. It appears that winds of change have dusted the corridors of City Hall thoroughly of late. The energy to respond is there; and the willingness. The only missing ingredients are specific statements from the voters on what are viable and acceptable solutions. Funny, we're so used to expecting others to solve our problems for us, it seems a foreign concept that we can control our own destiny, but it's an American idea to begin with.

Doug Wilson, Section 3

William Carroll, a professor of political science at the University of Houston, said usually the educated people vote more often and vote conservative. A variety of people live in Garden Oaks and more educated people are moving into the neighborhood, but are less of them voting? Carroll said it is possible that this trend could be a lesson from Tocqueville's writings. Tocqueville was a French historian and political theorist. Carroll said, "Tocqueville's concept of individuality was for the most part a good thing, but people could become so absorbed in their own selfish pursuits that they would lose any sense of civic responsibility, leaving government to the few."

Dr. Lutz, a University of Houston political science professor has identified these individuals as "seculars". He said they are about 8 percent of the population and about 55 percent Democrat. They are affluent professionals: lawyers, doctors, educators. "They take, but return very little", he said.

Peggy McClard, a law student at the University of Houston, said the structure of the voting system could be the problem. She said, "A person has to register every time they move and if they fail to vote within four years they will have to register again."

Dennis Carter, Section 3

Garden Oaks Civic Club 1992 Budget

The following is the proposed 1992 budget which will be discussed and voted on at the March Civic Club meeting:

ANTICIPATED GROSS REVENUE	
Membership	\$ 4700
Home Tour	9000
Recycling	2300
Gazette Ads	6000
Misc	300
Interest	700
TOTAL REVENUE	\$23,000

ANTICIPATED EXPENSES	
Membership	\$1100
Home Tour	4000
Recycling	1040
Gazette - Printing	5400
Mailing	3200
Operating	1500
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$16,240

NEW PROPOSED PROJECT FUNDING FROM RECYCLING FUNDS:	
Recycled Paper -Gazette	\$ 400
W42nd/Sue Barnett Pocket Park Improvements	430
Environmental Scholarship Fund	430
TOTAL RECYCLING PROJECTS	\$ 1660

UNSPENT ALLOCATED FUNDS	
Beautification - 43rd St Park	\$ 3280
Beautification - Maintenance	200
Community Garden	500
Recycling - Expenses	600
Recycling - W 42nd/Sue Barnett Pocket Park Improvements	1850
Recycling - Environmental Scholarship Fund	750
Recycling - Educational Literature	450
TOTAL UNSPENT ALLOCATED FUNDS	\$ 7630

I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it.

- attributed to Voltaire 1694-1778

FLASH!

EPA, in a Reversal, Decides to Allow Broad Use of Carcinogenic Pesticides - Headline from the Wall Street Journal February 14, 1992

Land Use

by Scott MacClymonds

Proper land use is a concept that is rapidly becoming popular due to the pressures of overpopulation. Imagine hundreds of thousands of people in Houston going around spreading poison all over their yards with no regulation at all. That image is reality. All one needs is a few bucks to buy a bag of fertilizer. The poisons are chemical fertilizers and insect killers. The chemical companies love to promote gardening shows and literature that promote chemical use. This makes them money.

Unfortunately for Galveston Bay most of it washes off into the sewer, polluting the waterways and killing millions of marine life. It also causes algae growth that ruins the clear waters of many areas. Chemical companies spend countless millions promoting products you really don't need. There are other ways to deal with yard pests that do not injure our environment.

The Houston Community Garden committee and InterFaith Ministries are committed to teaching better ways to live that improve your health and promote healthy land use. Get in touch with Jan Koenig, Chairman of our Community Garden in Garden Oaks, for further information. The *Gazette!* will continue to promote and publish all tips that make this world a better place to live for all life forms. Hey, Jan are you ready to continue this discussion?

Sure, I would like to begin with.....

Notes From the Garden

March is here (or will be soon), and so is the onslaught of advertisements for lawn and garden equipment. It's time to get back into that weekly lawn mowing routine, which means it's also time to think about fertilizer. Everywhere you turn, you'll find a sale on Rapid-Gro or Weed-n-Feed or Super Turf or some other fancy

sounding fertilizer blend. How can you tell which one is right for you?

All general purpose fertilizers provide a source of the three basic plant nutrients - nitrogen, potassium, and phosphorus. All of them will make your grass grow faster - assuming of course that you applied them correctly. The differences between one bag and another are in the formulation of the basic nutrients, the length of time the fertilizer acts on your lawn (slow or fast release), and the "extra" ingredients that might be included (for example, micro-nutrients, or, in the case of weed and feed products, a weed killing agent).

Generally speaking, slow release fertilizers will do a better job for you. They are also more expensive. Slow release varieties tend to make the grass grow more evenly over a longer part of the growing season, rather than putting on a massive spurt in early spring and then fizzling out by May. Picking the right formulation (designated by the three numbers on the bag) is a little more confusing. Frankly, I just wouldn't worry too much about it. There are significant variations between blends, but three months from now, your lawn won't know the difference. If you're environmentally minded (or even if you aren't), you should consider using an organically based lawn food. These fertilizers are blended from "natural" ingredients like cottonseed meal and rock phosphate. Traditional fertilizers are chemically based. Organic fertilizers are slow-release by nature - the ingredients break down into a useable form over a several month period. Organic fertilizers also improve the structure of the soil in your yard. As the soil improves, your grass will develop deeper, healthier roots. You'll have fewer problems with diseases and your lawn will be better equipped to tolerate our inevitable hot, dry spells in summer.

More and more "mainstream" garden supply stores are carrying organic fertilizers these days. I've seen them recently at Target and Wolfe's, just to name a couple (these are examples only - not advertisements). They cost a little more up front, but they save you money in the long run on watering

and replanting costs. Just think - no more chemical run-off - no more sensitive, disease-prone lawn. This year, why not give your lawn a break - give up the chemicals and "go organic".

Neighborhood Beat

The Garden Club will meet at Wyatts Cafeteria on 43rd on March 12. The "Dutch Treat" dinner starts at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting convenes at 7:00 p.m. Topic of discussion will be "Civic Club Bloomers". Dues will be collected. Volunteers are needed to edge and weed the gardens in Friendship Park on the corner of Lawrence and 30th. Volunteers are also needed to mow, edge and weed the Esplanade on 43rd and Apollo. Call Kathy Marek at 688-6811.

By the time you read this we will have consumed the first since the dawn of time, **FREE LUNCH!** The Civic Club voted itself this happening to spur membership in the club. This wonderful idea was brought to you by the 1992 partytime Membership Committee. They make nifty flyers as well.

Faster than a locomotive, able to leap small children in a single bound. Is it an Austin Healey? Is it a meter reader? No, it's Kay Parisi who came in twenty-third of 400 million runners in the last Tenneco Marathon. Her time was 3:16. Also husband Steve ran his first race, with a time of 3:53.

Jennifer Day delivered 7lbs. 10oz. Cristina Nicole on February 5th. Rusty says Cristina will be volunteering for recycling duty as soon as she is potty trained.

Jennifer and Randy Taylor also have a new bambino. Caleigh was born January 18. Caleigh weighed in at 5 lbs. something. Another volunteer?

Barbara Dawson Smith, one of our neighborhood authors has completed her eighth book, an historical romance set in the 1850's. The book is titled, "Fire on the Wind". Barbara will do a book signing on March 7th at Northside Book Emporium. Bring your own fire extinguisher.

Mayor Lanier says he wants to rebuild the inner city neighborhoods. Sounds good to us, how about starting with the east side of Yale?

If that neighborhood were strengthened it should ameliorate some of our problems. Rebuilding neglected areas back into vibrant communities would benefit everyone.

The Montalbano Family won this quarters Good Neighbor Award after nomination by Mike and Tory Dingus. Nominations can be submitted by writing to Suzanne Debien Realtors.

Gazette! movie critic Sue Pagel says *Final Analysis* (1.5), *Hand that Rocks the Cradle* (3) and *The Commitments* (3). The new rating system is based on three possible popcorns for worthwhile movies or a vacuum cleaner for total duds.

Welcome new Section 1 Board of Trustees member Brent Bates.

Congratulations to Stan Bohan, Section 4 Board of Trustees representative, who was recently elected Treasurer of the Board.

The door prize at the February Civic Club meeting was won by Barry Morris.

Section 1 residents are forming a coalition to fund a one year contract with the Constable's office to patrol that section for five days a week, eight hours a day. These constables have the authority to arrest and of course will be armed. If enough people sign up, the cost would be approximately \$180 per year per house. Full support of the section is needed. Neighbors will be walking the blocks to sign-up supporters soon. For more information call Denise Epstein at 869-0128 or Jimmy Fox at 880-9219.

Committee News

Refreshment

The Refreshment Committee members Kathy Marek (688-6811), Sandy Setterquist (682-5153) and Linda Ross (692-6667) are asking the world renowned cooks of Garden Oaks to help provide goodies for upcoming meetings. Please call!

Programs

Suggestions for Civic Club programs and speakers can be directed to Linda Ross (692-6667).

Home Tour Report

The Home Tour Committee will meet Wednesday, March 18, 7:00 p.m. at 527 W. 33rd Street. The 1992 Home Tour has been scheduled for Sunday,

October 18 and the various subcommittees are ready for your input and talents. In particular, your help is needed in asking area businesses for their support. Also the selection process has begun to choose the six homes that will represent Garden Oaks. If you want to nominate a terrific House to be on the 1992 Home Tour or would just like to help, call Co-chairpersons Dian Austin, 691- 6505 and Michelle Markarian-Martini, 699-4244.

Recycling

Congratulations to David Easterling of Section 1. He was February's winner of our monthly prize. Have your name entered in our drawing just by bringing your recyclable materials by the collection site. We had 49 residents bring their items by the site last month.

With last month's article in the *Gazette!* and the few signs that were put out almost everyone got the message about the plastics. Almost everyone. Here goes again. "No more plastics" until further notice. Bad news on the plastics but somewhat good news coming from newsprint. Our vendor notified us that he has had enough of a change in the market conditions to allow him to drop his fee for providing us the two container bins. I hope the trend continues to allow him to start paying once again for our paper. Here are the estimated figures for February's collection.

Newsprint: 23,000 lbs. \$ 50.00
 Computer: 350 lbs. \$ 20.00
 Glass: 3,500 lbs. \$ 80.00
 Metals: 250 lbs. \$ 70.00

The recyclers are in need of trucks and trailers. Especially tandem axle trailers. If you can help please call Tim at 686-4424.

Membership

The membership committee welcomes new members:

Al Hubbard, Section 3
 Christy Crocker, Section 5
 Debra Ruehlen, Section 1
 Michael and Katy Wright, Section 1
 John and Lisa Broussard, Section 3

Gazette!

Many thanks to those that volunteered to join the *Gazette!* hand delivery project. We need more

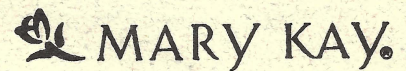
volunteers of course. The advantages are that the Civic Club saves money and you get in a little exercise meeting your neighbors. Call the Editor at 697-0069 for more information.

March Birthdays

- 1 Kyle Bauer, 2 yrs
- 2 Gabriela Braastad, 2 yrs
- 3 Randi Eastering, ?
- 4 Cory Russell, 12 yrs
- 4 Jennifer Day, ?
- 5 Katie Bruns, 5 yrs
- 6 Caitlan Eastering, 6 yrs
- 18 Lawrence Hitz, ?
- 18 J.C. King, ?
- 19 Lauren Rogers, 10 yrs
- 24 John Foyt, 2 yrs
- 28 Ryan Hall, 12 yrs
- 31 Lindsey Russell, 10 yrs

CRIMES NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 1991					
AREA	CRIME	BLOCK	STREET	DATE	TIME
1	Burglary	400	W34	11-10	4:00 PM
1	Burglary	300	W30	11-12	12:30 AM
1	Burglary	500	W32	11-16	2:00 PM
1	Burglary	200	W34	11-28	9:30 AM
1	Burglary	200	W32	11-30	5:00 PM
1	Burglary	500	W33	12-06	4:40 PM
1	Burglary	500	W30	12-10	3:15 PM
1	Burglary	400	W30	12-13	7:00 PM
1	Burglary	400	W32	12-15	8:30 PM
2	AutoTheft	1000	SueBarnett	11-16	10:00 PM
2	Burglary	800	W42	11-17	4:07 AM
2	Burglary	700	W42	11-25	6:00 PM
2	Burglary	700	W42	11-27	3:00 PM
2	Burglary	800	W41	11-29	8:00 PM
2	AutoTheft	800	W34	12-21	1:15 AM
3	Burglary	1000	Althea	11-03	7:00 PM
3	Burglary	1000	W42	11-06	12:45 PM
3	Burglary	1000	W41	11-28	11:50 PM
3	Burglary	900	Althea	12-08	11:59 AM
3	Assault	1500	SueBarnett	12-10	10:20 AM
3	AutoTheft	900	W41	12-17	7:30 PM
3	AutoTheft	1000	W42	12-19	11:30 PM
3	Burglary	1000	W42	12-20	7:00 AM
3	AutoTheft	900	W42	12-20	0:30 AM
3	AutoTheft	900	Gardenia	12-28	4:20 AM

Call For A Complimentary Facial or Career Opportunity



Deborah Jean

Independent Beauty Consultant
 694-6444

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- Hair Care
- Glamour

12 Year Resident

Gazette Ad Rates

\$40 per month - \$200 for 6 months
 \$385 for 1 year
 Deadline for April Gazette is March 10th

**Need To Know
Numbers ☎
Garden Oaks Civic Club
P.O. Box 92155,
Houston, 77206**

Anita Scherer,
The Environmental President
4223 Apollo • 956-7809
Blanche Leonard, Vice President,
Membership
1015 W. 41st • 680-1027
Jan Koenig, Bean Counter/Grower
407 W. 34th • 869-8997
Don Howie, Secretary
680-3420
Scott MacClymonds,
The Education Editor
729 W. 39th • 697-0069
FAX: 448-5165

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Garden Oaks

Citizens-on-Patrol Numbers

Hot Line 688-4008
G.O. C.O.P. Coordinator/Crime Tzar
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



March Calendar of Events						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1 <i>Water Quality Monitoring 1-4</i> Armand Bayou Nature Center 474-2551	2	3 Civic Club Meeting 7:00 pm	4 Ash Wednesday New Moon	5 Boston Massacre 1770	6	7 <i>Marsuptials 1-4</i> Armand Bayou Nature Center 474-2551
8 Int'l Women's Day	9	10 VOTE <i>Gazette Deadline 7:00 pm</i> 1st Telephone Used-1876	11	12 1st Quarter C.O.P. Training Session Garden Club 7:00 pm	13	14 Recycle Pick-up 8:00 am
15	16	17 <i>St. Patrick's Day</i> Waltrip High Open House 5-8 pm Heavy Trash Pick-up	18 Home Tour Meeting 7:00 pm Full Moon	19 P.I.P. Meeting 7:30 pm	20 Spring Equinox	21
22	23	24	25	26 C.O.P. Training Session Last Quarter	27	28 <i>Peaceable Kingdom Open House</i> (409) 878-2353
29	30	31	1 All Fool's Day St. Matthew's Book Fair	2	3 <i>Spring Festival Grow Texan & Ecogardening</i> Armand Bayou	4 <i>Spring Festival Grow Texan</i> Armand Bayou St. Matthew's Youth Sale
5 <i>Spring Festival Grow Texan & Ecogardening</i> Armand Bayou	6	7	8	9	10	11