

GARDEN OAKS

A GREAT PLACE TO LAND

ALIENS!

All Garden Oaks Residents Must Vacate Homes !!!!!

The Pentagon has issued a statement of urgent concern to all Garden Oaks residents. A secret Alien spacecraft base has been discovered under the Garden Oaks subdivision. These spacecraft are carrying thousands of Alien creatures that resemble oak trees. One of these flying saucers may be under G.O. Elementary School. Before she was taken into custody, Principal Daniels was seen talking surreptitiously and passing notes to a tree/alien (alien/tree?) on campus. The FBI believe that the sapling featured on the cover of the February *Gazette* was a clandestine signal to the aliens. The purpose of this signal can only be imagined. Anyone knowing the current whereabouts of the *Gazette* editor and staff, please call the Pentagon. Residents are urged to disclose any gardening activity to authorities and all area gardeners are asked to report to military police for questioning about possible collaboration with these alien beings.

In a promethean effort to destroy these aliens, the Pentagon plans to allow Hunter Chemical Waste Injection Corp. to convert the neighborhood into a toxic waste dumpsite in the hope that the combination of deadly chemicals will eradicate the aliens.

Garden Oaks residents will be offered relocation to vacant apartments in Allen Parkway Village. Residents will receive compensation for condemned property based on the original purchase cost of their home or lot in the thirties. All residents cooperation is mandatory and all homes must be vacated by April first. Any residents found within the subdivision after April first will be considered unpatriotic and will be sent away. For further information call the acting editor at 697-0069.

State of the Union.

Iraq has applied for statehood and wants to be the fifty-first state. And Saddam Hussein has entered the race for President of the U.S.A. He has declared that it will be "The Mother of all Campaigns". If victorious he has promised to sell Texas back to Mexico and seize the oil wells. Texas oil companies have since declared war on Hussein. The Texas Oil Army is accepting volunteers. There is no pay but it's a good cause they say.

Mayor Lanier applauds the solution to Allen Parkway Village. City Council has renamed the mostly abandoned complex Garden Oaks Village in memory of the soon to be destroyed subdivision. The mayor commends the residents for sacrificing their neighborhood albeit unwillingly to eradicate the extraterrestrial threat. He signed a proclamation designating every April First, International Garden Oaks Fools Day and every Garden Oaks resident that believed this article an honorary April Fool!

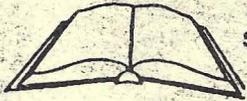


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Charlene (Sissy) Smith
Garden Oaks Resident

**From the Heart
of the Prez**

Lately I've been hearing exciting and creative ideas from all around the neighborhood. There are community groups, informal and formal, organizing to tackle and discuss a variety of issues such as education, political reform, crime, neighborhood improvement, and outreach programs.

I have the pleasure of being a part of two such community groups. One comprised of four couples, started out discussing how we became who we are and how that affects us as parents, and has turned out to be a very special personal support group. The hardest thing for me to do is to be honest with myself and others about what I really feel. The other and much larger group includes several families in Garden Oaks. This group came together initially to define what "community" meant and to determine how to go about creating and fostering community among us. The group agreed that a community should be inclusive, supportive, and be willing to accept all points of view. After a couple of times together and because the presidential primary was nearing, the group evolved into a political discussion forum out of which a list of resolutions were drawn to be presented at the respective party caucuses. Political issues will probably continue to be discussed at our get-togethers, but I imagine there will be more emphasis on how the community can initiate active solutions and alternatives.

I'm very excited at what I'm hearing from many of my neighbors and friends throughout the community. I firmly believe that the only way to really institute change is to start at a very local, neighborhood level. Becoming involved and seriously talking about the issues that concern all of us is the first step to solving social problems.

One idea that has been floating around, and I've heard it from several different people, is a neighborhood improvement group which would help repair, paint, or improve homes where the residents were on fixed income or were not

able to do the work themselves. I think this is a wonderful idea because after all, this is what community is all about - neighbors helping neighbors. But I would like to challenge everyone to think of our community not just as Garden Oaks, but to see that idea spread across Garden Oaks and continue on outside our imaginary boundaries.

Recently I heard City Comptroller George Grenias speak at a church function. One thing he said that really impressed me was the importance of neighboring communities embracing each other. He said, if we can't agree at a local level, in our neighborhoods, and in our communities, how can we expect countries and nations to get along.

Anita

Anita

**Garden Oaks Elementary
Mission Statement**

Garden Oaks Elementary is committed to fully educating all students to the best of their abilities. Our students will be prepared to succeed in their immediate and long-range futures.

Believing this, the parents, the community, and the school assume responsibility for:

- Developing the whole child, physically, mentally, emotionally, and socially;
- Providing a clean, safe, and positive learning environment;
- Preserving and enhancing student dignity and self-esteem; and
- Teaching students to accept responsibility for their learning.

Principal Daniels & Staff at G.O.E

Armand Bayou Workshop

On April 25-26, the Armand Bayou Nature Center will host a really interesting workshop. Blacksmithing, Corn Husk Doll making, Quilting, Basketry and Composting will be demonstrated. For further information call the Armand Bayou Nature Center at 474-2551.

Muses Blues

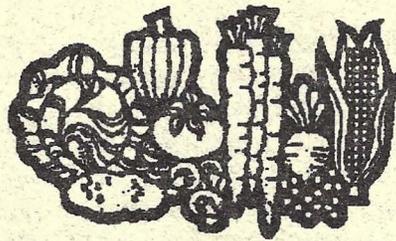
Part of last months issue and C.C. meeting was an attempt to introduce the leaders of our local schools to residents. We saw and heard some dedicated educators that are revitalizing our schools. They deserve everyone's active interest so that we all may enjoy the benefits of an educated population.

The pictures shown at the COP booth during the membership party showed some punk kids playing with guns in Graham Park. These photos caused a lot of comments. Section 1 residents were especially appalled. The sense was that residents in section one have lost their park from lack of interest. Parks regularly used by active families create an environment that is unattractive to basic lowlife types. This situation will not be corrected by hiring a constable but can be solved by residents taking the park back by using it on a regular basis. Or perhaps section one residents can hire some constables children to play in Graham Park to simulate a Norman Rockwell image and that will scare off the gang dudes.

There was some discussion during March Civic Club Meeting about dropping delivery of the *Gazette* to non-members of Civic Club. The sense was that if people are not interested enough in the programs of Civic Club to join, why should members subsidize the *Gazette* for them? Interesting question. How about some response to this from readers? Should dues paying members subsidize activities for non-contributors as a public service or do active members redirect funds towards activities exclusive to members?

The *Gazette* is mailed to all residents of Garden Oaks Plaza. Garden Oaks C.C. subsidizes the cost. There has been no response to my call for hand delivery from that neighborhood. Should G.O.C.C. continue to underwrite the cost?? Lets explore these issues together. Call or write the editor with your comments. Please leave your name and number as well.

The Editor



Notes from the Garden

After a long stretch of dormancy, the community garden is back in operation again. To be honest, part of the garden (the orchard, to be more specific) has been growing all along. But until a few weeks ago, the main raised bed portion of the garden was lying fallow. All of that is changing now, and by the time this article shows up at your home our spring crops should be well on their way.

Of course, the orchard deserves a few words too. Late last spring, we planted 24 fruit trees at the west end of the community garden site (the area farthest from the street). Despite an uneven supply of water last summer, and a fair amount of stress in the weeks before they were planted, all but one of the trees survived. Several of the survivors have already flowered, and I'm sure that at least a few will set fruit. The process of developing and ripening fruit saps a lot of energy from the tree though, so I'll probably remove most of the immature fruit early on. After their stressful experience last year, we want the trees to devote as much of their energy as possible to recouping their health this spring.

The early indications on growing conditions at the new garden look terrific, too. A few weeks ago I kicked off the season by putting in a few cabbage transplants. The color, size, and vigor of those plants today is better than anything I remember at the old garden. I'll be thrilled if we get to harvest even one small cabbage though. Every time we tried them at the old location, they would all disappear before they even reached maturity. Maybe we need to issue a special "cabbage rustler" alert for the C.O.P. participants. How about it Trish?

My thanks to Anne Kilgore and Beth Galiano for their recent help. It's nice to have the company and the extra set of hands. See you at the garden!

Jan Koenig



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Civic Club Meeting

The April 7th Civic Club Meeting will be at G.O. Baptist Church at 7:00 pm and will feature a slide show entitled "Gardening in the Shade" by Master gardener Lois Waldron. Master gardeners are trained by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service and offer a full-time volunteer "help line" at 855-5600. Come and learn about what will grow under our native oaks and extraterrestrial oaks also. A "garden dessert" will be provided by the Garden Club. The May meeting will be a picnic/childrens parade at the SPARKS park. Some refreshments at last months meeting were provided by the 43rd street AppleTree. Anne Kilgore brought some great cookies that were gone in nanoseconds. Remember to support businesses that support this paper and Civic Club activities.

Committee Action

Membership

We are off to a great start in 1992! We have 253 C.C. members so far. The Membership BlockWalks and Lunch were very successful with 120 of the 253 joining through these events. Thanks to all who helped to make this happen.

If you missed the FREE LUNCH at SPARK park, what can we say? You missed a great time. We had a blast serving over three hundred burgers! Hungry people these G.O. folks. The MOONWALK was out of this world. The food prepared by Chefs Extraordinaire Rick Englert and Jim Hall was delicious and the conversation was stimulating.

Thanks to all C.C. Committees and G.O. Elementary for all they did to help with this event. Our plans for the rest of the year are ambitious and the membership Committee is excited about doing them. Here are our goals.

1. Increase membership to 540 households.
2. Have a Section Leader from each Section(1-5) whose duties would be:
 - a. Serve on Membership Committee
 - b. Set up block captains for each block in their section.
 - c. Organize section activities
 This organization process will

create a communication network to help bring our neighborhood together. The positions of Section Leaders have been filling fast! If you would like to become Section Leader for Section 2 or 4, call Blanche or you might lose the chance.

Section 1: Rick Englert

Section 2: Rick Luck

Section 3: Ria McElvaney &
Denise Sherwood

3. Start car pools for senior citizens transport to and from C.C. Need a ride? call Blanche.

4. Convert all C.C.records to a database.

5. Increase attendance at C.C. meetings to 100 every meeting. We have 30-40 attending now. This means that important decisions are being decided by 2-3% of the neighborhood. The rest of you are just along for the ride.

🌱 Ambitious goals? Yes. But we can achieve them if we all work together, remember, this is your neighborhood.

- Blanche

Plant Co-op

G.O. residents usually have an overabundance of some plants and none of others. To take advantage of the variety in the neighborhood, a new plant co-op is being organized by Anne Kilgore. It works like this: Call Anne at 697-0069 and let her know what plants you have to trade. Anne will enter your info into a file and make this file available at C.C. meetings.

Gazette

The Gazette thanks the following cool dudes and dudettes for their support in delivering the Gazette: Rick Luck, Carla Hoyer, Joel Rhea, Jim Hall, Anita Sherer, Anne Kilgore, Cassie Sly, Gary Harmon, Melinda Garza, Martha Kennedy, Rick Englert and Angela Dickson. We still have areas that need someone. If you need a reason to do a little walking call the Editor at 697-0069.

Gazette Nominated for Award

The Garden Oaks Gazette has been nominated for a Pulitzer Prize! The outstanding intergalactically known paper is renowned for its wanabe Citizen Kane Editor.

Recycling Moves Collection Site



Our recycling effort for March was very successful considering the last minute change for our collection site. We were given assurances that there would be driveways into the 34th Street site, but the situation didn't look very promising early Friday morning. I went looking for an alternative site and received help from Mr. Al Zarzano, the owner of Garden Oaks Theatre. He gave us permission to use his parking lot and has offered the use of it for future recycling days. This location is an improvement over the 34th Street site. Thank you Al for your support of our recycling program.

If you never get past the shock of reading your water bill to read the insets that usually come along with the bill, perhaps now is a better time. This information came with last month's bill and is worth repeating and more importantly, doing.

"Residential YARD WASTE accounted for 13% of all waste disposed of by the City of Houston in 1990, (104 million pounds). In 1990, needless disposal of yard waste cost Houston taxpayers \$800,000.

"The City of Houston, in conjunction with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, has initiated the "Don't Bag It" Lawn Care Program. Last year the City tested 50 demonstration homes. After a six-month trial period, over 80% of the participating homes decided not to bag their yard waste. Results included using less water, an average time reduction of 40% while mowing the yard, and decreased physical labor. Time and energy were saved by not stopping to empty the grass catcher and then carrying the heavy bags to the curb. The net results of the "Don't Bag It" program were savings of time, energy, money and landfill space."

Finally, dropping off your recyclable materials at the collection site between 8-10:30 am enters you into our raffle. Don't forget the new collection site location in the Garden Oaks Theatre parking lot on April 11!

Tim Pagel

Garden Club is Blooming!

Garden Club invites you to attend our next meeting at Friendship Garden, located in Section 1 at the corner of Lawrence and W. 30th Street, on Thursday, April 9 at 7:00 pm. In case of rain, meet at Wyatt's Cafeteria on W. 43rd Street. I hope you can find time to join this enticing group of folks sharing and caring about our community.

Garden Club encourages participation in the plant exchange co-op program. If you have something garden related that you would like to share, (i.e., scalloped borders, lirope, bulbs, Martian salvia, Pluto sphinkters, etc.) or if you are looking for something that a neighbor might have, this exchange program could be the answer. Call 697-0069 and leave a message.

Thank you Margaret Standard for sharing your leather fern. Now everyone can enjoy it at Friendship Garden.

Garden Club will "give the party" at Civic Club this month. We hope to see you there.

Marian Mabry

The last chance to buy 1991 Home Tour T-Shirts is at the April 7th Civic Club meeting. Only S, M, and L are left for \$5 each.

After April 7th the leftover T-shirts will be donated to charity.

Call Dian Austin at 691-6505 or Michelle Markarian-Martini at 699-4244 if you would like one before the meeting. Don't miss out on your last chance!

Cassie Sly

591-6161

695-9747

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G.O. C.O.P. Report

Patrolling hours have lagged a little with 137 hours reported to HPD for the month of February. We are looking for car patrollers and have the training you will need on a monthly basis. HPD meets with new patrollers every second Thursday morning at 10:00 AM and every fourth Thursday evening at 7:00 PM at 4333 W. Little York - The Bible Light Church. We usually have a G.O. C.O.P. representative at the Thursday evening meetings to speak with you after HPD's program. If you are interested, please call Johnny Murphy (688-7337) or myself (683-8461) and plan to attend the HPD training meeting.

The Base Stations have been reorganized, the Patrol Logs have been reorganized, the System has been reorganized and it didn't even hurt! (except maybe JOHNNY MURPHY a little). Thank you to everyone who spent time thinking G.O. C.O.P. and helped rework the system. It is an ongoing project and always looking for new blood - got any to spare?

Garden Oaks may have a SUPER NETWORK SYSTEM to coordinate all our neighborhood committee's information. We have lots in the works! Get involved with the Civic Club, G.O. C.O.P. Program, and/or Membership Committee. We are brainstorming for Garden Oaks! We need your brains, too!

January C.O.P. Crimewatch

AREA	CRIME	BLOCK	STREET	DATE	TIME
2	Robbery	800	W41st	1-13	2210
1	Robbery	900	W30th	1-23	1130
1	Assault	300	W33rd	1-7	0240
1	Burglary	300	W31st	1-9	0730
1	Burglary	500	W30th	1-10	0800
1	Burglary	500	W30th	1-25	0030
2	Burglary	700	W41st	1-23	0645
2	Burglary	700	W38th	1-24	0745
2	Burglary	700	W41st	1-24	0940
2	Burglary	800	W42nd	1-2	2200
3	Burglary	900	Gardenia	1-15	0730
3	Burglary	1000	Lamonte	1-14	2315
3	Burglary	1000	W41st	1-21	0700
2	Burglary	4200	Alba	1-3	0104
3	Burglary	4400	Golf	1-1	1800
3	Auto Theft	900	W43rd	1-1	0915
3	Auto Theft	1000	Lamonte	1-2	2230
3	Auto Theft	1500	Sue Barnett	1-2	2345
1	Auto Theft	3300	Lawrence	1-14	2200

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



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



Fed up with Left/Right labels?

Use the improved political compass to test your identity. Take the WORLD'S SMALLEST POLITICAL QUIZ

Circle Y when you agree, M for Maybe or unsure, N for No.
Are you a self-governor on PERSONAL issues? 20 10 0
 ♦ Military service should be voluntary. (No draft) Y M N
 ♦ Govt. should *not* own or control TV or the press Y M N
 ♦ Repeal regulations on sex by consenting adults Y M N
 ♦ Drug laws do more harm than good. Repeal them Y M N
 ♦ Let people immigrate and emigrate freely Y M N
 My PERSONAL self-governor score: add 20 for Y, 10 for M, 0 for No

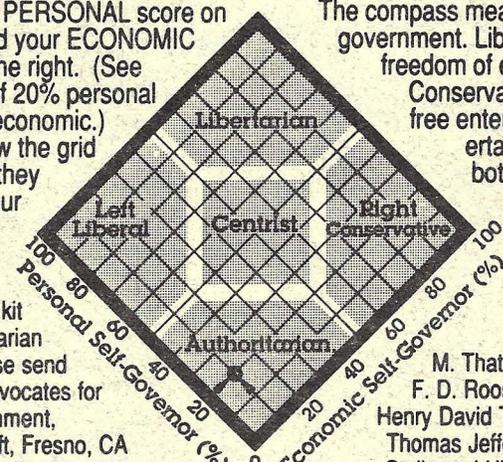
Are you a self-governor on ECONOMIC issues?
 ♦ Farmers should farm without quotas or subsidies Y M N
 ♦ People are better off with free trade than with tariffs ... Y M N
 ♦ Minimum wage laws eliminate jobs. Repeal them Y M N
 ♦ End taxes. Pay for services voluntarily Y M N
 ♦ Europeans & Japanese should pay their own defense Y M N
 My ECONOMIC self-governor score: add 20 for Y, 10 for M, 0 for No

How to use the Self-Government Compass

Mark your PERSONAL score on the left and your ECONOMIC score on the right. (See example of 20% personal and 10% economic.) Then follow the grid lines until they meet at your political identity!

For an information kit about libertarian ideas, please send \$8.00 to Advocates for Self-Government, 5533 E Swift, Fresno, CA 93727 Tel: 209-292-1776.

The compass measures self-government. Liberals value freedom of expression. Conservatives value free enterprise. Libertarians value both. Authoritarians are against both.



Examples:
 M. Thatcher (right) •
 F. D. Roosevelt (left) •
 Henry David Thoreau and Thomas Jefferson (top) •
 Stalin and Hitler (bottom)

©1988 by Advocates for Self-Government, Inc. OK to reprint this quiz with credit to Advocates. Bonus Insight: Take this quiz for any politician.

The advocates for Self-Government is a non-profit, educational group whose objective is to enable opinion leaders to encounter, evaluate, and when ready embrace the ideals of liberty.

For more information on educational programs offered by the Houston Chapter of the Advocates for Self Government, contact your Garden Oaks neighbor, Tom Glass at 861-3605 after 7 p.m.

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Community Interaction

There is a group of socially active residents in Garden Oaks that have been meeting in each others homes to discuss important issues. The upcoming primaries provided a target project whereby interested residents could participate in the system to effect positive change. This group did not want to become another Wendy Whiner salon but wanted to actually do something about the many problems of the day. This group participated in the March primaries and plan on going to the state convention. At our Precinct Democratic Caucus held after the primary vote held on March 10, the delegates (your neighbors) hammered out a set of resolutions. These delegates are going to attempt to place these resolutions on the Democratic platform. The *Gazette* will report the adventures of this group to you from time to time in this most political year. The *Gazette* will publish any Republican and Libertarian resolutions in future issues if those parties are willing.

Here are the Democratic resolutions:

1. We should have a pure, publicly funded election process. It should be illegal for candidates or elected officials to accept service, money or in-kind donations from special interest groups or PACs. Funding would come from that level of government for which the candidate would be aspiring.

2. We are in favor of a national health care plan for all.

3. We in the United States of America should ban the manufacture and import of chloro-flouro-carbon polymers and fluoro carbon polymers by 1995.

4. We are in favor of applying any federal laws, which are passed, such as the ones pertaining to the environment, to all branches of the government and its services.

5. We believe federally appointed judges should have a term limitation.

6. We affirm that a woman's rights include self-determination in regard to her pregnancy and reproductive health. It is her sole, independent choice.

7. We believe no corporation has a right to emit toxic substances into the environment. We are in favor of stiff

finances against corporations that break the laws pertaining to the release of toxic substances into the environment. The offenders should be fined a percentage of the gross income made during the period of the violation. The fine must come out of the stockholders' equity. In addition, public disclosure of all offenses should be made in quarterly reports. The intent of this resolution is to ensure that offenders are accountable for their deeds.

8. We call for the deletion of the oil and gas exclusion in the definition of hazardous wastes.

9. We are in favor of protecting the grants to the National Endowment for the Arts.

10. We are in favor of strengthening and enforcing the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

11. We should place economic restrictions on countries that have reprehensible human rights records as per Amnesty International recommendations.

12. Laws applicable to U.S. companies should apply to the companies importing into the U.S.

13. We should stop the importation of produce which has been grown with chemicals we do not allow in the U.S.

14. We must stop the practice of allowing local cities, counties, and states to give tax abatements for the purpose of encouraging industries to move into their areas without a public referendum.

15. Everyone should be able to go to college. The federal government should make college loans available for everyone. The loans would be paid through payroll deductions, service in the military or in public service.

16. We support the principle of a flat rate income tax to the exclusion of all others.

17. We must reduce defense spending by 10% annually for the next 5 years.

LOST: Rosebud, Call 697-0069

Gazette Ad Rates

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

\$385 for 1 year

Deadline for May Gazette

is April 10th

Heights Montessori School 10 Years and Still Cooking

Heights Montessori School, a fixture in the Houston Heights for the last decade, is cooking up something special to celebrate its tenth anniversary.

On Sunday, April 5, the school will hold its annual Chili Cook-Off fund raiser, but this year the festivities will be expanded to include a Tenth Reunion celebration.

Heights Montessori alumni, their families, and friends of the school are invited to sample competition chili and barbecue, enjoy live entertainment, bidding in the auction and winning prizes in the raffle. The festivities take place at Donovan Park, Heights Boulevard and 7th Street, on Sunday, April 5 from 12:30 to 5:00 p.m. Donation for admission, which includes food, drinks and entertainment is \$5 for adults and \$1 for children. Rain date is Sunday, April 26.

We are Looking for a Few Good Men and Women in Cars!

G.O. C.O.P. is in need of car patrollers to fill time slots between noon and 5:00 PM during the week. If you are interested and able, please call Johnny Murphy at 688-7337 or Trish Webb at 683-8461 for more information.

Another Cook-Off

On Sunday, April 5, KPFT F.M. 90.1 is holding its annual Cajun Cook-Off/Fundraiser with P.T.s Cajun Bandstand. \$1000.00 prize!!!!!! For more information call 526-4000.

April Birthdays

- 1 Brooke Havar, 11 yrs
- 3 Carley Crocker, 3 yrs
- 4 Michael Bruns, 6 yrs
- 5 Kelly Acosta, 14 yrs
- 6 Kristina Giles, 8 yrs
- 12 Jeanette Scruggs, 403 yrs
- 15 Ian Roberts, 2 yrs
- 15 Stephen Gauden, 6 yrs
- 17 Jessica Smith, 6 yrs
- 17 Stan Bohon, 986 yrs
- 18 Kelly Alexander, 7 yrs
- 20 Anne Fruge, 5 yrs
- 25 Lee Wright, 2 yrs
- 25 Meredith Moran, 11 yrs
- 27 Skye Krienitz, 11 yrs

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

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The Prez Ola
4223 Apollo • 956-7809
Blanche Leonard, Vice Prez,
Membership/Press Gang Leader
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Jan Koenig, Bean Counter/
Community Garden
407 W. 34th • 869-8997
The Donald Howie, Minute Man
680-3420
Scott MacClymonds,
The Whatever Editor
729 W. 39th • 697-0069 *Robot answering device*
FAX: 448-5165

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HOT LINE } 688-4008

Garden Club
Marian Mabry 695-2157
Plant Co-op
Anne Kilgore 697-0069
Recycling
Tim Pagel 686-4424

Section 1 Constable Program
Denise Epstein 869-0128
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James Doyle 694-4134

Section 3
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Bob Hudson 694-1330
James Mabry 695-2157
Architectural Review Chairman,
Herb Kellner 692-2776

Section 4
Stan Bohon 680-1562
Tim Pagel 686-4424

Section 5
Vee Gaines 686-5042
Anita Scherer 956-7809

April Action						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
			1 All Fool's Day Ash Wednesday St. Matthew's Book Fair	2 All Residents Evacuated	New Moon 3	4 Spring Festival Grow Texas Armand Bayou St. Matthew's Youth Sale
5 Spring Festival Grow Texas & Ecogardening Armand Bayou	6	7 Civic Club Meeting 7:00 pm	8 Children's Nature Show Armand Bayou 474-2551	9 C.O.P. Training Session 10 am Garden Club 7:00 pm	10 1st Quarter Gazette Deadline 7:00 pm	11 Recycle Pick-up 8:00 am
12 Palm Sunday	13	14 Injection Wells Start	15	16 P.I.P. Meeting 7:30 pm	17 Full Moon Good Friday	18 Beginning of Passover Snakes 1-4 Armand Bayou Nature Center 474-2551
19 Happy Easter	20	21 Heavy Trash Pick-up	22	23 C.O.P. Training Session 7 pm	24 Last Quarter	25 End of Passover
26 Quilting, Black Smithing, Basketry, Doll Making... Armand Bayou	27	28	29 G.O. Screwballs Meeting	30	31	32 G.O. Wackos Annual Meeting
33	34	35 Dead Aliens Party	36	37 Carpool to Uranus	1	2 Ecological Land Scaping 1-4 Armand Bayou Nature Center 474-2551

Dear Garden Oaks Resident,

March/April, 1992

For the past two months volunteers from Garden Oaks Citizen's on Patrol (G.O. C.O.P.) have been working on a very important community project to help Garden Oaks become a safer neighborhood. Our goal is to become less vulnerable as a neighborhood by becoming aware of how each one of us can make it tougher for burglars to get in our homes unnoticed.

A second part of our goal is to help emergency vehicles, the Houston Police Department (HPD), and G.O. C.O.P. patrollers identify our houses by number. This is very important for a quick response when we are in need of assistance.

Several recent articles in the Gazette have outlined our ground work and these initial goals. We now ask you to take a look at your house with the following three criteria in mind:

1. Outside lighting is adequate.
2. House number can be easily read at night time.
3. Shrubs/landscaping do not hide entrance ways or windows.

The first comment concerning outside lighting is very important. If a burglar was to choose from 10 houses on a block, lighting would be a factor in his decision. And if your house is the darkest on the block, it is more likely to be chosen for the hit. We recommend a front door or porch light to be turned on every night and all other outside doors to have lighting as well. Back yard, side yard, and front yard lighting is also a plus for a safer home, but as a very minimum every house in Garden Oaks should have a front door/porch light on all night. If we could create day light during the night, it would be great! We should be known as the neighborhood of light - bright lights!

The second comment is about house numbers being easily read at night. We may have very large numbers, but no lighting; or very small numbers with great lighting; or no numbers at all; or no lighting at all. A few house number suggestions are to be large enough to read from across the street and be located behind or adjacent to a porch light. When house numbers are in front of porch lighting (like on the front ease of the house with the light behind on the porch) it is difficult to see the number when it is dark. Go outside at night and look for yourself. Can you see your house number? Can you see your neighbor's house number from your house? The most important reason for our house number to be seen at night is for emergency vehicles and HPD to be able to find our house when we are in need of assistance. On a more routine basis, the G.O. C.O.P. patrollers need to see house numbers to report incidents seen in the area and when friends drop by, they need to know which house is yours.

The third comment is one we may not have thought about when we planted all those beautiful bushes and hedges. Landscaping can create a great place for people to hide from car lights coming down the street at night. They can hide for a minute while the car passes by and then continue to break into your house when the car is gone. It is recommended to trim bushes that hide windows or door ways, so they are below the window seal and not hiding the front door. The same is true of back doors, side doors, and all windows around the house. Tall bushes elsewhere in the yard may obstruct the view of the front porch and could be trimmed also.

A task force looked over every house in Garden Oaks and compiled a list according to the three criteria discussed in this letter. It was found that 75% of the Garden Oaks homes lacked lighting, house numbers, and/or safe landscaping. We are vulnerable as a whole! The Civic Club has reviewed this list and agreed that Garden Oaks can be a safer place to live with a few minor improvements. We are asking you to become aware and help Garden Oaks be a safer neighborhood as a whole. Go outside at night and look at your house. Look at your neighbor's house. Ask yourself:

1. Is my outside lighting adequate? Why don't I have my porch light on?
2. Can my house number be easily read at night from across the street?
3. Are my shrubs/landscaping a good hiding place?

Ask the same of your neighbor's house.

This letter is not intended to upset any household or tell you what to do with your property. We are asking everyone to volunteer their time to become aware and responsible for a safer, less vulnerable neighborhood as a whole. A neighborhood-wide goal can be reached by mid summer 1992 to change our 75% finding of Garden Oaks homes lacking in one or more of the three criteria discussed to 75% of Garden Oaks homes having good safety practice. This is an easy way each one of us can fight crime in our neighborhood.

We are ready to revamp and update Garden Oaks to meet the sad, but real, state of the world today. We will be available to help you with your lighting needs, shrub trimming, and/or putting up good house numbers, if you need assistance. Please call 688-4008 and leave your name, address and phone number so we may schedule a convenient time to help you with your neighborhood safety improvements.

Thank you in advance for your participation in helping Garden Oaks become a safer neighborhood!

Trish Webb
Coordinator, Garden Oaks Citizen's on Patrol

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paper using soy bean ink.



Hello!

I would like to introduce myself to you. My name is Cassie Sly. I am a longtime Garden Oaks owner and your neighbor. I am a residential real estate profes-



Cassie Sly

591-6161 ■ 695-9747

sional, licensed for 13 years, specializing in your area. My office is one of the largest in the near Northwest with 15 full time professionals. Please feel free to contact me if I can be of service to you. I look forward to hearing from you.

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