

GARDEN OAKS GAZETTE

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May 1992

Education Matters!

GOPHER (Garden Oaks People Helping in Education Reform) is sponsoring an event to showcase the neighborhood schools and inform residents of what they can do to get involved with the schools. "Education Matters! Your Neighborhood School Conference" will be held on Saturday, May 16, at Black Middle School (1575 Chantilly) from 9:00 a.m. to Noon.

Participants will see exhibits from Garden Oaks, Durham, Oak Forest and Stevens Elementary Schools, Black Middle School and Waltrip High School. Information about special programs offered in each of the above schools will be provided. The conference will feature Larry Payne, Executive Director of the Greater Houston Coalition for Educational Excellence. Mr. Payne will discuss the state of education today and offer suggestions on community involvement in our neighborhood schools. The audience will then form smaller discussion groups to address specific projects and objectives. Childcare will be available for 3-8 year olds. Call Barry Morris at 863-8553 for further info.

Crime Tzarina Takes a Hit

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT HAPPENED!! Well, it did. I was burglarized April 8th at 3:15 in the afternoon. They broke in my dining room window and had time to take my VCR and TV, but that was all, thanks to Freddie, the Highwayman! Freddie saw a suspicious truck backed into my driveway and decided to investigate. He realized someone was inside and immediately called the G.O. C.O.P. base station on his CB radio. Laverne Kelley was on call and took the report of a burglary in progress at the corner of Gardenia and Apollo. Freddie then called HPD. The burglars knew they had been had and fled quickly, just as G.O. C.O.P. and HPD arrived. Freddie got a partial license number and a description of the vehicle and men. Woody and Lucille Mehrkam, Johnny Murphy, V.D. Kelley, and Freddie were at my house within seconds after the call was received. Thank you, FREDDIE and G.O. C.O.P. for your quick response and group effort in conjunction with HPD. Those burglars were run out of our neighborhood like scared rabbits! Let's hope they pass that along to their friends and family!

It's a shame my house was broken into. It is a shame when any house is broken into, but it proves two points - First, we need our neighbors watching for us when we are at work or out of town and we need to watch for them also. And secondly, G.O. C.O.P. works - it works well. Our base stations and patrollers are trained, ready, alert, and willing to go the extra mile. When I pulled in my drive at 3:30, there were three G.O. C.O.P. patrol trucks, a yard full of people, and an HPD blue and white with one more on the way to assist. Anyone who saw this crowd KNEW we care about our safety and our neighborhood and we don't take it lightly when we are violated.

G.O. C.O.P. is useful and vital to our neighborhood safety. I am grateful for the quick action and cooperation shown by this real life incident. It made for a good exercise and proved we do make a difference!

We had 185 hours patrolling for March with two incidents reported by patrollers to HPD. (My incident will be in the April figures.)

Trish

Garden Oaks Elementary School SIGHTS Information

If you are interested in having your child tested for the Gifted and Talented program (S.I.G.H.T.S.) at Garden Oaks Elementary School, please pick up an application A.S.A.P. S.I.G.H.T.S. testing will begin soon and will end May 15th.

This is especially important for new kindergarten students.

Principal E. J. Daniels

Family Picnic in the Park

Take me out to the SPARKS park,

Take me to the parade.

We are going to have

such good fortune

watching the kiddies and

eating our generous portion

(anonymous member of G.O. Dead Poets Society)

The May 5th Civic Club meeting will be at the SPARK park next to G.O. Elementary School at 7:00 p.m. There will be a Childrens Parade as well. Everyone is requested to bring a generous portion of the following (by last name):

A-G Meat or main dish

H-K Bread

L-S Vegetable or fruit

T-Z Dessert or fruit

All children are invited to participate in the parade. Costumes, bikes, wagons and strollers may be decorated prior to the parade. Older children may bring their Harleys. There will be entertainment for the kiddo's. Bring whatever party stuff you want or call Linda Ross (692-6667) for ideas.

In case of rain, we will meet at the Garden Oaks Baptist Church on N. Shepherd without the wagons please.

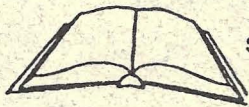


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Garden Oaks Resident

President's Message

I am currently reading a novel by Pramodya Ananta Toer entitled *This Earth of Mankind*. The author is from Indonesia and the book has been translated into English. One phrase has made quite an impression on me. "Life can give everything to whoever tries to understand and is willing to receive new knowledge."

Now you are probably saying to yourself, "That's great, but how is she going to tie this into Garden Oaks?" Think about that sentence. Life includes not only the interaction of man with his environment, but the interactions of man with man. How many times have you had an argument due to a misunderstanding? (I know I can't even begin to count the number of times that has happened to me.) How many times have you missed out on developing a friendship because you just can't seem to listen and receive what that person is offering? What have we lost because we have been too hard-headed with blinders on?

Life's knowledge is all around us. It is offered in the experiences of the elderly and in the innocence of the children. It is shared with your closest friends and family and can be enriched by total strangers.

Learning is a life-long process. We can ALL learn something from each other. A community is strengthened by the interchange of knowledge from its members. That is a dynamic process and one that is essential for sustaining a community. We need YOU to be a part of this community. It is important for all of us to learn what you have to offer. And who knows what joys you may get in return!

Anita

The Garden Oaks Gazette
is printed using soybean ink.

Community Renaissance

I would like to comment on the direction of our community. I feel that the letter from the C.C. President in last month's *Gazette* was very appropriate in the respect that we need to work together to better our neighborhood. (Neighborhood Improvement Group)

It would be wonderful to have our community pull together and help one another. We live in an up and coming neighborhood already known for it's beautiful surroundings and with some teamwork we can maintain and improve that beauty. This is why I believe knowing, understanding and following our deed restrictions is vital to the future of our home we call Garden Oaks. I hope that all residents will consider getting involved. And If anyone needs a copy of the deed restrictions, contact the Board of Trustees to obtain a copy. This should be able to solve any problems that occur and help us communicate better with one another. We have some great programs going on and some wonderful volunteers that help do the things that make the neighborhood so appealing. Let's all work together to give our community some extra backbone.

Melinda Garza, Section 4

**Greater Houston
Preservation Alliance**

The Greater Houston Preservation Alliance will hold its 1992 **Historic Neighborhood Forum** at 9:00 am **Saturday, May 16** at Houston Heights Women's Club (1846 Harvard).

This free workshop will focus on preparing a nomination for historical designation for individual buildings. Speakers will include Randy Pace, director of the Residential Department of the Galveston Historical Foundation; Gregg Hackett, preservation architect; Margie Elliot, executive director of the Preservation Alliance; Vicki List, preservation architect and GHPA president; and Clarence Bagby, immediate past president of the old Sixth Ward Neighborhood Association. For more information, please call David Beale at 658-0808.

Muse's Views

There sure is a lot of volunteer action going on around the community these days. I am hearing more and more discussion from residents interested in various projects. The volunteers seem to agree on a concept that each section take responsibility for whatever goes on in the way of improvements for that section. In other words, if you want something in your area to improve, the investment of your personal time and energy will help push that interest to reality. And people are doing just that...

Section one has a sizable crime problem and have organized their Constable program to attempt to deal with it. Sections three, four and five have contributed considerable time to the COP program and have had good results with that. There is a neighborhood wide group involved in our political process. The newly revitalized Beautification committee is compartmentalizing the neighborhood into groups that will focus on the parks and esplanades with volunteers from each section spearheading improvements in their areas among many other goals. A new plant CO-OP has formed that involves neighbors trading plants with neighbors. As a response to the school problems, residents formed GOPHER.

Have I left anyone's group out? I am sure I will hear about it.

People are looking around, identifying problems and possible improvements and forming or joining groups to deal with the goals. Maybe more people are getting bored with whatever and are looking to accomplish something on a local micro level with part of their lives.

Committee Action

Gazette

The *Gazette* thanks David Hoyer, Section 2, Nan Kittell, Section 5, Cindy Bartos, Section 4, Irene Schneider, G.O. Plaza, Don Wilson, G.O. Plaza and Karen Benson, Section 3 for joining the Hand Delivery Volunteers. Thanks to John

McKinney for volunteering to take over the Hand Delivery Program. Yes, just in case you were wondering, we need more volunteers everywhere. We are delivering about 600 out of 1500 homes and all of G. O. Plaza is now Hand Delivered.

Thanks also to David Hoyer, Joel Rhea, Jim and Margaret Hall, Ally Mabry, Melinda and Ted Garza, Cassie Sly, Lauren Hall, Anne Kilgore, Rick Englert and the Prezola Granola herself, Anita Scherer for delivering 410 *Gazettes* last month.

The *Gazette* could benefit from some additional volunteer help in our art and advertising departments as well as the Hand Delivery Program. If interested, call the Editors guitar playing robot.

This issue may be somewhat late to those that are still receiving the *Gazette* through the mail. I am involved in a project to computerize everything as much as possible and between that and the problems encountered coordinating the Home Delivery, have encountered some problems.

G.O.Plant Co-Op (GOPCOOP?)

The new plant exchange program is growing rapidly (so to speak). We have the following plants/cuttings available for trading:

1. monkey grass
2. golden eunomous
3. iris
4. elephant ears
5. rice paper plants
6. fig trees
7. polka dot plants
8. purple ruffled basil
9. various wandering jew
10. wedilia cuttings
11. parrot plants

If you have extra plants to trade, call Anne Kilgore at 697-0069 (recorder) and let her know what you have.

Garden Club

The May Meeting will be held at Wyatts Cafeteria on 43rd at 6:30 p.m. for dinner featuring a plant exchange at 7:00 p.m. Call Marion for details.



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Constable Patrol Report

Plans are progressing to put a full-time Deputy Constable on the streets of Section 1 & 1A. Organizers of the program reported in mid-April that about 180 residents have pledged financial support, but about 20-30 more are necessary to get the program started.

Work with the Precinct 1 Constable's Office already has reaped rewards. It is responsible for the additional stop signs on 30th and 34th Streets, and Deputy Constables have been visible patrolling streets and ticketing speeders. A Deputy also apprehended a gun-toting youth spotted at Graham Park.

Constable Jack Abercia answered questions about the program at a neighborhood meeting held March 24. Those attending also heard the security director from a Precinct 5 neighborhood describe how the patrol has drastically cut their crime rate.

Mike Slaughter, a Section 1 resident, has agreed to serve as the security director of the Section 1 & 1A Patrol. Mike will be the primary liaison between the neighborhood and the Constable's Office. He also will coordinate activities with the Garden Oaks Citizens on Patrol (C.O.P.) to provide the broadest possible coverage.

If you have any questions about the Constable Patrol Program, call Mike Slaughter at 868-5234, Denise Epstein at 869-0128 or Jimmy Fox at 880-9219.

Nail No No's

Puh-leeze! Do NOT use nails to secure signs for garage sales or whatever to our trees in the parks. Tie signs with string or post a sign in the ground. Nails are ugly and can harm the trees. Having published complaints about this for years, the *Gazette* hereby declares open season on signs found nailed or stapled to trees. All residents are honorarily deputized by the Aliens to remove any signs found secured with nails or staples and either return the sign to the owner or throw it away.

Beautification Changes

Due to personal reasons, I will be unable to continue as Chair of this committee. Carla Hoyer, Section 2 has agreed to assume the chair position and I will be assisting her in accomplishing our goals. Carla will host a meeting at her home on May 7th at 7:00 p.m. For information, call 699-8171.

Rick Luck

Beautification

Beautification had its first meeting April 16th to discuss goals and projects for the up coming year, the following outlines those ideas:

Reforestation of the neighborhood

Replace the trees along the street
Work jointly with Trees for Houston

Home Maintenance Program

For the elderly or disabled
Clean pine needles and leaves from roofs and gutters
Work jointly with G.O. C.O.P. on security and safety items

Outdoor Facilities at the Public Parks (Graham and Sparks)

Fence upgrade(trees or ivy) at Graham Park
Ball diamond up grades at both parks
Volleyball standards at both parks

Existing Pocket Parks

Improve neighborhood participation in maintenance
Continue improving (landscaping,seating)

43rd and Sue Barnett Pocket Park

Forget the past
Start again and improve the image
Remove the concrete chunks on mounds

Utilize neighbors input and resources

Think low maintenance on landscaping approach

The meeting was very successful; lots of energy, excitement and passion, great people and a great start for the 1992 beautification committee.

Gazette Ad Rates

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

GARDEN OAKS

A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE

The Civic Club is bringing exciting new changes to the neighborhood, But we need your help. Membership for 1992 is currently at 281 families, this is out of the 1450 homes in Garden Oaks (19%). If you haven't joined the Civic Club we ask that you do, if you have joined, we need your help to encourage your neighbors to join. With more neighbors involved in the Civic Club, we can make Garden Oaks truly "A Great Place To Live."

This is what your neighbors/Civic Club have accomplished :

- Signs identifying the neighborhood
- New pocket parks
- Neighborhood recycling program
- Citizens-On-Patrol neighborhood watch
- Neighborhood clean-up programs
- Sparks Park playground and track
- Neighborhood Home Tours
- Trick or Treat Trail for safe fun on Halloween
- Monthly Gazette featuring all the neighborhood news

Please Join us at your next Civic Club meeting and Family Picnic:

WHEN: Tuesday, May 5, 1992, 7:00 pm
WHERE: Garden Oaks Sparks Park
EAT: Bring your favorite dish, lawnchair & bug spray
KIDS: Bring your bikes, trikes & skates

GARDEN OAKS CIVIC CLUB ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME _____ Phone _____

Address _____ Section _____

Years Lived in Garden Oaks _____ Do you wish to receive the Gazette? _____

\$10 Annual Membership \$5 Annual Senior Citizen Membership

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May Birthdays

- 4 Anita Scherer, ?
- 5 Michel Ballard, 7 yrs.
- 7 Kelsey Epstein, 3 yrs.
- 8 Trevor Talmadge, 2yrs
- 9 Meredith Voorhees, 8 yrs.
- 12 Anna Gorski, 3 yrs.
- 16 Taylor Thomas, 5 yrs.
- 17 Ally Mabry, 12 yrs.
- 20 Wilma King, 76 yrs.
- 22 Michael Sherwood, 1 yr!
- 22 Marc Roberts, 35 yrs.
- 22 Gladys Ryan, 92 yrs.
- 23 Caitlin Rudin, 2 yrs.
- 23 Blake Bijak, 3 yrs.
- 23 Matthew Burns, 4 yrs.
- 24 Carrie Alexander, 9 yrs.
- 25 Lisa Howie, ?
- 27 Charlie Dickson, 30 yrs finally!

Qué Pasa

Thanks to Rusty Day, Section 2 for mowing the Art Park at W. 43rd and Sue Barnett and to anyone else that has spent some of their off-work time doing some community service and escaped being noticed by the *Gazette's* snoop squad.

Thanks to computer whiz, engineer, organic gardener, and Recycling Volunteer and who knows what else, Hal Sutterfield, Section 2 for the gift of a copy machine and a computer he built to the Civic Club. With these new additions we are getting soooo sophisticated.

Congratulations to Dian Austin who was recently elected Secretary of the Board of Trustees. Dian takes over for Anne Balson who has done a terrific job for many years.

Chris Cato's second concert on April 20 was a smashing success! Keep strumming.

The G.O. C.O.P. Safe Neighborhood Program

The G.O. C.O.P. Safe Neighborhood Program is organized and waiting to help YOU make your house a safer house. Call 688-4008 and leave your name, address, and phone number and we will call you back to arrange a time to help you with lighting concerns, shrub trimming and/or house numbers. Take advantage of our services!

All You Need is Love or Ball & Chain

Crime Tzarina Trish Webb and Section 5 C.O.P. wheel Tommy Mehrkam were married this month! Now there has to be all kinds of drippy, mushy stuff I could write about the two G.O. volunteers and next door neighbors that became involved in the COP program getting married and all. But first, I gotta know. Was their wedding song the theme to Dragnet or Hill Street Blues? Ok, Ok I'll shutup already. Anyway...CONGRATULATIONS!!! to two of the hardest working volunteers in G.O. business..

It's a Wild Life!

Springtime means baby-time, and orphans are frequently found after severe weather. If you find such a situation, it is usually best to leave things alone. If cats or dogs are around, remove them from the area and place the orphan in a hanging pot in a shrub or tree as close to the area found as possible. Use soft towels to line the bottom. Step away from the area and watch to see if the parents are around. If the orphan is injured, or the parents have not responded in two hours, contact Texas Wildlife Rehabilitation Coalition at 941-8972. Thanks to Ursula Andres, Federal and State Licensed Rehabilitator, for providing the above info.

Cassie Sly, Section 2

GOOD HOME NEEDED

Two stray cats are in need of loving families; a gray spayed female and a black neutered male with white markings. If you would like to adopt one or both of these pets, please call Jaime at 688-3237

The Garden Oaks Gazette is printed on recycled paper.



Handy Tips For a Green Earth The Drain Maintenance

Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup baking soda
- 3 cups boiling water

Pour the baking soda down the drain and follow with the boiling water. Let the baking soda and boiling water gurgle and bubble for a while before rinsing with hot tap water.

The Natural Chrome Cleaner

Ingredients:

- 3 tablespoons baking soda, enough for a paste

The abrasive cleaning power of the baking soda on spots is very effective. Once the chrome is cleaned, rinse well with warm water.

Oven Cleaner

Ingredients:

- baking soda
- water
- a squirt or two of liquid soap

Sprinkle water generously over the bottom of the oven, then cover the grime with baking soda. Sprinkle some more water on top of the baking soda. If you let it sit overnight you can effortlessly wipe up the grease the next morning. When you have cleaned up all the mess dab a little bit of recommended vegetable-oil-based soap on a sponge and wash the sides, top, and inside of the door, as well as any grease or baking soda residue on the bottom. Rinse

Letter to the Editor

Mr. MacClymonds,

I am highly insulted by your snide, presumptuous, and condescending comments made recently in your "Muses Blues" column in what is fast becoming an alien newsletter.

Other Section 1 residents are equally outraged at your attempt to belittle our efforts to deter crime in our neighborhood.

We haven't lost our park, certainly not from lack of interest. I took those somewhat disturbing photographs of the "punks" with guns. I did so while playing there with my 6-year old son on a Sunday afternoon.

You state that the park can be taken back by residents using it regularly. The park IS used regularly by active families: there are picnics there quite often; children play on the playground equipment often; I play baseball and tennis there with my child often. In the summer, volleyball games are a mainstay on weekends.

If we follow your argument to its logical absurdity, there is really no need of any official law enforcement personnel in the entire city. Or any COP organizations. We can all just use our streets, schools, and parks regularly and the lowlives will simply disappear.

My presence in the park on the day I shot those photos did not "create an environment that is unattractive to basic lowlife types" as you suggest. Rather, I immediately left the park upon seeing these kids brandishing a gun. I had no intention of confronting those "punks".

But perhaps you are a braver man than I. Possibly we of Section 1 should hire you to patrol our streets to kick some butt! A much better alternative than using constables children, don't you think?

Screw the Norman Rockwell image! We are simply fed up with the level of crime in our entire city, and we are attempting to take back our small piece of it with as many tools as are available.

John Everett, Section 1

Clip and Save Recycling Reminders:

WHEN: Second Saturday of the month at 8 a.m.

WHERE: Drop-off at the parking lot of the Garden Oaks Theater (8 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.) or Curbside (by 8 a.m.)

WHAT AND HOW:

ALUMINUM CANS: Non-magnetic, RINSED.

NON-FERROUS (Not Steel) METALS: Items such as copper, brass, and aluminum. No refrigerators, dishwashers or other appliances.

GLASS: Separated into clear and colored glass; RINSED and CLEANED; NO LIDS; Labels can be left on; NO PLATE GLASS!; No plastic bags, please.

NEWSPAPERS: Bundled or placed in paper grocery bags; No plastic bags please.

COMPUTER PAPER: Bundled, boxed or placed in paper bags; No carbon inserts, no binding, no staples.

WHITE LEDGER: Bond paper bundled, boxed or placed in paper bags; NO glossy junk mail, NCR (No Carbon Required) paper, or telephone books, no binding.

BROWN PAPER GROCERY BAGS are also recyclable so use them whenever you can.

NO PLASTICS

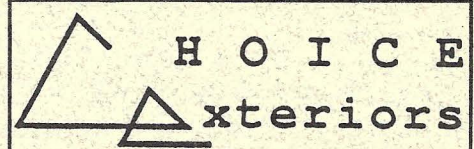
Please follow these guidelines to make the recycling pick-up more efficient and pleasant. Cleaning glass containers and rinsing empty aluminum cans cuts down on the odor and mess. If you don't remove the lids or separate the glass, we have to and it slows the process down.

QUESTIONS OR FOR SPECIAL PICK-UPS: Call Tim Pagel at 686-4424

For Baby-sitting information (Recycling Volunteers): Call Jennifer Day at 699-8417 by the Friday before pick-up.

Help to Make Garden Oaks a Safe Place!

G.O. C.O.P. is looking for new volunteers to fill the noon to 5:00 patrol hours. You do make a difference. Please call and volunteer to help make Garden Oaks a safe place for all our neighbors! Call Johnny Murphy at 688-7337 or Trish Webb at 683-8461.



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Area Residents

☛ Hot lead can be almost as effective coming from a linotype as from a firearm.

- John O'Hara, 1905-1970

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Barry Morris 863-8553

Plant Co-op

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


Stan Bohon 680-9631

Tim Pagel 686-4424

Section 5

Vee Gaines 686-5042

Anita Scherer 956-7809

May Action						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
					1	2  Ecological Land Scaping 1-4 Armand Bayou Nature Center 474-2551
3	4	5 Civic Club Meeting SPARK Park 7:00 pm	6	7 C.O.P. Training Session 10 am Beautification 7:00 pm	8	9  Recycle Pick-up 8:00 am Birds 1-4 Armand Bayou Nature Center 474-2551
10 Mother's Day Gazette Deadline 7:00 pm	11	12	13	14 P.I.P. Meeting 7:30 pm Garden Club (Wyatt' Cafe) 6:30 pm	15	16  Education Matters! Black Middle School 9am-12pm
17	18	19 Heavy Trash Pick-up	20	21 C.O.P. Training Session 7 pm Lindberg's First Flight - 1927	22	23 <i>Invertebrates</i> 1-4 Armand Bayou Nature Center 474-2551
24	25 Memorial Day Observed	26	27	28	29	30  Memorial Day Quilting, Black Smithing, Basketry, Doll Making... Armand Bayou
31 Quilting, Black Smithing, Basketry, Doll Making... Armand Bayou	1	2	3	4	5	6