

Gazette!

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## ALERT! SECTION 1 RESIDENTS!

The vacant residential lot on the East side of N. Shepherd between W. 30th and W. 34th may be sold to a food service business. To allow for commercial use of this property, a petition may be already circulating in Section 1 to lift the following deed restrictions: 1) residential use only, 2) no signs or advertising, and 3) building setbacks.

It is not known as of press time what kind of food service establishment is interested in this property. (As many may recall, the last time it was a Whataburger.) All that is known is that it is a food service business which will not sell alcohol.

Notarized signatures of fifty percent (50%) of property owners in Section 1 are required to lift the deed restrictions on that property. PLEASE DO NOT SIGN ANYTHING UNTIL YOU ARE COMPLETELY SURE OF WHAT YOU ARE SIGNING!

## Heard Under the Oak Tree

Congratulations to Grayson Scherer who won the Eckerd's coloring contest in November. He won a stuffed brontosaurus.

The Garden Club wishes to thank Carlos Rios for mowing Friendship Garden in October.

Thank you to Richard Lipham for another great year of the Trick or Treat Trail! Thanks also to Richard's helpers, especially Jane Ann Roberts and Debbie Connaster.

The 900 Block of Gardenia had a block party on October 22nd. Everyone brought their specialty dishes and gathered on one driveway. The company was great and the food was delicious! This was a great way for new neighbors to meet everyone and for long-time residents to get re-acquainted. Those residents in attendance include: Dee & Flo, Louise, Judith, Doug, Celeste, Arlene, Lyt & Jerry, Gretchen & Kelsey, Pat & Ron, Madolyn, Marshal & Cecelia, Will, Joe, Jaime & Lauren & Scott, Ollie, Frances, Karl, Kathy & Clayton, Debbie & Jessica & Phil-What a turnout! Let's make this an annual occasion.

## Ho!Ho!HO! I wanna go!

To the Sue Barnett and 42nd Pocket Park on December 16th and 17th to visit with SANTA CLAUS! From 7 till 9 SANTA CLAUS will hang out and visit with all the kids (whatever your age). SANTA will deliver sticks to all who were bad and wassail and cookies to all who were good.

Everyone is invited to PARTY with OLDE SAINT NICK HIMSELF and RUDOLF the RED NOSED REINDEER, a party animal for sure! Santa will also be checking out the kids for their Christmas present wants.

## Munch on Down

December's C.C. meeting on Tuesday the first at 7:00pm will feature our traditional feast. Otherwise known as The Annual Christmas Covered Dish Dinner and Holiday Social Bash Deluxe Fun Time Mixer Forget the Past Happy New Year Sing-a-Long. Y'all bring a generous portion of the following:  
A-G - vegetable or salad  
H-K - dessert or fruit  
L-S - meat or main dish  
T-Z - bread

Or bring your favorite specialty. There will be no business meeting, just neighbors jammin it up, eating everything in sight, singing christmas carols, hanging out, laughing at anything and otherwise groov'in on the holidays to come. So come on down everyone and party with your neighbors, meet next years officers and others that help make this community whatever it is.

## Old news

Anita Scherer

Lame duck

Blanche Leonard

ex main attractions

(The) Donald Howie

sensible secretary

Jan Koenig

Rush's pal and treasurer

Scott MacClymonds

Sticks and stones editor

## New Meat

Paul Bick

President-Elect

Suzanne Debien

VP

Janis Spears

Editor-in-Waiting



## "Safe Sidewalk Program" Committee Report

When Mayor Lanier was elected into office, one of his campaign promises was to provide sidewalks for children to use on their way to school (for elementary schools and middle schools). He formed his Safe Sidewalk Program and Garden Oaks Elementary School was fortunate to be among one of the first schools to be considered for this program. The funds will come from general revenue bond funds specifically targeted for new streets and new sidewalks - not from additional tax dollars, nor from Houston ISD dollars.

Based upon Garden Oaks Elementary school principal's general knowledge of the area, the 700 block of W. 38th and W. 41st, and Sue Barnett around the school, were targeted as areas needing sidewalks. An article was placed in the *Gazette* asking residents to respond. Of those people that responded, there was a large majority that responded negatively to the idea. Here are some of their reasons:

- a) Due to the volume of traffic and the speed being traveled on these streets, they do not feel adding sidewalks (without additional measures) will measurably provide a safer path to school.
- b) The type of construction under this program (for streets not already curbed) does not allow the city to install typical curbs and drains. Instead, the sidewalks will have curbs 6" above ground level, between the sidewalks and the street, with interruptions in the curb about every 4' to allow drainage. The concerns are that no one has seen this type of construction before so it does not seem aesthetically pleasing and there no longer will be an area for parking along the street.
- c) Construction will further require 5-1/2 feet of the front easement to be used to install the sidewalk and curb. This will require that many of the existing drainage ditches be moved back toward the yard and be reinstalled. It is not clear how this will affect those driveways that have been improved with culverts for drainage, so this is a concern. This

brings about concerns of what problems may arise due to changing the drainage system upon which the original neighborhood was based.

A Sidewalk Committee was formed to review the issues and research a possible solution. Our proposal that follows was based upon

- 1) that most residents agree there is a safety problem on some of the streets around the school,
- 2) of residents present at the meeting, most felt it was an intrusion, would create drainage problems, and would not solve the safety problem, and
- 3) that it would be great for the school to take advantage of this program. So, our objective became to take advantage of the program with the least amount of intrusion to residents and still meet the criteria set out by the City to participate in the program. Here is our proposal:

Start one sidewalk on the west side of Sue Barnett (this street must be in any plan acceptable to the City), beginning at 43rd and go south along the front of Garden Oaks Elementary to Wakefield. Start another sidewalk on the south side of 43rd, (43rd was considered in order to meet the linear footage requirement of the City's criteria) beginning at Ella and go east all the way to Shepherd. This section of the sidewalk would not need to have the 6" high curb because curbs and drains already exist along 43rd.

These safety issues are primarily affecting Garden Oaks II residents' property. The Sidewalk Committee would like to propose other ideas which we feel will compliment the Safe Sidewalk Program and address other safety concerns. We strongly urge you to attend the January Civic Club meeting so we can get your thoughts and ideas.

Hope to see you there.  
Rosana Hagman, Section 2

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## Basketballs and Barbie Dolls

Many children in Houston won't have a very happy holiday without the help of generous Houstonians. Through the Spirit of Christmas program, sponsored again this year by Team Bank, seven Houston area agencies are seeking help to obtain Christmas presents for over 10,000 kids. The agencies participating are Big Brothers and Sisters, Richmond State School, Miracle Farms, Texas Children's Hospital, Star of Hope Mission, Kid Care and Harris County Children's Protective Services. Each child requests four gifts and each request is transferred on to a card with the child's name, age, agency and sometimes special needs and clothing size. These cards are placed in the lobbies of each Team Bank around town and anyone who would like to participate can drop by, choose a card and buy the gift the child has requested. Also, if you will call 993-8710 the Bank will even mail you a card. So no excuses! All of the presents must be dropped back by a Team Bank by December 10.

Now that the dry details are out of the way, here is a personal perspective of the Spirit of Christmas. Tim and I have participated in this program for several years and have been amazed at what these kids do and don't ask for. Yes, there are some kids that ask for bicycles (a good gift for a group to give) but most ask for very simple things ... a basketball, cassette tapes, clothes, a Barbie doll. Last year, when Tim and I drew our cards from the stack I wanted to take more and more. We finally forced ourselves to stop at 10 because we wanted to take every card that was there. From the bank, we hit the toy store, we bought a basketball, a teddy bear, a train set (great price!), a Barbie Make Me Pretty, and a tea set. Next we headed for a clothing store and bought the clothes the kids had requested — we went for practical but cool threads! Amazing, it is a year later and we can still remember what the kids asked for, what the gifts looked like and how glad we were that we could help 10 kids we didn't know have a Christmas. Every child

should know the thrill of waking up on Christmas and receiving the special gifts he or she asked for. Yes, the kids got their presents, but we got something too. It truly was and is better to give. Maybe next year you will be remembering the basketballs and Barbie dolls.

Janis Spears, Section 1

*The following is an excerpt from an article by Michele Brekenridge, Child Development Specialist.*

## The Perfect Gift Comes From the Heart

Each fall children watch as their parents solemnly enter the world of holiday shopping. Some enter with joy, others with apprehension. No matter what path people travel with respect to the meaning of these holidays, there is one thing about it that is universally true—it is a time of expression and a time of giving and receiving gifts. Gifts are an expression of our feelings for others, and our capacity to give and receive is closely related to our sense of self-esteem. Giving and receiving is a natural human behavior, and children learn to do it in part by watching parents and others they are close to. Although reflection on values is traditionally reserved for New Year's, the season of gift-giving comes down on us without any pause for thinking about what it means or how we should go about it. Perhaps a reflection of the spirit of giving would bring us closer to our own true meanings for this season. In this time of great consumption, what behavior do I want my child to observe? Simply making purchases that are quick and easy but won't last through the winter, or thoughtfully giving items that will offer enjoyment and value for years? When children see that gifts are given from the heart, it builds an understanding of the real meaning of giving and receiving. If there is nothing to give Uncle Harry except another new tie—and the giving feels empty—then maybe it's time to talk to him. Maybe all he really wants is a smooth rock from a river bed for his garden or a special tea blend for cold winter days. Children are even more sensitive to the message of gifts from parents, relatives and Santa. Do



they come with a built-in invitation to play with others, or do they encourage a child to go off by himself and simply be entertained? Are the toys piled under the tree simply bright, beautiful possessions, or are they tools for learning which are treated as such by the givers? When gifts are well chosen with respect to the child's natural interests and abilities and invite the family to play together, the message goes straight to a child's heart. When children are the givers, they have an opportunity to express their feelings for the holidays, and to build their self-esteem. Most children don't have lots of money to buy gifts, so for them the focus can be on creating their own cards and gifts. Whether your child gives one of his scribbles on paper or buys dad a package of bubble gum, he learns that it is the spirit in which a gift is given that's important. When parents help their children make gifts or find resourceful ways to give without spending lots of money, they are helping them express the giver inside. Many art materials and craft kits lend themselves to homemade gifts. Home activity books or cookbooks have simple, sweet ideas to fill an evening with some great creative gift projects. A child would also delight in making a "coupon" book with things that they are able to do... "I will make breakfast one Sunday morning for the whole family" ... "I invite you to take a bubble bath with me whenever you choose" ... "I will walk the dog when you are too tired after work". As we begin to herald the holidays, let us consider what we want to say to our children through our actions, our words, and our feelings about the holidays. And let us allow ourselves to give and receive the greatest kind of gift-one chosen from the heart!

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### Heard It On the Garden Club Grapevine

The last meeting of 1992 for the Garden Oaks Garden Club will be a Christmas party at the home of **Kathy Marek, 1050 W. 42nd.** We will gather at 7:00 pm on **December 10th** for good food and lots of fun. Everyone is asked to bring something "wonderful and Christmas-y" to eat. This meeting is purely social, so if you have been wanting to check out the Garden Club, this will be a great opportunity. My first meeting was at last year's Christmas party and I liked it so much I joined right there- and I'm really glad I did. This is a great group of people and we look forward to our most exciting year ever as we enter 1993!

Our booth at the Home Tour was a success and a lot of fun too! Thanks go to everyone who brought baked goods and plants to sell and to those who worked the booth. If you missed our booth this year, be sure to look for us next year- we had some wonderful items at great prices. If you are looking for a holiday gift for that hard to buy for person on your list, consider a garden kneeler. We still have some on hand and they make great gifts for gardeners, sports fans, or anyone who can use a soft place to sit or kneel. Call **Marian 695-2157** or **Jaime 688-3237** for details.

Our November meeting was held at the home of **Misty Jones**, where we listened to an informative presentation by two members of the Bromeliad Society. The slate of officers presented in October was accepted by acclamation. Welcome new officers!

The first meeting of 1993 will be on **January 14th**, at which our new co-presidents, **Julie Engleman** and **Peggy Ingels** will preside (meeting location will be announced in the *January Gazette*). Our meetings always take place on the second Tuesday of the month, so now you know when all the meetings in the coming year will be! I know the whole Garden Club joins me in thanking our 1992 officers: **Marian Mabry, Kathy Marek, Bell Katzer** and **Christine Winklemann**. Thank you for a great year! See you at the Christmas party...



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## December Birthdays

- 3 Molly Moran, 8 yrs
- 3 Evan Klusman, 9 yrs
- 4 Brian Sherwood, 36 yrs
- 6 Margaret Peden, 4590 yrs
- 6 The Don Howie, 31 yrs
- 11 Terry Jeanes, 4123 yrs
- 12 Elissa Lipham, 9 yrs
- 13 Denise Sherwood, 34 yrs
- 15 Sean Byers, 3 yrs
- 15 Janis Spears, 34 yrs
- 18 Alice Peden, 3 yrs
- 18 Billy Scherer, 37 yrs
- 19 Timothy Ness, 2 yrs
- 21 John McKenney, 3890 yrs
- 24 Jacqueline Debien, 11 yrs
- 25 James Gavin, 3 yrs
- 27 Christopher Welker, 3 yrs
- 27 Ted Hackworth, 3445 yrs
- 28 Lauren Mabry, 9 yrs
- 28 Courtney Stewart, 14 yrs
- 31 Thomas Lipham, 7 yrs



## Welcome To The Planet!

Alexander Clinton Hoyer is a fresh addition to the population explosion happening right now in Garden Oaks. I understand that there's something in the water... Anyway, this brand new baby dude was born to Carla and David Hoyer on October 25, 1992. Alex weighed in at 143lbs. and 7 oz. Amazing!

Claudia Willis was born at home November 13 to surprised parents Gabriella and Robert and proud sister Marina.

## G.O. C.O.P. Report

Our Award Program November 17th was great fun. Thank you for coming. And THANK YOU, PATROLLERS, FOR ALL YOUR LONG HOURS AND WATCHFUL EYES!

September crime figures are creeping up slowly towards larger numbers for the 1992 holiday season. October, November, December and January are customarily HIGH CRIME MONTHS. We had four crime reports in September (compared to two for August), 3 burglaries and 1 auto theft. The first half of October brought an attempted rape (yes, I said rape, the women spent time in the hospital recovering) and an auto theft. Garden Oaks is not immune from serious crime. We are vulnerable like everyone else.

The crime report for "3 Boy 30", our surrounding area police beat, had 1 rape, 61 robberies, 55 assaults, 167 burglaries, 40 narcotic arrests, and 199 auto thefts! Narcotic arrests was the major jump compared to last month. "3 Boy 30" is everything around us from the Loop to Pinemont (south to north) and T.C. Jester to Shepherd (west to east). Area 1 of Garden Oaks is also included in this beat to Yale, but not Sears or the Garden Oaks Shopping Center.

If you have been intending to patrol, call now. The holiday seasons are big crime times. Please call Bill Chastain (681- 5151) or Johnny Murphy (688- 7337). You will make a difference. Keep your eyes open and watch out for your neighbor.

The following figures are crimes reported for "3B30 Beat" from August, 1991, through September, 1992. This is the area surrounding Garden Oaks. The figures in parenthesis ( ) are the Garden Oaks crimes for the same period.

Month	Murder	Rape	Robbery	Assault	Burglary	Narcotics	Auto Theft
Aug/91	2	6	99	36	215(3)	21	311(4)
Sept/91	0	5	100(1)	35	148(3)	21	277(1)
Oct/91	5	7	71	55	248(10)	26	294(5)
Nov/91	1	5	68	41	172(12)	25	313(1)
Dec/91	3	0	83	22(1)	136(6)	22	355(5)
Jan/92	3	6	95(2)	34(1)	195(12)	31	288(4)
Feb/92	2	5	65	40	142(2)	24	213(2)
Mar/92	1	4	39	33	133(3)	23	248
Apr/92	3	9	68	52(1)	155(8)	25	213
May/92	0	7	69(1)	53(1)	154(7)	40	230(1)
June/92	2	3	64	53	120(1)	18	29(1)
July/92	1	10	76	64	159(2)	59	240(2)
Aug/92	2	9	63	53	174(2)	17	219
Sept/92	0	1	61	55	167(3)	40	199(1)

We have very little violent crime - no murder, no rape, and no narcotics, but we do have our share of robbery and auto theft with a few assaults. Fall was the heavy time for us in 1991 with October, November, December, and January having the highest number of burglaries and auto thefts. 1992 has signs of a repeat. Please be extra careful and watchful of your property and your neighbors.

*Dear Garden Oaks,*

*Thanks for putting up with our buzz saws and hammering in the early mornings and late nights. We are glad to be a part of the renovating of these fine homes. We hope to see you this next year. And we wish you a safe, prosperous and Fine New Year!*

*Thanks for the opportunity!  
Harry James*

*H. J. Builders 492-9400*



## What a Child Needs

I tried to teach my child with books  
He gave me only puzzled looks.  
I tried to teach my child with words  
They passed him by unheard.  
In despair I turned aside  
"How will I teach my child?" I cried.  
Into my hands he put the key;"  
Come," he said, "and play with me".

Contributed by Jaime Pierce  
Author Unknown

## Families In Need

The Star of Hope's Shelter for Women and Children is in need of Coats, Blankets and Cold Medicine for children and adults.

I had planned to take some of my children's toys to the shelter, however I found that their needs are so much more basic than toys to play with, they just want to stay warm, safe and healthy.

The Women and Children's Shelter is located at 419 Dowling (222-7827). They have a donation room for toys and clothes, but as I said the immediate need for supplies is more pressing.

If you want to donate something but do not have the time to drive down there I will be happy to make the trip for you. Please call me at 697-2566.

Karen Benson, Section 3

## President's Message

Quack, Quack, QUACK!!!!!!!!!!!!



## Neighborhood Views

*The opinions and ideas expressed in this column are not necessarily endorsed by the Civic Club or the Gazette.*

I wish to thank you (the Editor) for the last year of hard work you put in. You pitched in when no one else was willing and have, in my opinion, continued to make the *Gazette* an interesting and lively newsletter to read. During the first month or two of this year, I was a little unhappy as others were, with some of your changes. I admire you for taking the feedback and incorporating it into the *Gazette*, without sacrificing creativity. I say to all those who continue to criticize harshly without any appreciation for the hours of hard work our editor has put in on his time (which means UNPAID) to:

- (1) Show some appreciation for the hard work our editor has done (no matter what your opinion) and
- (2) If you really want to change the *Gazette*, get involved with its productions, but not with some sort of McCarthy era censorship committee.

Angela Dickson, Section 5

This is being written the day before election day by independent voters.

About two months ago, we wrote the Garden Oaks Civic Club President and to the Garden Oaks *Gazette* Editor and protested the fact that the *Gazette* was being used by the Editor to promote his political beliefs. We believe that our Civic Club should be strictly non-political and non-partisan. We strongly believe that the *Gazette* should not be used as a political forum. This community is composed of intelligent people of all political convictions who do not need to be told how to vote. Should the *Gazette* be used to promote religious dogma also?

We informed the President and the Editor that if the practice of issuing personal political opinions in the Garden Oaks *Gazette* continued, we would discontinue paying dues to support such actions. We have lived in Garden Oaks for over 16 years and have paid our dues every year. This year will be the last.

This is to inform you of this, and we wish this protest to be published in the *Gazette*.

Mr. & Mrs. W. P. Stamps, Jr.,  
Section 5

Let's examine the pro's and con's of the Sidewalk Committee's plan of accepting sidewalks on the south side of 43rd between Ella and Shepherd and on the west side of Sue Barnett South of 43rd (around Garden Oaks Elementary):

PRO:

- (1) Sidewalks keep people from walking through your yard.
- (2) Sidewalks lessen the amount of grass that needs to be cut.
- (3) These sidewalks will be free (ordinarily they would cost approximately \$4 per square foot).
- (4) These sidewalks will improve continuity as there are already sidewalks on 43rd west of Ella and on Sue Barnett north of 43rd.
- (5) Sidewalks generally add resale value to your home.
- (6) Sidewalks will add to a sense of community in Garden Oaks.
- (7) Lastly but perhaps most importantly sidewalks will improve safety as schoolchildren will have a designated place to walk that is not the street.

CON:

- (1) Brief construction inconvenience.
- (2) Perhaps slight increase in pedestrian traffic on 43rd? This "con" is very questionable since we have commercial areas across Ella and Shepherd on 43rd. Any increase pedestrian traffic is likely to be Garden Oaks residents walking, jogging or socializing with their neighbors.

The pro's clearly outweigh the con's in this decision. And since the sidewalks could save one or more children (or adults) from serious injury, we should gladly accept this generous offer from the city while it is still available.

David Hoyer, Section 2

☪ "The past is a foreign country,  
they do things differently there."

Lesley Poles Hartley 1895-1972



## The Body Politic

My last issue, and what a long strange trip it's been. Reviewing my term as Editor seems appropriate. Remember when I assumed the editor position? There were no volunteers and even though that meant soon there would be no *Gazette*, no one came forth. So I answered the call and took everyone on a little roller-coaster ride. The controversies my writings and articles by other community writers triggered about a variety of subjects drove readership to heretofore unattained levels. With each issue, people became a little more interested in this little paper. Advertising came in steadily with marginal effort on my part because residents promoted the paper to their favorite places. Support like that was very gratifying and fueled my enthusiasm.

### All was not roses however...

After my first issue, (rather mild in my view), I received a verbal threat from another committee co-chair who has a personal dislike for me. She threatened she would see to it that no money came into the general fund from her committees future fundraising activity. Naturally, I took this to be an attempt to control the *Gazette* by manipulating the funding system. (When I assumed the editorship, the paper was losing about \$3300.00 per year, due to the mailing costs.) After the aforementioned threat was received, I responded by resurrecting the *Gazette's* Hand Delivery Program to ensure that the paper would be self supporting. I am pleased to report that even after a slow start we almost achieved that goal primarily because John McKenney volunteered to head the Home Delivery effort. As a result, the paper should need little if anything from the general fund next year.

My initial goal was to capture the communities interest by providing a format for writers, artists and other creative residents to express themselves. This caused two local realtor companies to withdraw their advertising support. They told me the *Gazette* should only say good things

about the neighborhood and that my more expansive vision of what the *Gazette* could be would drive away potential homeowners. I considered that idea a ridiculous notion and my feeling is that if someone would not move here because of a somewhat spirited community newspaper, we are better off without them. Anyway, I sold the realtor's ad space to other advertisers and neighborhood real estate prices seem to be increasing in spite of my style.

I also wanted to enhance the relationship we as a community have with Garden Oaks Elementary. Our community relations had been miserable with the former principal and I wanted to change any lingering negative perceptions. We had a new vigorous principal in Jeanne Daniels and I wanted the neighborhood to know it. Another goal was to help the Garden Oaks Theater remain viable and convince the owner to show more English language movies. As 1992 was an presidential election year, I also wanted to provide an information source and encourage political and social discussions in my new Neighborhood Views column. So you see, I did just about anything to stir people up, wake up the neighborhood and get residents away from their t.v. sets and hopefully take an interest in their community. There was a price to pay for my methodology of course. Some people were offended by just about everything I attempted, but I noticed my little zingers stimulated discussions and sometimes brought results. Over my term, I received anonymous letters and phone messages with no names or return phone numbers. Some wanted their anonymous comments published. This I refused to do, feeling that if a person won't sign their name to a letter, they deserve nothing. Recently, I inspired a resident to attend a C.C. meeting with some friends and proceeded to castigate me in front of last month's meeting. When I attempted to respond to her diatribe I was shouted down by her group. I suppose some response is better than nothing. Hopefully the *Gazette* has provided some amusement, a little insight and was useful to the

community. I trust that no one sustained permanent mental damage from my audacious musing. If something in the Garden Oaks *Gazette* inspired or irritated a resident enough to become involved in our community, then my efforts were successful.

### Thanks for the memory...

I want to thank all those that wrote or created something for the *Gazette* this year. I especially want to thank John McKenney for volunteering to organize the delivery program and his all star delivery team for all the miles they walked to bring you this paper. The delivery volunteers have gained a lot of good karma for their service. I want to thank Anne of Three Gables for dealing with the rigors of being married to me with all the baggage my various community involvements entail. Thanks to all the advertisers that stuck with me for their support or began advertising because they liked what they were reading.

Many people in this community met and became friends as a result of different causes the *Gazette* espoused, and the paper has many more offers of volunteer help for the next season than I ever dreamed possible. Those are two of the more satisfying accomplishments I achieved as Editor of your Garden Oaks *Gazette*. Feliz Navidad! (Fleas on your dog!)

### So what's next?

**Scott:** Before I go to the editors wasteland, I want to introduce our gentle readers to the new editor, Janis Spears! Ola Janis, I would like to personally welcome you to the *Gazette*! So tell us what you want to do with the paper next year.

**Janis:** Scott, it's going to be hard to fill your shoes. You have created an enormous amount of community interest in the *Gazette*. I hope to continue the paper in the same "activist" vein. You know ... simple things, like a launching pad for a radical feminist quilting club and maybe disenfranchising the entire



male population of the planet.

**Scott:** I only wear an eight and a half shoe Janis, besides your feet look plenty big to me. But, do you think your ambitions are a mite strong for Garden Oaks? Just imagine if you will, what people would say about a radical feminist quilting club that advocates disenfranchising men?

**Janis:** Scott, you really hurt my feelings with that nasty remark about my feet. My feet are very sensitive. But I will give some thought to your other points. I think the quilting thing is some deep seeded desire from my childhood.

**Scott:** Uh oh, there I go putting feet in my mouth again. OK folks. We're just kidding around. Calm down and don't have a cow! Now really Janis, everyone wants to know what sort of *Gazette* you are going to create. Tell us in twenty words or less because I am short on space and am running out of ink. My term is over and I wish everyone well. I sincerely hope we all can get along better in the bright future I see ahead for us. Anyway, (singing loudly)

I

FFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFEEL  
GOOD!

*(The stagelights slowly fade out on Scott as Janis enters center stage. The tune Scott is singing by James Brown echoes into the ionosphere as he exits stage left, rejoins the audience and his performance comes to a close. Only time will tell if his interpretation of the role was outstanding, a catastrophe or simply mediocre. But now we have a new editor and the always fickle audience is anxious for a look. Who is she? How will she play the part? As the spotlight comes up on Janis, she begins with her opening monologue)*

In the words of that great elder statesman James Stockdale, "Who am I? Why am I here?" I have been asking myself those questions and am certain that there are at least a few *Gazette* readers who would like for me to answer them.

The *Gazette* will remain a vital,

vibrant informative community paper, the single communicative exchange that connects our entire community. This paper should report community news and events and the *Gazette* should be available to express the ideas, concerns and attitudes of the residents of Garden Oaks. By virtue of living in Garden Oaks, residents receive the *Gazette* whether or not they come to Civic Club or pay their Civic Club dues. And while we may be able to please some of our residents some of the time and some of our residents all of the time, chances are we won't please all of Gardens Oaks residents all of the time. (apologies to A. Lincoln). With that said, although someone may not necessarily agree with every article or committee project, I firmly believe that in every single issue, there will be something for everyone. That something may be as simple as the community calendar that lists the date for heavy trash pick-up. But it is something.

I have given much thought to the focus of the *Gazette* in 1993 and I can sum up my thoughts in one word ... **Community**. The *Gazette* should reflect our community. A community is the sum of its people and their thoughts and ideas. At least one definition of community is an interacting population of various kinds of individuals in a common location — a unified body of individuals. The question we should all ask ourselves is what we can do to make our community a better place. That may sound idealistic to some of you, but I am one of those people that believe individuals can make a difference in their community. For example, recently Houston held its second annual "Make a Difference Day". All over Houston people volunteered their time to make a difference. Some people harvested vegetables at Houston Metropolitan Ministries' community garden, others helped deliver meals and coats to cold, hungry Houston children for Kid Care. Still others refurbished elderly Houstonians homes. I was prompted to scrutinize my own contribution to the community and although I have participated in volunteer efforts, I am forced to face

the reality that there is much more I could have and should have done for my community. Each person reading this should assess their individual contributions to this community. There are many opportunities to make a difference in Garden Oaks.

By now you may be asking yourself what the *Gazette* has to do with this. The *Gazette* can and should be the tool to encourage dialogue between individuals in our community.

By providing a place for open dialogue between individuals the *Gazette* will foster a greater sense of community and hopefully as a community Garden Oaks will make a difference.

So in this season of "peace on earth and goodwill to women and men" I hope that you will all give some thought to changing the future by participating in this dialogue and making a difference.

PEACE AND JOY!

Janis Spears, The New Editor  
(Is that more than twenty words Scott?)

## Putting Your Money Where Your Mouth Is

If anyone is interested, I sold over \$200.00 worth of ads this year to both Libertarian and Democratic political groups. The Republican and Perot supporters did not contact me and express a desire to put anything whatsoever into the *Gazette*. I did not slight them, their supporters simply did nothing to promote their candidates here, no paid ads, no articles. In an effort to solicit views from the Bush supporters to present a balanced dialogue, I made a plea for input and received three letters total for the entire political season. I do know that the GOPC group of Garden Oaks residents spent over \$500.00 to put together their two flyers for the *Gazette*. These residents cared, they organized, they put their money on the line and they gave their time. The *Gazette* has printed every signed article/letter that desired publication. Now lets get together, put the election behind us and move on.

The soon to be Ex-Editor



**Who U  
Need To Know** ☎

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

Anita Scherer, Lame Duck  
4223 Apollo • 956-7809  
Blanche Leonard, Vice President,  
Membership

1015 W. 41st • 680-1027  
Jan Koenig, Treasurer/  
Community Garden  
407 W. 34th • 869-8997

The Donald Howie, Secretary  
680-3420

Scott MacClymonds, The Editor  
729 W. 39th • Don't Call Me Anymore  
FAX: No longer receiving

**Beautification**

Carla Hoyer 699-8171

**Citizens-on-Patrol**

Trish Mehrkam } 683-8461  
HOT LINE } 688-4008

**Garden Club**

Marian Mabry 695-2157

**Gazette Hand Delivery**

John McKenney 692-2447

**Plant Co-op**

Anne of 3 Gables 697-0069

**Programed**

Linda Ross 692-6667

**Recycling**

Tim Pagel 686-4424

**Section 1 Constable Program**

Mike Slaughter 868-4868

**Board of Naughty or Nice**

**Section 1**

David Easterling 862-1661

Brent Batis 861-3209

George Paul 861-0328

**Section 2**

Susan McMillian 695-8245

Dian Austin 691-6505

Anne Balson

President,

James Doyle 694-4134

**Section 3**

David Veselka 692-1384

Bill Hudson 694-1330

James Mabry 695-2157

Architectural Review Chairman,

Herb Kellner 692-2776

**Section 4**

Stan Bohon 680-9631

Richard Broad 957-3076

Tim Pagel 686-4424

**Section 5**

Vee Gaines 686-5042

Ria McElvaney 682-6707

Anita Scherer 956-7809

December Action						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
		1 Civic Club 7:00 pm 24 Days till Christmas	2	3	4	5
6	7 Pearl Harbor Day	8	9	10 Gazette Deadline 7:00 pm Garden Club 6:30 pm	11	12 Recycle Pick-up 8:00 am
13	14	15 Heavy Trash Pick-up	16-17 Santa 7-9 Pocket Park		18 P.I.P. Meeting 7:30 pm	19
20 Hanukkah begins	21	22	23	24	25 Merry Christmas	26 PARTRIDGE FEAR TREE
27 TWO TURTLE DOVES	28 THREE FRENCH HENS	29 FOUR MOCKING BIRDS	30 FIVE GOLDEN RINGS	31 6 GEESE A-LAYING New Year's Eve	1 Happy 1993	2 8 MAIDS A-MILKING
3 9 LADIES WAITING	4 10 LORDS LEAPING	5 11 PIPES PIPING	6 12 DRUMMERS DRUMMING	7	8	9

