

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Suzanne Debien

Hello and welcome to 1994! I hope all of you are as excited as I am about the coming year. I'm honored to be able to serve as civic club president and proud as ever to be a resident of Garden Oaks.

Great things have happened in our neighborhood in the past few years and we have many exciting projects and events planned for 1994. Our committees for Beautification, Citizens on Patrol, Recycling, Plant Co-op, Home Tour and Education Liaison are already organized and making plans for the year. We also have several committees proposed to handle specific projects for one year. These committees are Neighbors Helping Neighbors, Neighbors Network, Neighborhood Traffic and Neighborhood to Standard.

The work of these committees will be beneficial to all of us in "Garden Oaks, Texas," improving our quality of life and helping to maintain our property values. But, as we all know, you don't get something for nothing. The civic club has been a strong vehicle for getting things done, but we need the support of every Garden Oaks resident.

All of us who are volunteers understand that the time we give to the civic club is in addition to all of our other responsibilities to our families, our careers and other civic or professional obligations. We know the value of free time and appreciate any time you can spend helping with civic club activities. Fifteen minutes to a half-hour a week is a sacrifice that would be greatly appreciated! Working with the civic club enriches the neighborhood you call home. I hope I can count on each of you to invest a little time in your community in 1994.

A great way to start, if you're not already an active member of the civic club, is to read this newsletter each month. Be aware of all the good things and the difficult things your neighbors are doing to make Garden Oaks an even better place to live. When you see something that interests you, jump right in! Your contribution will always be welcome. I look forward to working with all of you I already know and meeting a lot of you for the first time as we move ahead with our work this year. Please join me in making 1994 a record year for participation and positive action in the Garden Oaks Civic Club!

JANUARY CIVIC CLUB MEETING

The next meeting of the Garden Oaks Civic Club will be held at 7:00 PM on January 4, at the Garden Oaks Baptist Church, 3206 North Shepherd. **Tom Troesel**, Executive Director of the Greater Heights Chamber of Commerce, will speak about how the Chamber is working to improve and benefit our area. **John Blaff**, of the Heights Civic Association, will inform us of what's going on in the Heights. It will be an interesting and informative evening for you. Refreshments will be provided by Suzanne Debien, Realtors, Inc.

Gazette!

VOLUME 17, No. 1
CIRCULATION 1550
JANUARY, 1994

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Residents,

When my good friend and business associate **Suzanne Debien** first asked me to act as Editor of the *Garden Oaks Gazette* I reluctantly accepted. Although I have been a Garden Oaks resident since 1976, I had never assumed any civic responsibilities for my wonderful neighborhood. Having done many newsletters for other organizations I realized what it takes to accumulate, edit and prepare a publication. I thought how am I going to manage this task along with my other obligations.

After recovering from a state of shock, I began to think about the *Gazette*. I had always read it, enjoyed it and knew that **Janis Spears** and her predecessors were very fine editors who set a high standard for me to achieve. I thought about how I wanted the *Gazette* to represent our neighborhood with interesting news and entertaining features. Soon I had composed a list of articles for our newsletter and called Suzanne to ask for information about residents who might be willing to write articles and/or continuing columns.

Now I have met many fascinating, creative neighbors. I am enjoying being editor because I have never had such great help in creating a newsletter. Pay close attention to the bylines of each article. These writers are your resourceful neighbors who have volunteered to bring you news and entertainment. There will be more continuing and new columns in the coming months. Any comments, questions and help will be greatly appreciated.

Your enthusiastic editor and writers look forward to presenting the *Garden Oaks Gazette* each month in 1994!

-Jude Patronella

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

By Colleen and Ray Housley

It's that time again for "New Year Resolutions." Have you told yourself you would like to attend the Civic Club meetings and voice your opinion on issues, but kept putting it off? Well, here's your chance to take an active role in maintaining the residential character and promoting the civic and social welfare of your neighborhood.

The following are a few examples of the projects that benefit from your participation:

CITIZENS ON PATROL - Active citizens who dedicate their time to walk, ride or run the streets of Garden Oaks to make sure our community is safe from crime.

BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE - Active citizens dedicated to keeping Garden Oaks a beautiful green environment to live in. They keep all the pocket parks mowed, weeded and planted with shrubs and flowers.

RECYCLING - Active citizens who sort recyclable items and deliver the items to recycling plants every first Saturday of each month.

GAZETTE - The creation and delivery of the *Gazette* is purely voluntary, but there is an actual cost in printing.

The projects of the Garden Oaks Civic Club keep our community beautiful, environmentally aware, safe and up to date on Garden Oaks news.

The annual membership fee is \$10 for residents (\$5 for seniors). You may also include additional contributions. Join the Garden Oaks Civic Club during 1994 by making your check payable to the Garden Oaks Civic Club. Clip the membership form on the last page of the *Gazette* and mail your payment to:

Colleen or Ray Housley

Membership

407 W. 34th Street
Houston, Texas 77018

Please include the names of persons in your household, the Garden Oaks section number of your area, telephone number and the number of years you have been a Garden Oaks resident.

Thank you for the following 1994 memberships: **Will and Deanna Zugheri**, one year resident; **Chris and Carol Meyer**, six year resident; **Patsy and Lois Gantt**, 51 year resident.

Make those new year resolutions come true, join the Civic Club TODAY!

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INSIDE GARDEN OAKS

By Shannon L. Nelson, ASID

Having celebrated my first anniversary as a Section One homeowner, I feel compelled to elaborate on what I've learned in restoring our lovely old home. It is my hope that my experiences will help some of you in the beginning stages, ie., "before" period and perhaps amuse those of you enjoying the "after."

Old space heaters and grills will appear "like new" after a cleansing in the dishwasher. Many of you have these set in the bathroom wall tile and must leave them, whether in use or not, in order to preserve the tile. Before replacing the porcelain cover, buy new chrome screws and washers. You will be amazed at the results.

Crown molding can add architectural interest to drab rooms. I discovered a neat trick quite by accident. Our uneven ceiling line made installation very difficult. We dropped the molding 3 to 4 inches from the ceiling line, painted the area above the molding to match the ceiling and "presto" . . . we now have the optical illusion of a coffered ceiling that appears much higher than its 8 foot measurement.

"Icky" tile colors can be integrated by adding a touch of that hue in the kitchen or bath area as wall covering.

Tired tile grout can be restored easily by using a new product called "Grout Colorant" by Aqua Mix. After thorough cleansing, allow tile to dry completely. Follow container directions to merely "re-color" the yellowed, stained grout. This is much less expensive and less risky than re-grouting.

Epoxy products can be used to completely re-color or restore tile or porcelain products, but I do not recommend this process for any surface that will be subject to heavy use. Besides, part of the charm of an old house is preserving as much of its original character as possible.

Doors and cabinets can be given new life by replacing the hinges and other hardware. Often previous owners have painted over the hinges so many times that the doors will hardly open and locksets (door knobs) have been abused in a similar manner. There is a product called "Goop-Off" that will lift paint with amazing ease. In my case, I replaced the hinges, preserved the pretty glass doorknobs and totally gave up on the escutcheons (back-plates). There is a company called Renovator's Supply that has a cornucopia of retro-fit hardware. I also found replacement vintage hardware at the Emporium on Westheimer.

(Inside Garden Oaks is new to the Gazette and addresses the special character of our lovely old neighborhood. Shannon Nelson is a Registered Interior Designer, (Texas #2026). She is a professional member of the American Society of Interior Designers. Please forward any hints or questions regarding interior design or restoration to:

Shannon & Associates, 208 W. 34th Street, Houston, Texas 77018; Telephone, (713) 802-9301, Pager, (713) 285-4287.)

GARDEN CLUB NEWS

By Nan Kittell

As the Garden Club president for 1994, I want to invite all Garden Oaks residents to join us for one, or all of our meetings.

Your gardening may be as expansive as a large lot or as limited as a window herb garden. You may be an absolute novice or a Master Gardener. To every one interested in gardening - Come! Visit! Share!

The January meeting will help solidify our calendar and offers everyone an opportunity for input, so all member are urged to attend. Reminder: Dues will be collected. All Plant Co-op, Beautification, and Community Garden folks are especially encouraged to attend this meeting.

Meetings are held the second Thursday of each month. Occasional special meetings will be announced periodically. Visitors may call me evenings at 956-8600 for more information about the Garden Club.

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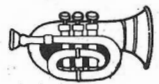
SUNDAY WORSHIP 8:15 & 10:30 am
SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:15 am

Preschool - Mon - Fri 9-2
Mother's Day Out - Wed - Fri 9-2
ages 3 mos. - 5 yrs.
Parent's Nite Out - Fri 6:30-11:30

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Additions
2nd Stories
Renovations

See Our Work At:

- 718 W. 42nd St.
- 729 W. 39th St.
- 705 W. 39th St.
- 818 W. 41st St.
- 855 Azalea
- 839 Lamonte

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**GARDEN NOTES FOR
GARDEN OAKS**

By Misty Jones

I'm very excited to be writing a column for the *Gazette* and look forward to sharing my experience, knowledge and love of gardening with the other residents of our lovely community. As I think about what I shall write, I am reminded that Garden Oaks is home to three other gardening writers with credentials far greater than my own. **Katy Huber**, Garden Editor of the *Houston Chronicle*, has been aiding my horticultural efforts for years. If you have any questions, please continue to direct them to Kathy - or - consult the new Encyclopedia of Gardening, edited by Garden Oaks very own **Elvin McDonald**, Editor in Chief of the American Horticultural Society. Another neighbor, **Bill Mulligan** is currently working on his next book, a pictorial how-to on garden structures. This column will concentrate on monthly tips and information to assist you in caring for your patch of ground in Garden Oaks. So Let's get going get growing . . .

It's January - get those pre-chilled tulip bulbs in the ground by the 15th. You can still plant pansies, calendulas, dianthus, ornamental cabbage, cyclamen and snapdragons for color. Remember to feed and water these winter annuals during their growth period.

Now is the best time to plant, transplant and prune trees and shrubs. Be sure to purchase plants suited to the Gulf Coast Region and get instructions for your specific plants and be sure NOT to transplant or prune winter or spring flowering trees and shrubs. Prune daylilies and liriopie to remove unsightly foliage and promote new spring growth.

Mulch newly planted trees and shrubs to conserve moisture and protect roots from possible freezes. Water plants well before a freeze, except cacti and succulents which prefer dry soil in cold weather, and protect tropicals such as bromeliads and ferns from temperatures below 40 degrees.

January is a good month to prepare those beds for vegetables and roses with soil amendments. Formula for 100 sq. ft.: Turn top soil. Add 2 lbs. sulfur, 10 Bs. super phosphate, 5 lbs. all-purpose fertilizer, 25 lbs. gypsum, 5 lbs. copperas, 1 cu. yd. bedding soil and 1/2 cu. yd. good compost. Mix well and wait 2-4 weeks before planting. Good luck and good gardening!

IN THE BACKYARD

By David Veselka

I think of our backyard as a sanctuary for myself as well as the animals and plants that share our suburban lot. I still remember seeing it for the first time as the Realtor took us out the back door. A thick boxwood hedge framed a gate in an old hurricane fence, and we passed through it into a peaceful green world that seemed positively wild compared to our bricked Montrose courtyard. Standing a few minutes under the tall trees was enough. With all the guile of first time home buyers we asked the Realtor, "how do we buy this place?" Not surprisingly, she knew.

At the time I could not recognize the water oak we stood under, or the red maple, hack berry, or cherry laurel, nor could I have identified more than four or five of the birds that lived in them. Indeed, what I have learned about the natural world since that day seventeen years ago is firmly rooted in the backyard. It gave me screech owls and Mississippi kites, scarlet buckeyes and tropical sage, green tree frogs and walking sticks. It gave me nature in the midst of urban sprawl, and led me far away from home in search of more.

While I think of the backyard as a miniature wildlife refuge, Deborah sees it more as a home for animals. To accompany the bird houses, birdbath, and bird feeders, she has introduced a bird dog (English springer spaniel) who even as a puppy began to look up instead of down, and three cats - bird watchers with ulterior motives. Despite these lovable "varmint," life in the backyard is abundant. We've spotted over eighty species of birds from there, and opossums still trundle through on occasion. I have yet to find a flying squirrel, but gray squirrels are plentiful, teasing the cats and spaniel at every opportunity, and even a tortoise spent two summers under our deck before moving on.

Some wildness remains with us in Garden Oaks. Most of it can be found in the backyard.

The Garden Oaks Gazette
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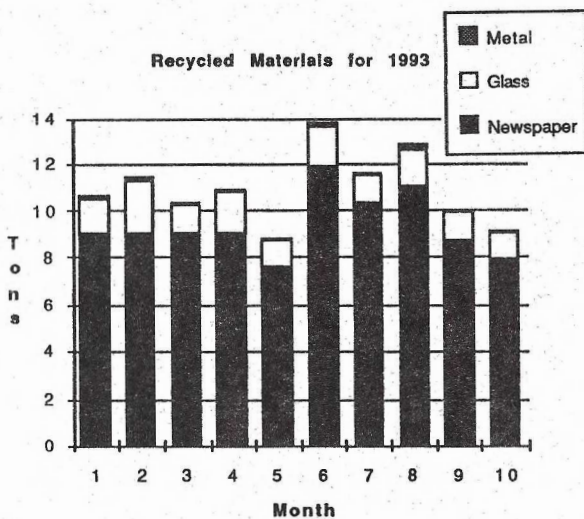
RECYCLE, RECYCLE, RECYCLE

By Kirk B. Dice

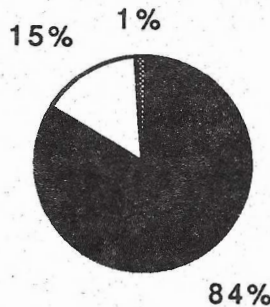
Thank you for dropping off your recyclables last month! It's obvious that Garden Oaks is committed to recycling. The response to the drop-off program was good especially since we didn't do the curb side pick-up. We will divulge just how good when we get the receipts from our recycling vendors next month.

The recycling program is committed first and foremost to recycling as much material as is feasible, thereby reducing landfill, and secondly to increase participation among 'G.O.' residents with the underlying hope of generating some income. In order to give you an idea of your commitment to recycling and what the volunteer effort is doing for 'G.O.', we have compiled some figures. Since we weren't being paid for newspaper from January through April, I averaged those month's newspaper tonnage. For January through October of last year ('93) we recycled over 111 TONS of materials, and that does include the plastics we have recycled since August. That's incredible! For this material we have received over \$1,800, including some receipts from November.

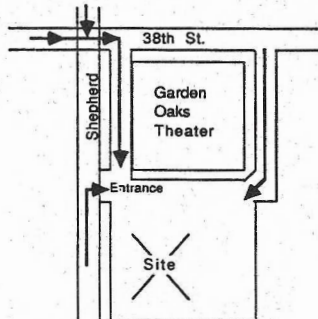
The first graph depicts the tonnage of materials by month, and the pie chart shows you the composition by weight of materials recycled.



Composition of Tonal Materials Recycled by Weight



I hope you'll help in the effort to increase the amount of materials and the participation throughout our neighborhood. Some of the ways to help are by alternating with your neighbor to take the recyclables to the drop-off site, thinking before you throw something in the trash, or applying guilt trips (my favorite). We have set up the drop off site to be very quick. It took no more than a minute or two for us to unload a vehicle and get the people on their way. Here is a map of the site for January '94.



If you can't drop off your recyclables this month and weren't on the pick-up list last month, call any of the following officers to get on the list: **Kirk Dice**, Acting President, 688-2247; **Stan Bohan**, Vice President, 680-9631; **Rusty Day**, Vice President, 699-8417; **Elizabeth Rigby**, Treasurer, 957-1436; or **Richard Lipham**, Secretary, 691-2042.

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SCHOOL DAYS

By Jane Ann Roberts

Garden Oaks is alive with vital educational options. Our very own Garden Oaks Elementary School is working at adding a Montessori program to the "menu." The Montessori proposal has received great reviews from all levels of the HISD administration. It will be presented to the HISD Board on January 20th for approval for the upcoming 1994 - 1995 school year. The "Friends of Montessori" are currently working on fund raising and would appreciate any ideas, helping hands and monetary contributions.

Some dates to put on your calendars for G.O. Elementary are the first and third Monday of each month. This is when the Shared Decision Making Committee meets and it is open to the public. Also, all orders for the terrific Market Day program will be taken the first two weeks of January. You can pick up order forms at the school office.

Other educational options are available to those who live in G.O. A variety of church affiliated and private schools exist as well as Black Middle School, Waltrip High and HCC. This column hopes to reflect all educational news. So you are all invited to call and submit information to me at 861-8512.

Remember the African proverb - "It takes the whole village to educate the child." We all have a great opportunity to make the children of Garden Oaks and the surrounding areas the most educated and best equipped of individuals. We look forward to hearing from you.

PLANT CO-OP

By Anne Kilgore

Garden Oaks contains a bounty of plants that thrive in the yards of residents. We have billions of dollars of plants that have been propagated for 50+ years. Residents can obtain free plants from each other by using our Plant Co-op. There are no dues, meetings, or door prizes to complicate the spread of the green. You must however, possess plants you wish to share with others. Plant Co-op exists to provide a network by which gardener types can exchange species. If you have plants to trade, call 697-0069. Leave a message on the recorder detailing what you have to offer and what you would like to find. Be realistic and be sure to leave your name and telephone number.

NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK

By Warren (Pete) Peterson

This is the first in a series about the movers and shakers who live in our area.

Section One resident, **Craig Lee** is probably most famous to us as the guy who is dismantling his house piece by piece, week by week, and leaving the evidence at curbside, (no, wait . . . we have no curbs and like it that way), for trash pick-up. All kidding aside, Craig has been doing some extensive maintenance and remodeling of the home he shares with his wife, **Sandy** and son, **Christopher**.

A native Houstonian and St. John's High graduate, Craig made the Texas banking circuit via Columbus, Lexington and other whistle stops (no pun intended, but he really does live on the railroad tracks; before bringing his bride back to Houston. Other academic credentials are: BBA, University of Houston and an MBA from the University of Texas.

Currently, Craig manages megabucks with Smith-Graham & Company. His portfolios include the retirement funds of many municipalities and organizations to include The City of Houston, New York City Municipal Waterworks, The City of Los Angeles, Kansas City and their respective Fire Departments.

Craig's hobbies are woodworking, golf, home improvement, spending time with neighbors and a little very bad tennis. A true believer of Garden Oaks as a state of mind, he supports recent measures taken to control traffic and looks forward to future civic activities.

Sandy is a bookkeeping supervisor for Tanglewood Bank and Christopher, a precocious four year old, attends St. Martin's Episcopal Daycare, nearby.

Please forward "leads" about neighbors of interest to Pete Peterson, 208 W. 34th Street, Houston, Texas 77018 or call (713) 802-9302.

Recycle Drop-Off
Garden Oaks
Theater
January 8th
8:00 a.m.

TRAFFIC PROJECT UPDATE

By Jeff McClellan

In the last issue of the *Garden Oaks Gazette* there was an article describing the process for obtaining city approval for street modifications to the Garden Oaks area. The article also outlined the proposed changes to the portion of Garden Oaks east of Shepherd. The following will outline the proposed changes to the parts of Garden Oaks bound by 43rd, Ella, 34th and Shepherd.

The street modifications listed below are for the area of Garden Oaks south of 43rd, east of Ella, north of 34th and west of Shepherd, other areas will be discussed in later articles. The changes proposed are as follows:

Traffic circles at the following intersections:

Golf at Lamonte, Gardenia, W. 42nd, Althea and W. 41st

Alba at Lamonte and W. 42nd.

W. 38th - mid-block between Shepherd and Sue Barnett.

Traffic circles will allow travel in all directions at these intersections as can be done now, but will force drivers to slow down to go around the circles. These circles will require some changes to the intersections themselves to provide enough room for vehicles to pass. At this time we do not have the exact measurements of the proposed circle/intersection changes, although these measurements will be available before a formal request is made to the city for these changes.

Traffic diverter: Alba at W. 41st

This traffic diverter will prevent east/west traffic on W. 41st from crossing Alba. All vehicles will be forced to turn onto Alba. This should also help slow down north/south traffic on Alba.

Exit Only:

Apollo at W. 43rd, W. 39th at Shepherd, W. 41st at Shepherd

These streets will remain two-way streets. The only change is that traffic will not be allowed to enter Garden Oaks at these intersections.

Combination of exit only and traffic diverters:

Lamonte at Sue Barnett and W. 42nd at Sue Barnett.

The net effect of these combinations will be as follows: Southbound traffic on Sue Barnett will be forced to turn right at Lamonte or curve left onto W. 42nd; they will no longer be able to continue south on Sue Barnett. Eastbound traffic on Lamonte will be forced to turn left at Sue Barnett. Northbound traffic on Sue Barnett will be unaffected. Westbound traffic on W. 42nd (from Shepherd) must take the left fork of the 'Y' at the park. Traffic will then be able to continue west on W. 42nd or south of on Sue Barnett.

One final note. Many people have expressed concern that these changes will affect the response time of ambulance, fire and police assistance. One of the restrictions the city has imposed on this process is that all changes must be approved by the police and fire departments before they may be submitted for final approval.

The goal of these changes to return to having quiet neighborhood streets in our front yards as opposed to the busy thoroughfares some of our streets have become.

WEST 34TH STREET NEWS

By Paul Bick

In the December *Gazette*, part of the article about the Neighborhoods Traffic Program mentioned that West 34th Street between Yale and Shepherd is on the City's list of Major Thoroughfares. This list was compiled many years ago, and as with such things, it developed a bureaucratic life of its own. After some phone calls and persistent questions, several city offices and our District A Council Member, **Helen Huey**, were made aware of the inappropriateness of having those two blocks in the Thoroughfare Plan. At the end of November, Garden Oaks Civic Club received a letter from Helen Huey saying that the director of the Planning Development Office had reviewed the situation and agreed that removal of that part of West 34th Street from the plan was "supportable." At the December meeting of the Civic Club, a motion was passed to request that such a change be proposed to City Council, and a letter has been sent to Helen Huey asking her to make the proposal to Council. Exactly when it will take place is not definite, but it should be within the next several months at the longest.

Besides removing the possibility of the city bureaucrats suddenly deciding that 34th Street should be made four lanes wide, it also means that 34th Street can be part of the Neighborhood Traffic Plan for Section One. By the end of the summer of 1994, with a little luck, some planning and a goodly amount of hard work, Section One should see some progress towards limiting cut-through traffic, reducing the speed of the traffic on the streets, and controlling the noise levels along 30th Street (with the effort to get sound walls put up). Stay tuned for further announcements as things develop.

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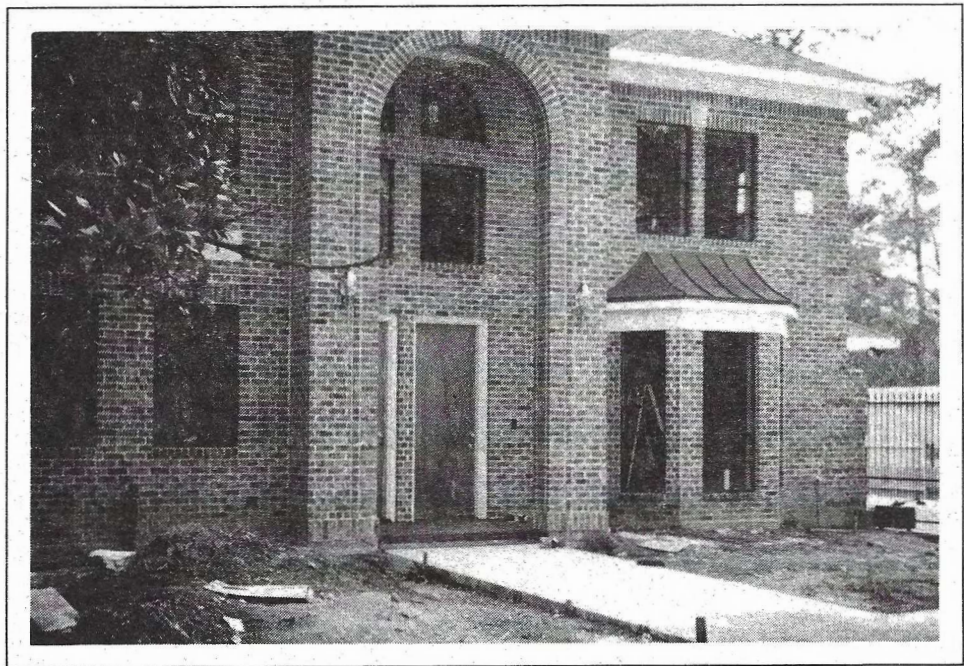
HOUSE OF THE MONTH

**THE NEW HOUSE ON
GARDEN OAKS BOULEVARD**

By Jude Patronella

It's the talk of Garden Oaks! - "Have you seen that mansion they're building on Garden Oaks Boulevard?" - "I hear the owners are moving here from River Oaks!" - "They have a whole bunch of children!" - "Those new owners sure are going to have some powerful light bills!" - etc.

Actually, the new house on the Boulevard is a product of a wonderful family affair. **Elaine Maniha** and her husband **Mike** raised their five children in the Houston Heights. Through the years two of their children migrated into Garden Oaks. **David Maniha**, owner of American Erecting Company, moved to W. 30th Street and **Joyce Maniha**, owner of American Coffee Service and American Automatic Sprinkler, moved to W. 31st Street. **Allan Maniha**, owner of A & M Mechanical Air Conditioning and Heating Company, moved nearby on Fisher Street.



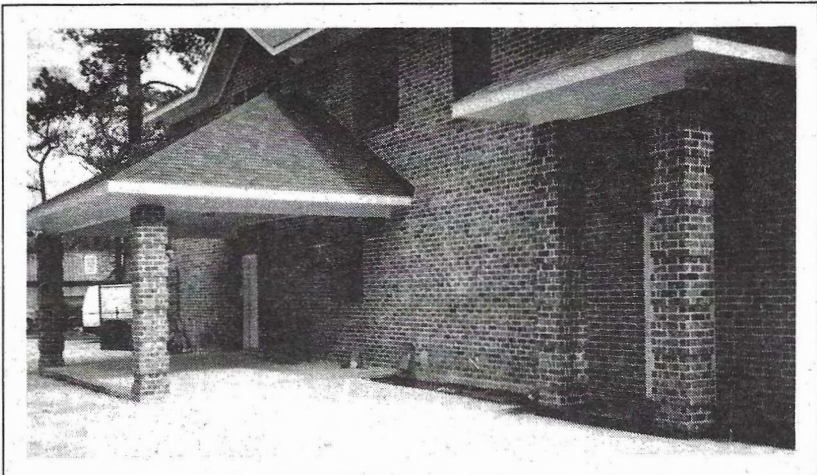
David Maniha, owner of American Erecting Company, moved to W. 30th Street and **Joyce Maniha**, owner of American Coffee Service and American Automatic Sprinkler, moved to W. 31st Street. **Allan Maniha**, owner of A & M Mechanical Air Conditioning and Heating Company, moved nearby on Fisher Street.

As general contractors they joined forces with their brothers **Michael Maniha**, a vice president of Title Agency of Houston, and **Don Paul Maniha**, a supervisor with the State of Texas Highway Department, to build a fabulous new home with state-of-the-art features. Hard work is no stranger to this family and they really put all of their effort into this magnificent production.

This gorgeous two-story home has over 20,000 bricks on the exterior. It has two residences and contains a total of approximately 6,000 square feet.

The interior is accented with marble, tile, plush carpeting, hardwood floors and wood burning fireplaces. Jacuzzi tubs are in the master baths, security is topnotch and the detailed woodworking is excellent. The copper dome over the dining room on the ground floor appropriately crowns the room where the very talented matriarch Elaine Maniha serves her family the finest of foods from her gourmet kitchen. Incidentally, the utilities shouldn't be so powerful - considering the energy efficiency that went into this house.

Note: The surrounding photographs were taken before final completion.



NEIGHBOR SPOTLIGHT—WALDO TOWNLEY

By Jude Patronella

Back in the early days of Gardens Oaks **Waldo Townley** could smell the pine trees and feel the temperature drop three or four degrees as he came through the underpass on Shepherd Drive.

He is the last original settler in the 4300 block of Alba and a very proud Garden Oaks resident. Townley and his late wife **Grace** moved here in 1942 after discovering the subdivision in the real estate section of the newspaper. They rode the bus into their future neighborhood and looked at several houses and slabs that had been poured on new lots facing Sue Barnett Street. Several times on that same visit they came back to look at that special house on Alba. Townley's wife convinced him to buy it and then surprisingly informed him she had already visited the neighborhood and tendered earnest money for it.

The terms of their real estate transaction was to purchase the house for \$3,000 and lease the lot for a few dollars a year. By getting an FHA Title VI Loan with a down payment of \$195 Townley's payments amounted to 99 cents per day. The terms of the lease included an option to purchase the lot for \$750 at any time during its thirteen year period. Townley said this type of loan allowed people a better opportunity to buy a home with affordable payments.

Soon the Townleys and their daughter moved into their new home in Garden Oaks Section Four. It had two bedrooms and one bath and later

expanded to include another bedroom and a den after their son was born. Upon moving into the area Townley discovered Garden Oaks had a very active civic club.

He said it had been well organized by the residents of the first sections of Garden Oaks. He joined the Garden Oaks Civic Club and served on the Board of Trustees for fifteen years, three of which he served as chairman of the Restrictions Committee. When the Civic Club instituted a program in recognition of original

settlers Townley was honored with a lifetime membership in the organization.

Townley worked for forty years as a union construction electrician. He was born and raised in Eagle Lake, Texas where he loved to spend time at the lake. His friends christened him with the nickname of "Poule d'Eau" - a French name which means "fowl of water" and Townley describes as a Louisiana duck. During his residency at Eagle Lake, he wrote sports news articles for the San Antonio Express, the Houston Post and the Houston Press, which was a daily newspaper published over thirty years ago.

Through the years, Townley has been active in a variety of hobbies. He has been a Ham Radio Operator for 58 years. Woodworking and photography are always of interest to him and he spent a number of years working in his spare time as the stage manager for the Theater Suburbia, Theater Four and with producer Marietta Marich at the Houston Theater Center. He has always moved from one hobby to the next and periodically rekindles his interest in past ones. His current hobby is mastering the art of computer technology.

Townley's memories of his first 51 years in Garden Oaks include many visits with good neighbors; a two-lane black topped Shepherd Drive; piles of dirt where Sears and Garden Oaks Center are located; and Heights Golf Course in the vicinity of a street appropriately named Golf Drive and a dirt road that became W. 34th Street. He remembers the early years with his children and his loving wife Grace. She loved the tall Garden Oaks trees whose breeze lowered the temperature as they came through the underpass on Shepherd Drive.



VIDEO

HOLLY'S YEAR

By Anne Balson

With 'The Piano,' 'The Firm' and the saga of our own Cheerleader Mom, the critics proclaimed '93 Holly Hunter's year. Again. If you weren't paying attention in her previous years, these two films from 1987 will show you what all the fuss is about.

Raising Arizona, directed by Joel Coen (PG-13) got a lot of buzz, mainly for Hunter's astonishing cop-gone-wrong performance. (Very different from Jennifer Jason-Leigh's cop-gone-wrong).

This film is basically a kidnap caper with adorable babies, a silly subplot involving John Goodman on a huge Harley, and great, bloodless special effects (the baby and the car shot was about as complicated as parting the Red Sea).

Nicholas Cage is a delight as Hunter's love interest, an aspiring criminal who makes the guys in 'Home Alone' look competent.

This is a slightly skewed, well written, very funny movie that provides a wonderful introduction to Holly Hunter, especially when paired with . . .

Broadcast News, directed by James L. Brooks (R) - Hunter here plays an overachieving girl-next-door turned TV producer with just the right mix of perkiness and obsession (a kind of run-amuck Mary Richards). Hunter and her co-stars Albert Brooks and William Hurt create fully realized characters we believe in, pull for and would like to know. There's an unbilled star turn by Jack Nicholson as a Brokaw-Jennings-Rather composite and a wonderfully engaging performance by Joan Cusack. Broadcast News is well-written, well-directed and well-acted. You'll laugh, you'll cry, you'll think. You'll love Holly Hunter!

Both of these films are available at the Garden Oaks Blockbuster.

BOOK REVIEW

COVER TO COVER

By Louis Patronella

I am not a mystery fiction buff but I am a mystery fiction buff wannabe. As a literary cub I learned that a penchant for mystery novels was an acceptable guilty pleasure indulged in without shame by even the most patrician president, FDR himself. An important part of the ritual dictates that the reader joins force with the

writer and his/her hero/heroine and sets sail through novel after novel of suspense and adventure along with "x" number of recurring characters. You then become one of the coqnescenti aware of the protagonist's taste in booze, clothes, tobacco, and hobbies. Lots of fun here.

Patricia D. Cornwell is one of the most popular mystery writers with each of her books having respectable runs on bestseller lists, first in hardback and again in paperback issue. Her first novel Body of Evidence (not to be confused with the Madonna movie bomb of the same name) introduces Dr. Kay Scarpetta the Chief Medical Examiner of the State of Virginia, an attractive, intelligent, thirty-something workaholic who relaxes by cooking a gourmet Italian meal and enjoying the company of her young niece Lucy, a computer prodigy and her cohort the seen-it-all-twice police detective, Marino. Kay has a lot of angst in her life what with her family, her love relationships, and her job which puts her in jeopardy in each novel.

The books are good reads, especially the workings of forensic medicine by which fibers and feathers become damning evidence. The characters are well drawn and the plots zip along. Postmortem and All That Remains are available in paperback. Cruel and Unusual will be out in paperback soon along with, hopefully, a new hardback.

SPORTS

ON THE ROAD AGAIN

*By Kaye and Steve Parisi
(The Flying "Parisis")*

Well, we had a call from an old friend Jude, who thought the Parisis were qualified fitness experts because we are crazy enough to run Marathons or nutty enough to take on new projects by writing this article each month. Since Steve and I are not specialist in the health field we can at least pass along some pointers and neighborhood information. Many pointers we have learned the hard way.

We would like to get input from you Athletes in Garden Oaks, call us and give us race times, tennis tournament results, little league results, and any other sports relating to our neighborhood. We would also like to do a Profile on someone every few months. We want to make this a type of sports section of the *Gazette*.

We are going to do the Tenneco

Marathon on January 16th and we know at least two other Garden Oaks folks, **Claire Bresnahan** and **Lisa Martin**, who will be at the start. We are sure there are more out there, so please let us know your times along with other races in January.

Kaye and I just finished the New York City Marathon, (26.2 miles). This particular Marathon is really an adventure, as well as an exhilarating experience. We believe there were about 26,600 runners. (Wow! That's a small town.) I am sure those of you who ran it, found it to be FUN (sort of) and a CHALLENGE. I know we did. We have never seen so many people watching a race with so much enthusiasm. There were celebrities, helicopters, policemen, firemen, volunteers, animals, and of course T.V. and Radio personalities, (it was televised).

It was quite an event. The temperature was warm (62 to 70 degrees) with 70% humidity. We found our favorite part of the race (besides the finish line) was going up 1st Avenue. It is a very wide, straight avenue with people (5 to 10 deep) watching and cheering. Also, going through Central Park near the end of the race was a thrill with its hills, beauty and lots of spectators. This was Kaye's eighth Marathon and my second. Kaye's time was 3 hrs. 21 min. Mine was 3 hrs. 53 min.

We want to wish all you runners in Garden Oaks who are running in the Tenneco Marathon in January a lot of luck! DRINK lots of H2O) and if you are not running come and cheer the runners or possibly volunteer in some way with the race. Call Kaye and Steve Paraisi at 880-1985.

MUSIC REVIEW

GARDEN OAKS DISC PICKS

By Warren (Pete) Peterson

Ah . . . Music . . . This is the time of year that I like best, insofar as the record industry is concerned. Nearly every major and independent label, both nationally and internationally have distributed their final record releases for the crazed, climatic holiday shopping blitz. Every record store in this city is jam-packed with promotional posters, mobiles and stand-ups marketing respective releases. Each is competing for floor, window, wall and ceiling space. Combine that with the chaos of the store's own holiday decoration and buyer's confusion can be the result. I'm here to help. Here are a few of my favorites -

Pete's Picks

Rhythm & Blues - The Definitive Otis Reading (four hours of the King of Soul) / Rhino Records

Jazz - Tony Bennett, Steppin' Out / Columbia Records

Rhythm & Blues - Mariha Carey, Both Sides / Atlantic Records

Alternative - Pearl Jam -VS- / Epic Records

Country - Trish Yearwood

Classic Musicals - Barbra Streisand, Back to Broadway / Geffin Records

Folk - Judy Collins Sings Dylan / Geffin Records

Contemporary Jazz - Spyro Gyra, Dreams Beyond Control / GRP Records

Country - George Strait, Easy Come, Easy Go / MCA Records

Rhythm & Blues and Rock - Prince, The Hits from the B-Side / WEA Records

Classical - Grieg, Violin Sonatas / Deutsche Gramophone

SCIENCE FICTION

UNPLUGGED (THE SERIAL)

By Scott MacClymonds P.C.

The year is 2193. The houses in Garden Oaks have not changed much. The RESIDENTS have . . .

Virtual Reality (VR) technology has revolutionized the way humans mature. All residents are "modified" at birth by the successful surgical installation of "The Plug." The Plug has made it possible for parents and others to keep the population controlled more effectively. Parents in the twentieth century considered the television to be an extension of the family. By placing their offspring in front of a television's random images at birth, parents could somewhat depend on the tranquilized state of their offspring to last several hours. VR was a much superior method of control. Children and adults could spend 8-12 hours a day connected to a continuous information stream that feeds experiences directly into their brain. This technology has almost eliminated substance abuse, crime and any behavior considered to be deviant. Most humans stay plugged in, preferring controlled VR experiences to unpredictable real time ones. Residents have become human

appliances, only briefly and reluctantly disconnecting to eat, cleanse and take care of bodily functions.

VR Technology, Inc. was the first company to introduce VR as the ultimate nanny. Human baby-sitters were undesired and became an anachronism of the past. Parents could do what they wanted and live their lives in a series of complex electronic adventures just like their children. The world was a peaceful one as a result of the "VRNOW" movement. Government/multi-national corporations of North and South America, boosted by the successful passage of NAFTA and GATT trade accords, subsidized and spread VR technology to control the rampant violence, illegal drug use and incorrect morality that threatened to de-stabilize commercial civilization.

Everyone is plugged in. Everyone is happy. Everyone. Except for Alo and the aliens. Alo didn't move as the vid cruiser hovered nearby. The evening sun cut through the dust to illuminate the tower on the ruined old movie theater where Alo hid from the Plug Police. Kneeling down behind the broken neon tubes to avoid the last Patrol, only his pupils moving. Alo watched as the wave of surveillance robots cruised the street. He knew they were searching for him.

To be continued . . .

CATO AND COMPANY

A DINING EXTRAVAGANZA

By Chris Cato

By Popular Demand! . . . Cato and Company is back! . . . After two years of collecting dust in the editor's closet, Jude has rescued us and taken the lid off the lamp. So, let's party! For those of you who can't remember the concept, a band of "Garden Oaksians" invade the restaurant of my choice and eat everything on the menu. An article, featuring the freshly pillaged eating establishment appears shortly thereafter in the Garden Oaks *Gazette*. Now, somewhere in between the eating everything part and the complimentary dosage of Tum Ex, something wonderful happens. I think it happens whenever people of good will gather together around a table to share food and drink. It's where friendships are made, community is strengthened, and where new folks, perhaps feeling a little less new, realize they've discovered a

place to settle down.

It's first come, first serve, the company is limited to 16. (If more than 16 call, they will be placed first on the next month's list.) The cost is \$10 a head, the date is January 14. The restaurant . . . is a secret, and you can reach me, **Chris Cato** or my wife **Cheryl**, at 864-7864. See you there!

THE FURTHER ADVENTURES OF THE GARDEN OAKS THEATER

By Scott MacClymonds

The Garden Oaks Theater (G.O.T.) is truly THE icon for this neighborhood. The neon Deco tower on the 40's movie theater proclaims our neighborhood's name in a partially operating (thanks to vandalism, old age, weather and unaffordable expensive repairs for a dollar movie house) neon display that still ranks as one of Houston's best neon light shows. The G.O.T. is one of only two remaining vintage theaters still operation as movie houses. This historic Northside Beauty struggles along these days as a dollar theater offering features that have recently played the large chains.

Our marriage unit revisited Spielberg's movie "Jurassic Park" the other evening at the G.O.T. after having seen this movie at the Festival Six when first released. As the unrelenting and Hungry T-Rex bellowed and chased the characters, the diminutive sound system and smallish screen typical of most contemporary movie houses caused my imagination to dissociate, releasing my inner eyes to view the action on the big screen, killer sound system and off-beat ambiance of the G.O.T. Afterwards, I walked out of the theater whistling the Rolling Stones song, "Satisfaction." (I can't get no! Satisfaction! I can't get me no. No reaction! But I try and I try and I try and I try!)

Anyway, after Jurassic had played out at the chains and the G.O.T. obtained the movie I was anxious to test my imagination. I can report the huge speakers delivered the Screams of the Dinosaur with satisfyingly larger adrenaline releases than when first experienced.

There have been some recent changes over at the G.O.T. The owner, **Al Zarzana**, has leased the business for five years. The new management was unavailable at press time for an interview.

FIGHTING CRIME

By Bill Chastain

We are starting a new year and as in other years we need volunteers for patrolling and base stations. Our statistics show how our neighborhood vigilance has decreased crime. However, we cannot rest on our laurels or the fallacy that "crime is down so we don't need patrols." It's the patrols that brought the crime rate down in Garden Oaks.

Out of 80 vehicles stolen from residents from April, 1990 to October, 1993, only eight were stolen within the first ten months of 1993. The reduction in crime did not happen because the crooks got tired. They go elsewhere if they know they are being watched. But crooks will return if they find out the patrollers got tired of driving around. Consider the expense and inconvenience those 80 stolen vehicles caused the owners. It would be a lot cheaper to patrol the streets. It doesn't boil down to if so many hours are patrolled there will be only "X" number of crimes committed. The "heat" of constant patrol burns out the criminals.

Don't be a person who is capable of patrolling, but chooses not to by thinking an act of violence won't happen to you. One statistic I have heard is five out of six people will have some sort of crime committed to them in their lifetime. Some more than once. Take an hour or more a week and drive the neighborhood to protect yourself and your neighbor. Crime prevention is not as costly as crime. Spend a little time and gas to PROTECT your neighborhood.

I would like to thank all of the devoted people who helped protect our community this past year. Without their help residents would have had more problems. There are bigger and better plans for C.O.P. in 1994. We currently have four patrollers in area 1 and 13 in areas 2 through 5, with a total of 6 base stations to back them up. This gives us a total of 82 hours of protection a month, which averages to approximately 2 1/2 hours a day.

In addition to volunteers for driving and base stations we need volunteers for Block Captains. One captain and one co-captain is needed for every twelve houses. As of this writing we have 30 in Section One, 15 in Section Two, 19 in Section Three and 36 in Section Four and Five. More are needed, call me at 681-5151 to volunteer.



Bob Lanier, Mayor

November 19, 1993

Dear Neighborhoods to Standard Residents:

The City of Houston needs your help to make our neighborhoods safer and cleaner. Timely response to calls for assistance from our police and fire departments is dependent on accurate and visible building numbers. Fast action on complaints to Neighborhood Protection and other City departments to remedy neighborhood problems also depends on accurate and visible street numbers.

As part of your neighborhood's commitment to the Neighborhoods to Standard program, I am asking each neighborhood to begin a project to ensure all buildings, particularly residences, are properly identified with street address numbers. A copy of the ordinance requirements has been sent to the president of your association. Please start with your own home. Some of your neighbors may need assistance. See if you can help those who need help.

Thank you for continuing the revitalization of our neighborhoods.

Sincerely,

Bob Lanier
Mayor

WALL TO WALL

By David Horsley

Dear Wall to Wall: My husband has been asking for one of those gas-powered edgers for several months now. Could you tell me about the various features and things to look for? - Edgy

Dear Edgy: The main thing to look for is a big-name brand. There are some off brands which might cost less, but my experience with string edgers suggests you would be better off with a giant corporation - one with holdings in many countries - backing up your purchase.

Gas edgers are fairly simple devices in theory, but like parachutes or birth control, must work perfectly every time in order to be of value.

Features-wise, first you've got your engine. It's a two-cycle engine, which means you have to mix special oil with the gas. You'll need a special gas can and special oil, so as not to get it confused with your regular lawn mower gas.

Some people are snake-bit when it comes to small engines. They can be tricky to start, especially during cold weather, which shouldn't be a problem since nobody needs an edger in cold weather. If your hubby is mechanically minded and relates well to small engines, he'll do fine with a string edger.

Next, you've got a drive shaft. The two choices here are straight and curved. From what I can tell, neither is better than the other.

Maybe the curved shafts would present an advantage for edging around the corners of buildings and such where you couldn't actually see what you are doing. This is not recommended.

Most people turn their edgers so that the plane created by the whirling string is at an angle to the grass being edged. This is easily done with either straight shaft or curved.

Finally, you've got your string head assemble, a big spool of heavy nylon string. This part is the subject of some controversy.

As the string whirls around, clipping off grass and weeds, it tends to get frayed and broken. More string can be fed out to replace the broken part. But how best to feed out more line, without killing the engine and pulling out string by hand?

Two choices here: bump feed or auto feed. With bump feed, you merely tap the bottom of the string head on a hard surface with the engine running, and a few inches of string are advanced and trimmed to length automatically.

With auto feed, the edger somehow "knows" when the string needs advancing, and supposedly feeds you a little more. I confess I don't understand how this method works, but based on my experience it wouldn't surprise me to learn that witchcraft was involved. I have learned to steer clear of auto feed edgers, but many people seem to like them just fine.

Of course, those same people can be seen sacrificing chickens before using their edgers.

(Editor's Note: David Horsley is a former resident of Garden Oaks who moved to Amarillo. He is presently writing "Wall To Wall" for the Amarillo Daily News. Many of you will remember the "Critter Corner" column he wrote for the Gazette. I would like to re-publish some of those columns but have been unable to relocate them. If you have any old issues with the "Critter Corner," please contact me at 695-0608.)

NEW NEIGHBORS

Here is a list Suzanne Debien, Realtors compiled of the houses that brought "Garden Oaks, Texas" new neighbors in 1993. This information is derived from the Houston Association of Realtors Multiple Listing Service and does not include private transactions.

717 W. 39th
 959 Gardenia
 934 W. 42nd
 950 Althea
 942 W. 41st
 919 Lamonte
 951 W. 43rd
 938 W. 42nd
 1515 Sue Barnett
 923 W. 42nd
 983 Althea
 842 W. 43rd
 822 Judiway
 810 W. 43rd
 805 W. 34th
 966 W. 42nd
 1035 W. 43rd
 503 Del Norte
 415 W. 30th
 750 Sue Barnett
 918 W. 42nd
 208 W. 33rd
 966 W. 42nd
 943 W. 42nd
 1043 W. 41st
 935 W. 42nd
 1047 Gardenia
 315 W. 33rd
 536 W. 32nd
 851 Azalea
 1434 Sue Barnett
 703 Sleepyvale
 809 W. 31st
 1062 Lamonte
 704 W. 31st
 4252 Apollo
 878 W. 42nd
 1414 Sue Barnett
 1026 Althea
 927 Lamonte
 1514 Sue Barnett
 914 Lamonte
 979 Gardenia
 907 Lamonte

702 W. 32nd
 918 W. 42nd
 986 Althea
 3305 Lawrence
 721 Garden Oaks Boulevard
 729 W. 41st
 1331 Sue Barnett
 424 W. 31st
 530 Azaleadell
 224 W. 33rd
 1315 Sue Barnett
 1055 Althea
 714 Sue Barnett
 307 W. 33rd
 748 W. 42nd
 858 W. 41st
 508 W. 34th
 1006 Sue Barnett
 863 Lamonte
 1546 Sue Barnett
 813 W. 31st
 4227 Apollo
 1030 Althea
 1535 Sue Barnett
 714 W. 43rd
 523 W. 32nd
 411 W. 31st
 231 W. 33rd
 236 W. 33rd
 235 W. 33rd
 407 W. 34th
 850 W. 42nd
 419 W. 34th
 227 W. 33rd
 408 W. 31st
 1466 Sue Barnett
 810 W. 30th
 519 W. 33rd
 1570 Sue Barnett
 855 W. 43rd
 710 W. 42nd
 327 W. 31st
 818 W. 32nd
 1403 Sue Barnett

Gazette Ad Rates

\$40 per month -
 \$200 for 6 months
 \$385 for 1 year
 Flyers are \$75.00

**Deadline for
 February Gazette
 is January 10th**

**Who You Need To Know
Garden Oaks Civic Club**

P.O. Box 92155,
Houston, 77206

Suzanne Debien, President
303 W. 34th • 861-5040

Ray & Colleen Housley,
V.P. Membership
407 W. 34th • 863-7316

Sheila Briones, Secretary
311 W. 31st • 802-9994

Ed de Alba, Treasurer
730 W. 39th • 695-0605

Jude Patronella, Gazette Editor
813 W. 32nd • 861-6221

Beautification

Carla Hoyer 699-8171

Citizens-on-Patrol

Bill & Jinny Chastain 681-5151

Garden Club

Nan Kittell

Gazette Hand Delivery

John McKenney 692-2447

Plant Co-op

Anne Kilgore 697-0069

Neighbors Network

Warren Peterson 802-9302

Recycling

Kirk Dice 688-2247

Neighborhood Traffic

Marc Roberts 861-8512

Neighborhood to Standard

Rich & Rebecca Stark 691-1067

Hospitality & Refreshments

Terry Jeanes 680-8550

Education Liason

Jane Ann Roberts 861-8512

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January Calendar						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
						1 Happy New Year
2	3	4 Civic Club 7:00 pm	5	6	7	8 Recycle Drop-off 8:00 am
9	10 Gazette Deadline 7:00 pm	11	12	13 Garden Club Meeting	14	15 City Drop-Off Recycling
16	17	18 Heavy Trash Pick-up	19	20	21	22
23 30	24 31	25	26	27	28	29

GARDEN OAKS CIVIC CLUB MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Children/Birthdates: _____

Years lived in Garden Oaks: _____

Phone: _____

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES:

- \$10 Family Membership
- \$5 Senior Citizens (Garden Oaks Roots)
- \$25 Business Membership

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

GARDEN OAKS CIVIC CLUB

MAIL TO:

Colleen or Ray Housley - Membership
407 W. 34th Street
Houston, Texas 77018