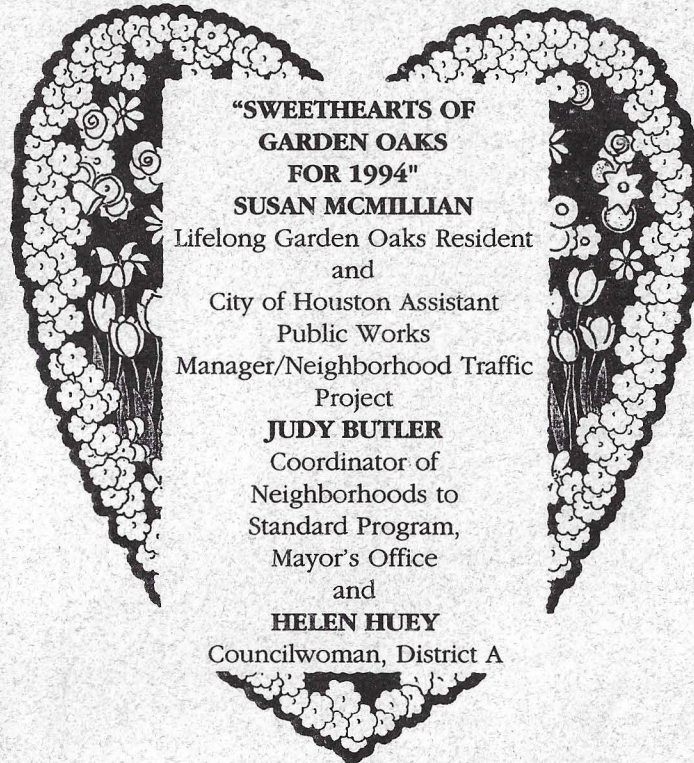


FEBRUARY CIVIC CLUB MEETING

The next meeting of the Garden Oaks Civic Club will be held at 7:00 pm on **Tuesday, February 1, Garden Oaks Baptist Church, 3206 North Shepherd.** We will have much on our evening's program including a special presentation of:



We will also present our first committee reports for 1994 and the 1994 Budget, which will be voted on in March. Please plan to attend this meeting and celebration of three women whose efforts in the past and continued work on behalf of Garden Oaks benefits us all! Refreshments will be provided by Suzanne Debien, Realtors, Inc.

GARDEN OAKS ELEMENTARY KINDER AND PRE-K ROUNDUP

It's time to ROUND UP all our little ones for school next year! If you have a child who will turn 3, 4, or 5 before September 1, 1994, join us on Wednesday, February 16, at 7:00 pm at Garden Oaks Elementary for an important meeting. Parents who are interested in our Gifted/Talented Program (kindergarten only) or in our Montessori Program (for ages 3 - 7) will receive information about important deadlines for enrollment. These two programs will fill up quickly and require that you apply by the deadline dates. Come join us to find out about all our programs and to meet the principal and teachers who will work with your child next school year.

ATTENTION ALL PARENTS OF 3-7 YEAR OLD CHILDREN

The Montessori Pilot Program at Garden Oaks has been approved by the HISD School Board. The program will begin in the fall of 1994.

There will be an informational meeting immediately following the Pre-K & Kindergarten Round-up on registration procedures for this program. All interested parents please make plans to attend this meeting on February 16 at 8:00 p.m.

Gazette!

**VOLUME 17, No. 2
CIRCULATION 1550
FEBRUARY, 1994**

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FROM THE EDITOR . . .

There has been much positive feedback on the January issue of the *Gazette*. This February issue brings more bylines of your resourceful neighbors. Our editorial staff is growing and providing more news and features.

Please notice the advertisements while reading the *Gazette*. Our 1994 goal is to increase our revenue by selling space to more advertisers. **Carol Meyer**, a Farmers Insurance agent, and **Linda Landry**, a real estate broker associated with Suzanne Debien, Realtors, have joined the *Gazette* to work as advertising directors. Both are professional and proficient in marketing sales. Carol can be contacted at 681-2746 and Linda at 861-5040. They have already brought some new ads to this issue.

Residents of Garden Oaks can help us increase our revenue by supporting *Gazette* advertisers. If you do business with a store, restaurant, or company that you think will benefit from advertising in the *Gazette*, call Carol or Linda and give them the information. Also, please let our advertisers know you saw their ad in the newsletter. This will encourage them to continue advertising with us. Support our local businesses. By helping each other, we can all benefit.

- **Jude Patronella**

Gazette Ad Rates

\$40 per month

\$200 for 6 months

\$385 for 1 year

Flyers are \$75

Advertising Directors

Linda Landry, 861-5040

Carol Meyer, 681-2746

**Deadline for
March *Gazette*
is February 10**

All writers who are contributing articles - please furnish a hard copy and if possible, a 3 1/2 inch disk. Preferred software is Microsoft Word 5.0 - please submit anything else as ASCII Text.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Suzanne Debien

January has been a great month for the Garden Oaks Civic Club. The turnout for our first civic club meeting was excellent - we packed the room! It was really exciting for me and all the volunteers who have already committed to working on projects this year to see so many neighbors come out to show their support for the civic club's efforts. What a way to start 1994!

I want to encourage you to keep our enthusiasm level high, so jump right in and participate in the work for the year. To help you get an idea of what each committee does for "Garden Oaks, Texas," I'll spotlight a different committee each month and tell you a little bit about their responsibilities. This month we focus on the Recycling Committee. I wanted to start with this committee because what it does is very important, not only to Garden Oaks but to the future of our entire planet. It's also the easiest committee for you to support, just by taking a few



Suzanne Debien presents a plaque of appreciation to 1993 Civic Club president Paul Bick.



*Janis Spears is also presented a plaque of appreciation for her efforts as Editor of the *Gazette* in 1993.*

minutes to collect and turn in your recyclables. Once a month, the Recycling Committee members gather to sort the neighborhood's recyclables and turn our trash into cash. The more we collect, the more money we'll have for printing the *Gazette* on recycled paper, beautification and other projects that make Garden Oaks a wonderful place to live.

The next time you talk to a neighbor who is on the Recycling Committee or any Civic Club committee, thank him or her for making such a valuable contribution to the community. It's never too late for you to join in on the action. While you'll definitely get some work done, you'll also have a lot of fun getting to know your neighbors. When the year is over, all the committee members will celebrate their achievements at a year-end party.

Whether you volunteer for a committee or not, we want and need your input at our monthly Civic Club meetings. We have a fun meeting planned for February, with goodies to eat and door prizes to win. In celebration of Valentine's Day, we'll honor three "Sweethearts of Garden Oaks" for their dedication to improving the quality of life in Garden Oaks.

So come out to the meeting and bring a neighbor. As always, we'll have baby-sitting available at the meeting. I look forward to seeing you!

Garden Oaks Civic Club Association — Minutes of Meeting

Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., January 4, 1994 – Garden Oaks Baptist Church

Officers in attendance:

Suzanne Debien, President
Colleen Housley, Vice President, Membership
Sheila Briones, Secretary
Ed de Alba, Treasurer

Committee Chairs:

Carla Hoyer, Beautification
Jane Ann Roberts, Education Liaison
Bill Chastain, COP
Anne Kilgore, Plant Co-op
Marc Roberts, Neighborhood Traffic
Rich & Rebecca Stark, NTS
Deborah Cartwright, Programs
Terry Jeanes, Hospitality & Refreshment

Meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m. by President Suzanne Debien.

1) 1993 Civic Club Officers

Suzanne presented plaques to outgoing President, Paul Bick and Janice Spears, outgoing *Gazette* Editor. Suzanne also thanked Don Howie, 1993 Secretary and Jan Koenig, Treasurer.

2) 1994 Civic Club Officers

Suzanne introduced the following officers: Colleen Housley, Vice President of Membership (husband Ray is home ill with the flu); Ed de Alba, Treasurer; and Sheila Briones, Secretary.

3) Overview for 1994

Suzanne presented an overview of the coming year's programs which include:

- a) Beautification Project
- b) Montessori Project
- c) Swim Party
- d) October Home Tour
- e) Neighborhoods to Standards
- f) Traffic

4) Current committees

Suzanne introduced the following committee chairs, who have met twice already:

- *Carla Hoyer, Beautification
- * Bill Chastain, Citizens on Patrol
- * Jude Patronella, *Gazette* Editor, next deadline date is Monday, January 10.
- *John McKenney, *Gazette* Hand Delivery, who needs volunteers to deliver the *Gazette* on the 900 block of 41st, and the 200 block of 30th.
- *Debra Cartwright,
- *Kirk Dice, Recycling
- *Anne Kilgore, Plant Co-op
- *Shannon Nelson, Home Tour
- *Terry Jeanes, Hospitality & Refreshments
- *Jane Ann Roberts, Education Liaison ,
- *Nan Kittell, Garden Club
- *Warren Peterson, Neighbors Network
- *Marc Roberts, Neighborhood Traffic
- *Rich & Rebecca Stark, Neighborhoods to Standards

5) Vote in new committees

Paul Bick moved to establish the Neighborhoods to Standards committee. Seconded by Jane Ann Roberts. Approved by acclamation. Constable Mathias of Section 1 was also introduced. Mathias also introduced his assistants.

6) Guest Speakers

Debbie Cartwright, Program Chair, introduced the night's special guests. Tom Troegel, Executive Director of the Greater Heights Chamber of Commerce and John Blass, Board of Directors, Heights Civic Club.

Tom gave an overview of the Chamber's priorities:

- 1) work with Heights Civic Association to reduce crime and
- 2) act as a broker to jump start other civic associations. A community trade fair is scheduled for Feb. 19 at Northwest Mall and Tom offered Garden Oaks a booth. John spoke on the Civic Club's goals: 1) crisis management 2) short term goals and 3) long term goals.

7) Announcements - End of Meeting

Suzanne announced that baby-sitting was available for \$1 per child. Please pay Ed de Alba, treasurer.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

PROPOSED GARDEN OAKS CIVIC CLUB BUDGET - 1994

Committee	Estimated Expenses	Estimated Revenues
G.O.C.O.P.	\$ 1,700.00	
Membership	1,300.00	\$ 6,350.00
Recycling	700.00	1,300.00
Neighborhoods to Standards	1,200.00	
G.O. Area School Donations	300.00	
Beautification	3,500.00	
<i>Gazette</i>	8,000.00	3,000.00
Home Tour	700.00	6,000.00
Garage Sale	250.00	1,500.00
Miscellaneous	500.00	
Totals	\$18,150.00	\$1,8150.00



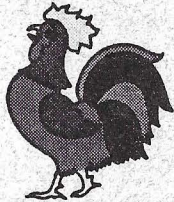
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GARDEN OAKS BEAT

By Kiki & Bunny (They Stoop To Anything)

Coffee at Kiki's Garden Oaks Home:

"Kiki, guess what? **Thelma Elizalde**, the bankruptcy attorney and cultural diversity guru on W. 31st, just got appointed by Governor Ann Richards to the Texas Real Estate Commission. The next time you see Thelma call her the 'Commish' and congratulate her!"

"Bunny, have you seen **Marc and Chris Roberts** lately? They sure had a lot of fun skiing in Utah over the Christmas holidays. By the way, **John and Linda Ross** bought a new camper trailer. Linda says she now has another kitchen, only this one is on wheels. They are going to have a lot of fun camping this summer. Do you think we can weasel a camping trip with them? I hear Linda's a real good cook."

"Kiki, this "Kiss Me Quick Cake" is delicious. Didn't **Sheila Briones and Rebecca Stark** give you the recipe?"

"They sure did, Bunny! This is the fourth one I have made in the past two weeks. I'm going to give those two a recipe that will add a few pounds to them, too. When are we going to start exercising again?"

"Oh Kiki, what's the use? There's always something sweet to tempt us. We sure are going to have a lot of cookies to serve with our Taster's Choice coffee. **THE COOKIES ARE COMING! THE COOKIES ARE COMING!** The girl scouts and brownies will be delivering those delectable cookies we ordered in January. Oh, did you hear **Heather Barr and Patrick King** had a boy in December. His name is **Nathan**. I always liked that name."

"So have I. Oh Bunny, speaking of babies, **Rea and Rick McElvaney** had a girl in December, also. Her name is **Tess**. And **Kerri and Rob Epstein** had a girl in November. They named her **Ashland**."

"How about that, Kiki! We've got three new little Garden Oaks residents. Let's celebrate and have another slice of cake." (Send tidbits to Kiki & Bunny in care of Sheila Briones, 311 W. 31st, Houston, Texas 77018 or call her at 802-9994)

CAN WE COOK?

KISS ME QUICK CAKE

Presented by Sheila Briones & Rebecca Stark

INGREDIENTS:

6 oz can orange juice (thawed)
2 cups flour
1 cup sugar
1 tsp. baking soda
1 tsp. salt
1/2 cup margarine
1/2 cup whole milk
2 eggs
1 cup raisins
1/3 cup chopped walnuts

TO PREPARE:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Mix all ingredients together in a blender with 1/2 cup of orange juice. Blend at low speed for 30 seconds, then at medium speed for 3 minutes. Pour into 9" x 13" pan & bake for 40-45 minutes. Drizzle the remaining orange juice over the hot cake. Top with icing or merely dust with confectioner's sugar.

(Sheila is a newcomer to Garden Oaks, having lived on W. 31st since January, 1993. Rebecca and her husband, Rich, own a home on W. 42nd and have lived in Garden Oaks since 1981.)

SCHOOL DAYS

By Jane Ann Roberts

It is the intent of this column to express news from all the schools that service Garden Oaks. So, all of you who have children at St. Matthew's, St. Rose, Garden Oaks Baptist, Garden Oaks Elementary, Black Middle School, Lutheran High, Waltrip High, HCC Waltrip Campus or any other schools in this area can contact me at 861-8512. I look forward to hearing from my neighbors as to what your little "Johnnies" and "Janies" are doing in their school.

Garden Oaks Elementary got off to a smooth new year after a much needed break and despite a flu outbreak affecting a high percentage of the students. Adult judges are needed for the school's Science Fair scheduled for the week of March 28. If you can help, please call the school.

(Jane Ann Roberts and her husband Marc have been residents of Garden Oaks for over five years. Jane Ann's interest in education stems from being the mother of two sons, age 5 and 2 1/2. She is a high school teacher of Biology and Mathematics and is also the daughter of a teacher. Jane Ann is currently a homemaker who is actively busy in our neighborhood, her church and in being a mom.)

GARDEN NOTES FOR GARDEN OAKS

By Misty Jones

FEBRUARY . . . the sound of the word fills me with anticipation of Spring. Oh, I know that freezes are still possible and even snow (remember '58 and '60?), but February means March is just around the corner. Oh, I know it can still freeze in March (remember '93?), but it usually doesn't. So let's get going and get growing. . .

Early February is a good time to plant Camellias. Although our gulf coast climate is not ideal for these beauties, they will do well if their basic needs are met. Don't dig too deep, but loosen the top soil and build up the area with prepared soil to insure good drainage. Be sure to add sulphur, as camellias require a light acid soil. Of the two most common varieties, *C. japonica* requires full shade in summer, protection from harsh winter weather, and provides lovely cut flowers. *C. sasanqua* has more rapid growth but smaller flowers not good for cutting, is more cold hardy and can take partial or filtered sun. Spray for petal blight and remove and discard spent blooms.

Plant new roses (I know those beds are prepared as per instructions in my January column) and prune the old. DO NOT fertilize new plants until after first bloom. Prune existing roses by mid-month and begin feeding with organics like composted manure or fish emulsion. Treat both with fungicide and insecticide. Remove and discard faded blooms and don't put trimmings in the mulch pile. The hottest roses right now are antiques. The February issues of both Better Homes and Gardens and Sunset magazines have articles on old-fashioned varieties. If you're interested, a visit to the Antique Rose Emporium in Independence (near Brenham) is well worth the trip.

It's time to plant the following bulbs: amaryllis, cannas, gladiolas, daylilies, dahlias, and tuberose. When planting bulbs, stir bone meal into the soil. When your glads are about six inches, plant more, and continue to do so to have an extra long blooming season. Divide and transplant daylilies and perennials this month. And, if you're wondering when to plant all those wonderful seeds you collected last year, check the backs of the seed packages at your favorite garden shop. While you're there, get herb seeds

for planting now - rosemary, dill, parsley, thyme, and sage (wait for warmer weather for basil). Set out cool weather vegetables and sow seeds for summer varieties in flats.

Last, but not least (I know it's a lot to ask), fertilize the lawn. After all, it's almost Spring!

PLANT CO-OP

By Anne Kilgore

If you have an abundance of certain species of plants and would like to trade some of your surplus plants for others or simply have too much of something and would like to share, call 697-0069 and express yourself to Plant Co-op's recorder. Plant Co-op is organizing who has what/when/where now! Because plants are plants, species become available throughout the seasons. Joining the Plant Co-op is easy as all residents are automatic members. Plant Co-op conducts no meetings, collects no dues, and can SAVE YQU MONEY! Here are some of the plants available in the spring.

Daylilies

Daffodils

Mexican Heather

Ornamental peppers

Pink Polkadot plants

Ruellia (tall & ground cover)

Wedelia

English ivy

Plumbago

Sedums

Rose-of-Sharon

Kalanchoe

Japanese Hydrangea

GARDEN OAKS SECTION ONE CONSTABLE PATROL

It's time to start thinking about our next Constable Patrol contract for 1994-95. If you are interested in being a block captain (which takes just a few hours during our collection phase) please call **Denise Epstein** at 869-0128. Also, if the \$180.00 fee is hard to pay all at once, you might start putting back a little each month. If you saved just \$20.00 each month beginning now, you would only owe \$100.00 in June, when the new contract is due. To keep this great program we need your participation!

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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.

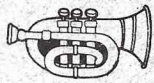
Parent's Nite Out - Fri 6:30-11:30

Senior Adult Exercise

Mon, Tues, Thur - 4:15-5:00

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Pastors: Don Goodwin, Don Raschke



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PUBLIC MEETINGS TO SPOTLIGHT PROPOSED NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PLANS

By Marc Roberts

You may have heard about it, you may have read about it in the *Gazette*, now come and see it. Announcing public meetings to present proposed plans for traffic management in Garden Oaks. Two meeting dates are scheduled and all Garden Oaks residents are invited:
Saturday, February 5 -

9:00 am - Section One between Shepherd and Yale and Section One west of Shepherd.

10:30 am - Sections bounded by 43rd, Ella, 34th, and Shepherd and Section north of 43rd.

Wednesday, February 9 - (make-up session)

7:00 pm - Section one between Shepherd and Yale and Section One west of Shepherd.

8:00 pm - Sections bounded by 43rd, Ella, 34th, and Shepherd and Section north of 43rd.

The meetings will take place at **St. Matthew's United Methodist Church** located at 4300 North Shepherd. This is your opportunity to review and comment on the details of the proposed plans. The plans have not been finalized and your comments are welcome.

The proposed plans are being prepared by Sunland Engineering, the traffic consultants assigned by the City of Houston, together with input from the residents of Garden Oaks. Proposed plans have been prepared for each of the four major thoroughfare areas making up Garden Oaks: Section One between Shepherd and Yale, Section One west of Shepherd, Section north of 43rd, and sections bounded by 43rd, Ella, 34th, and Shepherd.

The goal of the proposed plans is to effectively manage through-traffic in Garden Oaks by making physical changes on Garden Oaks neighborhood streets which alter traffic circulation routes and/or reduce speeding without preventing public and emergency vehicle access to Garden Oaks or diverting traffic through another neighborhood. Accordingly, the proposed plans go beyond the mere installation of traffic signs.

Details of some of the proposed plans have been published in previous issues

of the *Gazette*. If you have any questions or comments, or if you would like to have a copy of the proposed plans for your area, please contact one of your Garden Oaks neighbors as follows:

Section One between Shepherd and Yale: **Shannon Nelson**, 802-9301; **Marc Roberts**, 861-8512; and **Ann Spiering**, 862-6138.

Section One west of Shepherd: **Marcia Rawnsley**, 869-3878; **Rosa Swartwout**, 862-1302; and **Rod Walker**, 868-2469.

Sections bounded by 43rd, Ella, 34th, and Shepherd: **Rosana Hagman**, 694-8248 (after 6:00 pm only); and **Jeff McClellan**, 691-7422.

Section north of 43rd: **Dennis Alexander** 682-5592

Finally, I want to acknowledge the extensive time and commitment **Paul Bick** has made to this project to date. Paul recently indicated that he will be scaling back his efforts on the project because of other time commitments. We will miss his involvement!

NEIGHBORHOODS TO STANDARDS PROGRAM

By Rebecca & Rich Stark

Garden Oaks has been selected by Mayor Lanier as one of the fourteen neighborhoods to be included in the "Neighborhoods To Standards" program. Older neighborhoods with strong ownership are selected for improvements such as street overlayment, sidewalks, lighting, parks, drainage, crime, etc.

We are residents of Section two and are the co-chairmen of the Civic Club's committee to address these issues. **Jean Walke**, **Linda Reichle** and **Terry Jeanes** are the captains from Sections one, three and four, respectively. We are searching for a captain from section five. All of the sections have residents who have volunteered to help their captains.

If you want to get involved, do it now by contacting your respective section captains or by mailing suggestions to us at 734 W. 42nd street. This is a great opportunity for Garden Oaks residents to use our own ideas to improve our neighborhood!

RECYCLE, RECYCLE, RECYCLE

By Kirk B. Dice

It seems that the January recycling volume stayed about the same as December's. Which means some of you have stopped recycling, because we haven't had the luxury of curb-side pickup. Please people, recycle! It doesn't take much effort. We have designed the site so it only takes a minute to drop-off your materials at the site. Hardly anytime out of your busy schedule. We want to increase the kind and amount of materials we recycle this year, and at the beginning of the new year we haven't seen much of either. So show your commitment by recycling.

Thanks to one of our neighbors we can now accept tin. This will include things like your Campbell's soup cans, (smelly) cat/dog food cans, etc. Please be sure to separate it from the aluminum though.

Remember if you have a problem transporting your materials to the site either have a neighbor take it for you, or call one of the officers to get on the pickup list.

Lastly, we had the recycling officers elections last month and below are the new Recycling Officers for '94.

Kirk B. Dice, President, 688-2247

Gilbert King, 1st Vice President, 523-5874

Stan Bohan, 2nd Vice President, 680-9631

Elizabeth Rigby, Treasurer, 957-1436

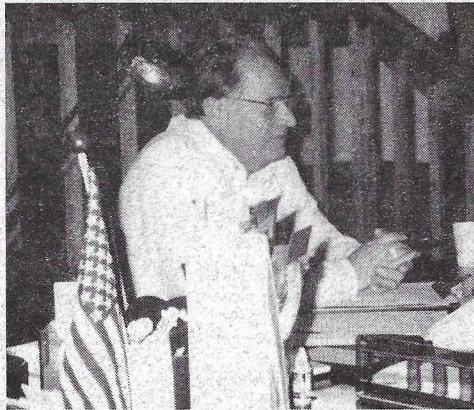
GARDEN OAKS CITIZENS ON PATROL

By Bill Chastain

Due to the holiday season, we do not have a crime report this month. Next month will include November and December.

Congratulations to our PATROLLERS OF THE MONTH, **Dennis and Doris Koebelen** for January and **Wayne Armstrong** for February. They will receive a gift certificate to a restaurant of their choice. Their appreciation is greatly appreciated.

There is a continuing need for volunteers to provide adequate coverage. We have many hours every day that are not patrolled and need substitutes to fill in for regular patrollers whose personal schedules alter their routine. Two base stations and four patrollers are needed for Section One. Also, two base stations and six patrollers are needed for Sections 2, 3, 4, and 5. These are minimum numbers and the primary hours would be during the times our children are going to and from school. Other high incident hours will vary with special events and holidays.



Bill Chastain - Citizens-On-Patrol

How about some of you retirees signing up? Maybe two of you can get together and tour the neighborhood during daytime hours when some criminals think everyone is at work. Others who are working during the day could reciprocate and patrol in the evening hours.

Patrolling shouldn't be dangerous since we are forbidden to confront anyone for any reason. Our task is to be another set of eyes and ears for the Houston Police Department. Garden Oaks has a very good reputation with HPD and they are very responsive to our calls because they know we are interested in our neighborhood. Call me, Bill Chastain at 681-5151 and I'll be happy to get you started.

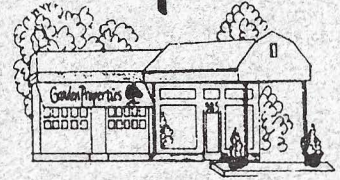
SAFETY TIPS

When walking or running, go against traffic and get off the road for oncoming cars. When driving, use turn signals so others will have an opportunity to assist you. Using the turn signals are like saying, "Please, I want to make a move in this direction. Will you help so as to not tie up traffic."

ANOTHER SERVICE OF GO-COP

When patrolling our volunteers notice street lights that are out of service. We notify Houston Lighting & Power to have the problem corrected.

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- Garden Oaks resident since 1973
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In the Backyard

By David Veselka

Our holiday guests are long gone, and their gifts are already a routine part of the new year. We marked the time with ancient and familiar rituals, and we all paid attention to the passing of the season.

In the backyard, an even older seasonal change unfolds, but those guests still linger. Yellow-rumped Warblers chip endlessly as they glean insects from the not yet bare water oaks and swallow whole the tiny gray berries of the southern wax myrtles. The shy Orange-crowned Warblers, vigorous Ruby-crowned Kinglets, and Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, who resemble delicate miniature mockingbirds, call to one another as they forage a forest now filled with houses, plate glass windows, cats, and other dangers their ancestors never knew. At the sunflower and thistle seed feeders, boisterous American Goldfinches greedily fill themselves before taking a quick sip at the birdbath. On the ground in the shadow of the cherry laurel, a reclusive Brown Thrasher rakes his long curved beak through the fallen leaves in hopes of uncovering a worm or sleeping insect. Cedar Waxwings, Yellow-shafted Flickers, Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, Sharp-shinned Hawks, Cooper's Hawks, Brown Creepers, Red-tailed Hawks, Great-horned Owls, Rufous Hummingbirds, House Wrens, Pine Siskens, Pine Warblers, Hermit Thrushes, Purple Finches, House Finches, White-throated Sparrows, Chipping Sparrows - after seventeen years the winter guest list is lengthy.

The names of our guests, who in March and April begin northerly trips of hundreds (even thousands) of miles, are as exotic as their individual lives. But no guest is more exotic than one individual who has returned for his second winter in the backyard - *Amazilia yucatanensis* - the Buffbellied Hummingbird. Spectacular with an emerald green throat and bronze green head, a long red beak with dark tip, buffy colored underparts, and cinnamon tail, this wanderer is a wrong way migrant. Nesting in eastern Mexico from the Yucatan to the Rio Grande Valley, the bird is most at home in tropical brushlands, but for unknown reasons, a few head north along the Gulf Coast each winter. Attracted by the backyard's blooming abutilons, hamelia, *Salvia guaranitica*, hibiscus, bromeliads, and pentas, this traveler stayed long enough to find our feeder last winter

and remained with us through March. Miraculously, on November 6, the four inch marvel resumed his perch in the wax myrtles and announced his return with a series of rapid clicks and high kissing squeaks. No guest has been more welcome, his presence gift enough. His summer life in the tropics, his courtship of a mate, and the perils of his journey are known

only to him. His navigation of hundreds of miles to return to a familiar perch in Garden Oaks is one of the miracles of the backyard.

The plants and animals move with the most ancient rhythm on the planet, the celestial dance of Earth and Sun. The leaves of the red maple and Mexican buckeye recognize the oblique slant of the sun's rays, turn a brilliant yellow, and quickly fall in the first cold rain. The hollies and yaupons adorn themselves with bright- red berries to feed the mockingbirds who scatter their seeds. The zigzag irises break their summer dormancy, their green swordlike leaves poking hardily through the crisp pine needles, already holding the promise of violet spring beauties deep and tiny within. And an unlikely tiny bird sips nectar in the weak sunlight. Anyone can see the ancient signs of winter in the backyard.

OUR FRIENDSHIP IS A GREEN OASIS

Our friendship is a green oasis
Where blue mountains rise
And clear water flows.
A place where we go . . .
For strength and peace.
A place where love is forever.

I am transported there
When you touch my hand.
I am there when you speak to me
Or when I hear you sing.

I am transported there
Whenever you are near . . .
Though no word is said.
When I think of you . . .
I feel the cool sweet breezes from
our mountains
And I feel strong and free.

- Janet Little
(Garden Oaks Resident)

INSURANCE TIPS

By Carol Meyer

I'd like to open this article by saying thanks to the Garden Oaks editor for giving the residents a forum to share their ideas and expertise with their neighbors. I am a Farmers Insurance Agent, and my expertise is home, auto and life insurance.

As an insurance agent, some of the most commonly asked questions I encounter are, "Why is the cost of insurance so expensive and why does it keep going up?" My response to these questions is the following. The key cost drivers of insurance in Texas are thefts, burglaries, repair and medical costs, excessive jury award, fraud and Mother Nature. Here are some facts and figures taken from the Texas Department of Insurance.

As a result of Hurricane Andrew in 1992, the Oakland fires and other national catastrophes, the cost of lumber has increased 85 percent in the last year. In addition, Texas ranked third behind California and New York in the number of vehicles stolen in 1992. In a one year period, 163,000 cars (valued at \$835 million) were stolen in Texas alone. In addition to the increase in theft of automobiles, the cost of auto body work has gone up 7.1 percent annually. Also, fraud adds at least \$8 billion (that's right, billion) to auto insurance claims each year. Law enforcement officials estimate that about 15 percent of the reported car thefts may be fraudulent.

Further, in recent years burglary losses in Texas amounted to an estimated \$400 million, and two of every three burglaries are residential in nature.

These are some of the reasons that insurance companies change prices continually. Because the cost of materials and repairs are constantly changing. The real question is, "What can we do about it?" Well, I have a few suggestions.

Suggestion #1: Have your agent review your current insurance program and explain to you what your coverage options are, how they work and how to get the best coverage for the least cost. Once you go through this process, you may be amazed at what you learn. Many people spend thousands of dollars each year on insurance and don't even know what they are getting.

Suggestion #2: Use the same company for all of your insurance needs. The reasoning for this is not only are there

oftentimes discounts when you have multiple policies with one company, but also this gives your insurance agent the leverage they need to negotiate with their company's underwriter on your behalf.

Suggestion #3: Don't set your deductibles too low. Time and time again I run into people who have their automobile deductibles set at \$50 and \$100. If they had been told the cost difference between setting their deductibles at \$250 or \$500 instead, they might have concluded that it is much better to set their deductibles higher so that they are not automatically giving the insurance company money. That way if anything happens, a person can take the money they have saved to cover the deductible.

I could continue on, but due to space limitations I think I'd better stop here. If anyone has any questions or comments regarding insurance, send a letter to the editor. If it is a question, I will be glad to respond. Call me 681-2746.

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NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC PROJECTS, WHY? & HOW?

By Susan McMillian, Neighborhood Traffic Projects Administrator

Imagine a neighborhood where cars and trucks race by the neatly trimmed lawns of near-town residents. The homeowners there can no longer allow their children to play in the front yard. They no longer routinely cross the street to visit with their neighbors. In fact they have retreated inside the house and to the backyard almost entirely. With the gradual absence of visible activity in the neighborhood, crime has also increased. Perpetrators no longer feel the fear of being observed. The volume of cut-through traffic in the neighborhood also makes it difficult for citizen watches to determine suspicious activity. In addition to this relationship of crime to cut-through traffic, there is the detrimental effects of additional auto exhaust and noise. In the past, the only avenue available to these homeowners was to request traditional traffic control devices. Often the volume of traffic on these residential roadways didn't warrant the installation of STOP signs or other devices. Even in instances where such signs were installed, residents often found that they were routinely ignored by the cut-through traffic. Hundreds of police hours were spent in the enforcement of the traffic laws, only to find that compliance ended as soon as they drove away.

Mayor Lanier's recently adopted NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC PROJECTS ORDINANCE is aimed directly at this problem. The goal of this ordinance is to effectively manage the through-traffic by making actual physical changes on the neighborhood streets which alter traffic circulation routes and/or reduce speeding without preventing public and emergency vehicle access to the neighborhood or diverting traffic through another neighborhood. Although complete street closure is often the only type project the average person is aware of, this program actually offers an array of mitigation projects. One-way exits or entrances, narrowed entrances, divided two-way entrances, and traffic diverters are only a few of the more innovative types of construction possible. As a matter of policy, the City of Houston will only approve the least restrictive type of project which will resolve the majority of the neighborhood's concerns.

This newly adopted ordinance represents a major change in philosophy by the City of Houston. Under Mayor Lanier's guidance, the city no longer sees its goal as simply moving traffic through the city via the shortest possible path or time if it means cutting through a residential neighborhood. The ordinance does require that a project not have a "significant negative effect upon the general mobility of the public", but recognizing the adverse effect of cut-through traffic on the residential tax base, the quality of life within the city's residential areas is now a priority.

Representatives of the Garden Oaks Civic Club are now working with a city-retained consultant team to design an overall traffic mitigation plan for our community. The team is multi-disciplined and provides an excellent "big picture" approach to designing these traffic mitigation projects with community groups. Civil engineers, traffic engineers, land planners, urban planners, and others serve with the team and act as individual liaisons to the neighborhoods requesting assistance. Their goal is to ascertain the problems; design projects that meet the criteria of the ordinance; resolve the majority of the concerns of the neighborhood; and make certain that through-traffic is redirected back onto the designated major thoroughfares where it properly belongs. When the planning phase is completed, the group arranges a pre-submittal meeting with city staff to discuss the draft site plan and application. When the actual application is filed, a sign must be erected at the proposed location advising the general public of the plan. A legal notice is also posted in a daily newspaper and notices are mailed to landowners within the two hundred foot radius. A fifteen day protest period begins on the publication date. Only qualified written protests received within the protest period are considered in the decision to call a public hearing. Qualified protesters are: residents in the neighborhood area; landowners within a two hundred foot radius of the proposed project; or civic associations located within the neighborhood area. The ordinance stipulates that if ten percent or twenty (whichever is less) residents of the area; a majority of the landowners within the two hundred foot radius; or any civic club within the neighborhood area files written protests, a public hearing must be held.

Thirty days from the close of the protest period (or the public hearing) a recommendation to approve or disapprove the application must be made to City Council by the Director of Public Works and Engineering. The vote of the City Council is final.

No plan has been finalized for Garden Oaks. Planning sessions are still being conducted, and general meetings to present the plan are being scheduled. As a Neighborhood-to-Standard area, Garden Oaks is eligible for full construction bond funding from the city. We hope that all residents will take time to study the plan and provide input to the planning committee. Questions about specific proposals should be directed to the Neighborhood Traffic Projects chairperson.

GARDEN OAKS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

By Linda Ross, PTA President

The new year is well underway and we are busy teaching and learning! A free English as a Second Language (ESL) class is being offered through Houston Community College. This class is limited to adults and meets at the Garden Oaks School Library on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. Call the school for more information.

The 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students are preparing to take the Texas Assessment of Academic Skills (TASS). The 4th graders will take the Writing Test on March 8; 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders will take the Reading and Math Tests on May 10 and 11. It is important that our students do their very best.

McCoy, Inc., our school's business partner as well as parents and neighbors have joined our "Adopt a Student" program to assist our students in preparing for this important test. Our school now has a Band! The 4th and 5th graders may learn to play musical instruments in the new after school program.

The PTA Meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 8, at 7:00 pm in the school's Multi-Purpose Room. The program will be Founder's Day, honoring past presidents and life members and will feature our 2nd grade students.

NEIGHBOR SPOTLIGHT — EVELYN WALLA

By Jude Patronella

The street was not paved and there were very few neighbors when Evelyn Walla and her late husband August moved to West 30th Street in the beginning of development in Garden Oaks. Their home was one of the first seven houses built on that shell road in Section One.



August and Evelyn Walla in the early years of Garden Oaks.

As Garden Oaks began to grow, it became a perfect neighborhood for the Walla family to raise their two daughters, Charlotte and Dinah. "Through all of my years in Garden Oaks, I can honestly say I have had wonderful neighbors. We always loved living in Garden Oaks and had no desire to move elsewhere," said Evelyn. "I enjoyed gardening in my big yard and my husband enjoyed playing golf at Pine Forest Country Club behind Sears on North Shepherd."

August worked as a carpenter and locksmith at the Rice Hotel. Later, when the Shamrock Hilton Hotel opened its doors on South Main Street, he worked there for many years. Before the birth of their daughters, Evelyn worked as a secretary. A favorite pastime in their retirement has been the birds and squirrels of Garden Oaks. The large pecan trees that were planted in 1938 and the bird feeders and birdbath attract these critters. Squirrels have learned to come to the back door and scratch on it to be fed a cookie or a piece of bread. They're friendly and reach for it directly from Evelyn's hand.

Their daughter Dinah said her parents have sat for hours at the kitchen table in front of the big window watching the birds and squirrels frolic "in a Garden Oaks backyard more entertaining than television."

The year was 1938 - Evelyn and August had been married four years and were living in a duplex in Norhill, a subdivision near the Houston Heights. August had moved to Houston from Taylor, Texas and Evelyn, a native Houstonian, was raised in Sunset Heights, a subdivision located east of Yale Street and south of the North Loop. She was educated at St. Joseph Catholic School, Alexander Hamilton Junior High School and graduated from John H. Reagan Senior High School in 1931.

Evelyn heard about a new subdivision being built north of the Heights and on a Sunday afternoon she drove to Garden Oaks for the first time with one of her best friends. Of the seven houses that were built, a two bedroom home with a breezeway to the garage attracted her the most. The following weekend Evelyn and August drove to Garden Oaks and made arrangements to buy their new home.

"It was wonderful! Everything was new and I saw it all being developed from the very beginning," said Evelyn. "The developers were beginning to construct 31st Street and our street was the only one passable between Shepherd and Yale." Evelyn and August loved their new home and their big backyard. Her father helped August plant pecan trees that would eventually become a continual source of flourishing food for many squirrels.

SOLD

408 W. 30th
to
Mr. and Mrs. August Walla
by
GARDEN OAKS CO.
E. L. CRAIN, Pres.
C. R. BRACE, Jr. Pres. Mgr.

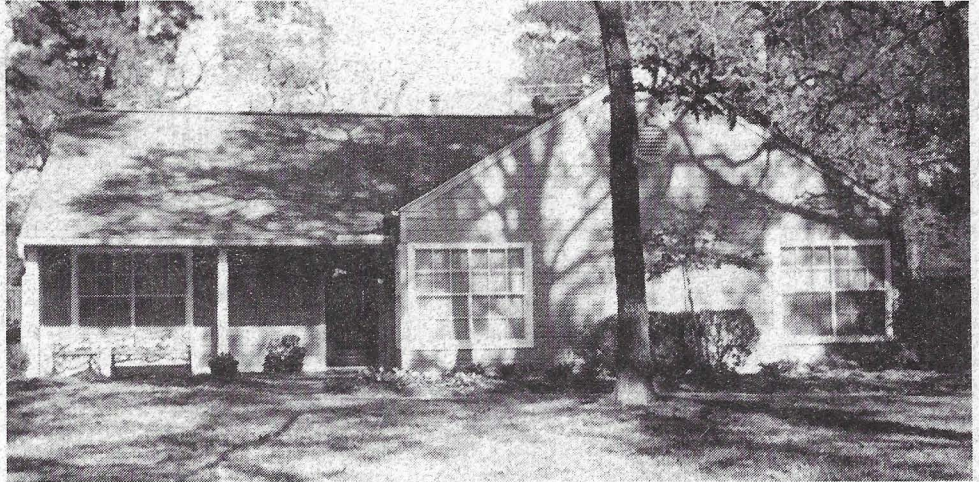
This newspaper ad announced the Walla's Garden Oaks purchase in 1938

HOUSE OF THE MONTH

By Jude Patronella

Lifetime Garden Oaks residents **Bill and Susan McMillian** have totally rebuilt their home on W. 42nd Street. Having both grown-up in the area, (Bill on 43rd Street and Susan on Sue Barnett), they appreciate the character of the neighborhood and have made the exterior of their home a duplication of the original.

They bought their Garden Oaks home in 1971 and after Christmas in 1992 they moved to their pool house

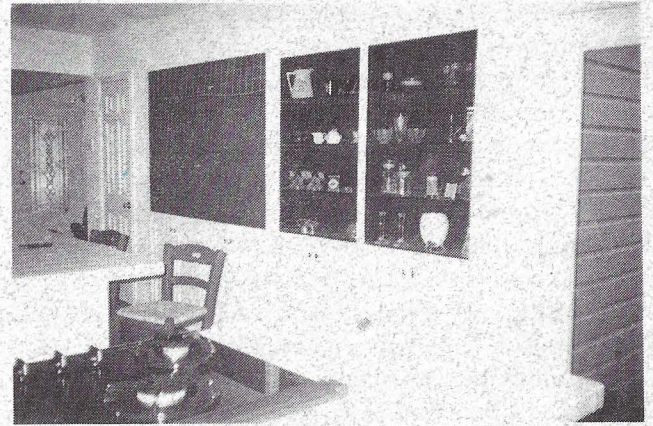


and put most of their furniture in storage. Their original home was torn down to the slab and studs, leaving only the surface of hardwood floors from two rooms. **Alvin Oncken** served as their designer and **Harry James** was the builder.

The large living area has a cathedral ceiling and a wood burning fireplace with a raised hearth. The dining room has a built-in granite server accented by faux painted granite columns on the dining room walls with a peach color background to match the Texas granite server. This beautiful house has a combination of Berber carpeting, hardwood floors and Italian tile. The color scheme in the kitchen is composed of black glass appliances, cream colored Potter's Touch tile, and cinnamon colored grout matches the tile floor. A unique slate blackboard is next to a

display cabinet finished in the same slate paint. The master bath has a Jacuzzi and a glass block window which allows natural light.

For the McMillian family, there's no place like their new home in Garden Oaks!



MEMBERSHIP, 1994

By Colleen & Ray Housley

Let's hear it for all those 1994 Garden Oaks Civic Club Members. We have received the following memberships through January 10:

<u>MEMBERS</u>	<u>Years of Residency</u>
Shirley Ross Wilson	34
W.J. "Bill" Lehnert	5
Paul Bick	5
Dennis & Doris Koebelen	34
Joe H. Major	15
Kathy Sims	1
Kim McMath	1
Marcia Rawnsley	3
Debbie Cartwright	3
Scott McClymonds & Anne Kilgore	17
Kirk & Margaret Dice	3
Brian & Denise Sherwood	4
Jerry & Lucy Gilmore	1
Sheila Briones	1
John & Cindy Bartos	12
Mark & Karen Benson	4
Pete & Joan Baron	1
Rev. & Mrs. Haskin V. Little	39
Lisabell O. Katzer	46
Bruce A. Meyer	1
Tim & Janis Spears	2
Dean & Sue Sauberli	15
David & Cindy Ballard	12
Martha Kennedy	10
Anne M. Wood	2
Anne & Craig Ness	12
Jean Klalke	17
Ray & Barbara Hejazi	2
David & Jana Bowden	6
Bill & Jinny Chastain	34
Matt Roesler	18
Dale & Frances Schwartz	7
Marc & Jane Ann Roberts	5
George & Judith Morawsk	1
Bill & Bonnie Bijalk	17
Ray & Colleen Housley	1
Ted & Melinda Garza	3
Harry & Gloria Paine	40
Harry & Neva Berlocher	35
Ernest Fruge & Christine Adams	9

Now, where are the rest of you Garden Oaks residents? Remember the good things your money and participation can do for our community: Beautification; Citizens on Patrol; Recycling; *Gazette*; Block Parties; and much more. See you February 1 at the next Civic Club Meeting. Fill out the membership form in the *Gazette* and send us your check!

GARDEN OAKS CIVIC CLUB MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Children/Birthdates: _____

Years lived in Garden Oaks: _____

Phone: _____

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES:

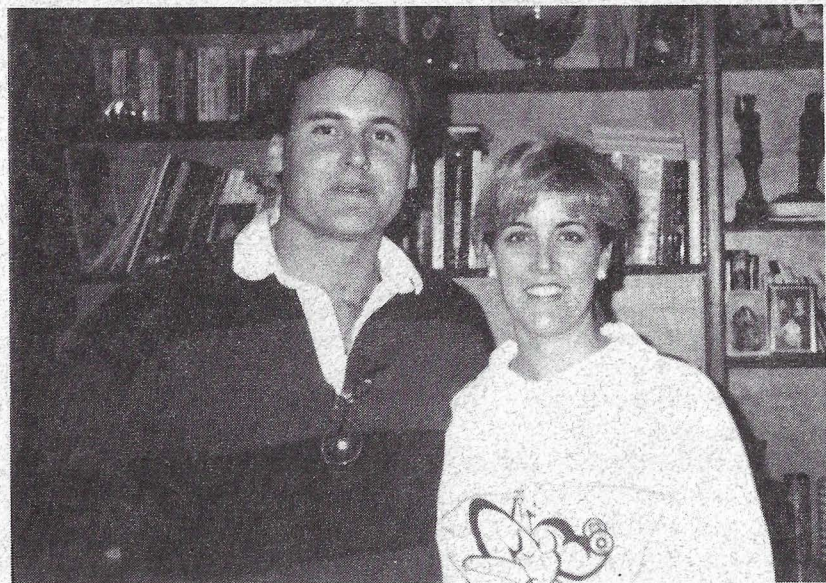
- \$10 Family Membership
 \$5 Senior Citizens (Garden Oaks Roots)
 \$25 Business Membership

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

GARDEN OAKS CIVIC CLUB

MAIL TO:

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



Ray and Colleen Housley, Membership

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 March Gazette
 is February 10th**

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SCIENCE FICTION

THE SERIAL

By Scott MacClmonds P.C.

CHAPTER 2

The year is 2194.

The great literary and architectural accomplishments of ancestral generations had been, for the most part, destroyed by the middle 22nd century. Humans able to survive increasing radiation from the destruction of the ozone layer, chemically saturated food supplies and polluted air and water had learned to despise the great building projects, huge cities and infrastructures of generation's past. Surviving human inhabitants considered those achievements as monuments to a selfish world. The people of 2194 knew their predecessors had sold them out and they hated them for it. Ashamed and unable to cope with the world they had inherited, residents revolted in the Big City Riots of 2036. They destroyed almost everything that was a reminder of the 19th and 20th centuries. Only Garden Oaks Subdivision was spared destruction because a colony of aliens had been discovered there in the late 20th century. It was in these confused and bitter times that VR Technologies Inc. prospered. The world needed a new vision of the future. VR Technologies Inc. gave it to them.

The holoshield Alo used was still able to fool the scanners on the cheap VID cruisers supplied by VRT Inc. As far as the robopilots were able to determine, Alo was a pile of broken glass and loose brick. He waited until the last surveillance robot had moved out of scanner range to turn off the holoshield. Then he returned to the basement in the old movie theater and checked on his capture.

Alo had trapped the Resident earlier that morning. She had been Plugged in to an outside unit and was unaware of his presence. Moving quickly, he disconnected her Plug and inserted a pacifier chip into the receptacle. Her body relaxed into a fetal position and Alo carried her into the lobby of the ruined movie theater.

He inspected her Plug. Taking out the small medical laser he had recovered from the ruins of the Sears store, Alo altered the alignment of the receptors. All VR transmissions she received would be transmitted to a special receptor Alo had hidden under a statue in the 43rd street park. Eventually he would have a majority of Residents under control. Alo gently

carried the Resident into the Subdivision and Plugged her in. As he turned to recross the Border, a heavy laser from a VID cruiser burned through his energy shield and sliced off his left arm.

Alo fell to the ground. He could not move. Blinded by the pain he heard the howl of the cruisers power transducers as the laser fired again.

To be continued...

SPORTS

ON THE ROAD AGAIN

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

Yes, here we are running alone on an empty road and hoping that no one will come by and scare us. I am glad I have Steve with me, otherwise I wouldn't be able to run this unknown path alone. All of our friends feel so envious of us because we get to run all over the world. But, honestly, our heart and shoe soles love to run in our hometown of Houston around Memorial Park, Allen Parkway, or the neighborhood here in G.O.

We are flight attendants for Continental Airlines, and the only routine we have in our life is our running. We have this craving for something routine since the rest of our life is so hectic. And running has fulfilled it for the last sixteen years. With our schedule changing each month and sometimes each week, we can't join in all neighborhood activities or local races. We have joined a track group only to find ourselves showing up occasionally. David Brennan, our coach, always has a smile on his face when we do make it.

Today we had a wonderful run in Washington, D.C., and really enjoyed running along by the Potomac River. Washington, D.C. has one of the best running and biking trails. It travels through the Arlington Cemetery, across the Memorial Bridge and continues past the Jefferson, Washington, and Lincoln monuments. With all the history under your feet and engulfing you it makes you feel like an American hero just by taking up the sport of running.

Running is such a great way to get your sightseeing and exercise in one. Running in Banff, Canada was like exploring a new wilderness with the elk and deer and all the cold elements that surround you. It is so different from our runs back in Texas. We never have snow-covered roads that turn blue as the sun falls behind the peaks of the mountains.

One of our favorite places to run while away from home is New York City Central Park. There are so many people in the park all day - biking, skating, and running at the same time. We feel safer than on the back streets of the hotels.

And running in Denver we feel like we are getting an extra boost for our next race because of the altitude difference.

We try to fly north during the summer and enjoy the cool weather, while staying south during the winter months. But on occasions we can get caught in Minneapolis, Minnesota. It was 26 degrees and my Texas running gear wasn't well suited for the climate. You can make homemade ear muffs and gloves out of your husband's socks.

I guess the craziest time we have had was when we forgot our running shoes. We didn't want to miss the particular run because the entire flight crew on our trip was running. So we just ran barefoot. They all knew we must be running addicts or just a little deranged.

And sometimes I think all runners must be a little crazy. Who else would take chances with their life just to get outside and breathe some of the exhaust fumes that are on the roads? Being blown by dust from large trucks and being honked and whistled at by unknown beings going down the road. We have had to stand on top of parked cars while waiting for the owner to retrieve his German shepherd that has been chasing us. And we even had to run up and down stairs and through the halls of hotels to get in miles while training for a marathon.

With this story everyone will be able to tell why Steve and Kaye call themselves "The Flying Parisis." We can't wait to get on the road again, going places where we have never been!!!

POSTSCRIPT: Well, Kaye and I just finished the Houston Tenneco Marathon (26.3 miles). It was a damp day. There were about 6,000 runners, but not as many spectators as usual because of possible rain as well as the Oiler game. We want to congratulate Lisa Martin, a G.O. resident. She ran the marathon in 3 hours, 19 minutes. I also want to congratulate Kaye Parisi on her 3 hours, 24 minutes, which placed her third in her age group, (40 - 44). I did not have a great run (4 hours, 6 minutes) - I had a lot of leg cramps. We do want G.O. residents to let us know of any sporting news or results. Call us at 880-1985.

FAMILY WISE

TAKING TIME FROM TIME-OUT

By Christine Adams, Ph.D.

Is time-out losing its punch with your child? The overuse of time-out diminishes the power of this very effective disciplinary technique. Save time-out for extraordinarily aggressive or defiant behaviors rather than plain old stubbornness or un-cooperativeness. The next time your child misbehaves, instead of time-out, try using one of these three "R's" - response cost, rehearsal and reparation.

Response cost works well for children who have developed a concept of future, past and present (about age 3-1/2 or 4). Response cost involves making the child pay a "penalty" for the misbehavior. For example, make your child "pay you" a favorite toy which you keep away from him or her for 24 hours. Tell your child you are doing this to **help** him or her remember the rules or to cooperate. Keep the penalty time and price at a minimum. It is the principal of "not having" that is effective. As with any disciplinary measure, this "penalty system" should be explained to the child prior to ever using it. This avoids the build up of resentment and feelings of betrayal in your child.

When a child does something inappropriate, have the child rehearse the correct behavior. For example, if your child slams a door, have him or her open and close the door gently many times to practice the proper behavior. For younger children who have only a rudimentary command of language, parents can physically rehearse the event with the child by gently guiding the child through the proper behavioral sequence. Toddlers frequently find this to be as much fun as the inappropriate behavior was and a power struggle may be avoided.

Having a child of any age practice reparation (make amends) for hurt or "damage" they have caused can teach them self control. An example in the case of hitting or biting another person would be making the child kiss or stroke softly the "hurt" area while saying "I'm sorry." Children who cannot yet talk can also be guided through the act of reparation. The parent physically guides the child through the motions while saying, "I'm sorry" for the child. Speaking for the child and physically guiding in this way models the "right thing to do."

Having a broad range of disciplinary strategies and tools helps parents be flexible without being inconsistent. Parents are more able to find responses which fit their values and suit their child's temperament, developmental level and environmental context.

(Dr. Adams, a psychologist, has a special interest in child and family psychology. She is a Garden Oaks resident. Readers may submit topics or question for future articles. Her office is located at 4801 Woodway, Suite 460 West, Houston, Texas 77056-1805, Telephone 850-0553.)

VIDEOS

KASDAN: IN THE BEGINNING

By Anne Balson

Lawrence Kasdan is a wonderfully engaging and inventive filmmaker. For pure viewing pleasure check out these two early treasures:

THE BIG CHILL (1982) - the movie that brought us Glenn Close and Kevin Kline as the couple we would most like to have had as best friends in college. It also brought us one of the great film soundtracks. The Big Chill offers an array of college pals reunited for a friend's funeral. All have seen their dreams veer off the track on the way to thirty something. Their attempts to right those dreams give us a smile or two, a tear or two, a little insight and wonderful performances by a powerful ensemble including Close, Kline, Tom Berenger, Mary Kay Place, William Hurt, JoBeth Williams and Jeff Goldblum. Crisply written and directed by Kasdan with never a dull moment. And great music.

SILVERADO (1985) - the movie that began to bring back Westerns. Plenty of rip-snorting shootouts, wagon trains, big scenery, dance hall girls, easily identifiable good guys and bad. There's Kevin Kline and Jeff Goldblum again along with Scott Glenn and Danny Glover. Silverado's big bonus is an early glimpse at the star-power of Brian Dennehy who rises to dazzling heights of western villainy and of Kevin Costner. Costner's showy, six-guns ablaze performance has an exuberance that impressed critics and audiences a lot. There are several subplots too many and a little bit of revisionism, but no matter, it's great entertainment! My favorite thing about this film is that Kevin Kline winds up happily ever after with Linda Hunt. Now that's some kind of adventurous film making!

BOOKS

GREENLAND FOLLIES (OF ICE AND MEN)

By Louis Patronella

"A spellbinding thriller that combines the hard grittiness of Elmore Leonard with the elegance of John le Carre" is the description on the inside jacket of **Smilla's Sense of Snow**, a novel by Danish writer Peter Hoeg with easily the most alliterative title as well as some of the best reviews of fiction published last year. **Smilla's** is Entertainment Weekly magazine's Book of the Year and is also recommended by none other than syndicated columnist Molly Ivins. Such a book demands attention. In fact, however, I was anxious to know what a "Smilla" is.

Smilla Qaavigaaq Jaspersen is the daughter of an Inuit woman hunter and a renowned Danish doctor and is a heroine with ATTITUDE. Smilla is tough, unyielding, suspicious and a loner conflicted by her Greenlandic heritage and the European society of her father which she has great difficulty coming to terms with. Her profession, when she can hold a job, is that of an expert on ice, a glaciologist, who has written scientific papers on the properties of ice and snow and has been involved in numerous Arctic expeditions.

Isaiah is a six year old Inuit neighbor in Copenhagen who breaks through most of her defenses and manages to establish a friendship with her. When he falls to his death from the roof of the apartment building in which they live, Smilla does not accept the accident. For one she knows that Isaiah was afraid of heights. Smilla begins her own investigation and runs into a cover-up of epic proportion with danger at every turn.

The novel is an absorbing international thriller that transports the reader into a world of rogues and bureaucrats who sometime turn out to be equal parts of rogue and bureaucrat. Evil and greed abound and the threat of violence is ever present. The plot is gripping and unpredictable and the characters are that fascinating mix found only in novels of intrigue; adventuresses, corrupt businessmen, gangsters, addicts, and a few mysterious men and women of honor.

Above all there is the ice—the redoubtable force of nature that demands and shapes and is. Peter Hoeg is a skilled writer who not only knows how to keep the reader's attention but also create an awesome reality while further instructing in the ways of nature and the follies of man.

MUSIC

GARDEN OAKS DISC PICKS

By Warren (Pete) Peterson

Between January and October the major record labels always seem to control the record rack space in your local record store. Old and new releases of favorite artists, in every style abound. Occasionally, though, you'll see the fruits of the fledgling independent label push its way to the forefront.

Houston's own Justice Record Company, known since its birth four years ago as a jazz label, has really increased its rack potential by expanding its scope to include alternative rock, rock and roll, blues and country. In the past they have dabbled in departures with such recordings as David Rice's acoustic, alternative rock "Orange #8" and Tab Benoit's blues recording "Nice and Warm." Other exciting releases that reflect this global shift are Thrillcat's "Thrillcat (One Word)" and of course the "Strike A Deep Chord" blues guitar benefit release that showcases Dr. John, Odetta, Clarence "Gatemouth" Brown, Johnnie "Clyde" Copeland, Tab Benoit (pronounced Ben-Wah), Ronnie Earl, Rufus Reid and Sue Foley. You may remember Justice is contributing 25 percent of the proceeds to the National Coalition for the Homeless. Last but not least is the late 1993 release of Paul Buskirks "Nacadoches Waltz" featuring Willie Nelson.

Shifting full-force into this mode are Justice's new releases such as Herb Ellis' (the "Godfather of Jazz Guitar" and veteran of the Oscar Peterson Trio) "Texas Swings." This combination of jazz, Texas swing and country features two former Bob Wills Texas Playboys and Willie Nelson. Great energy, go buy it!

Sebastian Whittaker and the Creators have dedicated their "One for the Bu" to the late world renown jazz drummer, Art Blakey. Stephen Karlsson has just released "Below Zero." In this, his third recording, all cuts are of original works with the exception of a souped-up Swedish folk song.

Last but not least, Justice slates a February 15 release that promises to blow you away! Willie Nelson's premier recording from our Texas boys entitled "Moonlight Becomes You" will be a keeper. The following are some more of my picks for February:

- 1) Adult Alternative/World Music - The Gypsy Kings, Love & Liberte / Electra Musician.
- 2) Country - Faith Hill, WILD ONE / Warner Bros.

- 3) Motion Picture Sound Track - Various Artists, Philadelphia / Epic Records
- 4) Progressive Rock - David Sylvian & Robert Fripp / Virgin
- 5) Folk Pop - Cowboy Junkies, Pale Sun, Crescent Moon / RCA

CATO & COMPANY

DINING AT DOYLE'S

By Chris Cato

Cato & Company kicked off the new year with a terrific blast to the past! And just how far back did we go? Well, I'm not old enough for this restaurant to remind me of anything, except maybe for the occasional arguments my parents would have about Dad's choice of clothes for the day. **Shirley**, he would say as he walked out the door, "If it's clean and neat it's good enough for T.V." Clean. . .neat. . .descent. . **Jack Cato's** news reporting and **Leo Doyle's Delicatessen**.

The restaurant closes at 8:00 p.m., is not open on weekends, shuts down for three weeks every July, does not have a French fryer, cozy bar, or cheap gimmick, and the rest rooms. . .are outside! To most people this would sound like a plan for disaster. **Leo Doyle** is not "most people" and if you want to eat at Doyle's you had better get there early, because Leo has been packin' folk in for forty years, and it's not just because of all the conveniences he has to offer.

I guess I should mention the food. I like it. The menu is Italian and the pizza tastes exactly like it did when I ate there as a kid. Maybe that's because the cook has been working there for thirty-one years. Here's a neat game to play the next time you're there. Try to find a waitress that's been there less than ten years.

Leo has seen this area grow. He recalls that some of his earlier customers actually came on horseback and would gather with other neighbors at Doyle's for a cup of coffee. In the sixties, eight high chairs were needed to handle the crowd of little ones. Only one was required in the late seventies. To Leo Doyle's delight. . .the high chairs are back.

Doyle's Delicatessen is located on 34th Street, just west of Oak Forest Drive. Just tell 'em Cato sent you. January's dinner guests were **Todd and Nicole Ray, Barry and Susan Morris, Jane Ann Roberts, Ted Hoppins, Sheryl Wilson** and newcomers to Garden Oaks, **Steve and Carol Brown, and Ralph and Charlotte Hayes**. The next **Cato & Company** is set for February 12. You can sign up by calling me at 864-7864. We'll see you there!

NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK

By Warren (Pete) Peterson

It wasn't but a few minutes after I finished my interview with this month's feature resident, **Susan Spooner**, that I discovered that Shannon had mentioned Susan in INSIDE GARDEN OAKS.

A Section One resident for two years, interior designer Susan's real claim to fame has been achieved through her beautiful faux finishes and stencils. Her work, featured in Houston Metropolitan, Southern Living and local newspapers, has taken her all over the country. She has enhanced many private residences and condos from Long Beach to Lake Tahoe to Austin. Some of her major commissions include Disney World's President Michael Eisner's private suite at the Polynesian Village Hotel, the private dining room at Carraba's, and several Hilton Hotels.

Susan was born in El Dorado, Arkansas but did most of her growing up in Monroe, Louisiana and Kennett, Missouri. She received both her undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Missouri before moving to Houston. For many years she created and supervised commercial interior designs for a large Houston-based company. Seven years ago she was challenged with creating a stencil design to integrate a fellow designer's interior. After much trial, error, experiment and study she humbly admits her expertise.

A faculty member at The Art Institute of Houston since 1985, Spooner has helped many interior design students have a better understanding of commercial design, lighting and architectural drafting. She has always given of herself in civic and design organization activities. Susan believes in the "Garden Oaks is a state of mind" concept and has lovingly restored her little house on the corner.

Susan's magic has touched the surfaces of ceilings, walls, sisal flooring, hospitals, furniture. . . you name it. Her latest "environmental art" is in the form of painted floor canvases. These "rugs" can often be the inspiration for an interior or can be created to anchor existing items. Some of these have a definite three dimensional effect.

For anyone interested Susan offers one-day workshops to teach you how to design, create and paint your own stencils. Please refer to Shannon's article for Susan's telephone number and business address.

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

INSIDE GARDEN OAKS

By Shannon L. Nelson, ASID

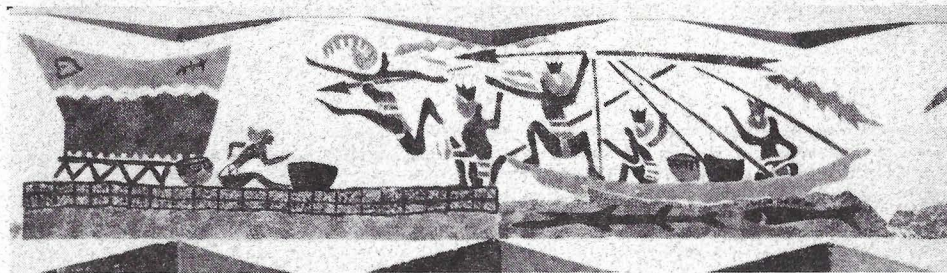
Now that the Christmas tree is out of the house, I feel compelled to begin the second column of the new year. . .SPEAKING OF COLUMNS!

Plain porch or interior posts can be made special by creating a mock capital and pedestal with cyma recta-esque molding. From the front elevation the net effect is much like that of a squared-off Tuscan or Doric. I have christened this the "34TH Street Dork" column. A cost-effective solution to replacing the icky wrought iron porch supports many of us are plagued with, they are an appropriate addition to our "grandmother's house" architectural style.

Ah...wood floors... I promise that if refinishing were future and not past tense I would gladly write out the multi-thousand dollar check with a smile

on my face and a song in my heart. For those of you brave enough to embark on the sawdust trail, the following is a list of hints, warnings, experiences, nightmares and amusing anecdotes.

The only thing that works to take off 50 years of wax, varnish and gook is a **drum sander**. This scary piece of equipment can be rented from any number of leasing companies. You must keep the drum moving as it is possible to sand completely through the flooring. Hitting the sub-floor is bad enough, but if you are on pier and beam, the darn thing will end up under the house. Trust me, it is difficult to hang on to this beast! I have a mental picture of being dragged out the door, across the lawn, down in the ditch, up over the neighbor's car, grinding off the tail of the neighbor's dog and being stopped short of crashing through the fence along Yale only by the fact that I ran out of cord.



This floor cloth is an example of a fresh alternative to Oriental carpets and area rugs.

You will also need to purchase approximately \$10,000.00 worth of primarily coarse sandpaper belts. These will need to be changed every 10 to 15 feet if your floors are in the condition that mine were. Working from coarse to fine sandpaper, this time consuming activity is best done with adult supervision. You will also need to rent yet one more piece of equipment that you do not know how to operate, a **disk sander**. This hand-held tool will enable you to

Not limited to flowers and nursery themes, stenciling can achieve ethnic or period looks

remove finish from edges and corners. Hint: do not fall asleep while using this.

Open all windows, remove screens (we forgot this very important step at first) and pry up quarter round. Most likely you will have to replace this shoe molding with new anyway, so don't spend too much time trying to preserve it. Wear masks and change frequently. Try doubling up filtering masks. Sawdust can be lethal to your lungs. Also don't have any possessions on site that have a value greater than 25 cents.

Ask your friends and family to chip in on an industrial sized shop vac for your next birthday. Have it delivered now.

Staining/coloring/finishing of your wood floors can be done in any of the usual ways; colorant (stain) with some type of sealant on top, etc. My good friend and fellow designer, Section One resident, Susan Spooner suggested an interesting finishing technique for my floors. (Please note that this professional faux-finish and stencil artist hired someone else to do her floors, ha!) Anyway, Susan recommends applying a mixture of water and latex paint the color of your walls to the bare wood. Work with a brush, treating approximately four square feet at a time. Remove excess colorant with a clean rag until you achieve the desired amount of transparency. It is helpful to experiment with the water-latex mixture. Begin with a 50%/50% concoction and gradually add water in small increments until you are comfortable with consistency. The great thing about this technique is that if you get too much color worked into a certain area, you can even out the application by applying water directly to the floor. To conclude Susan recommends sealing the floor with three coats of a non-yellowing acrylic sealant, such as Pacific Nova.

For those of you hooked on the "cottage look" Susan can create fabulous border stencils directly on the wood floor prior to sealing. She did an original design in her own kitchen, but replicating a motif in the wall covering would look neat. Susan can be reached at her office, **Susan Spooner Designs** 3600 W. Alabama, Suite #3, Houston, Texas 77027, (phone number 961-1016). The work this gal does is unbelievable and affordable. I want her to do an ivy stencil around the ceiling line in my bedroom after I recover from the repairs to my garage.

* We were asked where to find the Aqua Mix "Grout Colorant. I found mine at Master Tile Company.

(*Inside Garden Oaks* addresses the special character of our lovely old neighborhood. **Shannon Nelson**, Registered Interior Designer, Texas #2026, is a professional member of the American Society of Interior Designers. Please forward any hints or question regarding interior design or restoration to: **Shannon & Associates, 208 W. 34th Street, Houston, Texas 77018; Telephone 802-9301, Pager, 285-4387.**)

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February Calendar						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
		1 Civic Club 7:00 pm	2	3	4	5 Public Meetings 9:00 am 10:00 am
6	7	8 Garden Oaks Elementary PTA	9 Public Meetings 9:00 am 10:00 am	10 Garden Club Meeting Gazette Deadline 7:00 pm	11	12 Recycle Drop-off 8:00 am
13	14 Happy Valentine's Day	15 Heavy Trash Pick-up	16 Pre-K & Kinder Roundup 7:00 pm Montessori Registration Information 8:00 pm	17	18	19 City Drop-Off Recycling
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

Clip and Save Recycling Reminders

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

WHERE: Drop-off at The Garden Oaks Theater parking lot
(8 a.m. - 11 a.m.)

WHAT AND HOW:

ALUMINUM CANS: Non-magnetic, RINSED.

TIN CANS: Campbell's soup cans, cat/dog food cans etc., RINSED and separated from aluminum cans.

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

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

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

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

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

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

PLASTICS: Milk jugs and plastic soft drink bottles rinsed and cleaned.