

# EVERYTHING YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT PROPERTY TAX PROTESTS, BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK

**CIVIC CLUB  
MEETING  
MARCH 1st**

## **MR. SANDS STIEFFER**

Assistant to the  
Chief Appraiser  
of the Harris County  
Appraisal District  
**will speak**  
on the hot topic of  
**REAPPRAISAL**  
**and**  
**PROTEST PROCEDURES**

The next meeting of the Garden Oaks Civic Club will be held at **7:00 pm on Tuesday, March 1, Garden Oaks Baptist Church, 3206 North Shepherd.** We will have much on our evening's program, including this month's hot topic, "Reappraisal and Protest Procedures." Don't miss it!

We will be voting on the 1994 Budget and conduct other civic business as usual. Refreshments will be provided by Garden Properties. Babysitting will be available.

## **BREAKFAST IS SERVED**

An Old Fashioned Pancake Breakfast will kick-off the fund-raising for the Montessori classrooms, Saturday, March 12, from 8:00 am to 10:30 am at the Garden Oaks Elementary School. Come by and eat breakfast before or after recycling. Pancakes and coffee will be served! A great way to begin your Spring Break holiday and find out about the Montessori program. The breakfast is sponsored by the Garden Oaks Friends of Montessori. Contributions will be accepted.

## **THE BRISKETS ARE HERE!**

One hundred and fifty mouth-watering, taste bud tingling BRISKETS are available for \$30.00 each. These fully-cooked 8-10 lb. briskets are excellent for freezing, so stock up for your Fourth of July picnics.

The Brisket sale is sponsored by the Garden Oaks Friends of Montessori. All proceeds will go to the Garden Oaks Elementary School Montessori Program.

To order, call **Trish Mehrkam** at 688-4008 or **Jane Ann Roberts** at 861-8512.

Pick-up will be Friday, March 11th. Remember there are only 150 of these Briskets and they are going fast, so call now before it is too late!

## **RECYCLE, RECYCLE, RECYCLE**

*By Kirk B. Dice*

The official year end figures for recycling are 126 tons of materials and \$2,041. The outlook for dollars from recycling is bleak. Prices seem to be falling. However, we will try to recycle more types of materials, and we will let you know here in the *Gazette*.

Don't forget we can now accept tin. 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.

**Kirk B. Dice**, President, 688-2247  
**Gilbert King**, 1st Vice President, 523-5874  
**Stan Bohon**, 2nd Vice President, 680-9631  
**Elizabeth Rigby**, Treasurer, 957-1436

*Gazette!*

**VOLUME 17, No. 3**  
**CIRCULATION 1550**  
**MARCH, 1994**

## FROM THE EDITOR . . .

This month the *Gazette* brings you more news, new features and a BIG PROBLEM! Your favorable response to this newsletter and the efforts of the resourceful neighbors who help create this publication is greatly appreciated. However, we need more money to continue the standards we have set in presenting Garden Oaks this year.

The standards in this newsletter feature our neighborhood as a positive community with plenty of news and articles of interest. The articles are written by Garden Oaks residents whose writings represent humor, education, dining, shopping, interior design, books, videos, science fiction, etc. It's a newsletter where you can read what you like or pass over what you don't care to read. This is a newsletter with something for everyone who enjoys living in a great neighborhood. Most importantly, it is a newsletter that shows an overwhelming amount of talented neighbors.

Our cost of production is high and we have several options to bring the cost down. As you have noticed, this month's *Gazette* has been published on newspaper type stock instead of recycled paper because it is less expensive. It is not recycled paper, but it can be recycled. Also, it does not present Garden Oaks as attractively as the more expensive paper. We may have to continue cutting costs by publishing the newsletter every three months instead of each month; however, we would then have to make a compensation for our advertisers. Another option is to cut the size of the publication and sacrifice its quality.

The best solution is not to do any of the aforementioned and return to our recycled paper! If you like our newsletter, help us raise money to continue and make it better each month. You can send a donation, sell advertisements or help raise money. There is a new membership form in this issue. It has a designation where you can donate money to the *Gazette*. Any amount will be appreciated. Trish Mehrkam and Scott MacClymonds have joined Carol Meyer and Linda Landry as advertising directors. Sell an ad or give them a call with a good lead, they are ready, willing and eager to help the *Gazette*. Start a fund-raiser, hold a cake sale or arrange another event.

Let's join in making a blast into the future by helping to continue with our reporting of the past and the present. Copies of the *Gazette* have filtered into other neighborhoods and several departments in

the City of Houston. It is being applauded and praised as being one of the best neighborhood publications in the city. Right now, the *Gazette* is what we choose it to be - GARDEN OAKS PROUD! Its future depends on whatever we can do to support it.

**-Jude Patronella**

## NEIGHBORHOODS TO STANDARDS

*By Rebecca & Rich Stark*

Neighborhoods to Standards Committee met on Tuesday, February 8th to address the issue of what Garden Oaks can and can't do with the help of the City of Houston.

### AREAS COVERED UNDER THE NTS PROGRAM

NEIGHBORHOOD PROTECTION  
HEAVY TRASH REMOVAL  
PUBLIC UTILITIES (DRINKING WATER)  
SCHOOL SIDEWALKS AND STREET OVERLAYMENT  
STREET LIGHTS  
STREET SIGNS/TRAFFIC SIGNALS  
ESPLANADES  
DITCH REPAIR AND CLEANING

Please note that Graham Park does not really fall under the NTS Program. Any real improvements will have to go through "Parks to Standards," a separate program set up by the Mayor's Office. Anyone interested in getting involved in Parks to Standards needs to call Bill Lehnert at 869-8375.

We think it's important for everyone in Garden Oaks to understand how we can utilize the NTS Program. According to Judy Butler (who heads the program) most of what the city plans to do has been put into place (i.e. paints fire hydrants and overlayment of streets). And, unfortunately, we are limited to what the city defines as "Bringing the Neighborhood to Standard".

We've planned a meeting with our committee and Judy Butler on what the other neighborhoods who have been involved with this program have accomplished, plus we're checking with these neighborhoods directly to see exactly how they're achieving their goals.

We're working at getting the most out of this program and we'll keep you updated.

## GARDEN OAKS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

*By Linda Ross (PTA President)*

If you heard sweet melodies coming from the school on Valentines Day, it was the fifth grade students serenading individual students, faculty, and staff with "Valentunes". The "Valentine" greetings were sold by the Student Council as a fund-raiser for their Earth Day project.

The Science Fair will be held the week of March 28th. Our students have been working in groups and individually to prepare their projects. Call the school if you can assist with judging or would like to view the projects.

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

Watch out for our students out for Spring Break the week of March 14 - 18. This is Spring Break for all of HISD.

With spring almost here, our school grounds welcome some "sprucing up". Our existing flower beds need some work (planting spring flowers and weeding). There are also some new projects in the works. If you can help with this task (Hello, Garden Club!) please call Campus Beautification Chairperson, Joan Harmon (695-8318).

Do you have a talent to show off at our Spring Spaghetti Supper and Talent Show? Plans are underway for a fun evening, Friday, April 15th at the school cafeteria. All types of acts are welcome from students, faculty, staff, and neighbors...So get out those instruments, music books, find a dance partner, write a short skit, sing a song and call Peggy Riley (691-5243) to sign up...The show must go on!

There is no PTA Meeting in March. However, if you have any questions about the school or PTA, please call the school at 695-0475 and your message will be directed to the appropriate person.

### **Gazette Ad Rates**

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

**Deadline for  
April Gazette  
is March 10th**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Suzanne Debien

Your enthusiasm continues to amaze and encourage me. The turnout for our February meeting was even bigger than the January meeting! My thanks to everyone who came. Not only did we accomplish our Civic Club business, but we had a great time honoring our "Sweethearts of Garden Oaks" in celebration of Valentine's Day. Susan McMillian, Judy Butler and Helen Huey were really impressed with the warmth of our neighbors and the size of the turnout. We also had a visit from City Council Member Sheila Jackson Lee, who is running for Congress in the 18th District.

As we heard in the committee reports, all the committee members are working hard and on track for 1994. This month, the spotlight is on "GO-COP" or Garden Oaks Citizens On Patrol.

You've probably seen your neighbors patrolling the streets of "Garden Oaks, Texas," with Citizens on Patrol signs on their cars. The hardworking people on this committee are volunteering their time and their cars to help keep potential troublemakers from preying on our neighborhood. There's no fanfare or great reward attached to working the patrols, but the service is a critical element in our effort to keep Garden Oaks safe. Soon, in addition to the sign on the car, each "GO-COP" volunteer will have an identification badge with his or her photo on it, so you'll know who to thank for helping to preserve our peace of mind. The "GO-COP" committee can always use more volunteers. You too, can be one of the few, the proud - the "GO-COPs"

Whether you join "GO-COPs" or any one of our other Civic Club committees, you'll be guaranteed a satisfying experience and a good time meeting more of your neighbors. I am really proud of the "can do" attitude I've seen among the volunteers this year and the willingness of so many of our residents to participate in our monthly meetings.

For the month of March, our guest speaker is from the Harris County Appraisal District. He will be addressing tax assessment and protest procedures, a topic which interests every homeowner. I hope to see you there!

**PLEASE**  
**Recycle this Gazette**

## H.I.S.D. AGREES MONTESSORI DOES MATTER!!!!

### APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED IN MARCH!!!!

By Trish Mehrkam

Applications for the Montessori Program are now available in the school office. Registration for the program will begin Tuesday, March 1, 1994, at 8:30 am and will continue through the end of March. The deadline for applications is March 31st. Registration for the 1994-95 school year will begin August 1, 1994.

The 1994-95 school year will be a very special beginning for 66 students. Three Montessori classrooms will open: one classroom with 3, 4, and 5 year old children; and 2 classrooms with 5, 6, and 7 year old children. A tuition for the pre-school (age 3 and 4) of \$165.50 a month will be charged to those able to pay and scholarship funds will be available for lower income families. Children kindergarten age and up will pay no tuition. The program is a full school day for all children enrolled (8:00 am - 3:00 pm).

More parental choice and dedication to higher education in public schools has mandated the structure of this exciting program. It is a simply wonderful opportunity to further the education of children zoned to Garden Oaks Elementary School. In addition to being zoned to Garden Oaks Elementary School, eligibility is formulated according to the ethnic make-up of the preceding school year at Garden Oaks Elementary School. No testing is required and no pre-requisites exist. Classrooms will be filled by ethnicity and age on a first come/first served basis.

For further information, please call Garden Oaks Elementary School, 695-0475.

## GARDEN OAKS CITIZENS ON PATROL

By Bill Chastain

As with most things in life, there is no guarantee. However, the traffic control devices that are proposed for our area have been installed in many other parts of the United States with much success. Because it slows traffic and discourages non-residents from crossing through our subdivision, one of the prizes is fewer "outsiders" and fewer speeders.

Other neighborhoods have experienced a significant reduction in crime. Granted, there will be some inconveniences for us, but isn't that a small price to pay for slower traffic and fewer "cut-through drivers" who often speed to make up for whatever time they may have lost at the last traffic light on Ella or Shepherd? Unfortunately, times have changed. We long-term residents of our quiet little area remember when we used to leave the doors and windows open day and night, whether we were home or not. NOW, we have everything but an armed guard. Society has changed, and we must unfortunately change, also. Life is not as simple as it used to be. Remember... the best security anyone can have is an observant neighbor. Be a helpful, caring neighbor.

### POSITIVE INTERACTION PROGRAM

Try and make the P.I.P. (Positive Interaction Program) meeting on the third Thursday of each month, 7:00 pm at St. Matthew's United Methodist Church. Entrance for the evening function is on the north side, then left to the gym. Wear your Garden Oaks T-shirt if you have one. HPD offers interesting and informative programs that are of value to everyone. You do not have to be in GO-COP to attend.

### PATROLLERS OF THE MONTH

Patrollers of the month for March are **Mildred Warhol** and **Edith Rider**. They will receive a gift certificate for a restaurant of their choice. We are grateful for their time and diligence for another year of patrolling. They have patrolled for a total of four years.

### GO-COP TIP

If you notice any public graffiti, take a picture of it if you can and report it to HPD Tactical and Gang Activity at 699-3813.

### CRIME STATISTICS

200 block W. 34th	11/24/93	automobile theft
900 block W. 42nd	11/20/93	assault
900 block W. 31st	11/13/93	automobile theft
300 block W. 33rd	12/24/93	burglary
900 block W. 42nd	12/08/93	robbery
900 block W. 43rd	12/14/93	burglary
900 block Gardenia	12/04/93	narcotic
1300 Block Sue Barnett	12/30/93	automobile theft

GO-COP PATROLLED 78 HOURS IN JANUARY, 1994

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## GARDEN OAKS BEAT

By Kiki & Bunny (They Stoop To Anything)

### Tea Time at Bunny's Garden Oaks Deck

"Kiki, guess what? Totally unbelievable but true. **Terry Jeanes** and her husband **Rob** celebrated their sixteenth wedding anniversary on St. Patrick's Day, March 17. For sure something so special...it had to be celebrated at Tony's."

"Bunny, that's fabulous news! Speaking of food, have another beer ball. You know we've both been dieting, but can one more hurt? I got this recipe from **Sheila** and **Rebecca**...aren't they like butter?"

"Kiki, you're right. One more hour on the Stairmaster will surely burn off the calories. And speaking of burning calories, keeping up with supermom **Christiane Rogers** would definitely keep us trim. I'm exhausted from thinking of what this woman just did. In January, she hosted a birthday party for three out of her five children. NO JOKE!"

"Bunny, do you think they served cookies at the party? They must've been the Thin Mints and Samoas from the Girl Scouts. And can you believe that another supermom, **Linda Reichle**, found time in her hectic schedule to distribute Girl Scout cookies during February. She's a saint."

"Kiki, have you got some more Sweet & Low for the tea? Did you also know that longtime sweethearts, **Ralph & Charlotte Hayes**, just tied the knot. Champagne wishes and caviar dreams to the happy couple. Let's have another beer ball (BURP)."  
(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?

#### Biff's Beer Balls

Presented by Sheila Briones & Rebecca Stark

#### INGREDIENTS:

2 lbs. ground beef  
1 cup catsup  
1 cup beer (you'll figure out what to do with the rest)  
4 tbsp. Worcestershire sauce  
4 tbsp. vinegar  
3 tbsp. sugar  
Toothpicks

#### TO PREPARE:

Roll the ground meat into balls the size of walnuts. Brown well on all sides. Pour off all the grease. Combine catsup, beer, Worcestershire sauce, vinegar & sugar & pour over balls in skillet.

Simmer for 2 hours. on low heat, stirring the balls around occasionally. Serve hot on toothpicks.

## SCHOOL DAYS

By Jane Ann Roberts

If you won the lottery, what would be on your wish list? We all have ideas of bigger homes, travel, cars etc. But we don't need to win the lottery to pull together to help our community school with it's wish list. Some of the items listed below may be found in your home, or maybe some of your companies may be getting rid of old equipment. Whichever the case, here is a list of items needed:

#### Hot plate for lounge

#### Set of flatware for Faculty Hospitality

#### Portable Science Lab equipment, Magnifying lenses

#### Small electric stove with oven for Kindergarten classes

#### Used (can be repaired) band instruments (brass, woodwind, etc.)

#### Apple Computers - software - hardware, Typewriters

#### Scrap paper (for cutting, drawing, coloring), Paper cutter

#### Child-size scissors, rulers, books, magazines

#### Old costumes - sequined hats, ballet slippers, gloves

#### Piano

#### Old dresser

#### Buttons

#### Area rugs - (8x10) for classrooms

#### Floor pillows

#### Puppets

#### Carpet samples

If you wish to donate any of the above items, please contact Garden Oaks Elementary at 695-0475.

## INSIDE GARDEN OAKS

By Shannon L. Nelson, ASID

Here we go! It's spring again...time to change those air conditioning filters, the oil in your car and the wreath on the front door.

How many of us have the ubiquitous "Cyclone" fencing? If yours is of the vintage mine is, the only thing holding it together is 40 years of rust and a few coat hangers. I discovered a neat trick to spruce up this Garden Oaks mainstay. Aluminum paint such as "Rustoleum" can be applied to the wire and posts with amazing results. I did my test area with a spray can, but when I really "get with it" I will rent a compressor. I used a 4' x 8' piece of foam core ( you can buy this at Texas Art Supply) for a back board to prevent quantum over-spray, but cardboard or plywood would work, too. Now, I realize that this activity may be the home improvement equivalent to putting a band-aid on a brain tumor, but it will improve the looks of this stuff until we can replace it with projected iron fencing. I'm not even sure that I don't like the "Cyclone" look in our neighborhood. My designer friend, Susan Spooner, picked up on this idea and sprayed the old wire shelves in her hand-me-down refrigerator.

Hint, put your pets inside, park your cars (and those of your neighbors) at the end of the block, make sure that the fence is dry following prior washing with sprayer. This should not be done on a breezy day. You will need to do both sides of the fence to achieve the desired effect, so ask for your neighbor's permission and/or contribution.

Even though almost all of us have hardwood floors (see last month's article for this experience in terror), most of the kitchens in Garden Oaks have a sub-floor of utility grade lumber with 75 layers of asbestos, vinyl tile, and sheet vinyl piled on top. When renovating it is sometimes difficult to decide what to choose as a kitchen flooring. I feel that ceramic tile and sheet vinyl are incongruous to most of our little houses. Further, laying wood is often cost prohibitive and does not always meld with other wood flooring. What to do, what to do....

Try creating your own custom "retro look" by using alternating colors of 12" x 12" hard vinyl tile squares. This checkerboard effect is most effective when there is a marked contrast between your two selections. Try a solid with a dapple, a dark with a light, etc. For example, I used solid black with a black/gray/white dapple. You may wish to lay wonder board or plywood over sub-floor to

insure an even, level installation.

To expand the visual square footage of a small space, the above vinyl tile treatment or any square flooring can be installed at a 45 degree angle. This diagonal application creates a sense of movement in the visual field and illustrates the principle of perspective. How about that? Adding square footage without spending a cent.

Ah...rewiring...Does anybody (besides me) remember Ready Kilowatt? When I was little this little guy with the socket ears and the light bulb nose was touted as "our friend". Since moving to Garden Oaks I have realized that electricity is not always your friend.

I left "honey do" notes for all my subcontractors tacked to the kitchen wall. The lengthy electrician's list ended with "fix all scary things." He paged me at 4:00 PM with "guess what little bit, EVERYTHING is scary," \$6,000.00 later, my crusty romex insulated wiring, ungrounded everything, hot spots, and crackly switches are a thing of the past. I want to thank each and every one of you who shopped at our mid-winter garage sale cocktail party. My electrician, Darrell, also thanks you.

Hint, when your hair dryer, television set, and microwave all blow up within a few days of each other, it is time to consider updating. When this is eminent, request white switches and duplex receptacles. If you don't, most likely, you will get icky barf-beige ones that are impossible to integrate into your color scheme. To further enhance the look, try white porcelain or brass switch and plug plates. I like Lenape for pure white, Anlo for slightly off-white and of course, Baldwin for brass. It is always a surprise how the little, subtle touches can make an interior.

I have been spending a lot of time out in the yard with Dude and new baby sister, Daphne (golden retrievers from hell), boy I can't wait until next month's article...I feel driven to "do stuff" to the outside of my wonderful little old house. Stay tuned....

Recycle Drop-Off  
Garden Oaks  
Theater  
March 12  
8:00 a.m.

## DENNIS R. CLOONEY TREE EXPERTS

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## St. Matthew's

United Methodist Church

SUNDAY WORSHIP 8:15 & 10:30 am

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:15 am

Preschool - Mon - Fri 5:45-6:15

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

4300 N. Shepherd at Crosstimbers  
697-0671

Pastors: Don Goodwin, Don Raschke



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Additions  
2nd Stories  
Renovations

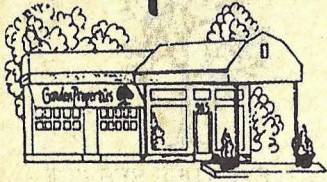
- 718 W. 42nd St.
- 729 W. 39th St.
- 705 W. 39th St.
- 818 W. 41st St.
- 855 Azalea
- 839 Lamonte

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# Garden Properties



# Selling

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## GARDEN OAKS RESIDENTS ATTEND NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PUBLIC MEETINGS

*By Marc Roberts*

Approximately 180 Garden Oaks residents attended the neighborhood traffic management public meetings held on Saturday, February 5th, and Wednesday, February 9th, at St. Matthew's United Methodist Church. The public meetings were hosted by Garden Oaks Neighborhood Traffic committee for the purpose of reviewing and obtaining comment on the proposed traffic management plans for Garden Oaks. Proposed plans have been prepared for each of the four major thoroughfare areas making up Garden Oaks as follows: Section one between Shepherd and Yale, Section one west of Shepherd, section north of 43rd, and sections bounded by 43rd, Ella, 34th, and Shepherd.

Traffic engineers from Sunland Engineering, the consultants assigned by the City of Houston, presented the proposed plans to the Garden Oaks residents in attendance and answered questions. In addition, residents had the opportunity to comment on the proposals and to offer suggestions for improvement. As a result, some of the suggestions were incorporated into the proposals while others are pending and require more analysis. Sunland engineering and Garden Oaks Neighborhood Traffic committee members will work to further refine the proposed plans and additional public meetings will be scheduled at a later date. Accordingly, Garden Oaks residents should be on the lookout for announcements concerning future public meetings which will be published in the *Gazette* and in door-to-door flyer.

In the meantime, if you have any questions or comments, please contact one of the Garden Oaks Neighborhood Traffic committee members as follows:

### Section one between Shepherd and Yale:

Shannon Nelson 802-9301  
Marc Roberts 861-8512  
Ann Spiering 862-6138

### Section one west of Shepherd:

Marcia Rawnsley 869-3878  
Rosa Swartwout 862-1302  
Rod Walker 868-2469

### Sections bounded by 43rd, Ella, 34th, and Shepherd:

Rosana Hagman 694-8248 (After 6 pm only)  
Jeff McClellan 691-7422

### Section north of 43rd

Dennis Alexander 682-5592

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 the neighborhood or diverting traffic through another neighborhood.

## GARDEN OAKS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS TUTOR STUDENTS

*By Trish Mehrkam*

"Adopt a Student" is an exciting program offered this year to the students at Garden Oaks Elementary. We have had great success with the help of community and parent involvement. Teachers have signed up to 80 students for a tutorial setting. We have 26 volunteers to support this demand, tutoring 2 to 5 students at a time.

The concept is to tutor the same students through an extended period, enabling the students and tutor to see improvements and accomplishments in the area(s) targeted and build a relationship to promote skills in reading, writing, and math.

Basic reading, writing and math skills are reinforced daily in the classroom and if extra attention is needed, it is given in a tutorial setting. A child may be a little confused understanding what he has read because he is concentrating so much on the reading itself. Learning to read takes practice and when you become comfortable with reading, the comprehension soon follows. The same applies to math skills. A little extra practice with adult supervision in a smaller setting gives the child a chance to grasp and hold onto the concept he may have missed in the classroom.

We have Garden Oaks Elementary parent volunteers, retired community volunteers, business volunteers, and a number of volunteers from **McCoy, Inc.**, Garden Oaks Elementary School's business partner. These volunteers schedule an hour a week, sometimes more, to come to Garden Oaks Elementary and tutor reading, writing, and math to some very luck children.

We need a few more volunteers whose schedule will allow an hour a week. The program is organized through VIPS (Volunteers In Public Schools) and tutoring is on the school campus during school hours (8:00 am to 3:00 pm). A classroom is available for the tutoring sessions and the scheduling is according to your time preference. The sessions usually last 45 minutes. (For further information and to sign-up for your students, please call Trish Mehrkam at 688-4008.)

## NEW MEMBERSHIP

By Colleen & Ray Housley

Members	Years of Residency
Tim and Luetta Allen	1
Brad Berryman	1
Juanita Biggs	49
Kenan Branam & Jan Knight	3
Mildred Christian	45
James & Joyce Colgainers	39
Carolyn Collier	7
Skip & Gaye Comisia	1
Ron & Sharlene Compana	2
Mary D'Anna	46
Ed & Brenda de Alba	13
David & Suzanne Debien	
Karl & Elva Duncal	29
Rose E. Edgar	31
Trey & Darla Englert	
David & Denise Epstein	12
Rob & Kerri Epstein	3
L.E. & Frankie Fite	2
Mildred Fleeger	44
Mary Jane Foster	46
Mr. & Mrs. Alvin T. Froehlich	33
Vee Gaines	44
Douglas & Susan Gavin	4
Mr. & Mrs. Peter J. Gillen	4
Greater Heights Area Civic Club	
Jim & Marie Gregory	20
Darryl & Rosana Hagman	11
Jim & Margaret Hall	12
Constance A. Hansen	54
W.A. Herbaugh	42
Paul & Laurie Hardwick	2
Miles Harper	3
Kyle & Donna Harris	6
Ralph & Charlotte Hayes	
Mr. & Mrs. Hillin	6
T. & Anne Hoovestol	1
John Everett & Kathy Huber	8
Ken & Patty	7
David & Misty Jones	1
Paul & Dorothy Kiker	48
Charles & Virginia Kimbrough	46
Donald, Stacey & Root Koch	1
Henry & Marie Koester	40
Craig & Peggy Kramer	16
Albert & Lucille Lancios	33
Marshall & Cecilia Lighter	52
Richard & Cheryl Luck	8
Paul & Kathy Marek	15
Bill & Susan McMillian	45
Tom & Trish Mehrkam	39
Luis & Anna Meza	1
Bill & Dana Montgomery	16
Mr. & Mrs. E.A. Noser	53
Amelia Padilla	27
Tim & Sue Pagel	14
Scott & Jaime Pierce	5
Mr. & Mrs. Lynn Porter	43

James & Sandra Robinson	1
John & Linda Ross	16
Lee Ruby	52
Nancy Rust	7
Mark & Susan Saranie	1
Anita Scherer	9
Steve & Laurie Schroeder	1
Arthur Smith	20
A.W. & Mable Smith	51
Lynda Spinks	46
Susan Spooner	1
Rich & Rebecca Stark	6
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Amy Ross	1/13/86
Linda Ross	1/16
John Ross	1/30
Joel Marek	2/6/90
Mr. H.H. Hillin	2/17
Jerry Gilmore	2/10
Brett Sherwood	2/6/89
Lindsey Schwartz	3/17/90
Natalia Robinson	3/6/90
Kelly Fite	3/22/75

Happy Birthdays to you all and we  
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## GARDEN NOTES

By Misty Jones

Jude has said that I should tell you something about myself. I am a gardener. Gardening is not my passion. It is not my hobby. It is just a basic part of who I am. I am not an expert gardener nor have I ever made any money from gardening. I enjoy being outside, toiling over a plot of soil, enjoying the beauty and caring for the fruits of my labor. I am not always successful and I don't always know what I'm doing. I have a lot of gardening books that I consult and as my garden grows, so does my knowledge of gardening.

It was my search for land on which to garden that brought me to Garden Oaks. When the Realtor showed me the sprawling house with overgrown gardens and too many trees on West 43rd Street I knew I was home. My husband David, dog Beau, cat Ditty, and I moved in October 9, 1991.

My plans for the gardens have changed many times, but I think a design of sorts is beginning to appear. I choose to suffer through my own mistakes rather than hire a professional. I kind of like that it's never finished. There's always work to be done in the garden. So let's get going and get growing. . .

March brings us Spring and the biggest and best signs of Spring in Houston are the azaleas. If you don't already have azaleas, they can be planted any time of year. They prefer loose, sandy, well-draining acid soil, and must be planted bare-root. Do not dig a hole, but work up the top soil, adding some agricultural gypsum, then add a foot of prepared soil in which to plant the azalea. Maintain an acid soil for established plants by mulching with composted manure and pine needles. Do not cultivate around azaleas, as shallow roots can be injured.

Azaleas should be kept moist at all times, but not waterlogged. They need plenty of water while in bloom, but must have good drainage.

Immediately following blooming season before new growth begins is the proper time for pruning. Prune only to cut back unsightly branches and to maintain the desired size and shape.

Azaleas are light feeders. Fertilize once in the spring just after blooming season with azalea food. If the plants are near trees give them a second application around May 15. Do not fertilize after June 1 as this will interfere with the plant's essential dormant period.

If you're interested in growing azaleas, there are many species and varieties to choose from that grow in conditions ranging

from full sun to shade. Some make excellent container plants. If you just want to look you can see beautiful displays at Bayou Bend Gardens, go on the Azalea Trail through that ritzy subdivision to the south, or best of all take a leisurely drive through my neighborhood . . . Garden Oaks.

## IN THE BACKYARD

By David Veselka

So beautiful and quick that you wonder at first if you really saw one, hummingbirds capture the eye and imagination more vividly than most birds in the backyard. Although hummingbirds do not nest in Garden Oaks, we enjoy migrating Ruby-throated Hummingbirds in spring and fall, and stray western hummers like the Rufous, Black-chinned, or Broad-tailed as rare winter residents. Indeed, February's brush with winter painted a most extraordinary scene in the backyard; a hovering Buff-bellied Hummingbird surrounded by a flurry of snowflakes!

Some neighbors have asked why hummingbirds come to our backyard and not theirs. It's likely that hummingbirds have explored your backyard as thoroughly as ours. The reason they may stay longer in ours is quite simple; we invite them. Hummingbird "hospitality" includes nectar, tiny insects, and shelter. While hummingbirds also enjoy bathing, I have rarely seen them at the birdbath. They usually prefer a few drops of water on a leaf after a shower or in the mist from the lawn sprinkler.

The sweet nectar of flowers, especially of red blooms with deep narrow throats, is a hummingbird magnet. Fortunately, an extraordinary variety of suitable plants grow well in our area. In the backyard we have planted abutilon (two varieties), hamelia (one of several plants that go by the name "hummingbird bush"), pentas, shrimp plant, hibiscus, fire spike, red buckeye, coral honeysuckle, butterfly ginger, turk's cap, cardinal flower, Peruvian lily, Louisiana iris, azaleas, and a number of salvias. The salvias are hummingbird favorites. Scarlet sage (*S. coccinea*) is a Texas native that reseeds easily. *Salvia splendens* is a spectacular garden plant, and the cultivar 'Red Hot Sally' is especially desirable. *S. guaranitica* ('Purple Majesty') from South America can grow four or five feet tall and produce one to two inch dark purple flowers on foot long bloom spikes. Fragrant pineapple sage (*s. elegans*), cherry sage (*s. greggii*) from west Texas, and Mexican bush sage (*s. leucantha*) are all desirable as well.



Hummingbird feeders which offer a sugar solution are only a substitute flower and will rarely attract hummingbirds to a yard that does not also have blooming plants. Feeders certainly help bring the migrating birds into view, however, and the rare wintering hummingbirds rely on them for survival during cold weather that reduces the availability of flowers in the garden. If you use a feeder, be sure to follow a few simple rules to insure that you will not accidentally harm the birds. Mix a solution of 1 part sugar (never honey) to 4 parts boiled water and let it cool. Boiling the water and avoiding honey help to prevent bacteria and molds that can attack a hummingbird's tongue and cause its death. The sugar solution should also be checked frequently for bacterial growth, and the feeder should be cleaned and refilled with a freshly made solution every 3 or 4 days. Never use red dye or food coloring; instead, choose a feeder with red decoration. If the feeder sounds like too much trouble, try growing more flowering plants and let nature take its course.

While hummingbirds have few natural predators, they face several dangers in our backyards. The deadliest threat is plate glass windows, which are responsible for the deaths of millions (no exaggeration) of North America birds each year. Cats are usually too slow for hummers, but occasionally they get lucky, and they do take a considerable toll on other backyard birds. A less obvious danger is garden pesticides; we quit spraying in the backyard years ago and have never regretted it. The number of wintering hummingbirds has increased, possibly due to a greater supply of small insects that fulfill their protein needs. We've noticed no significant damage to our plants, and we see more walkingsticks, lady bugs, and praying mantises as well. Hummingbirds, jewels of the natural world, are found only in temperate and tropical areas of the Western Hemisphere. And, of course, in the backyard.

### In Praise of Garden Oaks

(With apologies to James Agee who wrote "Let Us Now Praise Famous Men.")

By Janet Little

Where else could I find a home I have loved for 39 years. Where else could I live a few minutes from downtown Houston and have a wild bird sanctuary in my backyard. (There are about 7,000 in the United States - I plan to register mine with the Federation of Wild Life).

A few days ago I stood at the sink and looked out the window - I caught my breath as I saw my red-headed woodpecker sitting

on a dead limb. I saw him looking in the window at me as he often does - only this time he had a much smaller red-headed woodpecker with him - a son or daughter, I'm sure.

I think he was teaching his baby how to catch bugs by hoping up and down the limbs. *I never cut a dead tree, I have them for the red-headed woodpeckers.*

As I stood watching, I saw my cardinal and his mate eating from the bird feeder. He hatched out in a nest behind my garage three years ago. I looked in the nest and saw the eggs before he was born. I recognize him because he has some brown on his scarlet wings.

At the same moment, as I watched, three blue jays were eating on the ground with several doves at peace with each other.

Several yards away there were seven crackles eating scraps I had thrown out. To my amazement I saw a little finch with a yellow breast in a tree very close to the house.

I remembered spending one whole day when we lived in Galveston, watching dozens of tiny finches - who had come from small islands in the Gulf of Mexico. Bright blue finches filled my cloths line - many finches of various colors flew around the yard that day.

A few months ago I saw a scarlet tanager (red with black wings). Another day I saw a black woodpecker with white spots or dots.

About 30 red breasted robins stayed for several days - eating on the ground, scratching away the dead leaves and eating the cherry laurel berries that had fallen to the ground. Leaves were flying all over the ground as they vigorously kicked the leaves aside.

I miss my ruby throated hummingbird since lightning struck the huge pine tree in our front yard. My neighbor saw the pictures fall off the wall and saw the plants fall from her window sill. She looked over and saw our great old pine tree on fire. There was a large trumpet vine all the way to the top of the tree - once I saw five ruby throated hummingbirds at one time up in the tree sipping nectar from the blossoms - I have not seen one since the tree was destroyed.

I counted 75 or more rings on a section of the tree the men saved for me. I wouldn't trade our home in Garden Oaks for the largest mansion in Houston.

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 ASQII Text.

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## NEIGHBOR SPOTLIGHT — CHUCK MORGAN

By Jude Patronella

Music came to Garden Oaks in 1939 when **Charles R. Morgan (known as Chuck)** and his late wife, **Van Buren Morgan**, moved into their new two-story home on West 41st Street.

"I played in big bands where 'real music' was played," said Morgan. "I played the saxophone, clarinet and violin." His music brought him to Houston in 1930 to play in a dance band at Kensington Hall. After moving here and living in hotels, boarding houses and apartments, Morgan decided to build a home on a vacant lot in Garden Oaks Section One, but his wife didn't want to wait. She found their house in the process of being built in Section Two and they bought it directly from the builder.

At that time "buses ran up to the underpass on North Shepherd and riders had to walk the rest of the way." Houses were being built and much of the surrounding areas were forests of trees and critters. The Morgans were founding members of **Oaks Christian Church**. Their first meeting place was on the campus of Garden Oaks Elementary School where Sparks Park is located. Later the church moved to its present location at Ella Boulevard and a dirt road which was named Bethlehem by one of the congregation's former pastors, **Reverend James Wright**.

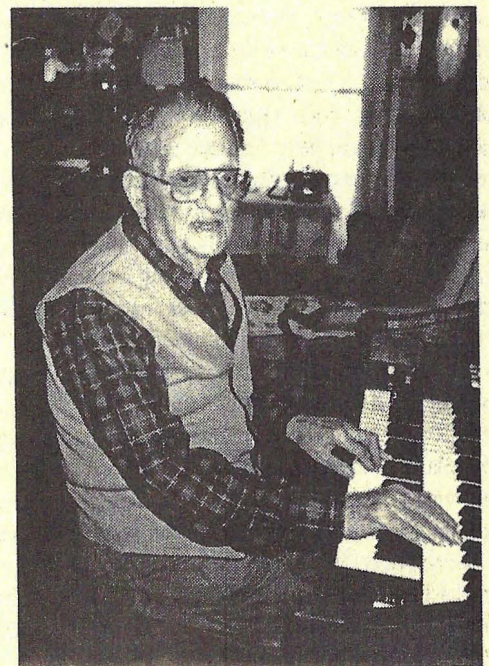
In those days Morgan worked in the daytime and played in bands at night. He repaired musical instruments for a music company, sold musical instruments, worked as a manager for a distributor of Columbia Records, and worked as Southwestern District Manager for the Columbia factory out of Bridgeport, Connecticut. His sales region covered a territory from El Paso to New Orleans. His wife was also busy at work. She was Credit Manager for the Rice Hotel. Her creative skills included knitting, crocheting, needlepoint and gardening.

Morgan formed his own band, "The Seven Jacks." He had good players and performed at dances held at River Oaks Country Club, Golfcrest Country Club, Houston Country Club and many other notable places. "When I gave up my horn, a part of my life went with it. My wife insisted I get something else to play and continue my music," Morgan said. "I bought an organ and I still occasionally play it." He also started a new career and worked for twenty years at **Brink's Hardware** at its old location on North Shepherd and Loop 610.

*Chuck Morgan and his horn in the "Hey Days" of 1930*

Last year Morgan celebrated his 90th birthday. He is described as "simply wonderful" by his neighbor **Martha Rhea**. She said his friends and neighbors love him. He is humorous, an inspiration, and very kind to the children of the neighborhood - never forgetting to give them candy at Halloween. He feeds pigeons and sometimes trims grass and shrubs in his yard. Rhea also said he is a great musician.

On May 16 he will celebrate his 91st birthday. More than half of his life has been spent right here in Garden Oaks. The hearts of his family and friends are filled with the joy of knowing him and the walls of his loving home are filled with the sound of music.



*Today at home still playing his music*

## GIRLS AND THEIR DADS ENJOY VALENTINE SWEETHEART DANCE

The Twin Oaks Service Unit of the Girl Scouts, which includes Garden Oaks, had a Father-Daughter Valentine Sweetheart Dance on February 12th. Over 300 attended the event and enjoyed music by the Frio River Band. Decorations were a mixture of Country and Valentines. Girls dressed Country or "sweetheart". Garden Oaks Girls and Dads included: Amy Marek and Dad Paul, Haley and Meredith Voorhees sharing their Dad Robert, Laura Rhea and Dad Joe, Allison Bell and Dad David, Clare Duncan and Dad Dennis, Krystin Moon and Dad Ed, Sharon Jaffe and Dad Bob, Carrie Alexander and Dad Dennis, Genevieve Cato and Dad Chris, Amy Ross and Dad John. Chairperson of this fun event was Martha Rhea of Garden Oaks, Section 2.

## BOOKS

### VIRTUE REWARDED

By Louis Patronella

What is an old fashioned literary anthology doing near the top of the best sellers list week after week? After all, non fiction best-seller-land is the exclusive purview of ghostwritten autobiographies of people having their requisite fifteen minutes of fame; the latest word on dieting and/or living forever; those pesky inner children spawned by toxic parents to continue the job they started; and the New Age guru du jour. How does a collection of stories and poetry fit into such a mix? Well, as explained to the young Gypsy Rose Lee by Tessie Torah and her experienced sister entertainers, "You Gotta Have a Gimmick!"

The hook of The Book of Virtues, edited with commentary by William J. Bennett, is the Good Old Days, a time when life was a lot simpler thus happier. Children were seen and not heard and at the most were a "caution" - not the bloodthirsty gang members of today. Look no further than the book jacket printed on parchment to find the be-ribboned little girl and spit-polished little boy of yore virtually engulfed in a book sitting on top of the statement "A treasury of great moral stories." Bennett dedicates the book to "the families of America from my family . . ." The message is simply that its time to get back to basics and the family is the instrument to save our society.

William J. Bennett served as Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy under George Bush and as Secretary of Education and Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities under Ronald Reagan. His Virtues is not a book to be read from cover to cover, but rather to be used as a reference or text book to instruct by illustration to "aid in the time-honored task of the moral education of the young." Bennett defines moral education as the training of the heart and soul toward the good—training in good habits. Chapter headings of the Book of Virtues include *Self-Discipline, Compassion, Responsibility, Friendship, Work, Courage, Perseverance, Honesty, Loyalty, and Faith*. The stories, poems, essays and other writings under these titles make these virtues concrete by example of the quality itself or the consequence of its opposite. Virtue you can see, feel, touch and then understand and incorporate into your own behavior.

Does this work? The past always seems better than it was and ours is filled with its share of injustice and inequity. We all know there is no panacea but the idea of one still carries immense appeal. Bennett's collection is a treasure of literature, good and bad, to be savored and

enjoyed. Parents, in particular, may find it a welcome addition to their books on child rearing. And whether the little "cautions" become more virtuous or not, maybe, they will become more literate.

### CATO & COMPANY

#### AT DUCHO'S

By Chris Cato

It's so easy to get lost in Houston. Believe it or not though, there was a time before the Beltway, before the loop - before...when Houston was just a nice sized city. **Calvin and Joann Ducho** remember those days. Garden Oaks was accessed by shell roads and the only real attraction around these parts was the old Bill Mraz Dance Hall. Well, the shell roads have long since been replaced and the only thing left of the dance hall is the lot it sat on. This area is old enough that much of it's early grandness is but a memory. But if you know where to look you can still revel in it's history. Permit me to tell you where to look.

**Ducho's Steak House** is an area landmark. In the late 60's and early 70's folks from as far as Conroe and Sugar Land regularly drove in to let Calvin "cut'em a steak." Calvin Ducho still cuts the steaks, and as far as steak houses go, that's rare (no pun intended). This is not the place to go if you want some precut, prewrapped steak cooked to the specifications of some chef who lives in Chicago. **Folks, this is the real deal.**

It's not a fancy place and there are no frills, but the service is great and the chicken fried steak tastes like one of those delicacies served up in a small town Texas cafe. And if you're not careful you might just forget you're in the big city. I think that's because Ducho's Steak House has deep roots in this community. That means something to me. I grew up here in Garden Oaks and now my kids are growing up here as well. Ducho's is the kind of place where your children would just expect to see other kids from school or the family that lives down the street. That sense of community is a rare jewel in this overgrown town. Recently a young bride held her wedding rehearsal in the restaurant's banquet hall. The brides' mother had also held her own wedding rehearsal in the same place. That's special. That's Ducho's.

So if you want a mouth watering steak cooked exactly like you ordered it, or you're just looking for a comfortable place to bring the family on a regular basis, you hardly have to leave Garden Oaks. Just head north on Shepherd a few blocks past 43rd and take a right of Hiedrich. It's just behind the corner strip center. Just tell'em Cato sent'ya.

Our February dinner guests included **Carlos Antonio Rios, Barbara Conetti, John Everett, Kathy Huber, Cheryl Cato, Mark and Jane Ann Roberts and Susan and Barry Morris**. Cato & Company will meet again, March 11. Call 864-7864 for reservations.

### VIDEOS

#### THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT

By Anne Balson

A great performance video can almost duplicate the thrill of a live concert. It's a favorite form of mine and here are some favorites:

The Ultimate Event: Frank, Liza and Sammy - three larger than life legends at the top of their game. Each one has a segment and they all meet at the finale. If you are a fan of this kind of big time show-biz, this is as good as it gets. The rental video contains a nice sampling of interviews and backstage footage that was edited out of the tape shown by PBS in their recent fund drive.

Daryl Hall and John Oates at the Apollo - definitive blue-eyed soul. The Philadelphia Sound comes to Harlem with a concert that will make you forget all the early videos from this duo. Hall fairly levitates the Apollo with his "Everytime You Go Away," the really long version. Just for openers, Hall and Oates do a full Temptations set with the incomparable Eddie Kendrick and David Ruffin. Great good time rock and roll.

Barry Manilow Live on Broadway - the Mandyman has grown up and shows here what his fans have known all along; he's an accomplished entertainer. This is a well-written, beautifully mounted production; sets, choreography, a nice biographical structure and a terrific company. If you hate Manilow, take a look; you just might change your mind (it could happen). If you love him, you already own this one.

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## HOUSE OF THE MONTH

By Jude Patronella

As you drive to the house at 311 W. 34th Street, you will see a beautiful Garden Oaks home that has been totally rebuilt and contains approximately 2,500 square feet. The old house (900 square feet) was torn down to its piers and two remaining walls.

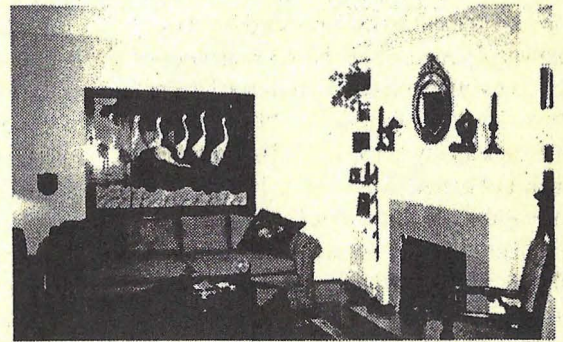


**June Hightower**, an interior designer, and **Mark Harvie**, owner of Pinnacle Homes, bought the original house to fix-up and resale. When starting to remodel they discovered too much termite damage to substantiate a renovation, so they decided to rebuild it and move in. Hightower said they chose to duplicate the exterior of the original house because they did not want to destroy the integrity of the neighborhood.

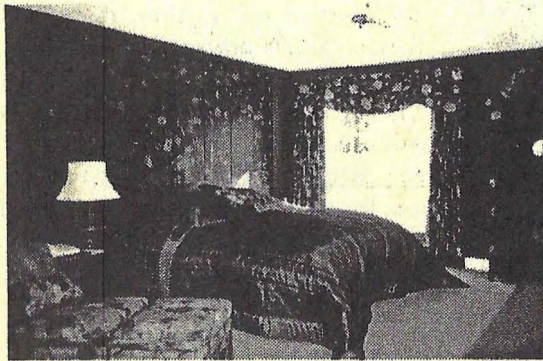
Crossing over the brass plated thresholds you will marvel at this home's interior design with very eclectic furnishings of new, antique and Oriental pieces accented with the exciting colors of forest green, wine and white throughout the house. Bedspreads, custom drapery and wall coverings of paisley, floral and stripe prints enhance the interior design. French doors and many wooden windows

bring the outdoors into each of the large rooms in this house.

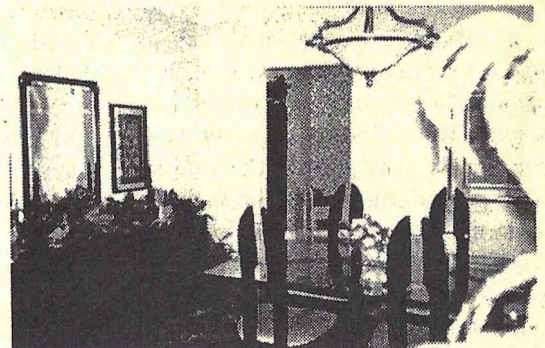
The living room has a wood burning fireplace accented in marble. A formal dining room with beautiful Oriental furnishings has a large contemporary Italian chandelier. The huge master suite has an adjoining garden bath with an oversize tub, separate shower and plenty of sunlight flowing through a large glass block window.



The den overlooks a covered deck that leads to a large backyard. African art objects hang on two walls of the den and a customized built-in cabinet is on another wall. Forest green ceramic tile adds an exhilarating feeling to a well organized white kitchen. Upstairs, another two large bedrooms have sitting areas. The upstairs bath, as well as the downstairs guest bath, are rich in color with white porcelain fixtures. Hard wood floors, colorful Oriental rugs, ceramic tile and plush carpeting are throughout the house.



Raised cove ceilings enhance the depth perception of the rooms. All cabinets in this home have been custom built and feature fluted and raised panel molding and six inch two-piece baseboards. In addition to being a highly energy efficient home, it also has a state of the art security system.



**This home deserves a warm welcome to Garden Oaks.  
Visit it on the Garden Oaks Home Tour this fall!**



**THE SERIAL**

*By Scott MacClymonds P.C.*

**Chapter 3**

In the year 2019 unmanned deep space exploration units confirmed that the empty voids of space were not empty. Sophisticated detection devices aboard the research units had discovered a complex web of "blackmatter" flowing through space much like currents of water through Earth's oceans. Previously accepted theories suggesting outer space as an empty vacuum were thrown out when these discoveries disclosed that the Great Voids contained 99.9% of all the matter in the universe. Intensified research revealing that life forms traveled these currents and used the blackmatter flows to disseminate their species revolutionized the philosophical and theological movements that had dominated the previous 3500 years of human civilization. The Human race was confronted with unassailable proof that not only were they not alone in the Universe, humans were but one species of countless intelligent alien life forms. The knowledge that the Earth had been seeded by the blackmatter flows for eons brought a new awareness of Humankind's situation in the Universe. This new awareness also resulted in worldwide chaos as various religious movements struggled to maintain control over their followers. Space research bases were attacked by mobs of angry zealots demanding the cessation of space programs and immediate destruction of all data confirming the blackmatter flows. This time became known as the Dim Ages. By 2018, potable water had easily become the single most valuable commodity on Earth. The damming of rivers worldwide, massive irrigation of desert lands for crops, wasteful usage by Garden Oaks Residents and the clear cutting of the last of the Central and South American Rain Forests had changed the weather patterns of the world. The endless droughts resulted in the Great Water Wars of 2035. Water rich nations forced a new alignment of world power that was reminiscent of the Oil Oligarchies of the later 20th century. The changing weather conditions produced a world where the inhabitants could no longer risk exposure to daylight for fear of becoming genetically altered by radiation exposure. Population centers were moved underground. A very few, like Garden Oaks Subdivision, were protected by massive shielding that allowed the residents to go outside in the daylight.

The neighborhood was also protected by the Neighborhoods to Fortress Improvement Project that was instituted in 2150.

Over the millions of years the Earth was capable of supporting life in any form, many natural environmental changes had altered the Earth in profound ways. Some of these changes were so fast and so extreme that many species were unable to adapt and could no longer survive. Humans had changed the makeup of the earth's environment as profoundly as any natural sequence of events. For over a hundred and fifty years, residential gardeners in Garden Oaks Subdivision had infused the soil with high levels of pesticides and fertilizers. These chemicals combined with pollution from Industrial and Technological Revolutions, the mass dumping of nuclear material from obsolete weapon systems from the Great Cold War of the Twentieth century and increased UV radiation from the weakened ozone layer had changed the very nature of the earth's environment yet again. While these changes were injurious to indigenous life, they were great for others.

The year is 2194

The President of VRT Inc. gazed into the holowindow. His office was 300 feet underground in the New City of Houston. Among other things, VRT Inc. manufactured millions of holowindows for countless underground settlements. Inhabitants could simply ask for any scene they wished or the holowindow could choose for them. Fik had chosen a pleasant scene of a waterfall cascading over a misty visage. The scene was so realistic drops of moisture appeared to be running down the glass like tears. Staring at the drops, he worried about the report he had received that morning. Another break in security in Garden Oaks Subdivision had occurred last night. Worse, there had also been a lot of damage from the mysterious explosion of a VID cruiser leased to Garden Oaks. The ship had blown to bits and the cyborg pilot had been lost. The shock wave had also damaged the old Garden Oaks movie theater. All the neon had been destroyed and the marquee was blown apart. Fik was getting really depressed. This day was just really going to be bad. The holowindow sensed his mood and continually changed the scene to attempt to soothe him. VRT could afford the water credits of course, that was nothing to the company. The problem was the theater's Resident.

Alo

to be continued...

**ON THE ROAD AGAIN**

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

You might notice Steve and I running around the neighborhood with our dogs more this month. If you wonder why, we decided to sign up for **The K9 Houston Humane Society Fun Run** on March 13th in Herman Park at 7:30 am. This run goes to a great cause to benefit the homeless animals at Houston Humane Society. It is fun to run with the animals you love. I don't know how they really feel yet. They do well for the first mile, but don't seem enthusiastic about the second mile.

The race for the large dog division is a 2 mile competitive and non-competitive event. The smaller dogs do a mile instead. They also have a costume contest! Our dogs normally do a mile or just chase tennis balls, so I'm still not sure if this running idea is up their alley, but I hope by the end of their training they love running like we do. I doubt it! We acquired these dogs about 7 months ago. Their ages are 4 and 5. When we got them we knew they had heart worms, but we liked them and wanted to save them, so we treated them. The vet said it would take 7 weeks and the treatment would be expensive, but we paid little for the dogs and felt it was worth the effort. They obviously survived and are healthy and have great personalities. It is very important if you have dogs that you give them heart worm pills provided by your vet. They come now in a chewy form that can be given once a month. The pills might seem expensive, but the heart worm treatment is very expensive. Heart worms can be fatal if not treated. If you are a dog lover try to make it out on March 13th to Herman Park to watch HEIDI or MAX run with the other dogs or maybe you might just want to participate with your dog.

<p><b>Gazette Ad Rates</b>          \$40 per month          \$200 for 6 months          \$385 for 1 year          Flyers are \$75</p> <p><b>Advertising Directors</b>  <b>Linda Landry, 861-5040</b>  <b>Carol Meyer, 681-2746</b>  <b>Scott MacClymonds, 697-0069</b>  <b>Trish Mehrkam, 688-4008</b></p> <p><b>Deadline for          April Gazette          is March 10</b></p>
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## **SIB WARS**

*By Christine Adams, Ph.D.*

Why is sibling rivalry so upsetting to parents? We don't seem to mind when our child's sport team beats the opposing team or when our child wins an award or contest. To the contrary, we are thrilled when our child is able to compete and win. What makes sibling competition different?

One obvious reason of course is that it's just plain aggravating to have our kids squabbling when we need to get dinner or talk on the telephone. It's one more hassle we'd like to do without. But sibling rivalry affects us more strongly than normal nuisances because we care deeply about the quality of sibling relationships. While competition between "teams" or groups is actively encouraged in our society (Go, Rockets!), we usually feel anxious when there is competition or conflict within our group whether the group is our work group or social group.

The family is a unique group where members become members by birth or legal decree. Except for choosing whom we marry, we have no choice about joining a family group. The family is also special because you can never really not be a member (except for divorcing spouses). You can choose not to participate, but you are always a member of your family and the family you make with your spouse. Almost universally in families, there are strong feelings of attachment to one another that defy logical explanation. For example in some families, members have little in common yet are still willing to help each other or do without for another family member. Add to this the strong need that children have to be special to their parents and get enough reassurance about their "worth as a person" and you have a complicated balancing act to get everyone's needs met enough of the time, over time.

Parents voluntarily deprive themselves so their children will get what they need. We tend to forget that children are "forced" into sacrificing and inconveniencing themselves for a sibling. It's not a choice freely made; it's imposed. Also, a sibling usually comes into the picture when children are appropriately ego-centric. It is normal for children from birth through mid-elementary age to be focused mostly on themselves. While this may seem "selfish" and drive parents crazy, it is a necessary stage. Before one can give to another, one must know oneself. (Tip: Enforce appropriate behavior, but do not expect your child to have the "right attitude" until later).

Siblings play a crucial role in a child's development of social skills, self-esteem, plus

understanding of power, allegiance and competition. Unlike peers where skill levels are roughly equal, non-twin siblings must learn to deal with another child who has a different level of development. The good news is that these differences are helpful to children. Older siblings become mentors, role models, companions; younger siblings become playmates, pupils, fans. Research shows that children who have loving, close relationships with siblings tend to have better peer relationships, possibly because they have learned to compromise and "take turns" getting their needs met. Research also shows there is still a lot of fighting among siblings who are deeply attached to one another.

Some tips on managing sibling rivalry in children are:

1. If there is no clear "aggressor" in a fight, give each child a consequence. Sometimes the child who "aggressed first" has been "set up" by the other child. This helps reduce resentment and motivates each child to try harder to get along to avoid negative consequences.
2. One common mistake parents make when introducing a new baby is to tell the older child how lucky he or she is to have a new sibling. Actually, the benefits of having a sibling are slow to materialize-like 30 year bond investments. Try reminding the older child frequently how lucky the baby is to have such a wonderful big brother or sister who knows so much and can teach the baby so much. Even if the baby is not much liked, it still feels good to be an asset to the sibling.
3. When an older sibling complains about how the younger child does not have as many chores or sacrifices to make, avoid saying "when you were that age you didn't have to do...". Instead, try explaining how older children have more privileges than younger children like spending the night with friends or being on a sports team. With privileges come responsibilities like cleaning up one's room or dish washing. Reassure the older child that the younger child will also get more responsibility with age.
4. Respect a child's right to not share a specific toy. Have the child who does not want to share loan a less preferred toy to the sibling. If a child wants to play with a sibling's toy, have the child loan one of his or her toys to the sibling as an "exchange". Resentment builds when children feel they are always giving without any "getting".

A good rule of thumb is common courtesy. Even when siblings are angry with one another, require them to be courteous and respectful. For example, it's normal to get angry, but it's not okay to call a family member an idiot. Conflict needs to be resolved through

nonviolent, respectful negotiations.

Finally, competition is everywhere. Sibling rivalry is a special form of competition. Competition is not inherently bad. - When siblings learn to compete fairly while nurturing and supporting each other, they learn one of the most difficult tasks of parenthood, marriage or relationships—supporting someone else while taking good care of oneself.

## **HAPPY SHOPPING AND DO TELL!!!**

*By Trish Mebrkam*

Times a wastin'!! Should be out there beating the pavement, shopping for that great deal! Ever feel that way? Get that garage sale fever or need the deal of the century gloat?! Well, my hubby doesn't either, but I know people who do! When that feeling comes over me, and it's not Thursday, Friday or Saturday, it can be pretty heavy on the old pocketbook shopping in the malls. Know what I mean?

Yes, the malls have sales, but you gotta have a good eye - it takes practice! (My hubby knows that line well!) The one successful method to that madness is never look at a rack, unless it is marked "50 - 70% off". It does limit you, hopefully only to deals - IF there are any to be found.

Besides mall shopping, which is the last call for me, I like the neighborhood shops we find close to home. Our little Palais Royal on 43rd offers the "mall fix" and it has a little back room filled with take your time to find deals. Speaking of back rooms - Loehmann's off 59 South at Bellaire has a wonderful room called "The Back Room," filled with designer clothing at discount prices. The whole store has designer clothing at discount prices and is worth the drive across town. OK, that is not a neighborhood shop, but it is worth the trip.

Locally, two new shops are tucked away in the Ella Plaza. Remember that little forgotten strip center south of the railroad tracks on Ella? Remember!!!! Well, tucked in the back corner is ABC Kids & Crafts Consignment, a small shop full of treasures for children - clothing, furniture, games, and even country crafts and gift baskets. The clothing is gently used, at generously reduced prices! Lisa & Derrell Hatcher, the owners, are long time residents of the area and have a kindergartner at Garden Oaks Elementary with two more soon to be in school. Lisa has some really adorable baby and toddler things with a good collection of dressy and everyday clothes through pre-teen sizes. Her shop is definitely a stop and see. She is accepting consignments in children's clothing and crafts, as well.

Next door to ABC, is Kathleen's Consignments. Kathleen Durtschi, the owner,

recently moved her shop from the 1960 area to better care for her 90 year old parents living in the Heights. She has a delightful place filled with decorator ideas and collectibles. You know, those accent pieces that finish a room, furniture that adds character and that one treasure you've been looking for. She has it all, including a nice selection of clothing. A must see stop for creative shopping. She is also accepting consignments.

A little further from the neighborhood is ANEW-U Ladies Resale Boutique. Cheryl Copperwheat is the owner of this shop located off 290 and Fairbanks North Houston in the Kroger Center. Her store has the feel of a luxury department store and her system is totally computerized. It is very spacious with ladies clothing ranging from furs of all types and fancy dance dresses to ty-dye legging outfits. With the rodeo heading our way, she has a wonderful collection of western outfits. Cheryl has new clothing, as well as consignment items. You can always find a treasure on her racks.

Speaking of well-organized luxury department stores, I gotta mention Kaplan's. Kaplan's has the nicest shopping atmosphere. Plenty of knowledgeable, friendly salespeople who handle all those wonderful unique items you see in catalogs delivered by your postman every month - and you can buy them at Kaplan's with no postage added! Toot-a-loo to you and Ta-Ta for now! Happy shopping and do tell!

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## INSURANCE TIPS

By Carol Meyer

Have you thought about what you'd like your life to be like when you retire? For some that time probably seems so far away. This time factor makes most people think that they can put off saving for retirement for years. Wouldn't it be easier to plan for retirement while you are young, instead of wasting away your "earning years" without saving a dime? For those of us who aren't pinning our hopes on winning the lottery it would.

Most people would agree that it would be nice to be able to enjoy their older years not having to worry how the bills will be paid, or whether or not they will be able to maintain the same lifestyle they enjoyed throughout their earning years. Many would also like to travel and enjoy life. These are reasonable goals. But as will any goal, you've got to plan in order to achieve it.

You may be surprised to learn that only about 3% of the United States population prepares well enough financially to be in a position to retire when they turn 55. For many of us, retiring at the average retirement age of 65 may be difficult unless you begin a systematic savings or retirement investment plan when you are in your twenties or thirties. Consider this: if at age 19 you start saving \$2,000 per year for nine years, you will have earned \$484,382 when you turn 65 if your investment is compounded annually. If, however, you wait until you are 28 to start investing your \$2,000 per year, you will have to pay that amount every year for 38 years in order to accrue \$399,882 at age 65. This information is taken from a brochure published by Farmers New World Life call "The Cost of Waiting to Establish Your IRA." These figures can help you realize the importance of starting a savings plan at as young an age as possible.

The alternative to having an established investment plan in place is that you could run

the risk of depending on the U.S. government for aid after your earning years are over. The problem with this scenario is that none of us knows how much governmental assistance will be available thirty years from now.

As part of the baby boom generation myself, I worry about whether or not Social security as we know it today will be around by the time I turn 65. The latest figures say that it takes three workers to support every one retired person of Social Security today. The big question for me is, "Will the work force be big enough when I retire to provide me with the same benefits Social Security offers today?" Unfortunately, no one knows the answer to this question. Therefore, I am making sure that I have investments in place that will take this factor into account. But my family's investments are not in just one place. They are well enough diversified to bring me an average rate of return that is hopefully consistent with the current prime rate.

In order to get some expert opinions on the subject, a poll was taken by Laurencom Writers in Vancouver, Canada. In it they asked bankers what they invest their money in. Their responses included the following: company pension plans, corporate stocks, life insurance, real estate, annuities, guaranteed deposit certificates, corporate bonds, mutual funds, coins/stamps and bank savings accounts.

My suggestion is that you review your investment plan if you currently have something in place. Either work up a *Family Needs Analysis* yourself or seek advice from a family planner who can help you project out what your current assets will be worth when you are ready to retire and how much more you need to save and invest in order to meet yours and your family's needs for the future. Most people don't plan to fail, but they fail to plan. The sooner you start to save, the better your money will work for you.



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March Calendar						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
		1 Civic Club 7:00 pm	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 Garden Club Meeting Gazette Deadline 7:00 pm	11	12 Recycle Drop-off 8:00 am Pancake Breakfast 8-10:30 am G.O. Elem
13	14	15 Heavy Trash Pick-up	16	17 Happy St. Patrick's Day	18	19 City Drop-Off Recycling
SPRING BREAK						
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

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Children/Birthdates: \_\_\_\_\_

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