

MEETING THE CHALLENGE

As reported in the *Gazette Bulletin* recently mailed to Garden Oaks homes, Section One resident **Mark Neff** has challenged the residents of Garden Oaks to raise \$500 for the *Gazette* and he will match that amount by contributing an additional \$500 from his company.

Neff, president of MKP, Inc., moved to Garden Oaks last year because he liked the character and charm of the neighborhood. Having lived in Meyerland subdivision, he is aware that their strong civic association is well supported by the neighborhood. Neff feels Garden Oaks is an affluent neighborhood and with more support from residents and business owners the Garden Oaks Civic Club can be a stronger association capable of adding more improvements to the area.

He has chosen the *Gazette* to benefit from the challenge because it represents the neighborhood in a positive manner and should continue its present format with adequate funding. It is time our neighborhood rises and competes with Houston's finer communities in

property values and amenities. Please rally to this challenge and send a donation of any amount. If you are a business owner we would appreciate your consideration toward giving a donation from your business. The *Gazette* is the voice of the neighborhood and it needs your support.

Make your tax deductible donation in the form of a check payable to the Garden Oaks Civic Club. Mail to: Colleen or Ray Housley, Membership - 407 W. 34th Street, Houston, Texas 77018. Be sure to specify this donation is for the "Gazette Challenge" and if you haven't joined the Civic Club, please add an extra \$10 for your membership. **WE HAVE UNTIL MAY 1 TO MEET THE CHALLENGE!**

Civic Club

The next meeting of the Garden Oaks Civic Club will be held at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, April 5, Garden Oaks Baptist Church, 3106 North Shepherd. Radio and television personality **Tom Tynan** will be our guest speaker. He is the host of "Home Improvement Hotline" on KTRH Radio and "Our House" on Channel 26. Tynan will autograph copies of his book on home improvements, which will be available for \$10 if you wish to purchase one.

Neighborhood Traffic Management Plans

Please see page three for details on the April meetings to discuss the revisions to the Neighborhood Traffic Management Plans.

VOLUME 18, No. 4
CIRCULATION 1550
APRIL, 1994

Civic Club
7:00 pm
Tuesday,
April 5

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Gazette!

FROM THE EDITOR . . .

Thank you **Mark Neff**. Your challenge to raise money for the *Gazette* is greatly appreciated. I hope donations for our newsletter and other neighborhood programs fill our Civic Club's bank account. Working with people like you and the writers of the *Gazette* is very rewarding.

Each issue of our newsletter brings more people together. The writer's deadline is the tenth of each month and the pace from that day is somewhat hectic. Not all news is ready for print by the tenth. Occasionally a contributor might have a writer's block that I have to pry loose with a crow bar. While waiting for their articles my good friend **Sandy Truitt**, (who is not a Garden Oaks resident, but feels like she is), and I start inputting anywhere from 10,000 to 15,000 words of the neighborhood into the computer.

After all articles are in and the monumental task of inputting is completed, it is time to read and reread, again and again. We honestly try not to make any mistakes when proofreading, but occasionally one gets by. The text and pictures are then assembled and it is ready for page make-up. This is another time consuming project which becomes quite a juggling act in order to make articles fit on each page. The next stop is the printer. Over 1,500 copies of a 16 page newsletter usually takes 3 to 5 days. From there another major problem begins. Putting the newsletter into that nice little plastic bag takes another big block of time. It is then bundled into stacks of forty and passed on the **John McKenney** who distribution them to 39 residents to deliver them to your door.

It is quite a task, but well worth the effort. The Civic Club officers, committee members and individual residents who help in this publication are a positive and upbeat group of individuals. They are your neighbors extending a helping hand in reporting the news and features of interest. Come join us in print. Our writer's deadline for the next *Gazette* is as usual, the tenth of the month. If you do not wish to write, we can certainly use your help in the preparation and delivery of our publication.

-Jude Patronella

PLEASE
Recycle this Gazette

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By *Suzanne Debien*

This has been such an exciting year so far for the Garden Oaks Civic Club and it gets more exciting every month. Our committees have made so much progress and every month we have more and more participation at our monthly meeting.

I'm sure that every homeowner in "Garden Oaks, Texas" is familiar with our guest speaker for April. Broadcast personality **Tom Tynan** will be with us and he'll be autographing his new book *Home Improvement*. This meeting you won't want to miss!

In addition to Tom Tynan, we'll also hear reports from our neighbors who work so hard on our committee. I know **Dian Austin** and the Home Tour Committee have been busy scouting out houses for the big October event. **Marc Roberts** and the Neighborhood Traffic Committee hope to have the year's plan finalized following the April meeting. You've probably noticed some of the street resurfacing already.

Another neighborhood upgrade I know I've noticed is our newly uniformed Garden Oaks Citizen On Patrol Committee. Our "GO-COPS" look great in their new blazers and caps! Keep up the good (looking) work! The brickwork is almost complete in our pocket park at Sue Barnett and 43rd and it really makes the park look inviting. I can't wait for the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Finally, I'd like to ask you to help out our *Gazette* Committee by referring any potential advertisers you might know of. **Jude Patronella** has done an excellent job as editor of the *Gazette*. I've been told by people outside of Garden Oaks that our newsletter is the best neighborhood newsletter they've ever seen! But it takes advertisers to keep up the printing and paper quality. The committee is working hard to sell ads and we've invited our advertisers to attend our monthly meetings as an added sales opportunity and incentive to advertise. So, if you know of anyone who'd be interested, please put them in touch with one of our advertising directors.

I look forward to seeing you all at the April meeting!!!

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.

GARDEN OAKS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

By *Linda Ross, PTA President*

Our calendar is full for April! There are numerous class field trips scheduled for this month. One of the most exciting field trips is the 4th graders all day trip to San Antonio on April 15th. Each year the Houston Council of PTAs plan several trips to offer to the schools. The bus load of Garden Oaks students will tour the Alamo, San Jose Mission, University of Texas Institute of Texan Culture, and the historic Riverwalk. This trip is a climax to their study of Texas history.

On April 13th, students will bring home their Report Cards or Primary Progress Reports. April 15th is the day to turn in Market Day orders. Order forms are available in the school office the week of April 11 to 15th. Market Day is a food co-op offering a variety of quality foods and grocery items. Payment is due on the delivery day, April 29th. For more information, call Garden Oaks residents **Peggy Krammer** (869-0440) or **Margaret Welker** (880-0837).

The Student Council will be celebrating Earth Day on April 22nd with a special program for the student body. The Shared Decision Making Committee (SDMC) meets the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month. This month's meetings are on April 11th and 25th (adjusted for Spring Break). The SDMC is very active in all aspects of the school. Faculty, parent, and community (cannot be faculty or parent) representatives serve two year terms on the committee. New terms begin in September 1994. If you are interested in REALLY getting involved in our neighborhood school, this is for you. For more information, call **Jeanie Daniels**, Principal at 694-0475.

Our Spring Spaghetti Dinner and Talent Show is scheduled for Friday, April 15th. Tickets for both the dinner and show, including door prizes are \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children. Dinner will be served in the cafeteria from 6:00pm until 7:00pm. A brief PTA business meeting will be held in the Multi-Purpose Room, followed by the Talent Show featuring students, faculty, staff, and Garden Oaks neighbors. There will be lots of door prizes and some great auction items available. So, avoid long lines at the post office, mail your income tax on April 14th and spend the evening of April 15th with Garden Oaks Elementary School.

PLEDGE FOR MONTESSORI

Friends of Montessori received approval for Montessori classrooms at Garden Oaks Elementary School from HISD for the 1994-95 school year on a cost-neutral basis (meaning no funding is available from the district for any new programs). Our target is to raise \$100,000.00 for the classes opening this Fall. We are looking for pledges from the community and from corporations. Some corporations will also match your tax deductible contribution to this program. Do you work for a company with a matching gift policy? Most matching gift policies require that the employee initiate contact with the appropriate office within their company. Please ask your company to match your contribution towards the Montessori Program. The continued success of Montessori education at Garden Oaks Elementary School depends heavily on community support and monetary obligations from corporations. The program is initially a five year pilot program which means this is an ongoing commitment to high education in our public schools.

If you have questions about the program when filing for funds with your company or need assistance, please call **Karen Benson 697-2566**.

SIGNS OF STRESS

- * Frequent headaches
- * Gritting or grinding of teeth
- * Neck ache, back pain, muscle spasms
- * Cold or sweaty hands and feet
- * Dry mouth, problems swallowing
- * Excessive anxiety, worry or guilt
- * Increased anger, frustration or hostility
- * Insomnia, nightmares
- * Forgetfulness, disorganization
- * Difficulty in making decisions
- * Excessive impulse buying
- * Frequent use of over-the-counter drugs

Source: American Institute of Stress, 124 Park Ave., Yonkers, NY 10703.

AND ANOTHER ADDITIONAL SOURCE OF STRESS FROM YOUR GARDEN OAKS CIVIC CLUB.

- * Not supporting its neighborhood programs

APRIL MEETING TO SPOTLIGHT REVISIONS TO PROPOSED NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PLANS

By Marc Roberts

Garden Oaks residents have the unique opportunity to effect the flow of traffic in their neighborhood. As part of the Neighborhoods - to-Standard Program, proposed neighborhood traffic management 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.

The goal of the proposed plan 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.

Public meetings to review and solicit comment from Garden Oaks residents on revisions to proposed neighborhood traffic management plans have been scheduled for Wednesday, April 27, and Saturday, April 30. Public meetings were initially conducted in February and generated a number of comments and suggestions for improvement to the proposed plans. Sunland Engineering has given the comments and suggestions thoughtful consideration for possible incorporation as revisions to the proposed plans.

The revised proposals for our neighborhood will be presented in public meeting according to the following schedule:

Wednesday, April 27:

7:30 pm - Section One between Shepherd and Yale and Section One West of Shepherd

8:30 pm - Sections bounded by 43rd, Ella, 34th, and Shepherd and Section north of 43rd.

Saturday, April 30:

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

Once again, the meetings will take place at St. Matthew's United Methodist Church located at 4300 N. Shepherd and all Garden Oaks residents are invited and encouraged to attend. This is your opportunity to review and comment on the details of the revised proposals. The focus of the upcoming April public meetings is to reach consensus on the proposed plans to be implemented in the Garden Oaks neighborhood.

Please make plans to attend the public meetings on either Wednesday, April 27, or Saturday, April 30. In the meantime, if you have any questions or comments, please contact the appropriate Garden Oaks Neighborhood Traffic committee member(s) as follows:

SECTION ONE BETWEEN SHEPHERD AND YALE

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

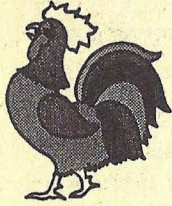
Rosana Hagman 694-8248 (after 6:00 pm only)

Jeff McClellan 691-7422

SECTION NORTH OF 43rd

Dennis Alexander 682-5592

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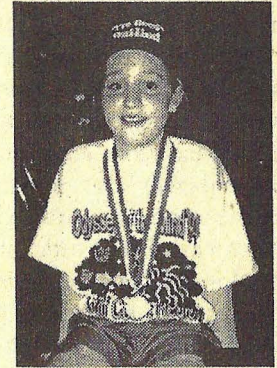
DAVID BARTULA
688-4244
Residence

LAUREN MABRY WINS

FIRST PLACE IN "ODYSSEY OF THE MIND" COMPETITION

With broom straw glued onto her hooded sweatshirt, ten year old Garden Oaks resident **Lauren Mabry** and her teammates from River Oaks Elementary School won the Gulf Coast Regional Competition for "Odyssey of the Mind." Costumed as a porcupine, Lauren's team presented their skit about the perils of a porcupine stuck to a spot on the Great Wall of China.

"Odyssey of the Mind" is a competition for creative thinkers involving spontaneous and long term problem solving. Lauren's team created a fictitious scenario about a porcupine, made their own costumes, designed their sets and presented their solution for the problem in a humorous skit. The next phase for these fourth graders is State Competition in San Antonio. Lauren is the daughter of **James and Marian Mabry**.



GARDEN OAKS BEAT

By Kiki & Bunny (They Stoop To Anything)
Pasta Time at Cavatore's Restaurant

"Bunny, isn't this restaurant fabulous! Listening to Luigi playing Barbara's greatest hits on the piano sends chills up my spine. Her nails are like butter."

"Kiki, this music reminds of the night **Suzanne Debien** sang at a KARAOKE fund-raiser on February 28 for Martha Wong, one of the newest city council members. You know, we should consider cutting an album ourselves..... I mean, if Barbara can do it, why can't we? *Be a darling and pass the garlic bread..*"

"Bunny, don't stuff yourself, after all, we're heading over to **Garden Oaks Theater** and we need to leave room for the extra large tub of buttered popcorn. I'm glad we could finally fit it into our hectic social schedule. You know, I'm "verklempht" over the fact that not many people patronize "our" theater. *Are you going to finish that linguine? "*

"Kiki, keep your hands off my noodles. I want to tell you some simply "mahvalous" news. That hunk, **Mark Neff**, who lives on Lawrence, has pledged \$500 for the *Gazette*, with one stipulation: that the \$500 be matched by a business or individuals. That Mark is such a doll!"

"Bunny, and speaking of a doll, I've heard that Carthal Anderson is adorable. He was born January 1 and is the fourth generation living in the house. Did you know that Carthal's great grandfather built the house in 1938 for \$5,000? His proud parents are **David & Pam Anderson**, who live on 34th Street."

"You know Kiki, that's truly unbelievable news. Speaking of unbelievable, have you seen the dessert cart. I'll have to be on Slimfast and the Thighmaster first thing Monday morning. Burp!"

(Send tidbits to Kiki & Bunny in care of Sheila Briones, 311 W. 31st, Houston, Texas 77018 or call her at 802-9994).

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

Can We Cook?

By Sheila Briones & Rebecca Stark
Bunny's Wine Burgers

(*"I think I've discovered where Ronald McDonald got his red nose."* -Bunny, after 3 of her wine burgers.)

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 lb. ground beef
- 1 med. onion, grated
- 2 tbsp. oil
- 1/3 cup red wine
- 6 slices American cheese
- 1 tsp. Worcestershire sauce
- 1/2 cup drained pickle relish
- salt & pepper to taste
- 6 unsliced hamburger buns
- 1 tsp. flour

TO PREPARE:

Sauté the ground beef in oil with the onion until it browns & crumbles nicely. Sprinkle the flour over the meat until well blended. Add the wine & cook until the mixture thickens, stirring constantly. Remove from heat, add the relish, Worcestershire sauce, salt & pepper. Cut a thin slice off the top of each bun and hollow out insides. Fill the buns with the meat sauce, lay a slice of cheese over each, then replace the top. Bake in a moderate oven for 30 minutes in a covered baking pan.

NEIGHBORHOODS TO STANDARDS

By Rebecca & Rich Stark

The NTS committee met with **Judy Butler**, coordinator for the City of Houston, on February 23. We discussed how the program can help Garden Oaks.

TOPICS COVERED:

- The possibility of having Charter Bank "Adopt" Garden Oaks which might include:
1. Reducing points on home improvement loans.
 2. Help with cleaning up Garden Oaks - make it more appealing
 3. Marketing the neighborhood by bringing in businesses.

Contacting Houston Beautiful to see if they can help us with our new planters related to the traffic flow project.

Calling "Rat on a Rat" phone number - 525-ARAT (2728). Dialing this number will help clean up any trash collections.

As some of you can see, the street overlayment program has already begun with the paving of 41st street. Also, 38th, 39th and Sue Barnett have been added to this program.

We want our residents to realize that we don't have as many problems as some of the other neighborhoods under this program. But the City is very willing to help on projects that we agree will better our neighborhood and we look forward to working with Judy Butler to accomplish these goals.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY AILEEN MOREY
(born April 2, 1991)

GAZETTE AD RATES
\$40 PER MONTH -
\$200 FOR 6 MONTHS
\$385 FOR 1 YEAR
FLYERS ARE \$75.00
DEADLINE FOR
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CONTRIBUTING
ARTICLES - PLEASE FURNISH A
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A 3 1/2 INCH DISK.
PREFERRED SOFTWARE
IS MICROSOFT WORD 5.0 -
PLEASE
SUBMIT ANYTHING ELSE AS
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SECTION ONE CONSTABLE PROGRAM

By Denise Epstein

It's that time of year again! Our contract with the County needs to be renewed for another year of patrol (crime deterrent and peace of mind, too). For the first time, we are able to bill annually, semi-annually or quarterly. This will make participating much more painless for those who found the \$180.00 fee hard to pay all at once. We can offer this expanded service due to **Suzanne Debien, Realtors** generous offer to implement and fund the additional cost incurred by billing (stationery, postage and the talents of staffer, **Laura Parsons**). We are hoping to increase the participation of those who have never paid for this service to join in our effort to make our neighborhood an even safer, better place to live.

We recently mailed a letter to each home announcing this new service and here are some of the comments that were returned to me:

"The quarterly payment will make a difference this year. Good going!"

"We are very pleased with the program. We will enclose an extra \$20.00 to supplement a sponsor." (Sponsoring a neighbor is possible - If you have a specific neighbor you'd like to sponsor or you can contribute any portion of the full amount and we can pool this to cover some of our valuable elderly neighbors.)

"We appreciate the Constable's Patrol Program and would like to see it increased." (It could be increased from 8 hrs. to 12 hrs. a day if we had 25% more participation.)

"Would it be possible to have a fund raising event to help sponsor the people who can't afford to pay for this much needed service?" (I think that's a great idea! If anyone has a good fund raising idea or would like to help organize such an event please call me at 869-0128.)


"If the program falls short of the required budget, I would be willing to contribute additional funds." (That is very generous of you, but if there isn't enough participation that means there isn't enough interest to sustain this program. I hope that's not the case.)

Thanks to all those who took the time to respond with your comments on the program. There was overwhelming support for it. Next month we will print some additional comments.

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United Methodist Church


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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

4300 N. Shepherd at Crosstimbers
697-0671

Pastors: Don Goodwin, Don Raschke




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

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Your Ad Could Be Here!

GARDEN OAKS CITIZENS ON PATROL

By Bill Chastain

With financing from the Civic Club and the co-operation of **Rebecca Stark** and her firm the Garden Oaks COP is sporting a new look. We now have sharp looking blue on white jackets and caps. Identification cards were made for 31 patrollers and base station operators on February 23.

January crime statistics were beautiful - **ZERO!!!!** Or, at least none were reported. Our heartfelt thanks to our faithful patrollers who helped accomplish this desirable goal. Our patrol hours for the month of January were 78 hours. Patrollers of the month for April are **Walter and Joyce Skeen**, who will receive a gift certificate for a restaurant of their choice. On January 24, there were persons taking the HPD training for COP. They were **Cathy and Dennis Spar, Tim & Luetta Allen, B.L. Perez, George Morawski, Freddy Lopez, and Helen Hawkins**. Welcome to our group of Garden Oaks watchdogs.

There have recently been reports of persons knocking on doors trying to pass themselves off as something they are not. One group was saying they were from the Water Department and needed to check the faucets. Once inside, they asked the homeowner for money. Be alert to anyone who comes to your door and beware! Don't automatically assume that what a caller tells you is true. Those days are past! Be advised that the water department's responsibility stops at the meter. If you have a problem with the water between your faucets and the meter, you'll need a plumber. Always call someone you can trust.

There have also been reports of pizza deliveries when none was ordered. If you have a well-lit house number and haven't ordered a pizza you know something is wrong, DO NOT open the door. If necessary, call a friend or neighbor for help.

Watch out for persons who want to trim your trees. They might trim more than trees! Another reported scam in our area is a telephone caller who says they are collecting for the police department, and urge you to leave your money in your mailbox for them to pick up. Here are some good, sensible rules to adopt:

- DO NOT OPEN THE DOOR TO ANYONE UNLESS YOU KNOW THEM.
- DO NOT BUY FROM ANYONE WHO COMES TO THE DOOR.
- DO NOT BUY FROM ANYONE WHO CALLS ON THE TELEPHONE.

• BE WATCHFUL FOR YOURSELF AND YOUR NEIGHBORS.

Don't forget the third Thursday of every month is the Positive Interaction Program (PIP) meeting. Enter St. Matthews Methodist Church on the north side, proceed to the gym for the 7:00 pm meeting. February's speaker was the artist who draws composites of suspects. You do not have to be a COP member to attend this meeting sponsored by HPD. Anyone in Garden Oaks may attend. Garden Oaks COP will be featured at the April or May meeting.

ON THE ROAD AGAIN

By Kaye and Steve Paris
("The Flying Parisis")

There is something sad to our story this month. This will be our last month in Garden Oaks. We have been here for 13 years. We are both Houstonians and this is the most favorite place we have lived for reasons known to all of you. I am going to miss the walkers and runners that go past our house on 34th street. Some of our neighbors have the same routine everyday. I could set my watch to their passing by. One thing I care about, and that we dream of, is a normal running schedule, which our job does not allow. Most G.O. residents I know also seem to enjoy the out of doors in one fashion or another.

Because of our love of nature, we will be moving to the country to live in a log cabin, on a small farm and running with wildlife all around us..

I am going to miss our train on 34th which always gave us the country feel when it passes by our home. People in the country feel that we will be ready to move back to the city in 6 months but they don't know living in G. O. is similar to living in the country. That's what makes Garden Oaks special. We only wish G.O. was really in the country. If we did come back to Houston, we would come home to Garden Oaks!!!!

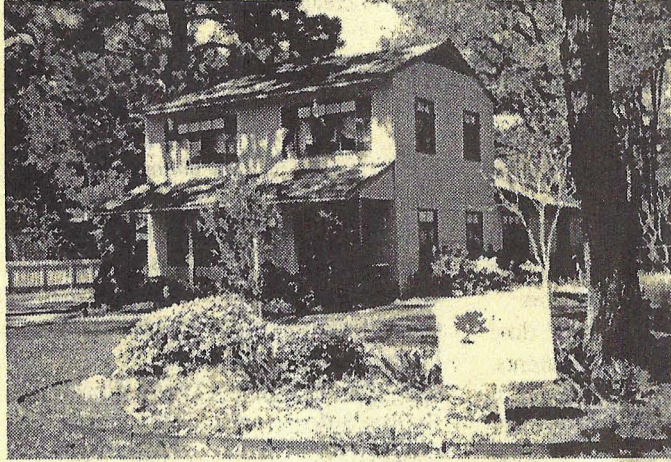
If you see a large Pine tree
or an azalea in bloom
squirrels running free or
people adding on a room
Recycling once a month
Neighbors meeting each other
when they move in

It's that Garden Oaks neighborhood again!
It's been so nice to live in Garden Oaks
Where you have the *Gazette*, Beautiful
yards, and very SPECIAL FOLKS!!!!!!

YARD OF THE MONTH

By Evelyn Anderson

It's not easy to pick a Yard of the Month. So many beautiful choices!!! The garden club is the proud owner of a new Yard of the Month sign designed and donated by resident **Jerry Hajek**.



In February, you saw the sign in **Judith McElya's** front yard at 882 W. 41st street. A new resident in G.O., Judith renovated existing front beds with a lovely variety of plants. The contrasting foliage shapes and shades of green really caught my eye. Said Judith, "And my bulbs aren't even up yet!" I'm sure they are now - be sure to drive by and enjoy her yard.

I sure hope everyone saw that wonderful display of wildflowers and azaleas in the March Yard of the Month. **Emmett Doherty** and **San Juana Gonzales** have gardened at 1004 Sue Barnett for many years, but said this was their first experiment with wildflowers. What a success they have!!! Said Emmett, "After working in the yard all morning, it was a really great surprise to come home and find out we were Yard of the Month."

CAMP GARDEN OAKS

If you drove by Garden Oaks Elementary School on February 28th or the morning of March 1st you may have seen people lined up in front of the school. And while it looked like a 60's protest it was actually parents camping out to register their children in the Garden Oaks Montessori Program. With limited space available parents began lining up at 7:30 a.m. the day before registration. About 25 hardy souls actually spent the night in front of the school braving intermittent rain and midnight visits from television crews. More parents began arriving about 3:30 a.m. and when registration began at 8:30 a.m. there were 102 applications before 9:00 a.m. The consensus among those who camped out was that it was a blast, like a giant slumber party.



MONTESSORI NEWS

Thank you for your support toward Montessori education at Garden Oaks Elementary School. It is greatly appreciated and needed. You made this year's brisket sale a huge success. We sold 102 briskets! We also owe a huge thank you to **Sysco Foods** and **Brian Foyt** for all the briskets and cooking them!!!

Friends of Montessori is a non-profit parent group organized and dedicated to enhance public education through Montessori teaching. The group needs volunteers for fund-raising events. Corporate solicitation, supplying the classroom materials, and volunteer hours, as well as money. If you are interested in helping Friends of Montessori in any capacity, please call **Karen Benson** 697-2566, **Jane Ann Roberts** 861-8512, or **Trish Mehrkam** 688-4008.

Friends of Montessori is changing public education. Come be a part of this exciting challenge and commitment to our children and community.

Suzanne Deblen, REALTORS, Inc.
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Suzanne Deblen
Broker/President

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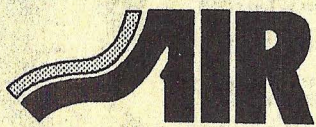
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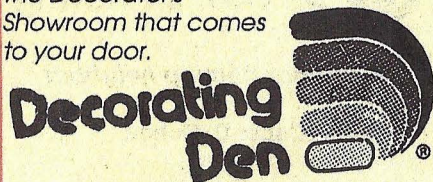
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FAMILY WISE

INVOLUNTARY RELATIONS

By Christine Adams, Ph.D.

Part 1

Getting along with our own blood relations enough of the time can be hard. Getting along with our in-laws can be a true test of our family loyalty and stress management skills. Most people have very good intentions and genuine desires for positive relationships with their in-laws. Unfortunately, the road to Hell is sometimes paved with good intentions. Even well meaning people can accidentally pour fuel on the fire of "in-law" tension.

For example, grandparents often feel duty bound to help their children be good parents. Sometimes advice from elders with experience is greatly appreciated by a younger generation. Sometimes it's seen as "butting in". Likewise, a daughter or son in-law may unintentionally offend a parent in-law by offering helpful, but unsolicited, financial or retirement advice.

The major category of complaint about in-laws is "interference". Marital partners may feel that the parents-in-law do not recognize the marital pair as a separate family with full authority and competency to make their own decisions. Some parents-in-law feel that their son or daughter in-law has interfered with the closeness they once had with their offspring. Another common complaint is lack of social courtesy around personal values. Discussion of personal values about religion, politics, lifestyle, to name a few, often invites heated quarreling instead of reasoned discourse.

Dislike of an in-law can make it hard to be polite or to be supportive of these other family relationships. A spouse can feel "caught in the middle". Once feelings get hurt without being rectified, tension builds and resentment can set in. When it is clear how a problem affects or does not affect family members, then it is more clear when speaking up is meddling or healthy, open communication about problems.

Tensions also tend to increase among family members (of both the biological and through marriage kind) during periods of standard family developmental milestones. Two classic milestones typically include marriage of the adult child and the birth of children. Both involve integrating new people into a family system where family roles are changed in some way. Some life events such as chronic illness in the family, financial strain, job loss, retirement, relocation, divorce, or death increase tension even in the most

loving of families. Recognizing these events as major family stressors can help remind family members of the need to be extra supportive and tolerant during those times.

Next time, some general rules of thumb about increasing harmony among in-laws.

VIDEOS

A DATE WITH JUDY

By Anne Balson

Along the road from the Emerald City to Legend, Judy Garland graced literally dozens of mythic MGM musicals. (The "That's Entertainment" films are wonderful highlight compilations of those movies.) Here are two that I remembered as extra-special. I was half right.

The Harvey Girls (1945; directed by George Sidney) tries to do a whole lot of things and doesn't do any of them really well. Garland is winning as a good girl come West who joins up with a gaggle of waitresses at one of Fred Harvey's pioneering restaurants. John Hodiak (who was born to play Dick Tracy) is the sensitive saloon owner-love interest who sits on rocks a lot and stares at the scenery. Murky color, a sodden script, terrible process shots, no memorable songs and way too much going on. BUT, if you are an Angela Lansbury fan, see this for her tough turn as Em, head bad girl in the saloon. Also of note: Cyd Charisse in her first movie and the tiniest waists seen on the screen since Mammy laced up Scarlett.

Meet Me in St. Louis (1944, directed by Vincent Minnelli) is all rich pastels and gingerbread houses - sweetness and light - with a wonderful score (a rip your heart out 'Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas' among others) and a warm, simple storyline. The script never loses its focus, the production numbers are staged with great verve and imagination, the film is a treat to look at. Minnelli has fashioned each frame with precise loving care and the result is a luminous Garland in a perfectly crafted setting. Interesting too is Margaret O'Brien's moppet who, if this were anything but an MGM musical, would be carted off to therapy. If you're interested in Garland or in the form, this is the one to see.

If stress is affecting your day-to-day living or has negative effects on your health, you need to evaluate your situation and learn to manage tension. Consult your primary care physician. Also, consider taking part in a stress management course to learn how to manage stress effectively.

GARDEN NOTES FOR GARDEN OAKS

By Misty Jones

This is probably the most exciting time of the year to visit our local nurseries. They are absolutely bursting at the seams with color and variety and there always seem to be new, intriguing species. If you're like me, your emotions run the gamut. Overwhelmed - which do I buy? Afraid - will I kill it? Excited - it's so beautiful! Disappointed - well, it looked great when I bought it. Knowledge and preparation are the keys to simplifying the decisions, calming your fears, and ending the disappointment.

Following these three basic steps to good gardening should provide you with months of pleasure in your garden.

1. Prepare your beds before you buy your plants. A nurseryman once said to me "I have enough children, I don't need anymore." I know what he meant. I used to have lots of children sitting around in little green or black pots waiting to be fed and watered everyday, waiting for their "mother" to provide a good home for them, and either dying in the pots or being too weak to flourish when eventually planted. I have since learned to make a planning trip to the nursery first, go home, decide what will go where, and prepare the beds according to the plants' requirements.

2. Know your plants. Choosing from among all the plant possibilities depends on whether you want permanence, summer-long bloom or instant color. Most plants fall into the categories of annuals, perennials, vines, shrubs, or trees. Warm season annuals (plants that complete the life cycle in one growing season) available now include Ageratum, Cosmos, Dianthus, Impatiens, Lobelia, Marigold, Nasturtium, Nicotiana, Petunia, Zinnia and more.

Each perennial variety (these grow and bloom each year, usually for at least three years) has its own bloom season. Spring blooming perennials include columbine, coral bells, foxglove and delphinium. Perennials that bloom through the summer (coreopsis, gaillardia, penstemon, rudbeckia, salvia, Shasta daisy and verbena) are usually better in our heat. Although fall is the best time to plant most perennials, if you buy and plant soon you can expect good result.

When buying annuals and perennials, you will find them in all sizes from one inch six-packs to four inch pots to one gallon or larger. The small are usually the best bet for longer growing and blooming seasons. They are a better value and with proper watering

and feeding will equal the larger plants in about six weeks. Purchase plants that look full and healthy and are the appropriate size for their pot. Larger plants are often leggy and root-bound. If you buy a root-bound plant, remove the outside roots and loosen the soil to encourage new root growth.

Vines, shrubs, and trees provide more permanent landscaping solutions. When purchasing take into consideration factors such as flowering or not, blooming seasons, evergreens, types of soil needed, and light requirements. Specimens found in nurseries now include: vines - Carolina Jessamine, honeysuckle, and passion flower; shrubs - roses, azaleas, camellias, ligustrum, oleander, and gardenia; and trees - redbud, Japanese magnolia, flowering fruit trees, ornamental maple, crepe myrtle, and coniferous evergreens.

Whatever the plant, learn as much as you can before you buy it. How large does it grow? What are its soil, light, water and feeding requirements? How much time and care will it take to grow it well? And do I have a place for it in my garden?

3. Know your garden. Plants have varying requirements for amount of sunlight, soil pH, watering needs, and drainage. Your garden probably offers a variety of conditions and those conditions change seasonally. Take the time to study your gardens and planting areas. Make a chart detailing the amount of sun or shade each area receives at different hours of the day. Daylight savings time is approaching and won't effect the amount of sunlight, but longer days will. Be sure to also take into consideration Houston's intense summer heat. Many plants that take full sun elsewhere often only require six hours here. Check the drainage of your beds. Does soil dry out immediately after watering or does it stay moist for days. Some plants require complete drainage after watering while other prefer cool damp feet. Once again keep in mind that drainage will be effected by spring rains and summer heat. Drainage can be changed by raising beds, mulching and amending soil.

Soil pH refers to the acidity or alkalinity of the soil. This can be adjusted by amending the soil and mulching, but you will not want to place plants requiring alkaline soil next to those needing acid. Note that beds where pine needles fall will usually have acidic soil and that pine needles make excellent mulch for plants and shrubs requiring acidity, such as azaleas and camellias.

Now get going and get growing . . . your garden is waiting!

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SPOTLIGHT - HERMIA HOWELL

By Jude Patronella

A special ingredient goes into the care of the beautiful flowers that surround the home of Garden Oaks resident **Hermia Howell**. It's in the root, at the beginning of the plant; it flourishes into the stems and leaves; and finally, appears in the blooms that radiate the secret ingredient by which they are cultivated - tender love.

Howell has been a Section Two resident for over forty years. She and her husband Herbert relocated from the Heights to Garden Oaks because they wanted a new home and a big yard. They first bought a small Garden Oaks home and later moved to a larger one several blocks away. Howell remembers many neighbors and the wonderful mornings they gathered in their front yards with a cup of coffee to discuss the events of preceding days and plans for the future. She remembers her good friend the late **Rose Fitch**, who lived on Garden Oaks Boulevard. "Rose used to come over here all the time and we would discuss flowers for hours. We were so flower-minded," reminisced Howell. "I miss my good neighbors **Maurine Dietz** and **Cyntheal Berntson**. We used to always visit."

Now in her early nineties she still gardens. "This year I planted pansies, tulips and daffodils in my yard," said Howell. "I love flowers and I love to share flowers." She views herself as a "homebody" and loves to have company. Always a good cook, she entertains often. This year she had her home updated with carpeting, drapes and mini-blinds. She also had it freshly painted on the inside and outside. Howell has a sun porch where she paints china and does intricate bead work. She makes beautiful beaded ornaments and other treasures from the "House of Howell." Her second favorite house is behind her home - a wonderful greenhouse where she nurtures camellias and other plants.

Marian Mabry had the pleasure of living next door to Howell while she and her husband **James Mabry** were having their home on Lamonte Street remodeled. She describes Howell as "a wonderful person and neighbor. I love to visit with her. She is interesting, very pleasant and kind. I remember she brought me a delicious meal when I came home from the hospital after my daughter Rose was born."

Although the residents of her street no longer gather in their front yards for morning coffee and chatter, they are still friendly and enjoy an occasional visit with Howell. Her niece and nephew moved next door and have become loyal Garden Oaks residents. **Louise Lute**, her neighbor across the street remembers when Hermia and Herbert Howell moved into their home. She has always enjoyed her as a neighbor and good friend.

According to plant books August is the last time of the year gardeners should prune trees and shrubs. August is also the month Howell will turn ninety-one years old. As she is blowing out the candles on her birthday cake, she will be wishing for her beautiful fall flowers to have healthy blooms.

Marian Mabry said Howell once described herself as "a root person." Her description is good. A seasoned gardener like Howell realizes that roots are as important as the other parts of the plant. They act as vessels to transport water and nutrients to the rest of the plant. Through the years Howell has been a vessel to the neighborhood - sharing her flowers of tender love.



Hermia Howell, always near her flowers



ROSE FITCH

"The Duchess of Garden Oaks"
July 23, 1900 - August 5, 1988

Forever remembered and loved by her
many friends in Garden Oaks

IN THE BACKYARD

By David Veselka

Something wakes me, and I grope for my glasses to check the time - 3:50 am. Far too early to think about staying awake. I remove the glasses and turn over, but before sleep returns, I hear through the closed window a distant sound in the backyard. A mockingbird is singing from some faraway perch in the dark. No moonlight brightens the night, and dawn is hours away. Yet the bird sings. I have no doubt the bird is a mockingbird. Anyone who has lived his entire life in the South can recognize that voice as it unravels its never-ending series of copied songs and calls. Still, I count the repeated phrases, which come mostly in sets of three, only rarely as twos or fours. Yes, this is definitely a mockingbird, not the Brown Thrasher, his sound-alike cousin who has spent the winter with us. Nearly as skillful in mimicry as the mockingbird, the thrasher repeats his phrases only twice. I am too sleepy to try to recognize who the mockingbird is "mocking" tonight, and the faint serenade sends me toward sleep. I drift into unconsciousness wondering why the bird sings in the dark.

We wake early on workdays, and at 5:15 I step into the backyard. A mockingbird is still singing, but not alone. First one robin and then another joins this overture to the dawn chorus. A member of the thrush family which is well-known for their beautiful dawn and dusk songs, the robin's lilting notes run up and down the scale. One recent pre-dawn morning I heard a Screech Owl calling while the robins sang, but this morning the mockingbird sings night into day.

After a shower and coffee and with a foolish tie about my neck, I return to the backyard to listen to the late risers. Blue Jays begin their raucous calls as the sky lightens, and soon the Carolina Wren erupts, the volume and exuberance of its voice concealing its small size. A short time later the beautiful trills of the cardinal, the plaintive calls of Mourning Doves, the chirrup calls of Red-bellied Woodpeckers, and the sweet high whistles of the Carolina Chickadee and the Tufted Titmouse fill the air with ancient music. A few winter residents join in; American Goldfinches, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, and Cedar Waxwings add occasional distinctive notes. I can almost tune out the monotonous drone of the North Loop nearly 3/4 of a mile away.

I listen carefully for an unusual voice, the song of a migrant who is spending only a few hours in Garden Oaks on his long

journey from tropical rain forests to our northern woods. Not surprisingly, I hear none. In early March, most neotropical migrant songbirds are still deep in Mexico or Central America. A few species remain hidden in the forests of South America. "Our" migrant songbirds are really ours for only a few months each year. Still, I anticipate that April morning when I will hear the buzzy trill of a Parula Warbler or the haunting flute-like song of a Wood Thrush or the repetitive slurred notes of a White-eyed Vireo added to the chorus of our permanent residents. For me, that moment will mark the arrival of spring in the backyard. That voice will be gone the next day, but in its place may be a Black-throated Green Warbler or Hooded Warbler or Northern Oriole. Each day holds the promise of rare voices.

Ornithologists say that birds' songs are motivated by their instinct to reproduce, that they sing to announce their claim to a territory and prove their worthiness as a mate. I have no doubt as to the truth of that belief, but as I listen, the singing and calling seems filled with joy. There is no frantic desperation in their voices, no wariness, no pretense. The scientist would note my sentimental anthropomorphism. And I would ask him why the mockingbird sings in the dark. I listen again, as each bird celebrates the dawn with enviable vitality, in tune with himself and each other and the new day in the backyard.

NEW MEMBERSHIP

By Coleen & Ray Houseley

<u>MEMBERS</u>	<u>NUMBER OF YEARS</u>
DWIGHT & JANNA ALSOBROOK	6
BRAD BERRYMAN &	
JACQUELYN JACOB	1
AMY & STEPHEN BEZECNY	4
LISA & JOHN BROUSSARD	4
DENNIS CARTER &	
PENE VANDERWERTH CARTER	15
JIM & SANDRA CRABB	17
CHUCK DEATON	1
MIKE & DEBRA DISHBERGER	
RITA J. DONALDSON	54
EARL V. DRAGICS	47
DENNIS & BECKY DUNCAN	9
KRISTI ELLSWORTH & GEOFFREY POLL	2
HANK & VICKI FAULKNER	10
DANIEL & MARY FRAZEE	1
KEVIN & AMANDA FULLER	1
BILL & ALTA GRIFFITH	28
MR. & MRS. J.P. HARDIN	53
SANDRA HARRIS	
KATE HAYDEN	2
MR. AND MRS. J.C. JONES	54
F. LAVERNE KELLEY	53
LOUISE LUTE	44
RIA & RICK MCELVANEY	8
TINA NIETO	1
MARTHA & JOE RHEA	16
PHIL RICHEY	9
ROBERT SARLAY	1
DEBBIE & BILL SAYRE	3
ELIZABETH SMITH	4
LEE SMITH	40
CATHY & DENNIS SPAR	5
DR. & MRS. JAMES D. SYNNOTT	48
CHRISTINE WINKELMANN	50

A SPECIAL THANKS to the following residents who have paid their membership fees and generously contributed additional donations to Garden Oaks programs:

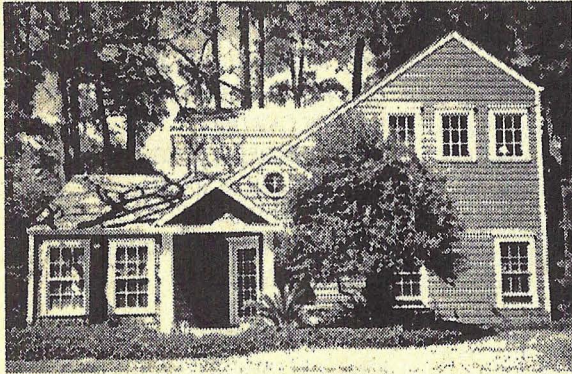
AMY & STEPHEN BEZECNY - \$20 for GO-COP
BRAD BERRYMAN & JACQUELYN JACOB - \$10 for Beautification \$10 for GO-COP and \$10 for the *Gazette*;
MR. & MRS. LYNN PORTER - \$50 for GO-COP
LEE SMITH - \$5 for Beautification, \$5 for GO-COP and \$5 for the *Gazette*
ROBERT SARLAY - \$10 for Beautification, \$10 for GO-COP; \$10 for the *Gazette*, \$10 for Montessori and \$10 for Plant Co-Op
CHUCK DEATON - \$10 for Beautification, \$10 for Go-Cop, \$10 for the *Gazette*, \$10 for Montessori and \$10 for Plant Co-Op
KATE HAYDEN - \$50 for the *Gazette*;
PHIL RICHEY - \$10 for Beautification, \$10 for Go-Cop and \$10 for the *Gazette*.

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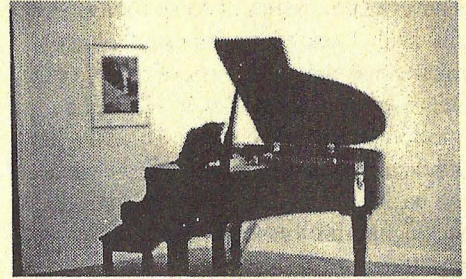
HOUSE OF THE MONTH

By Jude Patronella



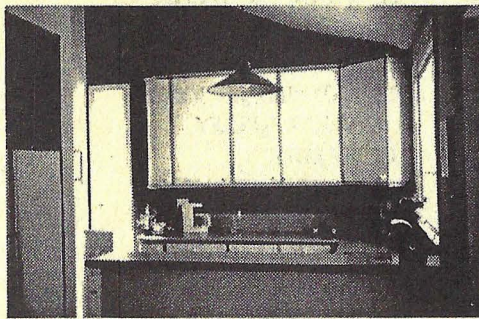
The magnificent house at 818 W. 41st Street has undergone constant change since **Ric and Cheryl Luck** bought it in 1984. Ric, an architectural engineer, and Cheryl, also an architect, have combined their talents to present Garden Oaks with a beautifully styled contemporary home that graciously blends into the character of the neighborhood.

First glimpse of this two-story home, painted a shade of color between lavender and purple and called "Eggplant," gives a sense of excitement. Upon entering the home a visitor walks directly into a dramatic music room with a Baby Grand piano. The white-washed hard wood floors on the first level of this home enhance the

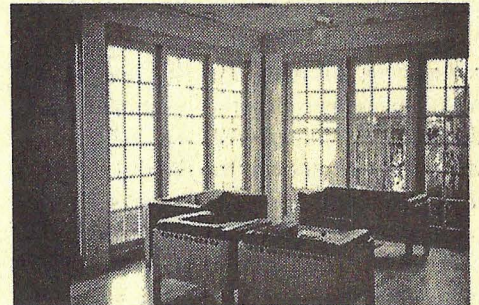


interior design. The very modern kitchen is European in style and has cabinets that were made in Germany and imported to Houston. The counter-tops, (gray in the kitchen, black

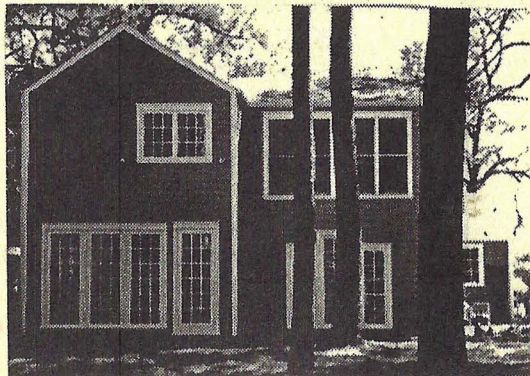
in the master bath and white in the other two baths), are made of Corian. The fireplace mantel and hearth in the large family room has been made of black granite Corian.



There are four bedrooms in the home. The large master suite is on the second level along with another bedroom and laundry room. A six foot cast iron soaking tub is in the master bath. Wooden windows over six feet in length surround the house to bring in natural light. French doors in the family room lead to a wooden deck on the east side of the house. A patio is on the west side. The large yard is filled with beautiful tall trees.



in length surround the house to bring in natural light. French doors in the family room lead to a wooden deck on the east side of the house. A patio is on the west side. The large



This home, (once approximately 1,100 square feet), is now approximately 2,900 square feet. The whole house has been wired for security and fire. The roof has foil faced plywood for better insulation and the five tons of air-conditioning is dual zoned.

Ric and Cheryl Luck love Garden Oaks and felt a need to combine their contemporary home with the traditional qualities of fluted trim, double-hung wooden windows and intricate detailing. Their plans for the near future include selling this home and buying another Garden Oaks home to design their second showplace for the neighborhood.

GARDEN CLUB CELEBRATES SPRING

By Evelyn Anderson

The Garden Oaks Garden Club defied bad weather (remember when it was cold?) to meet February 10th and the topic was that harbinger of spring - flowering bulbs. President **Nan Kittell** hosted the meeting and served a delicious buffet. The book Flowering Bulbs - Indoors and Out was reviewed by **Misty Jones**, who then spoke on the subject.

By the time of the March 10th meeting we didn't have to dream of bulbs anymore. Held at **Jackie Batis'** house, the just-in-time (for those of us with spring fever) topic was propagation. The Encyclopedia of Gardening was reviewed by **Evelyn Anderson** and Nan spoke on the many ways to make new plants. Oh! and did I mention we had good food too?

The garden club meets the 2nd Thursday of each month, April's meeting is on the 14th at **Katherine Hardin's** house, 215 W. 31st street at 6:30 pm. Among other fun things we are planning for this year is an April 23rd trip to the Antique Rose Emporium in Brenham.

INSIDE GARDEN OAKS

By Shannon L. Nelson, ASID

Well, I guess it must be spring....or something. It's rather hard to tell when you live in Houston. Some days I wear my bathing suit, the next day I may throw on the politically incorrect fur. This time of year I often wear my mink over my bathing suit. If I feel confused, you can imagine how the azaleas must feel?

The underside of pier and beam houses provide wonderful hiding places for your pets and uninvited varmint friends. Although wooden lattice looks great and was always used as skirting around our type of houses, it is not long-lasting and can provide termites an easy access to your structure. Decorative or plain wrought iron would be ideal as skirting, but can be cost prohibitive. I found an inexpensive alternative at Home Depot. Heavy gauge wire garden border can be placed in the periphery of the house. For added stability, we used clips at the top to anchor each top loop. Our "skirting" looks like a little fence, is available in white or green and keeps Dude and Daphne from dragging more of Mr. Peterson's underwear under the house.

Our photocell security lights are effective at lighting our back yard, but were not very attractive. To replace the "utility" model with something more decorative was not in the cards due to my little "money pit" house. I found some large metal bird cages at a craft store and created a "no brainer" verde gris finish using dark green spray paint as the undercoat with over-sponging in a medium dusty green. My little green bird cage lanterns look cute, have weathered beautifully and have not impaired the photocell operation. When determining exterior paint colors, don't forget to address existing elements. The mistake that most people make when choosing colors is being arbitrary in the selection process. That is, choosing from a paint chip... "Gee, this looks like a neat color..." Take samples out into the yard and take a good look at the effect each consideration might have. In the painting environment... "when in doubt, chicken out." Always do a test sample of color you are considering. It's a lot cheaper to buy a small can or cans of paint than to re-paint a ghastly color. Trust me, folks...I've been doing this for 20 years.

Insofar as the actual selection criteria, I always like to match the door and trim color to the roof tiles. Sometimes, window mullions look good when painted to match other trim

as long as you are working in light to medium values. Really dark colors at the window can give your house a pinched, creepy look if you are not careful. Once in a while the shock of a lacquer red or black door can be captivating. When selecting a paint finish, for either exterior or interior use, steer clear of high gloss which enhances every imperfection. Also note that it is inappropriate to use a flat finish on any wood trim. I like satin or semi-gloss best for wood trim and egg shell or satin for interior walls. Flat walls always remind me of the apartments that I am trying to forget. With few exceptions to the rule, you can apply enamel over enamel or latex, but never latex over enamel. If you have no idea what I am talking about you need professional help. At least for your painting needs.

I am looking forward to widening my driveway. It currently is the width of a gnats hinye at the culvert. We have lost more good friends in that ditch! As we are hospitable folk, we usually offer refreshments to them while waiting for the tow truck. I was thinking that a faux stone concrete bridge configuration might be interesting. There is one that I like at the curve on Lawrence St. The goal should be to integrate the existing driveway with whatever we use to create width at the **danger zone**. Nothing looks worse than a wide Fondren Southwest driveway in our neighborhood.

A Section Two resident asked where to get oriental rugs cleaned. I recommend Bagdad on Westheimer (phone#933-8030). However, please remember that too frequent cleaning of hand-knotted carpets does them no benefit. I spot clean with club soda on a clean rag. Also try soda-diluted **Carbona** carpet cleaner. You can get this at the grocery store. This stuff is also great for wall-to-wall carpeting. Never put tap water on rugs. The gook and additives can leave a ring.

We were also asked where to find **PacificNova**, the non-yellowing floor sealant. We purchased ours at Builder's Square, but I am sure that many paint and hardware stores carry it. Let your fingers do the walking as I have found stock to be inconsistent.

(INSIDE GARDEN OAKS addresses the special character of our wonderful neighborhood. Please forward any questions, hints or comments to Shannon & Associates, 208 W. 34th Street, Houston, Texas 77018. Shannon L. Nelson, Texas Registration # 2026, is a professional member of the American Society of Interior Designers. She may be reached by phone at (713) 802-9301 or by pager (713) 285-4287.)

SMALL HAPPENINGS IN GARDEN OAKS

By Janet Little

When our daughter, Jennifer, who now lives in New South Wales, Australia, was in junior high, she heard our little dog barking frantically in the street.

When we ran to get her out of the street, we saw she was barking at a large copperhead snake. The city had recently put some new pipes for drainage up and down the street. Our neighbor was just starting to back her car out of the driveway—we called to her to run over the poisonous snake. The first time she didn't kill it so she backed up and ran over it again.

Being a "nature freak," I hated to throw the snake in the garbage can—even a copperhead is beautiful. I ran into the house and brought out a quart size sauce pan with a long handle. I curled the snake around and around in the pan, with its head on top. I put it in our freezer in the garage. The next morning, Jennifer took it to science class. Her teacher said, "Only Jennifer Little would bring a frozen copperhead to class."

MS-150 BIKE RIDE

Garden Oaks resident **Emmett Doherty** is seeking contributions for MS-150, the 150 mile bike ride for Muscular Dystrophy from Houston to Austin on April 23 and 24. Please call Doherty at 697-5200 soon!!!!

Garden Oaks Decals
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Deadline for
May Gazette
is April 10

HAPPY SHOPPING - DO TELL!!

By Trish Mehrkam

Where do people find all the things they have in their home?!! My house is full of those things that collect dust everyday! But with me, you have to consider, I'm one of those people who feel empty, unfulfilled and blue when I go shopping and bring nothing home! I gotta find something while I'm out or I might as well not go out! I want something to show for my time!!

I'm not a purest when it comes to furniture and home accessories. I prefer a hodge-podge assortment of things. I love that word: hodge-podge, a little of everything all mixed together! Speaking of hodge-podge, believe it or not, we have a few good neighborhood shops filled with the stuff! The Salvation Army at 43rd and Ella, Taite's on 43rd near Oak Forest, Kate's Resale across the street from the Salvation Army, and Kathleen's Consignment by the RR tracks at 34th and Ella. These are all good sources for interesting, unusual and where-did-you-find-that wonderful little thing in your home!

Right here under our noses is The Antique Center of Texas! Take a few hours and browse, literally! There are acres of cubbyholes filled with very old antiques, expensive collectibles, reasonable accessories, not so old furniture, and art deco items. Lots of neat things and accents. There is also a very good collection of oriental rugs. This one little corner is filled with the most wonderful collection of western furniture and accessories I have ever seen. I had to laugh at the thought of someone actually having that stuff in their den or living room - but, hey, I like it and wouldn't mind having a few reminders of the western era in my den - if only I had a den! There is also a delightful little sandwich/salad shop inside The Antique Center of Texas.

Another good place to shop for furniture and accessories, is JC Penney at the Northwest Mall in the 'back room' (I love back rooms!). It's upstairs behind the furniture department and it's filled with floor samples, returned special order items, and overstocked items. Check it out every few weeks - you'll be surprised at the one of a kind deals you run across. I'm not saying these 'one of a kind' items will fit in your decor, but you may find that perfect piece for your house! Prices are usually very reasonable since they are one of a kind, left-over, last year's model, returned or a sample - what a value! I NEED a bigger house!!!!

One last place I'd like to mention is Gallery Furniture. Mac has quite a reputation already, but I want to recognize him because I like how much he puts back into the community. Gallery Furniture has a good staple of accessories and can compete with furniture stores like Finger's and Star Furniture. It is worth a stop and see when you are looking for furniture and accessories for the home.

I really enjoy looking, shopping, discovering new places, finding great deals and creating a new look for an old room using unusual pieces. Take a chance, use some imagination and combine different styles for your new look. Toot-a-loo to you and Ta-Ta for now! Happy shopping and do tell!!!

MUSIC & BOOKS

AIN'T NOTHING LIKE THE REAL THING

By Louis Patronella

Here's the deal. Before I can do another book column, I've got to do a review of a record album. Kind of like I have to get something out of my system. The cause of all this extra work is RHYTHM COUNTRY AND BLUES, a new MCA album available on CD and Cassette.

In this the year of duets (Frank Sinatra's album debuted at the top of the music charts) RC&B sets a high standard for future collaborations. How high, you ask? Try stratospheric. Try sublime.

Country music and rhythm and blues are indigenous forms that have much in common. They are "people" music sharing with roots in region, experience and strong elemental emotion. While there is wit and irony, it is not the urbane variety of a Cole Porter or a Stephen Sondheim. The recording centers of the two are Memphis and Nashville, just miles apart in Tennessee. An excellent documentary on the making of this album was recently shown on PBS (Channel 8). Through interviews and old films, recordings, and photographs it weaves the development of these two forms with footage of the recording sessions. Ask Channel 8 to reschedule it and don't miss it.

The first cut on the album is "Ain't Nothing Like the Real Thing" performed memorably by Vince Gill and Gladys Knight followed by "Funny How Time Slips Away" by Al Green and Lyle Lovett; "I Fall To Pieces" by Aaron Neville and Trisha Yearwood; "Somethin'

Else" by Little Richard and Tanya Tucker, (yes, Little Richard and Tanya Tucker!!!); "When Something Is Wrong With My Baby" by Patti LaBelle and Travis Tritt; "Rainy Night in Georgia" by Sam Moore and Conway Twitty; "Chain of Fools" by Clint Black and Pointer Sisters; "Since I Fell For You" by Natalie Cole and Reba McEntire; "Southern Nights" by Chet Atkins and Allen Toussaint; "The Weight" by the Staple Singers and Marty Stuart; and "Patches" by George Jones and B.B. King.

Favorite cuts? I can't pick one and besides which my choice would probably change when I started the next one. What is obvious is that this is a labor of love with great care taken with the concept, the songs, the musicians and the vocalists. You are in for quite a treat.

I did read a couple of books by Jonathan Kellerman. Kellerman, after a career in child psychology, turned to fiction writing full time. He has a series of mystery novels with the fictional Alex Delaware, a child psychologist, as protagonist. His current best seller is Bad Love. Over the Edge (1987) and Devil's Waltz (1993) (both available in paperback) were my choices to sample. Over the Edge is a page one grabber and maintains suspense throughout. Devil's Waltz is slower to build but it has the added fascination of the subject matter of a bizarre psychiatric condition, "Munchausen by proxy," a variant of Munchausen Syndrome in which instead of an individual simulating illness through lies, ingesting toxins, and/or self mutilation, a parent through such means simulates illness in a child. This condition is not completely understood but it involves a battle of wits and will with doctors, nurses and the rest of the medical staff. There are implausibilities in both books and I had a problem with the relevance of some of the subplots on which so much time was spent for little pay-off. For their type, the books were well done and I plan to accompany Dr. Delaware on a few more adventures.

GARDEN OAKS

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INSURANCE TIPS

By Carol Meyer

PART 1

This is the first of a two-part series on automobile insurance. Something we are all required by law to have if we own a vehicle. In my experience as an insurance agent, it often startles me to know how little people actually know about something that they pay so much for. Roughly 5% of the people that I talk to tell me that they are not even sure who their carrier is! Hopefully the information in this and the next article will help anyone who would like to know the basics concerning automobile insurance coverage. Better yet, with the tips laid out in my article, maybe some of you can save some significant money by re-organizing your coverage.

All of us are required by law to carry, at a minimum liability insurance. Liability insurance is third party insurance. In other words, it provides coverage when you either hurt someone and/or their vehicle in an auto related accident. This portion of your coverage is more accurately known as Bodily Injury and Property Damage. It is usually the first thing listed on your policy and is shown as two different numbers for Bodily Injury (B.I.) and one for Property Damage. The first number is Bodily Injury per person and the second is B. I. per accident. The third number is coverage for property damage (damage done to other people's vehicles). The minimum required by the state of Texas for each of these coverage's is 20/40/15 (meaning \$20,000/\$40,000/\$15,000). However, when you think about the cost of vehicles on the road today, \$15,000 might not cover you sufficiently if you were to hit a "prestige car" or have a multi-car accident. Therefore, in most cases I recommend liability coverage of at least 50/100/50. Again, this simply means that you would be covered for \$50,000 bodily injury per person, \$100,000 bodily injury per accident and \$50,000 on property damage.

Limits for liability go up to 250/500/100. My opinion on this matter is that such excessive limits are generally unnecessary unless you are required by your profession (for instance, such as some real estate professionals are) or have enough financial wealth to be vulnerable if sued.

The next topic regarding auto insurance deals with Personal Injury Protection (PIP) and Medical pay. Basically, you are asked to choose between these coverages. Both apply to you or anyone in your vehicle. Should

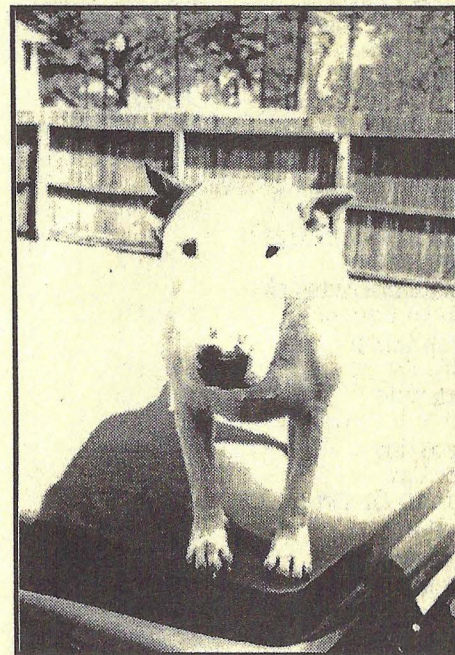
you get hurt and need medical attention, you will be reimbursed for up to the limit listed on your coverage sheet. The difference between PIP and medical Pay is two-fold. First, PIP covers not only medical expenses for you or anyone in your vehicle, but it also covers 80% of any lost wages from work if you should lose time due to injuries suffered in a car accident. Med Pay just covers medical expenses. Med Pay is also less expensive. What most agents neglect to tell their clients is that "standard coverage" for PIP is \$2500. This amount of coverage does not go very far when you consider the cost of medical expenses or the cost of living if you are laid up from work. Nonetheless, you pay approximately \$20 to \$30 every 6 months per car to have this coverage. If you are going to have it, ask your agent to tell you the price difference between \$2,500 worth of coverage and \$10,000 (which is the maximum available).

A further note of PIP and Medical Pay is that you can choose to reject this coverage all together. As pointed out by author Charles Givens in his book, "Wealth Without Risk," if you have health care coverage already it will cover medical expenses should something happen to you in a vehicle. The way that auto insurance works, you will only be reimbursed for up to the amount of your loss (if your coverage allows). Therefore, if you pay for both PIP and health care will not pay off, and vice versa. Givens recommends that if you have health care coverage, you simply reject both PIP and Med Pay coverage on your auto policy. The two things you need to know before deciding what coverage you want that Givens does not elaborate on are the fact that while you may have health care plan, there is still a possibility that someone riding with you in your vehicle does not. Also, health care plans generally require you to pay an annual deductible before you start receiving benefits, while PIP and Med Pay do not. Yet, if you feel comfortable with both of these facts, you can save some significant money by leaving the coverage off your policy. The decision is yours.

Another cost-saver option concerning auto insurance deals with taking a Defensive Driving course to reduce your rates. I think that most people are aware that this can save them money on their coverage. I'm just not sure if they are aware of how much it can save. In general, Defensive Driving should save you approximately 7 to 10% on your coverage. For my husband and I this works out to \$30.00 per car every 6 months. And

while the course only lasts for 6 hours, the discount on your auto policy lasts for three years after the date that you completed the course.

My next article will cover Uninsured/Underinsured coverage, collision and other than collision (which covers damage to your vehicle), towing and rental. I will also explain some of the complexities involving youthful driver rates. Because of the length of my article thus far, I will have to elaborate on these coverage's in the next edition of the *Gazette*. However, in the meantime, should you have any specific insurance questions you would like to ask, please send me a note in care of Carol Meyer, Insurance Tips. Mail it to 1019 W. 41st Street. I would love to share your questions with other Garden Oaks neighbors, so please write me.



Arrow,
an English Bull Terrier,
is a resident of Garden Oaks
Section Two.
He has just sent off his membership
to join the
Garden Oaks Civic Club.
He believes in supporting this
wonderful neighborhood.
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April Calendar

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
					1 Good Friday	2
3 Happy Easter	4	5 Civic Club 7:00 pm	6	7	8	9 Recycle Drop-off 8:00 am
10 Gazette Deadline 7:00 pm	11	12	13 Garden Club Meeting	14	15 G.O. Spring Spaghetti Dinner Talent Show 6:00 pm	16 City Drop-Off Recycling
17	18	19 Heavy Trash Pick-up	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

GARDEN OAKS CIVIC CLUB MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Children/Birthdates: _____

Phone: _____ Yrs. lived in G.O. _____ Sec. _____

Employer (s): _____

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES: _____ \$10 Family Membership
 _____ \$5 Senior Citizens (Garden Oaks Roots)
 _____ \$25 Business Membership

ADDITIONAL DONATIONS TO FURTHER SUPPORT GARDEN OAKS PROGRAMS

\$ _____ Beautification
 \$ _____ GO COP
 \$ _____ Gazette
 \$ _____ Montessori Program
 \$ _____ Plant Co-op

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: GARDEN OAKS CIVIC CLUB

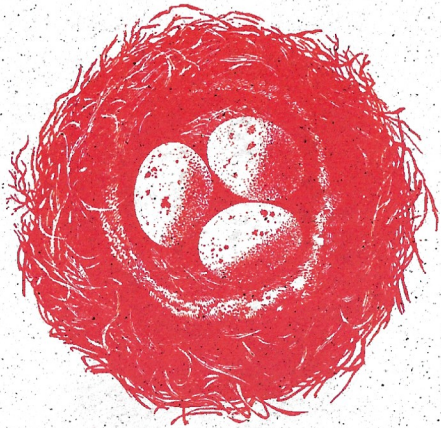
Mail to:

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

The spread of imported fire ants has caused damage in many areas:

- Crops
- Electrical equipment
 - Telephone pedestals
 - Junction boxes
 - Signal lights.
- Asphalt highways.
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- Constructs large earthen mounds which interfere with the operation of farm machinery and equipment
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the choice is yours.***

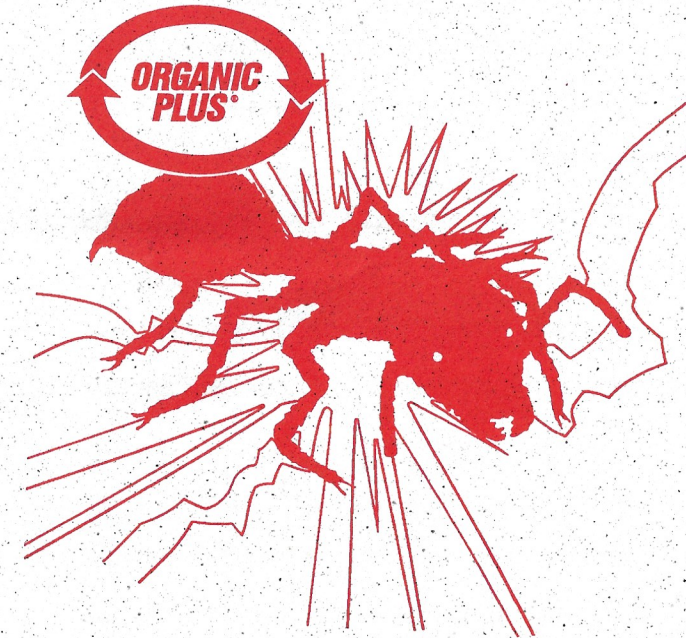


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For many years consumers have not had an environmentally friendly option for fire ant extermination. In an effort to control fire ants, toxic chemicals such as Malathion, Diazinon, Chlorpyrifos, DDVP, 2-4-D, and Carbaryl have been used. These products are constantly in the limelight because of their hazardous effects on human beings, pets and the environment.

The American public has finally come to the conclusion that it is up to them - individually and collectively - to see that as many toxic chemicals as possible are removed from our environment. Consumers are now conscious of the chemicals they use. They are becoming increasingly afraid of words such as "toxicity" and don't want to further endanger the environment. There has been a chemical explosion during the past forty years, and now the answer for organic methods to control fire ants is found.

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Prepare solution by mixing
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Drench both the mound and the area within six inches of the mound with the solution. Apply gently to avoid disturbing the ants.

Reapply as necessary.

For best results, apply in cool weather (65°-80°F) or in early morning or late evening hours. Treat new mounds as they appear.



To prevent infestation and to keep fire ants from entering homes, thoroughly dust Organic Plus® on patios, barbecue areas, driveways, entry ways, door sills, window frames, other entrance areas, foundations of buildings, ant trails, around pools and areas where fire ants are noticed. Dust until the area is well covered, contacting as many ants as possible.

