



### CIVIC CLUB

The next meeting of the Garden Oaks Civic Club will be held at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, May 3, Garden Oaks Baptist Church, 3106 North Shepherd. At this month's meeting, Council member **Gracie Saenz** will come speak to us about the new CURB ordinance. She'll talk about how the ordinance affects our ability to maintain quality neighborhoods in Houston. At last month's meeting the refreshments, door prize and civic club favors were provided by **Terry Jeanes**, of Re/Max Metro. **Joel Grandstaff** won the door prize - a gift certificate to Tony's Mexican Restaurant. May refreshments will be provided by Garden Properties.

### TO A WREN ON A GREY DAY

*By Janet Little*

Little singing bird  
Thither come and stay  
Sing a merry song  
To brighten up my day.

Oh, tiny warbling bird  
I would that I could sing  
I'd fly and fly. . . towards heaven  
And sing  
For Christ my King!

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**Gazette!**

**VOLUME 18, No. 5**  
**CIRCULATION 1550**  
**MAY 1994**



## FROM THE EDITOR . . .

Many Garden Oaks residents rose to the Challenge of Section One resident **Mark Neff**, who challenged residents to raise \$500 for the *Gazette*. Thanks to your efforts, more than \$500 has been raised and will now be matched by an additional \$500 from Neff.

This month's *Gazette* is smaller because we still need additional money to afford publication. If more money is not raised we will have to continue cut down the size and quality of our newsletter. Please call me if one or more of you can fulfill the following request:

### Wanted

Volunteers who are willing to spend time approaching businesses about purchasing an advertisement or donating money to the *Gazette*. We need volunteers who are convincing and persuasive. There are a lot of businesses that need to know we need their help!

Jude Patronella

**Garden Oaks Decals  
available at the  
Civic Club Meeting**

**GAZETTE AD RATES  
\$40 PER MONTH -  
\$200 FOR 6 MONTHS  
\$385 FOR 1 YEAR  
FLYERS ARE \$75.00**

**DEADLINE FOR  
JUNE GAZETTE  
IS MAY 10TH**

**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 CITIZENS ON PATROL

By *Bill Chastain*

(February crime statistics: 2 burglaries, 1 auto theft!)

After January's zero crime statistics, we hate to see it go back up. It will still take an effort on everyone's part to keep it down. There are about 100 vehicles stolen every day in Houston. If you are careless in the way you lock or fail to lock your car, or if you park in a poor location, you may contribute to these numbers.

If you should have a problem where the law is being violated or if a dangerous situation exists, I have a "Community Concerns" form that can be completed and mailed or faxed to the police department. Call me at 681-5151 if you would like one of these forms. Concerns for our area would go to the North Shepherd substation.

Remember that May 19 is the next PIP meeting. The place is St. Matthews Methodist Church on the corner of North Shepherd, and Crosstimbers, and the time is 7:00 pm. Everyone is welcome to attend and I urge your support. Last month, we had a very interesting speaker who was the director of a boot camp. He ended the meeting with a question and answer session.

**Bill Harbaugh** is the May patroller of the month and he will receive a certificate to visit the restaurant of his choice. Bill is leaving us, as some of you may already know, and I know that you will want to extend with me, your appreciation for his loyal support of our COP group. He is a charter member and has given unselfishly of his time and resources over the past four years or so. We particularly regret losing Bill because his dedication is going to be difficult to replace, but we wish him well and hope he will not forget his roots in Garden Oaks.

### SPRING CLEANING?

Have you cleaned out the garage or attic and are wondering what to do with all your old stuff? We have the answer for you. We are planning a BIG GARAGE SALE to raise money for the Garden Oaks Elementary School Montessori program and we will be happy to pick up your stuff. Please call **Anita Scherer** at 956-7809 if you have any donations or you would like to volunteer to help out.

A date has not been set yet but the Garage Sale will take place soon, very soon. Call Anita for details.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By *Suzanne Debien*

Welcome to spring, everyone! This is the season when lots of us start thinking about spring cleaning and home improvement projects.

We got some great tips on home improvements at last month's meeting with **Tom Tynan**, the host of KTRH's Home Improvement Hotline. Everyone really enjoyed his visit.

At this month's meeting, Council member **Gracie Saenz** will come speak to us about the new CURB ordinance. She'll talk about how the ordinance affects our ability to maintain quality neighborhoods in Houston.

As we're talking about spring cleaning, I'd like to personally thank and congratulate our neighbor at 705 W. 31st. This proud resident of "Garden Oaks, Texas" went to the Highway Patrol, got the new graffiti-proof paint, and cleaned all the graffiti off the underpass at Shepherd. It's this kind of personal commitment to the quality of life in our neighborhood that makes this one of the best places to live in Houston and it really makes me proud to be involved with the civic association.

You may have noticed the beautification project going on at the pocket park on Sue Barnett. Right now we need your continued financial support to finish this project. This is another example of neighbors committing their time and money to projects that have tangible rewards for everyone in the neighborhood. Whatever you can contribute really makes a big difference.

I look forward to seeing you at our monthly meeting. We'll be making our plans for the June swim party, so come on and meet your neighbors!!!

### Gazette Advertising Directors

**Linda Landry, 861-5040  
Carol Meyer, 681-2746  
Scott MacClymonds,  
697-0069  
Trish Mehrkam, 688-4008**

**Deadline  
for  
June Gazette  
is May 10**



## IN THE BACKYARD

By David Veselka

The muffled thump on the window looking out to the backyard instantly filled me with dread. My mind, on hold during a numbingly polite phone conversation, reeled in startled disbelief. It couldn't be, I pleaded. The irony would be too vicious. I ended the call in seconds, but the springer spaniel and one of the cats already had their noses to the glass, staring out the window at the ground below. They knew the sound as well as I, and a quick glance confirmed my fear and their excitement. A cluster of yellow feathers lay unnaturally in the oxalis covering the azalea bed.

For nearly an hour before the phone's interruption, I had watched those feathers flit through the backyard's understory. From the yaupon to the Virginia creeper to the cherry laurel to the wax myrtle, the male Hooded Warbler had feasted on flying insects throughout the garden. Most often hidden in the shadows of dense foliage, the warbler would dart suddenly into sunlight, a blur of bright yellow against the dark green background, a flash of white in the tail punctuating each aerial sally. Only occasionally did he perch on a bare branch that offered a clear view of his elegant plumage. The lemon yellow of his face and lower body contrasted dramatically with the black cap on the head that extended around the back of the neck and formed a black bib on the throat. The olive yellow of the back and wings, every feather in perfect condition following the spring molt, demurely erased any hint of gaudiness. This bird an artist might dream. Each glimpse of the energetic, colorful visitor had reassured me that the extraordinary passage of neotropical migrants had again reached Garden Oaks. Then the window that lets in the light and life of the backyard turned that vivid emblem of renewal into a crumpled heap in the flower bed.

I rushed to get to the bird before any of the cats could reach it. Small birds are frequently but not always killed in a collision with a window. Migrants in unfamiliar surroundings are especially susceptible as they become focused on reflections of sky and trees and follow what they see as an open flight path. They often hit the windows with great force. Broken necks are common; broken wings and head injuries are just as lethal. Even birds who are only stunned may die from shock or be killed by an opportunistic cat or dog. As I hurried outside, I cursed myself for not replacing the screens that could have prevented this accident.

Although the warbler lay with its wings and tail awkwardly fanned, I could see its open eye, and I knew it was not yet dead. It made no attempt to elude my grasp, although it did emit a plaintive *tseep* as I closed its wings and cupped its tiny body in my left palm. With my right I formed a loose tent over the bird. Sometimes the heat of one's hands can provide warmth enough to prevent shock. Then, with my hands joined as in a clumsy prayer, I looked through the opening between my thumbs into the shining black eyes of the warbler.

Ten minutes can seem an eternity. Except for warmth and the faintest shivering, my hands felt nothing. That vital engine that had moments before ravaged the insect world seemed as insubstantial as a wish. Waiting, I looked over and again into the dark shining eyes of the warbler. The air cooled and dusk descended. A resolution was necessary. I opened my hands, but the warbler did not move. I worried that it might be too cold, that shock was still a possibility. I worried about damaged wings and head injuries, about cats and owls. I worried about the stress of overnight captivity in an unfamiliar box in a strange house. In the end the tiny yellow bird made its own decision. From my open palm it fluttered a few feet to a branch of the Mexican buckeye and perched unsteadily. For a long moment it stared at me, its black eyes still shining. Finally, it turned away and flew bravely into the shadows of the backyard.

## NEW MEMBERSHIP - MAY 1994

By Colleen & Ray Housley

<u>MEMBERS</u>	<u>NO. OF YEARS IN G.O.</u>
Dennis & Kay Alexander	15
Sandy Altman	13
David & Pamela Anderson	3
Dian Austin	13
Mr. & Mrs. Dan L. Bell	
Tom Kuper & Beth Bradford	3
Lawrence Davenport	3
Charles & Angela Dickson	4
San Juanita Gonzales & Emmett Doherty	13
Candace Foster	
Mrs. T.K. Gantt	54
Perry Gunter	27
O.E. Helmcamp & Jeannette Eubank	49
Robert & Karen Hicks	
June E. Hightower	
Steve & Ann Hollis	
Don & Lisa Howie	3
Robert & Patsy Irvin	19
John & Jennifer Joyce	
Patrick King & Heather Barr	2

Craig & Sandy Lee	1
Rick & Michele Martini	4
Oscar D. Ochoa	
Charlie Rater & Andy Bowen	5
Dave & Susan Russell	12
Mr. & Mrs. Schwippel	52
Frances E. Smith	
Patricia Walker	
M.D. Walters	2
Carl & Leslie Waters	1
Carolyn Wilson	
Rob Wohr	1
W.C. Youens	29

Please join the Garden Oaks Civic Club by pledging \$10 and receive the joys of living in a beautiful community. This Civic Club is hoping to reach it's membership goal this year of 50% OR MORE. We can do it if YOU help!!! A membership form is on the back page of the *Gazette*, please send it in; thank you all for the new memberships.

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

Richard & Amy Blain	\$20 for Gazette
David & Cindy Ballard	\$10 for Gazette
Albert & Lucille Lanclos	\$3 for Gazette
Rev. & Mrs. Little	\$5 for Gazette
Tom & Trish Mehrkam	\$20 for Gazette
Harry & Gloria Paine	\$10 for Gazette
Lynda Spinks	\$10 for Gazette
David & Pamela Anderson	\$5 for GO-COP, \$5 for Gazette, \$5 for Montessori
Mr. & Mrs. Dan Bell	\$10 for Gazette
Tom Kuper & Beth Bradford	\$20 for Gazette
S.J. Gonzales & E. Doherty	\$10 for Gazette
Candace Foster	\$10 for Gazette
Mrs. T.K. Gantt	\$25 for Beautification, \$25 for GO-COP, \$25 for Gazette, \$25 for Plants
O.E. Helmcamp & J. Eubank	\$5 for Gazette
June E. Hightower	\$50 for Gazette
Steve & Ann Hollis	\$10 for Gazette
Robert & Patsy Irvin	\$10 for CO-COP, \$10 for Gazette
John & Jennifer Joyce	\$15 for Gazette
Patrick King & Heather Barr	\$25 for Montessori
Rick & Michele Martini	\$10 for Gazette
Frances Smith	\$10 for Gazette
Carl & Leslie Waters	\$15 for Gazette
William Holt	\$10 for Gazette
Isidro & Angelina Cruz	\$10 for Gazette



## St. Matthew's

### United Methodist Church

SUNDAY WORSHIP 8:15 & 10:30 am

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:15 am

Preschool - Mon -Fri 9-2

Mother's Day Out - Wed -Fri 9-2  
ages 3 mos. - 5 yrs.

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

Senior Adult Exercise

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

4300 N. Shepherd at Crosstimbers

697-0671

Pastors: Don Goodwin, Don Raschke

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## BOARD BASHING AND THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION

By Ria McElvaney

During my short tenure on the Garden Oaks Board of Trustees, I have been puzzled by scathing criticism of the Board which has struck me as being out of all proportion to our limited function. Therefore, it occurred to me that the Board should come out of the closet to explain what it does and why. While the term "Board of Trustees" sounds lofty, our powers are in fact very limited. They have only one function to maintain and enforce the Deed Restrictions. Any debate over the Board's actions probably stems from values embodied in our Constitution, mainly our interests in individual freedom on the one hand and our rights as property owners on the other.

In many ways, those rights complement each other; once we own a home, we strongly believe that we have the freedom to do with it as we please. However, there are times when these two powerful concepts clash. The actions of a neighbor exercising his individual freedom with respect to his property can deprive you of your property rights. As an extreme example, if your next-door neighbor establishes a 24-hour topless bar and massage parlor in his home, your property value will plummet and your quiet enjoyment of your home will be obliterated. (OK, OK! For some of you only your property value will plummet; the enjoyment of your home will be enhanced.)

But seriously, where do you draw the line? Who should decide what you can or cannot do with your own home? *Not the Board of Trustees!* As a matter of fact, *you*, the home owners, have already decided. Your decisions are contained in the Deed Restrictions, certain covenants you agreed to keep when you purchased your home. The Deed Restrictions are *your* Restrictions; *you* own them. They protect your rights as a property owner and the value of your investment. They are, in a sense, a mini-Constitution intended to maintain the integrity of this neighborhood.

Your Deed Restrictions also provide for the establishment of a Board of Trustees (in no way related to the Civic Club) to enforce your rights under the Deed Restrictions. The members of the Board are volunteers, and our work is uncompensated. The current Board consists of 16 members (11 men and 5 women), ranging in age from thirty-something to eighty-something. Some are long-time Garden Oaks residents; others are relatively new to the neighborhood. We have widely varying tastes, opinions and political views.

As a group, we agree on only two things: 1) the importance of preserving the quality of this neighborhood, and 2) that only your Deed Restrictions should guide our actions.

Generally, we meet once a month. We review the minutes of the prior meeting and report any known or suspected Deed Restriction violations to the Board at large. If a violation is brought to our attention (and it must be brought to our attention before we can do anything about it), we discuss and decide how to act. We start by contacting the homeowner, pointing out the violation and asking them to bring their property into compliance. We resort to litigation if it becomes necessary to protect and enforce *your* Restrictions.

If a homeowner wants to exercise individual freedom in making changes or additions to his home, the Deed Restrictions specify that he must obtain approval from the Board. The homeowner must get a City permit to begin the work, and the City requires proof of Board approval before issuing its permit. In those instances, the homeowner presents us with his plans, and we review the plans only to determine whether they are in compliance with your Deed Restrictions. If they are in compliance, our only possible action is to approve the plans. We try to keep the process as objective as humanly possible. Whether the proposed plans present an elegant brick garage in violation of the set-back requirements or a functional aluminum carport in violation of the set-back requirements, we have concluded that taste (our taste) should not play a role in our decision making.

Funds for enforcing the Deed Restrictions come from a Maintenance Fee of forty cents per front foot and a Transfer Fee of thirty dollars each time a piece of property changes hands. The Board also welcomes donations to be applied to the maintenance and enforcement of the Deed Restrictions.

If you are contemplating any home improvements, be sure to consult your Deed Restrictions, receive Board approval and have your City building permits before you sink money into the job. Otherwise you may find yourself exercising your First Amendment right of free speech to bash the Board (and the City).

If you have questions or concerns regarding the Board of Trustees, wish to report a violation or need a copy of your Deed Restrictions, contact a Board member. Names and phone numbers are listed on the back of the *Gazette*.



## GARDEN OAKS BEAT

By Kiki & Bunny

(Kiki & Bunny are on a road trip to Dallas with personal ice chests full of goodies)

### PAUL'S PASSIONATE POLYNESIAN MARINADE

#### Ingredients:

3 cups pineapple juice  
1/2 cup soy sauce  
1/2 cup brown sugar  
2 tablespoons vegetable oil  
1 teaspoon ground ginger  
1/4 cup maraschino cherry juice  
5 lbs chicken or beef

#### To Prepare:

Mix everything together. Pour over meat and marinade 4 hours before cooking. Grill or stir fry in wok with vegetables of your choice. Before grilling or stir frying sprinkle meat with sesame seeds.

"Bunny, whatever possessed you to just pick up and go? I feel just like *Thelma & Louise*. Do you want another cold one?"

"Kiki, the idea just hit me. Did you hear that Becky Jeans, Terry's daughter, participated in the State Drill Team competition in San Antonio? Her school, Lanier Middle School, won a half dozen trophies. After that, the entire Jeanes family headed to the ski slopes in Ruidosa, New Mexico for a family outing. Be a darling and pass the Sun Chips."

"Bunny, these Sun Chips are really habit forming. I also have some 411. Guy and Lisa Hoffman, of 38th Street, are expecting a bundle from heaven. Some new neighbors

just moved down the street from me, Mike and Beth Harper, of 31st Street, and are expecting in June."

"Kiki, look there's another Dairy Queen alert!!!! Blizzards and a chili dogs for everyone!!!!"

## HAPPY SHOPPING - DO TELL!!!

By Trish Mehrkam

What do you consider most when shopping for a neighborhood to live in? They all have houses, people, pets, cars, traffic, utilities (hopefully), and order. Order in the sense that traffic has a path to follow, houses are built in accordance, and people abide by society rules. How do you tell the good neighborhoods from the not so good neighborhoods - besides the trashed out, don't care, wouldn't live there appearance.

Obviously you can tell a lot from appearance, but there is more to a nice neighborhood than just looks. For instance, the neighbors - do they take walks, roller skate on the streets, ride bikes through the neighborhood, play ball outside? Are they active in the Civic Club, recycling, citizens on patrol (GO-COP), any neighborhood club - girl scouts, boy scouts, bowling leagues? We all want to live by the nice people who have dogs and cats that don't bite and come when called (HA HA!). The ones who have cars with mufflers and good paint jobs. The ones who do their yard work or have it done - at any rate, their yards are mowed! Garden Oaks shows a large number of these qualities when it comes to our neighborhood!

Besides neighbors, a big consideration is the condition of streets, maintenance of sewer systems, and amount of traffic. I want smooth, quiet streets for riding bikes and walking the dog without big huge water puddles to dodge. Garden Oaks had this at one time, and at one time, cars were not the main means of transportation. A lot has changed through time and we must continue to change with it. Do you know what is happening with the streets and traffic through our neighborhood.

Public schools are another major consideration when shopping for a neighborhood. Are the campuses safe? Do they provide an adequate education or do they provide our children with the very best education we can offer? Do the campuses have computers and trained staff for our children? There is plenty of room for volunteers on public school campuses to tutor, work in the library, or read to the children. Garden Oaks Elementary, Black Middle School, and Waltrip High School are searching for support and concerned volunteers to help create the best public school system in Houston for our neighborhood. All can be accomplished through you. Support the local goals of our schools and help our children prosper.

Do you help with our neighborhood projects, and build up our community? Neighbors, we need to support our local businesses. They cannot prosper without us. We need to lobby for the businesses we want in our vacant commercial spaces and support the ones that are here. Go to your favorite store and tell them about the space available in our neighborhood. Why don't they consider opening here! Managers do listen to what patrons say. Put a bug in their ear! A Garden Oaks BUG!!!

There is a lot going on in our schools and in our neighborhood. Get involved, show spirit, and use your talents. We can all participate in some way. This neighborhood is here for our family as it was for many of your families. Garden Oaks is a family's home. Garden Oaks has all the qualities of a great neighborhood and it is a great neighborhood.

I hope I have put a BUG in your ear; not a pain. ASK me and I'll tell you about my great neighborhood! Toot-a-loo to you and Ta-Ta for Now! Happy shopping and do tell everyone about Garden Oaks!!!



Additions  
2nd Stories  
Renovations

See Our Work At:

- 718 W. 42nd St.
- 729 W. 39th St.
- 705 W. 39th St.
- 818 W. 41st St.
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Suzanne Doblen  
Broker/President

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- Service with a personal touch, specializing in close-in neighborhoods
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- Marketing techniques that have been proven over time
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- Garden Oaks resident since 1973
- Satisfied customers and clients throughout the near northwest
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Garden Oaks References

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## COME HOME TO JESUS



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3206 North Shepherd Drive

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Jeffrey W. Rees, Pastor

## INVOLUNTARY RELATIONS

By Christine Adams, Ph.D.

### Part 2

Last month, ways that well meaning relatives accidentally pour fuel on the fire of "in-law" tension were described. Some general rules of thumb about increasing harmony among in-laws are as follows:

Recognize that each marital partner comes from a unique family culture. The marital pair then creates its own nuclear family "culture" and values. When an in-law feels that his or her "culture" is being respected even if there is a strong disagreement about a course of action, then tension can be lowered. Tolerance and acceptance of diversity increases harmony even in families. To paraphrase Voltaire, accept and defend an individual's right to hold a different opinion.

If possible when concerns come up, let the biologically related family members discuss the concerns privately before involving the in-law. For example, before you start telling your mother-in-law how she needs to prepare a living will, have your spouse bring up the issues of concern without you first. This "test of the water" lets you and your spouse know how much tension this subject might cause, an opportunity to discuss whether or not to pursue it and if so, in what way. If your son in-law drives you crazy, talk about your feelings and suggestions for different behavior with your child first. If a specific concern does not truly affect you and especially if your relative tells you it's none of your concern, try to let it go. There are many different ways to live life.

For example, if Mom and Dad think their son-in-law is a spendthrift, they should take up these concerns first with their daughter in private. If she does not share their concerns, it's time to drop the subject and leave the financial management to the marital pair. However, if the daughter keeps coming to her parents asking for extra money and the parents think the son-in-law is wasting money, then the matter affects them more directly and an open discussion would be appropriate.

If some behavior of your in-law does affect you significantly, it is important that this issue be discussed. Avoidance builds tension. If having your spouse or child intervene has not changed anything, you might consider having a family meeting that stays focused on the behavior in question, how it is a problem, suggested alternative ways of behaving and reassurance that the issue is being raised to maintain harmony not to call anyone on the carpet.

Creating a climate of open, respectful communication helps family members nip things in the bud by bringing up concerns before they become "hot potatoes". Being flexible around minor issues sets a cooperative tone that assists with constructive resolution of major issues. Relationships are two way streets. Mutual respect, tolerance, social courtesy mixed with a sense of humor go a long way to easing family tension and maintaining harmony.

### HELP!!!

She (Charlotte) wanted to move to Garden Oaks. He (Ralph) wanted to move to a golf course. Guess where they moved last September?

The compromise: He is now looking for a group of "serious" golfers in the neighborhood to play golf once a week (preferably during the week). And if they play gin rummy . . . all this and get to live in Garden Oaks too!

So please call **Ralph Hayes** at work (783-0123) or at home (864-4911).

### HELP!!!

Is there anybody in Garden Oaks that plays the game of pinochle? If so, how about a monthly game - call **Rich Englert** (864-TREY).

*(Editor's Note: If Ralph Hayes knows how to play pinochle and Rich Englert knows how to play golf and gin rummy, these two will make a winning Garden Oaks team.)*

## SPRING GARAGE SALE

Would any of you be interested in having a joint garage sale??? It could be at any level of participation—subdivision, section, block or just a couple of homes. The only thing that we want when we have a garage sale are: **BODIES-MONEY-WEATHER-(BMW's)!!!!!!**

With the proper advertising, you could have your most successful garage sale—EVER!!! We are open on the dates! If you are interested, we will have a **very, very quick** meeting at the Spark Park (Sue Barnett & 41st) on May 8 and 9 at 7:00 pm and 9:00 am, respectively. If you are unable to attend either of these meetings, please contact **Doug Wilson** (694-2691) or **Linda Reichle** (699-1189) or **Rick Englert** (864-TREY).

**PLEASE**

**Recycle this Gazette**



## FROM THE EDITOR . . .

Many Garden Oaks residents rose to the Challenge of Section One resident **Mark Neff**, who challenged residents to raise \$500 for the *Gazette*. Thanks to your efforts, more than \$500 has been raised and will now be matched by an additional \$500 from Neff.

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PLEASE

SUBMIT ANYTHING ELSE AS

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## GARDEN OAKS CITIZENS

### ON PATROL

By *Bill Chastain*

(February crime statistics: 2 burglaries, 1 auto theft!)

After January's zero crime statistics, we hate to see it go back up. It will still take an effort on everyone's part to keep it down. There are about 100 vehicles stolen every day in Houston. If you are careless in the way you lock or fail to lock your car, or if you park in a poor location, you may contribute to these numbers.

If you should have a problem where the law is being violated or if a dangerous situation exists, I have a "Community Concerns" form that can be completed and mailed or faxed to the police department. Call me at 681-5151 if you would like one of these forms. Concerns for our area would go to the North Shepherd substation.

Remember that May 19 is the next PIP meeting. The place is St. Matthews Methodist Church on the corner of North Shepherd, and Crosstimbers, and the time is 7:00 pm. Everyone is welcome to attend and I urge your support. Last month, we had a very interesting speaker who was the director of a boot camp. He ended the meeting with a question and answer session.

**Bill Harbaugh** is the May patroller of the month and he will receive a certificate to visit the restaurant of his choice. Bill is leaving us, as some of you may already know, and I know that you will want to extend with me, your appreciation for his loyal support of our COP group. He is a charter member and has given unselfishly of his time and resources over the past four years or so. We particularly regret losing Bill because his dedication is going to be difficult to replace, but we wish him well and hope he will not forget his roots in Garden Oaks.

### SPRING CLEANING?

Have you cleaned out the garage or attic and are wondering what to do with all your old stuff? We have the answer for you. We are planning a BIG GARAGE SALE to raise money for the Garden Oaks Elementary School Montessori program and we will be happy to pick up your stuff. Please call **Anita Scherer** at 956-7809 if you have any donations or you would like to volunteer to help out.

A date has not been set yet but the Garage Sale will take place soon, very soon. Call Anita for details.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By *Suzanne Debien*

Welcome to spring, everyone! This is the season when lots of us start thinking about spring cleaning and home improvement projects.

We got some great tips on home improvements at last month's meeting with **Tom Tynan**, the host of KTRH's Home Improvement Hotline. Everyone really enjoyed his visit.

At this month's meeting, Council member **Gracie Saenz** will come speak to us about the new CURB ordinance. She'll talk about how the ordinance affects our ability to maintain quality neighborhoods in Houston.

As we're talking about spring cleaning, I'd like to personally thank and congratulate our neighbor at 705 W. 31st. This proud resident of "Garden Oaks, Texas" went to the Highway Patrol, got the new graffiti-proof paint, and cleaned all the graffiti off the underpass at Shepherd. It's this kind of personal commitment to the quality of life in our neighborhood that makes this one of the best places to live in Houston and it really makes me proud to be involved with the civic association.

You may have noticed the beautification project going on at the pocket park on Sue Barnett. Right now we need your continued financial support to finish this project. This is another example of neighbors committing their time and money to projects that have tangible rewards for everyone in the neighborhood. Whatever you can contribute really makes a big difference.

I look forward to seeing you at our monthly meeting. We'll be making our plans for the June swim party, so come on and meet your neighbors!!!

### Gazette Advertising Directors

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**Scott MacClymonds,  
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**Trish Mehrkam, 688-4008**

**Deadline**

for

**June Gazette**

**is May 10**



**GARDEN OAKS CIVIC CLUB**

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

**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