

Garden Oaks Gazette

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DECEMBER 1994

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

GARDEN OAKS CAROLING BENEFIT

By Audrey Vallance

To The Wonderful Neighbors Of Garden Oaks:

On behalf of the People With AIDS Coalition and the Loving Arms Foundation, let me say **thank you** to all the generous people of Garden Oaks. Our first annual caroling benefit for these two organizations on December 9 was a tremendous success!! We collected enough items for the day care to fill two vans completely to the top! Audrey Gassama, director of Loving Arms said the donations exceeded \$5,000.00 in value. In addition, over \$800.00 in cash contributions were made to the PWA Coalition. Ms. Gassama indicated that they received enough diapers to supply the day care for about 3 months!

Your generosity is so wonderful and we had such a good time caroling for you. We're already making plans for next year's event, hoping to involve even more people here in Garden Oaks.

Thank you all so very much for helping those who cannot help themselves. The holiday spirit is very much alive here in Garden Oaks. Happy Holidays to all!!

P.S. If you would like to be put on the mailing list of the People With AIDS Coalition, you may call 522-5428.

RIDES FOR GARDEN OAKS SENIOR CITIZENS

By Carol Meyer

This article is directed for all of those longtime Garden Oaks residents who would like to regularly attend our monthly Civic Club meetings but don't like to go out alone at night or return home unattended.

At the last two Civic Club meetings members expressed an interest in setting up a neighbor helping neighbor program in which some Garden Oaks residents would volunteer to pick up and drop off any Garden Oaks resident who would like to attend the civic club meeting but needs assistance. The idea to use someone's van was tossed around as a way for one resident to help out several. The enthusiasm generated for this idea is just one more reason why I am proud to be a part of Garden Oaks.

If this sounds like something that would interest you, I'd like to take the opportunity to urge you to send me a letter at 1019 W. 41st Street, Houston, Texas 77018, or give me a call at 681-2746. Those interested in volunteering their time need to know whether or not there is an interest in putting together this type of car pool program. I hope to hear from you.

CIVIC CLUB MEETING

The first Garden Oaks Civic Club meeting for next year will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 3, at the Garden Oaks Baptist Church, 3206 North Shepherd. It is an important meeting, so be sure to attend. We will be nominating and electing new officers for 1995.

GARDEN OAKS LEADERSHIP

By Jane Ann Roberts

The leadership for the Garden Oaks Civic Club is still in question. The all important jobs of President and Editor of the *Gazette* are still open. A partnership in each position is possible. So if you wish to help lead this community or know of anyone who will fit the bill, please contact me at 861-8512 and come to the next civic club meeting Tuesday, January 3, 1995.

At this time we will officially vote in our new officers and move on with the new year's agenda. Besides president and editor, the rest of the positions have nominations, (remember these are nominations): Vice President of membership, Craig Lee; Secretary, Shelia Briones; and Treasurer, Ed de Alba. Thanks to these dedicated volunteers. Also, an extra special thank you to our outgoing President Suzanne Debien, Vice President of Membership Ray and Colleen Housley and *Gazette* Editor Jude Patronella. Everyone did a great job this year.

AMY MAREK







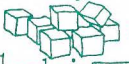








PLACES SIXTH AT USGFA STATE GYMNASTICS MEET

Amy Marek received sixth place overall in a USGFA State Gymnastics Meet held in Odessa, Texas. Scoring 9.45 on Uneven Bars, 9.25 on Floor, 9.25 on Beam, and 8.7 on Vault, she had a total score of 36.65. Amy goes to Brown's Gymnastics, attends St. Rose of Lima Catholic School, and is the daughter of Section Five residents Paul and Kathy Marek. Way to go Amy!!

Please Recycle
this Gazette

A CHRISTMAS LETTER

by Nancy Clinton

Dear  I thought I'd better write you just a little  to tell you what we'd love to see all around our  Ellen wants a baby-  and a  and a  . Harry wants some  and oh, a  electric that's sure to go; and a  and a  suit, and a  for him to toot. John wants a  and  and  and camping that really cooks. . . But please, I'd rather than all that have just a cuddly  kitty!



FROM THE EDITOR

It's near the end of 1994 and this is the twelfth issue of this year's *Gazette*. My goal at the beginning of 1994 was to present Garden Oaks residents with a newsletter reflecting good news and interesting feature articles written by residents of our neighborhood. I wanted a non-political and non-controversial newsletter that would stick to reporting the news and entertaining the residents. I achieved my goal because so many people contributed to the success of this year's *Gazette*. We have a neighborhood full of talented people who wrote excellent articles, sold advertisements, worked in distribution, and donated money to the *Gazette*.

I have enjoyed being Editor of this newsletter, but it is time for me to pass this job on to another Garden Oaks resident. Since no Editor has been named as of this printing, be sure to attend the January civic club meeting for the nomination and appointment of the new Editor and other officers.

Many residents have called and written letters to let me know how much they enjoyed this year's *Gazette*. Thank you. I enjoyed it too!

Jude Patronella

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Suzanne Debien

This is the end of my year as president of the Garden Oaks Civic Club, but I will continue to help our neighborhood. My husband David and I moved here in 1973 because we knew it was a special place to live. Our family grew to include our daughter Jacqueline, "a Garden Oaks Kid," and our dog Honan and cat Kiwi, who became "Garden Oaks Pets." We love our neighborhood and will always take interest in helping any way we can.

There are so many people who helped make this a successful year. Their names are on the last page of the *Gazette* and they deserve special recognition. If you have time, please send them a note. Without their help, this neighborhood would not be that extra special place known as Garden Oaks, Texas.

LOCAL CHARM

By Scott MacClymonds

The 43rd Street and Sue Barnett Art Park has been the subject of a lot of work over the last 5 years. This pocket park was essentially a vacant piece of City property virtually unnoticed by passersby. Then one day a small group of Garden Oaks residents became interested in improving the appearance of the area. This interest manifested into a rather large undertaking that was coordinated by the Beautification Committee then under Marion Mabry's direction. The project has evolved considerably. The City has deeded the property to our neighborhood and improvements continue to this day under Carla Hoyer's direction as money and time become available.

G.O. resident and Beautification member Anne Kilgore has been instrumental in the development of the park. In the initial planning stages Anne spearheaded a xeriscape approach to the landscaping. Xeriscaping is a popular landscaping method that emphasizes low water use plants that are native to the climactic and topographical area of proposed plantings. City municipalities particularly favor this approach to conserve City funded water. After adding berms, gardens, monumental art and many plants over the years, the Committee felt an attractive seating area would inspire walkers and neighbors to hang out. Although Anne was heavily involved in attaining a Masters degree in Applied Mathematics from Rice University, she volunteered to design and build a brick seating area that features several gardens and a future drinking fountain. Anne shopped hard for the materials, contracted the workers and supervised the construction of the project.

If you see her working over there, give her a friendly wave and a smile to thank her for all the hard work. It is through the collaboration of motivated neighbors like Anne and many other residents that continually donate time and money to projects like these that our community benefits. Who says that you can't make a difference! This neighbor of ours has certainly left a positive mark on Garden Oaks for generations to come by helping create this beautiful space for everyone to enjoy. Thanks for the constructive energy you so graciously give to the community Anne! Now when are you going to be home for dinner!

This project was completely paid for by generous donations by residents of Garden Oaks, Garden Oaks Plaza and several businesses owned or patronized by residents. Should anyone care to volunteer their time or money to the park, contact Beautification Committee Chairperson Carla Hoyer.

NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY NEWS

By Warren & Janice Walden

We would like to make Garden Oaks residents aware that over Thanksgiving weekend we were burglarized while we were out of town.

We believe the suspect is the same fellow Warren caught in our backyard a week earlier on Thursday afternoon around 2 p.m., November 17. On that occasion, the young man had knocked at our front door, and when no one answered, he went around to the backside of the house, and Warren found him near the bedroom window. He had a black bicycle, was wearing black or dark jeans, and a black-hooded sweatshirt. He was black, between the ages of 17 and 24, around 5'10" in height, of muscular build, and had a short haircut.

November 25, the day following Thanksgiving, around noon to 12:15 p.m., Lucy Stautberg (two doors west of us) heard a bang in our backyard. About 40 minutes later while she and her husband were mowing their front yard, Lucy saw a black fellow of the same description walk down our driveway and toward Yale with a white sack over his shoulder. He was wearing white pants and a dark long-sleeved shirt. He disappeared in the warehouse complex across Yale. The burglar had entered through our bedroom window, ransacked the bedroom, and had gone through the part of the house where the blinds were down, taking small quick-sell items including our TV and VCR.

That night when we returned home, the Constable responded to our call within 3 minutes. Yet, earlier that afternoon, despite Lucy's four calls to HPD, it took over an hour for Houston police to respond.

PLEASE KNOW THAT YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE A MEMBER OF THE CONSTABLE'S SECTION ONE SAFETY PROGRAM TO CALL FOR THEIR HELP!!

The program is set up expressly for crimes like this, and anyone in Section One is entitled to the Constable's assistance.. They will respond immediately!

Our gut feeling is that this burglar will try our neighborhood again. If we are alert, like Lucy was, he can be deterred. He may come to your front door or he may be walking down the street.

If you see someone matching this description, please call the Constable. Officer Dick Matthias or the officer on duty will

check it out immediately.

We are grateful for neighbors like Lucy who look out for one another. As we face the rest of the holidays, our hope is that none of our neighbors have to go through what we have been through this past Thanksgiving. Please keep the following telephone numbers: HPD NORTHWEST COMMAND STATION (N. SHEPHERD) - 699-1913; and CONSTABLE - 755-7628.

RECYCLE RECYCLE RECYCLE

WHAT?

Paper/Cardboard

Newspaper, White paper, Computer paper, Cardboard/box (corrugated box, cereal boxes, cracker boxes, cardboard, etc.)

Metal

Aluminum, Cooper, Brass, Tin Stainless steel, Lead, Radiators, Iron, Carbide

Plastic (look for the triangular recycling symbol with the number 1 or 2)

Clear soda bottles and Milk jugs

Glass

Clear and Color separated

Please separate your materials because we are paid different prices for each item and it makes the drop if quicker for everyone.

Where?

Garden Oaks Theater parking lot

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

When?

Second Saturday of every month from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. In case of bad weather, it will be postponed to the third Saturday and signs will be posted at the site.

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

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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
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Pastors: Don Goodwin, Don Raschke

A REAL HUMMER IN GARDEN OAKS

By Janice Walden

If you look across the street from the Garden Oaks Elementary School, you'll see a parked vehicle that looks more suited for the desert than the comfort of our neighborhood. If you think you've seen it in the desert, you're right, because the look of this boxy, 4 x 4 all-terrain vehicle made it's show on television screens around the world during the Persian Gulf war. It's the Hummer, the civilian kin to the military's HUMVEE, and it's not owned by a general, but by Attorney Russ Waddell who moved to Garden Oaks in July with his wife, Casey.



Although Russ mostly handles personal injury cases, he claims he hasn't had to defend any clients by rolling up the courthouse steps in his Hummer - which could easily climb the throne of justice downtown. The Hummer climbs a 22-inch step with ease, and in terms of a smooth ride on rough terrain, is the luxury vehicle for weekend warriors. When Russ took me for a ride, we rolled through a ditch and around a nearby vacant lot with amazing buoyancy, thanks to the Hummer's 16-inch ground clearance, and it's wide and squatty frame. That frame configuration also provides for a very roomy interior.

Although Russ' Hummer is equipped with two air conditioners, he says the white, aluminum-clad vehicle is so cool in the summer that he could go without using the A/C. Other features are the 12,000-pound capacity winch, a 9,000-pound towing capacity, and a Central Tire Inflation System which inflates or deflates tires according to terrain.

Russ first got hooked on all-terrain vehicles years ago while serving as a Geologist's Assistant out in New Mexico and Arizona. But, in a city of flat terrain and asphalt, why own a Hummer? "It's the idea of knowing I can go anywhere, anytime," says Russ. This summer he drove it to Wyoming. When park rangers got a gander at the vehicle they wished they had, they quickly enlisted Russ' help in re-locating remote bear traps in the Tetons.

In a Hummer, there's also a feeling of invincibility, even if you are only driving through the window at Taco Cabana. On our ride, Russ unwittingly drove through a stop sign. But, then again, he is an attorney.

However enduring, popular, and pricey the comparative Land Rover, a Hummer may outlive it: the HUMVEE has an average military life of 12 years. That means a Hummer may last 15-20 years. For Russ, it's well worth the price tag. And, as he heads off to the mountains at Taos this winter, price is the last thing he'll be thinking about.

BEAUTIFICATION

By Ann Kilgore

As a member of the Beautification Committee I have been able to enjoy gardening outside of my own gardens. In particular, I am referring to the Art Park located at 43rd and Sue Barnett. This is our largest park and until 1989 had been left untended. Over the last five years a small group of residents, members of the Beautification Committee, have been ever so slowly making improvements. The most recent task to be undertaken is the brick in sand area on the northwest corner of the park. What prompted us to work on one of the two shade areas in the park is that during the summer months, while tending the existing beds, we realized the need for a shady place to sit and cool water to drink. So with input from neighbors such as Carla Hoyer, Scott MacClymonds and Robin Klein we decided to develop the shady area on the northwest corner of the park. At the time of this article it is still not yet complete due to my burnout around July. However, with continued support I am now refreshed and ready to complete the project.

Along the way I have had support from neighbors in different ways. I would like to thank each of them. First there is Carla Hoyer, the Chair of Beautification. I want to thank her for having faith in me to allow me to take on such a project. We were in constant communication about the project, but she gave me the freedom of the implementation details. Also Carla and David Hoyer's contribution of the initial brick for the garden walls kicked off the project. Even while pregnant she was planting and digging by my side, and was never lacking in encouragement and support. Next is Robin Klein who donated not only her time and her son's time (moms can do that) but donated plants as well. All along the way I have received the expert help of Harry James of Harry James Builders who has been rebuilding Garden Oaks homes for years. I would like to thank Dennis Clooney of Dennis Clooney Tree Service and Charles Warren of Warren's Auto Parts for donating mulch. Also Jim Hall donated beautiful lilies and sago palms and Mrs. Howell donated ferns and aspidistra which we planted in the new brick area. I would like to thank Jude Patronella for his constant encouragement, support, and praise for the park. Thanks to Billy Scherer for helping me with measurements for the last load of brick. Also I need to thank Suzanne Debien for supporting my efforts. She is

always enthusiastic and never critical. And last but not least I want to thank Scott MacClymonds, who planted, transplanted, advised and most importantly, was always there to cheer me up.

I would also like to welcome new members to the Beautification Committee, Tina and Andy Jefferies and their two sons Bobby and Andy. Bobby and Andy will be taking responsibility for two of the beds in the brick area. As soon as the brick area is completed we will spend more time cleaning out the remaining beds and finish spreading the mulch.

Thank you to Mrs. Jacqueline Sue McClimans, a former resident, for her generous donation for the purchase and installation costs of the future drinking fountain. A special thanks goes to Mrs. Cornelius of Garden Oaks Plaza for raising a total of \$3,280.00 for the Art Park. I would also like to thank the contributors which are listed below.

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Gazette Staff

Jude Patronella, Editor

730 W. 39th 695-0608
FAX: 695-1700

Advertising Directors:

Carol Meyer 681-2746

Linda Landry 869-0456

Scott MacClymonds 697-0069

Trish Mehrkam 688-4008

Gazette Hand Delivery:

John McKenney

823 Lamonte 692-2447

Beautification

Carla Hoyer 699-8171

Citizens-on-Patrol

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Constable Program

Denise Epstein 869-0128

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January Calendar

January 3 Civic Club Meeting 7:00 p.m.

January 10 Gazette Deadline

January 14 Recycle Drop-off 8:00 a.m.

January 19 P.I.P. Meeting 7:00 p.m.

January 21 City Drop-off Recycling

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_____ \$5 Senior Citizens (Garden Oaks Roots)
_____ \$25 Business Membership

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\$ _____ GO COP
\$ _____ Gazette
\$ _____ Montessori Program
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