

Garden Oaks Gazette

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FEBRUARY 1995

CIVIC CLUB MEETING

The next Garden Oaks Civic Club meeting will be held on **Tuesday, February 7, at 7 p.m.** at the **Garden Oaks Baptist Church (3206 North Shepherd)**. Attendance at the January meeting was lower than anticipated (probably due to the holidays) and it is hoped that a large number of Garden Oakers will come to this February meeting to add input to the discussion. Refreshments will be available and will be provided by **RE/MAX Metro Realtor, Terry Jeanes**.

Happy Valentine's Day



Colonial Style mansion on the corner of Garden Oaks Blvd. and Shepherd Dr. which served as the business office of Garden Oaks developer, Edward Lillo Crain in 1941. House is no longer standing..

NEW CIVIC CLUB OFFICERS ELECTED

During the Garden Oaks Civic Club meeting Tuesday, January 3, new officers for the 1995 year were elected. They are as follows: President, **Alex Martinez**; Vice President of Membership, **Craig Lee**; Secretary, **Sheila Briones** (second year); Treasurer, **Ed de Alba** (second year); and *Gazette* Editor, **Carol Meyer**.

The officers live in all different sections throughout Garden Oaks, which should provide good representation for all sections.

Once again, the *Gazette* would like to extend the thanks and gratitude of the residents of Garden Oaks to the outgoing officers that did a wonderful job serving and supporting their community last year. Thanks goes to President, **Suzanne Debien**; Vice- President of Membership, **Ray and Colleen Housely**; and *Gazette* Editor, **Jude Patronella**.

Please Recycle
this
Gazette

FROM THE EDITOR...

Here we are at the beginning of a whole new year. I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Carol Meyer, and I will be your Editor for the *Garden Oaks Gazette* this year. As is not only a tradition, but also my pleasure, I'd like to express a big heartfelt thanks to our outgoing Editor, **Jude Patronella**. I can't say enough good things about Jude, not only as an activist in our community, but also as a person. I'm sure you have all noticed the special efforts taken by Jude to provide interesting features that have provided our paper with a hometown flavor. It has been very much appreciated.

In this year's *Gazette* I hope to continue to provide you with special feature articles, as well as providing a forum for Garden Oaks resident's interests and concerns through a *Letter to the Editor* section. As a result, I am including in this month's issue a letter from one of our residents regarding an incident that occurred recently in our neighborhood.

In addition, I would like to bring back the monthly resident birthday listings as we have had in the past, so please send me your birthday notices.

I'd also like to recommend that in order for this to fully be a paper of the people and for the people, I need input from you. If you have a special interest or expertise that you feel would be interesting to your neighbors, please mail or fax me an article for input into the *Gazette*.

Thanks for allowing me the opportunity to serve my community.

Carol Meyer

FROM A FORMER EDITOR...

I am delighted that Carol Meyer has chosen to accept the position of Editor for the *Gazette* in 1995. She is talented, willing to work and genuinely nice. I would have been "floating up the river" if she had not helped me in the production of last year's newsletters.

Carol sold advertisements, organized a system for billing and collecting advertising fees, and wrote many interesting articles for the *Gazette*. I am sure Garden Oaks residents will be very pleased with our new *Gazette* Editor.

Jude Patronella

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Alex Martinez

A new year brings Garden Oaks a new Civic Club President. Having lived in Garden Oaks for almost 22 years and raised two children, I'm well aware of the Civic Club's role in our neighborhood. For many years the Club's volunteers have provided excellent leadership to make Garden Oaks a fine community. I've got some big shoes to fill, but I'm looking forward to the challenge. I am very glad and relieved that the majority of officers and other key volunteers are returning for 1995. I had a chance to meet with them just after being elected and was very impressed with their knowledge, enthusiasm and dedication, but it was their desire to really make a difference that stood out the most.

Through the years the torch gets passed from person to person, group to group. The one constant...they are all volunteers. But before they become volunteers, they become Civic Club members. It has been suggested that increasing our Club's number of members will be my greatest challenge. Increased membership is the answer to more participation and more revenue. At \$10 per family per year, it is a heck of a deal. Here is what you get:

- 1) An informative monthly newsletter called the *Garden Oaks Gazette*;
- 2) A recycling program for an improved environment and cash for our neighborhood projects;
- 3) A Citizens-On-Patrol Program that benefits all of us with a safer neighborhood;
- 4) A Constable Program serving Sections One and One A with an effort to expand it to other sections. It has been very effective in reducing crime and speeding traffic;
- 5) A Neighborhoods to Standards Committee that works with the city on street repairs, street lighting, ditch drainage, etc.;
- 6) A Neighborhood Traffic Committee working to reduce speeding and cut through traffic;
- 7) A Beautification Committee that works on the area parks;
- 8) A Garden Club that maintains the Friendship Park at 30th and Lawrence and sponsors the Yard of the Month award;
- 9) An Education Liaison that helps the Civic Club support Garden Oaks Elementary School and vice versa;
- 10) A Community Garden that grows vegetables to donate to local food pantries;
- 11) A plant Co-op where people can share plants and bulbs; and
- 12) Monthly meetings with an agenda,

informative guest speakers, refreshments and door prizes.

So there are a dozen good reasons to join the Civic Club and make a difference. -Why don't you fill out the membership form in this issue and send it in right away? The more members we have, the more we can accomplish for the community. Please come to the meetings and get involved. I look forward to seeing you at the next Garden Oaks Civic Club meeting to be held at 7 p.m., on Tuesday, February 7.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I write because my wife and I recently received a disturbing anonymous letter regarding the parking of a vehicle on our lawn. In this letter, the "concerned Garden Oaks resident" implied that not only was this act damaging property values, but it was making this an unfit area in which to raise children.

Had this been a reasonable human being who approached me with said complaint and without such insinuations I would have said that we were sorry and that in fact the vehicle was on the lawn because I was in a hurry and had more on my mind than property values. My two-year old son, Matthew, had been running an uncontrollable fever of 105 degrees the previous night and I was in a hurry to get him the proper medical care for his pneumonia.

I was not worried about property values because we chose Garden Oaks as a place to make a home and raise our family, rather than as a carpet-bagger-like investment. To me, concern about property values connotes imminent sale. The sooner the better. For who wants to live near those more concerned with their property values than the lives of their neighbors?

In the future, if someone has a complaint, please have the courage to sign your letter, or better still, speak with your neighbors as civilized humans rather than anonymous accusers.

Yours sincerely,

**Dr. Peter Seferian, Lauren Serper,
Esq. and Matthew**, Section 3

LOST ARTICLE

At last month's Civic Club meeting a lightweight jacket was left behind by one of our members. If it is yours, please call **Sheila Briones** at **861-8091** to claim it.

NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC PROJECT UPDATE

By Marc Roberts

Section One between Shepherd and Yale, and Section One west of Shepherd: A majority of the homeowners of Section One between Shepherd and Yale have approved their section's petition. In addition, a majority of the residents of Section One west of Shepherd have approved their section's petition.

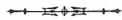
The City of Houston has indicated that the next step is for temporary traffic devices to be installed in these sections. The purpose of the temporary traffic devices is to evaluate the effectiveness of the proposed traffic management plans and to identify any necessary changes to the proposed plans that need to be made prior to construction of the permanent traffic devices. The City has stated that the installation of the temporary devices will begin in late February at the earliest (a specific date has not been determined).

The temporary traffic devices (exit only, entrance only, etc.) to be deployed in locations according to the proposed traffic management plans as temporary traffic devices will be in place for an approximate three to six month evaluation period. It should be noted that the temporary traffic devices will not be as attractive in appearance as the permanent traffic devices.

If you have any questions concerning Section One between Shepherd and Yale, please contact me (**Marc Roberts**) at **861-8512** or **Ann Spiering** at **862-6138**. If you have any questions concerning Section One west of Shepherd, please contact **Rod Walker** at **868-2469**.

Sections bounded by 43rd, Ella, 34th, and Shepherd: Significant progress has been made in gathering signatures for the petition for this area and more signatures are needed before proceeding. If you are a resident of this area and you have not yet signed the petition, or if you would like to volunteer to gather signatures, please contact **Jeff McClellan** at **691-7422**.

Section north of 43rd: Plans are being made to prepare a petition and gather signatures for this area. If you have any questions or if you want to assist with the petition effort, please contact **Dennis Alexander** at **682-5592**.



The proposed traffic management plans were prepared by traffic engineer consultants assigned by the City of Houston, together with input from the residents of Garden Oaks. Public meetings to solicit comment from Garden Oaks residents concerning specific traffic management proposals were conducted in February and April of 1994. It was explained in the public meetings that all streets in our neighborhood will remain two-way streets. Subsequently, petitions were initiated to obtain resident/homeowner approval of the proposed traffic management plans.

The goal of the proposed plans is to effectively manage through-traffic in Garden Oaks by making physical changes in accordance with current city guidelines, 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.

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NEIGHBOR SPOTLIGHT - RUDOLF SCHUSTERITSCH

By Margaret Hesse / Preface by Carol Meyer

Preface: I wanted to preface this article by my wonderful neighbor, **Margaret Hesse**, in order to tell you a little bit about our spotlight person of the month. He is not a long-time resident of Garden Oaks, (as a matter of fact he's only been here about five months), nor is he a native Texan. To be exact, he is not even American, he is German,...and as part of the Foreign Exchange Student Program he has come to the States to learn more about our culture. I think he came to the right place! He is living with our good friends John and "Margie" Hesse, and this is their story...

THEY'RE NOT JUST FOR BREAKFAST ANYMORE

Pancakes, of course. Since Rudolf came to live with us for a year, we've been having pancakes for dinner about once a month. The way he makes them, they are a little more like crepes than our American pancakes are. Usually, he fills them with shredded Gouda cheese and folds them in half. We've tried them plain, with maple syrup, with ham and cheese, with American cheese and with cheddar. Our Danish friend and neighbor even suggested ice cream, the way they are eaten in Denmark. Naturally, we tried that idea immediately! They seem to be delicious no matter how you slice them or how you fill them.

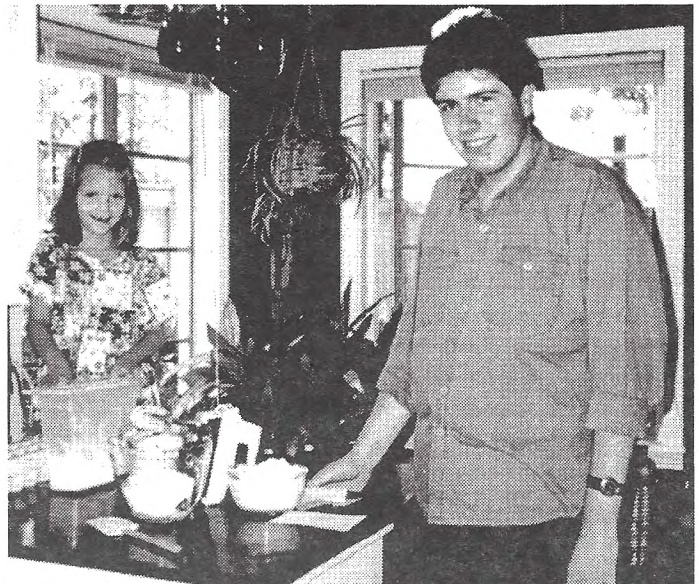
So you may ask, "How did Rudolf enter the picture?" Well, sometime last July my husband and I were looking at the paper when we came across an ad asking for families to become "guest families" to host foreign exchange students. It seemed like a good idea, so we called. About one month later we had a 16-year-old young man from Staig, Germany living in our extra room. Our own two children were excited about this new addition to the family too.

Rudolf has brought lots of new interests to our family and heightened our awareness concerning existing activities. He has a particular interest in fossils and he is a wonderful cook. Of all the things he loves about America, he says he enjoys all the freedom we have here in the States. "You can go anywhere and do almost anything," Rudolf exclaims. It's not exactly like that in his small hometown in Germany. In his village of a population of 500 there is only one restaurant. Imagine his excitement to find out about all-you-can-eat buffets! He is also amazed at how friendly and open people are here in the States.

When asked why he wanted to participate in the Foreign Exchange Student Program, Rudolf said other Germans had told him about America and it sounded so good he couldn't pass up the opportunity. "How else could I see America for free!" he added.

For us, Rudolf has opened our eyes to many new ways of thinking and new ways of doing things that go way beyond having pancakes for dinner. Plus, we've become a lot more sure of, proud of, and happy with the way we do things as Americans. Here in Garden Oaks and in America as a whole, there are so many things and so many good people for us to be thankful for. Rudolf has helped us see and recognize so much.

In return, we have tried to help him see a few things too. A trip to Miller Outdoor Theatre proved exciting for Rudolf, as they don't have any free outdoor theaters in his hometown. He has also experienced real Texas barbecues, where the whole meal is cooked in the smoker, Astroworld, the Water Wall, all-you-can-eat buffets, baked potatoes, front yards, great neighbors,



*Pictured above: Miranda Leonard and Rudolf Schusteritsch
"Wonder if you can tell what we're making?"*

Continued, page 5

Pancakes, cont.

an American Christmas, Thanksgiving on our family's farm in Missouri, downtown skyscrapers at night, Trick-or-Treating, live classical music, computer games, and on and on. Rudolf especially loves our electronics stores here, where he has seen many electronic gadgets at what he considers to be reasonable prices. When watching Rudolf's reaction to these things we realize we've gotten something else from him. We learned how much fun it is to have someone new to share with you all the things that you already love. Many times, new and exciting things to Rudolf are things that we have long taken for granted. Not anymore!

So the next time you are in a nearby grocery store and hear a polite young voice with a German accent asking for Gouda cheese, it will be pretty safe to assume that it's Rudolf. Please introduce yourself to Rudy and give him a big Garden Oaks welcome. He is here to experience what America is really like, and Garden Oaks is a great place for that! And oh, by the way, it would also be perfectly acceptable for you to ask him for his pancake recipe.

GERMAN COOKIE RECIPE

from Rudolf Schusteritsch

- 200 - 250 grams powdered sugar
- 200 grams very finely grated nuts of any kind
- 5 egg whites

- Beat the egg whites till you can turn the bowl over without them dropping out.
- Mix in the powdered sugar.
- Mix in the nuts.
- Drop by teaspoons onto a greased cookie sheet.
- It looks nice to decorate them with a whole nut.
- Bake at 350 degrees till light brown.

Thought for the Month

Happy the man, of mortals happiest he,
Whose quiet mind from vain desires is free;
Whom neither hopes deceive,
nor fears torment,
But lives at peace,
within himself content.

George Granville

GO-COP NEWS

By Bill Chastain

Crime Statistics for October, 1994 were as follows: one burglary and one auto theft. Statistics for November, 1994 include one rape, one assault and two burglaries. One of these burglaries was in Section 1, while the rest of this activity took place in Sections 2, 3, 4 and 5.

Many thanks goes to our diligent patrollers who are out each and every month. Currently we are down to eight regular patrollers trying to protect the 1500 homes in our neighborhood. Those interested in helping out with the effort to keep crime down in our area are encouraged to get involved in the GO-COPS Program. We do need more help.

In addition to the GO-COPS Program, there is yet another way for Garden Oaks residents to get involved and find out what is going on in the city and in our area. The Positive Interaction Program (P.I.P.) is open to those wishing to attend. This program offers us the opportunity to comingle with Houston Police Department officers. I have been attending these meetings lately and must admit that I've been quite amazed to find out about all the criminal activity that goes on around us. District 3 literature is usually available at these meetings containing Garden Oaks crime statistics. For those interested in attending, the meetings are held at St. Matthews Church off Shepherd and 43rd/Crosstimbers at 7 p.m. the third Thursday of every month. It is suggested that you go to the north side of the church to park and enter.

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SUNDAY WORSHIP 8:15 & 10:30 am
SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:15 am

Preschool - Mon -Fri 9-2
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 ages 3 mos. - 5 yrs.
 Parent's Nite Out - Fri 6:30-11:30

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Carol Meyer 

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212 W. 34th St. 802-0079

Sheila Briones, Secretary

431 1/2 W. 31st St. 861-8091

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Jaime Pierce 688-3237

Section Five

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Ria McElvaney 682-6707

Anita Scherer 956-7809

February Calendar

Feb. 7 Civic Club Meeting 7 p.m.**Feb. 10 Gazette Deadline****Feb. 11 Recycle Drop-Off 8 a.m. to 12 Noon****Feb. 16 Positive Interaction Program 7 p.m.**

DONATION CHALLENGE - GOCOP

By Sheila Briones

Once again Section One resident **Mark Neff** has challenged all Garden Oaks residents and businesses to raise \$500. If we can do it, he promises to match that amount by contributing an additional \$500 from his company, MKP, Inc.

You may remember last year when Mark sponsored a successful challenge to raise money for the *Gazette*. This year he is offering the same challenge but has chosen the Garden Oaks Citizens on Patrol Program as the beneficiary. He felt this was a very worthwhile cause because it contributes to the welfare and safety of all Garden Oaks residents.

Mark moved to Garden Oaks two years ago. After having lived in Meyerland, he says he is well aware of the influence one's Civic Club can have on a community. As a result, he has been very supportive of his newest neighborhood's civic organization, and as a Garden Oaks resident, I am grateful.

We are asking every Garden Oaker to rise to this challenge and send a donation of any amount to help meet our \$500 goal. If you are a business owner, we would appreciate your consideration toward giving a donation.

Please make your **tax deductible donation** in the form of a check payable to the Garden Oaks Civic Club and mail your check to: **Craig Lee, V.P. Membership, 212 W. 34th Street, Houston, Texas 77018**. Also, be sure to specify "**GOCOP Challenge**" in the memo portion of the check.

I am interested in donating \$ _____ to the Garden Oaks Civic Club for the **GOCOP Challenge** to benefit the Garden Oaks Citizens on Patrol Program.

I ___ do wish/ ___ do not wish to have my name listed as a contributor in a future edition of the *Gazette*.

Individual's

Name: _____

Company

Name: _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: GARDEN OAKS CIVIC CLUB

Mail to:

Craig Lee, V.P. Membership**212 W. 34th St.****Houston, Texas 77018**

**Registration Begins
March 1, 1995
for the
Montessori Program
at
Garden Oaks
Elementary School**

We will be opening a new Montessori pre-primary class of 3, 4 and 5 year olds in the fall of 1995.

Registration begins March 1, 1995.

For further information please call the school at 696-2930, or make plans to attend the Kindergarten Round-up, Feb. 15th at 8:30 a.m.