

# Garden Oaks Gazette

VOLUME 18, No. 3  
CIRCULATION 1550  
MARCH 1995

Can you guess who these cute kids are?



See article on page 3 for the answer! (Volunteer Spotlight Article)

## CIVIC CLUB MEETING - IHOP REPRESENTATIVES TO ATTEND

The next Garden Oaks Civic Club meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on **Tuesday, March 7**, at the Garden Oaks Baptist Church, 3206 North Shepherd. **It will be an important meeting so please plan to be there.** We will be discussing the issue of whether or not the citizens of Garden Oaks approve or disapprove of the idea of an **International House of Pancakes (IHOP) Restaurant** being built in our area. If you would like to have a say in this matter it is necessary for you to attend this March meeting.

**IHOP**, with the approval of the Garden Oaks Civic Club, would like to build a restaurant to serve the Garden Oaks, Heights area.

The planned site is to be located on property East of (behind) Conn's Appliance Store at Shepherd and the Loop 610 frontage road.

**IHOP** Representatives are coming in from Dallas to attend our March 7 meeting and explain the **IHOP** operation, their plans for this location and to answer any questions. Because these representatives are from out-of-town, it is paramount that anyone with concerns about this issue be at the meeting to participate in the discussion.

Please plan to attend and remind your neighbors to be there for this **IHOP** presentation.

## CIVIC INVOLVEMENT - Gazebo Tribute

By Bill Chastain

What started out as the dream of **Earl Dragics** has expanded into a neighborhood project. Dragics has long wanted to erect a gazebo in one of Garden Oaks' pocket parks to commemorate members of his family. Now, for a donation of \$50, any Garden Oaks resident may have the name of a loved one honored or memorialized on a permanent fixture at the gazebo.

Dragics has made the Garden Oaks community an offer to improve the appearance of our neighborhood. He is willing to donate \$2,000 toward a gazebo displaying a plaque in memory of his late wife Lenore, son Earl, Jr., and grandson Jason. Builder, Harry James, has been contacted and is willing to construct the gazebo. The intended site of this structure preferred by Dragics is in the small pocket park at 42nd St. and Sue Barnett. This site could be a point of numerous activities, including a location for Santa Claus during our Christmas celebration.

**In order to accomplish this goal, it is necessary to raise about \$2,000 more.** This is an opportunity for all civic-minded residents to contribute to the beautification of our neighborhood, while tributing someone they love. The **deadline for contributions is May 1, 1995.** If interested in donating to this project, please make your check payable to the Garden Oaks Civic Club and put "Gazebo" in the memo section. Mail your check to Bill Chastain, 1011 Althea Dr., Houston, TX 77018-5203, or present it to any civic club officer. If contributions go over \$2,000 the excess will be divided between Beautification and Citizens-On-Patrol.

Dragics has lived on 42nd Street in Garden Oaks since 1947.



## FROM THE EDITOR...

*This month, I've decided to use my letter "From the Editor" column as a forum to address a topic that may have an impact on our neighborhood. Please feel free to mail or fax me any comments that you may have regarding this and any other issue regarding Garden Oaks that you feel should be addressed. The Gazette should be a reflection of the people that make up Garden Oaks, but I need your comments in order to achieve this goal.*

"Out with the old and in with the new," seems to accurately sum up the situation regarding the Police Substation not far away on North Shepherd. In case you haven't heard yet, the City of Houston is building a new Northwest Police Command Station on West Montgomery Road. This facility will be replacing the substation near our neighborhood. In other words, the old substation on North Shepherd could be shut down completely.

I believe that having the North Shepherd Substation location near Garden Oaks has had a very positive impact on crime statistics in our area. Over the years, G.O. as well as the other surrounding neighborhoods have established and maintained a close working relationship with the officers at the North Shepherd Station. It would certainly be a shame to see this North Shepherd Station close completely. In an effort to continue enjoying the results of having police officers so close by, I urge you to express your wishes to the Mayor and our City Council Members to keep this facility open in some capacity. As G.O. residents we are represented by District A Councilwoman, Helen Huey. If this issue is important to you, please write a letter to all City Council members and the Mayor expressing your concerns and requests.

You can send the letter(s) to your City Officials at the following address: P.O. Box 1562, Houston, Texas 77251. Now is your opportunity to be a voice for your neighborhood, have a say in how your tax dollars are being spent and have a positive impact on your community.

*Carol Meyer*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*by Ed de Alba*

On February 2, Alex Martinez resigned as President of the Civic Club for personal reasons. Faced with the prospect of a leaderless organization I agreed to stand for President and was elected by affirmation at the February 7 Civic Club meeting. At that same time I resigned as Treasurer and Ray Housley was elected in my place.

Our City Council Representative, Helen Huey, gave a remarkably well prepared and thorough presentation on just about every issue of importance to our community. She told us about new city laws to protect the integrity of the neighborhood, listed improvements made under Neighborhoods to Standards, and described changes in the Traffic Control Program. And she did it before the largest crowd anyone can remember at a Civic Club meeting.

Bill Chastain, co-chair of Citizens-on-Patrol, honored three members of our community, Helen Hawkins, Patsy Gantt, and David Bell, for patrolling 100 hours. The jackets presented to them are only tokens of the debt our community owes them. Their efforts on our behalf have reduced crime by roughly 80% since the inception of the program.

All of the GO-COP volunteers deserve our praise and support. Please assist their good works by helping match Mark Neff's "GO-COP Challenge". Funds for this program are important but volunteers willing to donate a few hours a month are in even shorter supply.

And now a very different topic. It has been brought to our attention that the International House of Pancakes (IHOP) wants to talk with us about placing one of their restaurants in the neighborhood. The planned location is the three empty lots directly behind Conn's along the 610 feeder. Few additional details are known at this time, but IHOP representatives from California will meet with the Board of Trustees on February 27 or 28. I have asked IHOP to present their plans to the Civic Club at our next meeting on March 7. I encourage you to attend—it will be an important meeting. We'll let you know if plans change.

Thank you for electing me as your President. If the first few meetings are any indication, this should be a very exciting year.

## CITY OF HOUSTON - HELPFUL INFORMATION

Since I became Editor of the *Gazette*, I have had many friends and family members give me their input as to what kinds of information they would like to see available in our newsletter. Several people mentioned that they think it would be great to have phone number listings for the various services offered by the city, in addition to information on how to write our public officials. They've even taken the liberty to supply me with most of this information. I've got phone numbers for everything from dead animal pick-up to zoning!

As a result, I will be putting this information in the *Gazette* bit-by-bit each month. I will start by supplying you with the mailing addresses and suggested salutations for use when sending a letter to our members of Congress.

### **The Honorable Sheila Jackson Lee**

Member of Congress

U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

*Dear Congresswoman Lee:*

### **The Honorable Newt Gingrich**

Speaker

U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

*Dear Mr. Speaker:*

### **The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison**

Senator

United States Senate  
370 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

*Dear Senator Hutchinson:*

### **The Honorable Phil Gramm**

Senator

United States Senate  
370 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

*Dear Senator Gramm:*

**All writers who are contributing  
articles -  
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copy and if possible, a 3 1/2 inch disk.  
Preferred software is WordPerfect -  
please submit anything else as  
ASCII Text.**

**Please Recycle this Gazette!**



## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT - MARC AND JANE ANN ROBERTS

by Jude Patronella

South of the railroad tracks, in Section One of Garden Oaks, an invisible yellow brick road leads to a gray house with a red front door. It opens into the warm, inviting living room of the home that belongs to the Wizard of Garden Oaks and Dorothy.

Actually, the Wizard and Dorothy are Marc and Jane Ann Roberts, who are two of the most supportive and generous volunteers in Garden Oaks. In comparison to the Wizard of Oz, Marc has exhibited his technical, calm and sensible skills many times in his excellent performance as Chairman of the Neighborhood Traffic Program. Compared to Dorothy of Kansas, Jane Ann is kind, sweet, loyal, and tireless, as exhibited in her efforts to support a better education for the children of Garden Oaks. Together, they have donated thousands of hours volunteering for numerous neighborhood programs.

Jane Ann formed the "Roberts Volunteer Team" after meeting a lot of neighborhood residents at church activities. She started working with education groups that are active in the neighborhood schools. Her interest in education stems from her career as a middle school science teacher and a high school mathematics teacher in the Spring Independent School District. Although Jane Ann had retired from teaching for the sake of motherhood, she felt compelled to remain active in education.

Marc became very supportive of her civic efforts and soon joined in helping the neighborhood. He works as Manager of Human Resources Information Services for American General Corporation. Marc earned a bachelor of science degree in computer science from A&M University and a masters degree in business from the University of Texas, where Jane Ann also earned her degree in education with fields of study in biology and mathematics.

They married in 1982 and moved to Garden Oaks in 1987 because they were "looking for a unique house in a unique neighborhood." Both Marc and Jane Ann never lived in one home for very long, and they wanted a place to hang his "wizard hat" and her "red shoes" for many years to come. "I think this neighborhood has allowed Jane Ann to do a lot of the things she never did before. It allowed her to settle down and live the kind of life she committed to," said Marc. Jane Ann added, "So many of the residents are friendly and kind people who make Garden Oaks a great place to live."

Some of their commitments to the neighborhood have included helping with the Garden Oaks Home Tour, delivering *Gazettes*, working as Citizens-on-Patrol, assisting in the Constable Program, serving as block captains, working with the Recycling and Membership Programs—and of course, the Montessori Program in Garden Oaks Elementary School and the Neighborhood Traffic Program. This past summer Jane Ann donated more than 300 hours to helping set up the Montessori Program, and now works many hours each week assisting in it.

Marc has spent endless hours working on plans for traffic control and proposals. He organized the program and conducted numerous meetings with residents so that they could be informed and voice their opinions. The informative articles in the *Gazette* about the program, the public meetings, the circulation of the petitions and the communication with city officials are a direct result of his efforts and the efforts of the many volunteers who work with him.

Home life at the Roberts household is centered around their two sons, six-year-old Chris and three-and-a-half Steven. There's no dog named Toto, but their two cocker spaniels Dusty and Lacy reign supreme. Jane Ann like arts and crafts, and Marc plays softball at the Jane Ann like arts and crafts, and Marc plays softball at the neighborhood Y.M.C.A. Their family excursions include the Houston zoo, the nature center, movies and numerous other activities.

Although Garden Oaks is not in Kansas, Dorothy is home forever—and she's brought the Wizard with her!

Answer - Pictures (front page): Marc (age 3 and 1/2) and Jane Ann (age 5)

### NORTHWEST Y.M.C.A. HOLDS GOLF TOURNAMENT

Starting at 1 p.m. on April 7, the Northwest Y.M.C.A. will hold their "Partners of Youth" Golf Tournament, benefitting youths in the Garden Oaks and surrounding areas. The proceeds from this four-man scramble will help fund scholarships for economically disadvantaged kids, allowing them to fully participate in Y.M.C.A. programs. The tournament will be held at Pinecrest Golf Club at the corner of Gessner and Clay Road.

The entry fee of \$55 will cover the entrant's green fee and cart, plus soft drinks, entry into the putting contest, and prizes. To enter, please call Bill Bijak at 688-2097, Walter Shepherd at 686-0251 or the Northwest Y.M.C.A. at 869-3378. This Friday afternoon tournament is open to anyone.

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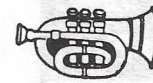
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## RECYCLE RECYCLE RECYCLE

### WHAT?

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

*No Telephone Books.*

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 off quicker for everyone.

### WHERE?

Garden Oak 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.

**Gilbert King**, President 523-5874  
**Charlie Dickson**, Vice President 956-2506  
**Elizabeth Rigby**, Treasurer 957-1436  
**Martha Gebhardt**, Secretary 861-8896

## TEXAS TALK

A few years ago *The Houston Chronicle*  
ran a request for Texans to write in with their  
favorite Texas sayings. The response was  
Texas size. For your enjoyment, here is a  
sampling:

- *So hungry my bellybutton's rubbing a blister on my backbone.*
- *It was so long ago it was when the Dead Sea was just sick.*
- *That person is not knitting with both needles.*
- *Overdrawn at the memory bank.*
- *Missing a few dots on her dice.*
- *A couple of sandwiches short of a picnic.*
- *So cold you could freeze a fire.*
- *As useless as a sewed-up pocket.*
- *Could sell a double bed to the pope.*
- *Dumb as a bucket of rocks.*
- *Nervous as a long-tailed cat in a room full of rockingchairs.*
- *So tired I feel like I've been rode hard and bung up wet.*

## GO-COP REPORT

By Bill Chastain

In 1994, Garden Oaks had two months when no crime was reported—the months of January and December. The rest of the year consisted of 1 rape, 3 assaults, 22 burglaries and 7 auto thefts.

Statistics for the month of January 1995 are still not in. However, our Patrollers of the Month for January were **Walter and Joyce Skeen**. For the month of February, **Wayne Armstrong and Helen Hawkins** have received the honor. All winners of the Patroller of the Month Award receive gift certificates in appreciation of their efforts. If you would like to join the COP volunteer group, you too would have an opportunity to win.

At the February Civic Club meeting I had the honor of presenting Citizens-On-Patrol jackets to the following volunteers for patrolling 100 hours: **Patsy Gant, Helen Hawkins and David Bell**. It is the efforts of volunteers such as these that makes our community a safer place to live.

I would like to extend a special thank you to those that attended the January Positive Interaction Program (PIP) meeting. I am sure that all who went came away with a better idea of the communication between police and civilians. I am sorry that I was unable to attend that meeting, but my wife and I are going through the Civilian Police Academy every Thursday for nine weeks. Believe me, it is an eye opener and pleasing experience which is open to anyone. If interested, you may find out more about it at the next PIP meeting, held on the third Thursday of every month, at 7 p.m. at St. Matthews Church.

## GARDEN OAKS PTA BOARD OPENINGS

We still have some vacancies on the PTA Board: assistant roommother chairperson, historian, and VIPS coordinator. Even though we are half way through the school year, these positions need to be filled.

Please call Linda Ross, Garden Oaks PTA President, at 692-6667 for job descriptions and further information.

### Thought for the Month

*"Meeting difficulties with courage and overcoming handicaps make character. It is not the difficulties, but the power gained by rising above them, that builds greatness and a place of leadership."*

- Author Unknown



## GARDEN CLUB NEWS...

For all those interested in attending, the Garden Club's meeting schedule for March through May 1995 is as follows: (meetings are held at 6:30 to 8 p.m. unless otherwise listed)

### March 9:

Composting & Worms - Items covered will be equipment to use, designs, hot composting, compost materials, and where and how to use compost

### March 11:

Japanese Garden Tour - Field trip to and tour of City of Houston's Japanese Garden in Herman Park (10 a.m.)

### April 13:

Bulbs - What grows when in Houston; and promote Bulb Mart

### May 11:

Yard Tour

For anyone wanting further information about meetings, please contact **Evelyn Anderson** at 864-3485 or **Janice Walden** at 869-6534.

## MEMBERSHIP ARTICLE

By Craig Lee

It's a new year and time to renew Civic Club memberships (memberships run from January 1 through December 31). The current one-year price is \$10 for a whole family of membership (\$5 for some of you). That's the same as it has been since before I was born.

Your dues payment is very important, but each year it becomes a little harder to provide funding to maintain the quality and caliber of this neighborhood's needs and wants.

So, in addition to your annual dues, please consider giving \$25 for five important programs: Citizens-on-Patrol (GO-COP), Beautification, the Garden Oaks Elementary School Montessori Program, the Plant Co-op, and this, the *Garden Oaks Gazette*. Successful funding of these programs directly affects safety, quality of education and/or the quality of life here. Your funding support helps make this a better community to live in and helps make your property a better investment for you.

Set your annual budget for Garden Oaks support at \$35 (or \$30, etc.). Think of it as the real cost of dues today. Of course, you're a member of our civic association with only the cost of the annual dues. And you're welcome to participate for even less than that. But your added support will go a long way toward helping us all realize our dreams of having a nice home in a nice neighborhood. And please, feel free in spreading it over more than one month if that's easier. For more information about memberships and other fundings, contact Craig Lee at 802-0079, or any other Civic Club officer (whose names appear on the back of each *Gazette*).

A special thanks goes to **Brad Berryman and Jacqui Jacob** who donated money toward the **Mark Neff** donation challenge. We appreciate your support and hope that others will rise to this challenge. Let's keep the donations coming in.


**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  
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## GARDEN OAKS CIVIC CLUB ENROLLMENT & RENEWAL

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Children/Birthdates: \_\_\_\_\_  
Year moved to Garden Oaks: \_\_\_\_\_ Employer (Optional): \_\_\_\_\_

**ANNUAL FEE:** Jan 1- Dec 31 Family: \$10 \_\_\_\_\_ Business: \$25 \_\_\_\_\_ Senior Citizen (G. O. Roots): \$5 \_\_\_\_\_

### ADDITIONAL FUNDINGS:

Beautification: \$5 \_\_\_\_\_ GO Elementary Montessori Program: \$5 \_\_\_\_\_ Gazette (Newsletter): \$5 \_\_\_\_\_  
Plant Co-op: \$5 \_\_\_\_\_ GO COP (Citizen's Patrol): \$5 \_\_\_\_\_ **All of these: \$25 \_\_\_\_\_**

Garden Oaks Civic Club dues have not changed in nearly 50 years. So we rely on your generous additional support to help finance these community programs.  
\* Gifts to the Montessori program are tax deductible. These are suggested minimum amounts.

### MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: GARDEN OAKS CIVIC CLUB

Mail to: Craig Lee, Membership 212 W. 34th St. Houston, TX 77018 or call Craig at 802-0079 if you have any questions.



## GARDEN OAKS CIVIC CLUB

P.O. Box 92155 Hou., TX 77206

### Ed de Alba, President

858 Lamonte Ln. 694-5934

### Craig Lee, V.P. Membership

212 W. 34th St. 802-0079

### Sheila Briones, Secretary

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

### Ray Housley, Treasurer

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### Carol Meyer, Gazette Editor

1019 W. 41st St. (R) 681-2746

FAX 681-2746 (O) 493-3012

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858 Lamonte Ln. 694-5934

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Carla Hoyer 699-8171

### Citizens-on-Patrol:

Bill & Jinny Chastain 681-5151

### Constable Program:

Warren Walden 869-6534

### Education Liaison:

Jane Ann Roberts 861-8512

### Garden Club:

Nan Kittell 956-8600

### Hospitality & Refreshments:

Terry Jeanes 680-8550

### Neighborhoods to Standard:

Rich & Rebecca Stark 691-1067

### Neighborhood Traffic Program:

Marc Roberts 861-8512

### Plant Co-op:

Anne Kilgore 697-0069

### Programs:

Deborah Cartwright 697-1624

### Recycling:

Gilbert King 523-5874

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Jaime Pierce 688-3237

### Section Five

Vee Gaines 686-5042

Ria McElvaney 682-6707

Anita Cuevas 956-7809

## March Calendar

March 7	Civic Club Meeting	7 p.m.
March 10	Gazette Deadline	
March 11	Recycle Drop-Off/G.O. Theater	8 a.m. to 11 a.m.
	Pancake Breakfast-G.O. Elementary	7:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
March 16	Positive Interaction Program	7 p.m.

## GARDEN OAKS ELEMENTARY MONTESSORI REGISTRATION BEGINS MARCH 1

*By Anita Cuevas, Membership Chairperson*

Registration for new applicants for the 1995 - 96 Garden Oaks Elementary Montessori Program will begin March 1, 1995, on a first-come, first-serve basis. Limited positions are available. If your child is already in the Montessori Program, you **do not** need to register again. If you were on the waiting list for the 1994 - 95 program, you **do** need to register if you want to be considered for the 1995 - 96 program.

Acceptance into the program will be on a first-come, first-serve basis within ethnic age groupings. For the 1995 - 96 school year, enrollment in the Montessori Program will be 45% Hispanic, 41% White, 13% Black and 1% Other.

A new pre-primary (3,4, and 5-year-olds) Montessori class will open in the fall of 1995. There will be 22 children in this class. Additional spaces may be available in the other classes depending on attrition. Currently there are three Montessori classes at Garden Oaks one 3,4,5-preprimary and two 5,6, and 7-year-old classes.

You **must** register to be considered for the Montessori Program. Open enrollment will be March 1 through March 31, 1995 in the school office. Applications will **not** be accepted prior to March 1.

If you have any questions, please call the school office at 696-2930.

## MONTESSORI PROGRAM'S 2ND ANNUAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Garden Oaks Elementary School's "Friends of Montessori" invites the community to their 2nd Annual Pancake Breakfast to be held **Saturday, March 11 from 7:30 to 10:30 a.m.**

According to Denise Epstein, one of the organizers of this event, everyone is welcome to come and enjoy **FREE pancakes**. She also added that while the pancake breakfast is FREE, donations will be appreciated and accepted.

Another money raiser started last year and being carried on again this year is the **sale of briskets** to benefit the Montessori Program. Orders are being taken now for 7 to 9 lb. fully cooked briskets which will be available for pick-up at the Pancake Breakfast. The cost of these briskets is \$30.00 per brisket. **To place an order, please call Denise Epstein at 869-0128 or Carolyn Collier at 682-8144.** They are going fast, so order now!

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