

Garden Oaks Gazette

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May 1995

MAY CIVIC CLUB MEETING

The next Garden Oaks Civic Club meeting will be held at **7:00 p.m. on Tuesday**, **May 2**, at the Garden Oaks Baptist Church, 3206 North Shepherd.

Our guest speaker for the night will be Kimbra Ogg, Houston's first Anti-Gang Director. Ogg was appointed by Mayor Bob Lanier in February 1994 to this post. As Anti-Gang Director, Ogg coordinates the antigang efforts of community youth organizations, school districts and law enforcement working to prevent gang violence in Houston. She also acts as media spokesperson on the issue of gang violence and youth crime for Mayor Lanier.

Ogg is a former Harris County Assistant District Attorney, where she practiced for nearly seven years. During her service there she rose to the level of Chief Felony Prosecutor and prosecuted gang-related violent crimes and five capital murder cases. Ogg is a graduate of the University of Texas and South Texas College of Law, and is board certified by the Texas Bar Association as a specialist in the field of Criminal Law. She is an accomplished speaker and I think you will agree that the issue of gang activity is something that affects us all. Hope to see a good turnout.

ANNOUNCEMENT

COME ONE, COME ALL!
TO THE FIRST ANNUAL
GARDEN OAKS 4TH OF JULY
PICNIC & BICYCLE PARADE
* BARBECUE * GAMES * RIDES
At the Garden Oaks Elementary
School Spark Park.

Make your plans now to attend. You'll have a BANG of a time!

Proceeds for this event will go to the Friends of Montessori and the Constable Program.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT:

G.O. RESIDENTS MAKE TIME FOR ABUSED CHILDREN

Four Garden Oaks residents in Section One, **Colleen Housley, Rita Donaldson, Debbie Toon and Beth Harp**, are giving their time to help Houston's abused and neglected children by working with Child Advocates, Inc. Child Advocates is a private, non-profit organization which recruits, trains and supervises volunteers to defend the rights of abused and neglected children to grow up in a safe home.

Colleen, who has been on staff at Child Advocates for almost five years, says that she is constantly rewarded with the effective work of the Child Advocates' volunteers and their dedication to helping abused children.

"Of course people say, 'I don't know how you could do that work every day,'" she continues, "but I tell them that it is sad, but it is really sad if we don't do something about the problem! I am so encouraged to see what an incredible impact one volunteer can have on the life of an abused child."

Colleen works very closely with Rita, who is one of Child Advocates' committed volunteers. Rita believes this is a great way for people who have a concern for children to volunteer their time.

Child Advocates volunteers provide a viable solution to the child abuse epidemic. All volunteers are well-trained, caring individuals who are advocating for the rights of abused children through the juvenile courts, child protection and the educational systems.

Debbie Toon, who volunteers with Child Advocates' guild, says that she gives her time because she knows that children need all the help that they can get this day in time, and by supporting the efforts of Child Advocates, she is making life better for abused children.

"Child Advocates volunteers are making a daily difference in these children's lives by ensuring that they receive the services they deserve and that they are placed in a safe, permanent home as quickly as possible," says Beth Harp, the organization's Volunteer Recruitment Director.

Almost 90 percent of the volunteers are full time working people who just decide to give a few hours a week to change the life of a child. **To find out more information on volunteering your time, please call Child Advocates today at 529-1396.**

YOU CAN HELP!

PARTNERS OF YOUTH GOLF TOURNAMENT RESULTS

by Bill Bijak

The Northwest Y.M.C.A. held a golf tournament at the Pinecrest Golf Club to benefit economically disadvantaged youths in the Acres Homes and greater Northwest areas on April 7. The tournament was won by Jack Motl, Jack Snider, Greg Chapman, and Bob Sezak.

Over \$2,500 was raised from participation in the tournament. Other winners of the day include **Kathy Marek** (Section Five of G.O.) who won the putting contest out of the 70 plus golfers that participated. Congratulations Kathy! **Robert Corvo, Ken Ashworth, Frank Patrick,** and **Jim Antone** came in second place in the putting contest, and the "Closest-to-the-Pin" Contest was won by **Craig Doty**.

Jack Welker, John Hills, and **Norris Carle**, are all Garden Oaks residents who brought teams to the tournament. Thanks for your support.

Please Recycle this Gazette!

FROM THE EDITOR ...

I had heard rumors that a neighboring subdivision has a tremendous participation rate in both their Civic Club and their Citizens Patrol organization so I decided to check it out. Sure enough, I found out that Shepherd Park Plaza (S.P.P.) is an excellent example to follow for any neighborhood that appreciates active civic involvement.

According to former S.P.P. Traffic and Safety Coordinator, Don Blaze, S.P.P. enjoys an 80% membership rate in the Civic Club and a 10% participation rate in their Citizens Patrol Program. Currently they have 75 volunteers patrolling their streets and 13 base stations. Keep in mind that there are 729 houses in S.P.P. At one point, S.P.P. had 105 Citizens Patrol volunteers. This is 13 times the number of patrollers that Garden Oaks has, even though we have twice the number of homes!

Given the fact that S.P.P.'s Civic Club membership dues are \$15.00 a month (with voluntary membership) and they have half the number of people to recruit volunteers from, I had to inquire as to what they were doing to produce these results.

Blaze was happy to answer that question. He elaborated by saying, "We recruit, recruit, recruit. When new people move into the neighborhood we don't let them sit around for years and then say we were never asked. We bring new residents in right away." Blaze also added that they have Section Representatives that call new residents just after they move-in. Then they arrange to drop by a move-in package and tell the new residents about their neighborhood programs. They also put regular notices in their neighborhood newsletter encouraging active involvement in their programs.

My hat is off to the residents of S.P.P. for their efforts. It is possible to accomplish so much more when the majority contributes a little, rather than a few contributing a lot.

One more side note is that an 80% membership rate certainly provides an opportunity for the majority opinion to be heard whenever votes are taken and decisions are made.

Carol Meyer

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

This letter was written in response to the letter regarding Friendship Park in Section 1. Please do not confuse this with the Gazebo Project in Section 2.

Mr. James Stafford's April letter regarding the little park at the south end of Lawrence street in Section One was an obvious effort to present it as uncared for and unused. Nothing could be farther from the truth. For over 20 years, the Garden Oaks Garden Club members have been solely responsible for this lovely little pocket park, which they named Friendship Garden. All improvements as well as the upkeep of the park have been made BY the members and AT the expense of the Garden Club.

When Mr. Stafford approached us last year, he offered \$2,500 seed money and suggested totally renovating the park to include a drinking fountain and brick "similar to the rose garden located on Heights Blvd. at 20th." We did not see any drawings or anything in writing indicating total cost or time, etc.

Club members spent months researching and discussing the idea. We had many concerns, such as changes in the land size of the park if the proposed traffic patterns mandate widening these streets, a stopped-up water fountain might keep the area wet, there may be limited lawn, future upkeep would be necessary, etc. We especially are aware of the danger which ANY large-scaled permanent construction would present to the lovely old live oak in this park.

Another very real issue is the concept of "beauty," which as the poet has said, "is in the eye of the beholder." Mr. Stafford continues to claim his interest is in "beautification." Here, all these years we thought that was what we were doing!

Although he indicates in point three of his April letter that he is "willing to work with any committee and organization," it is the remainder of that phrase that disturbs me most: "to make this a reality." What of those who don't want his concept?

Since his first, unexpected appearance last year, the Garden Club has not heard from Mr. Stafford. We sent him a note several months ago indicating that we were not ready to accept his offer. It is obvious by his public appeal that he does not accept our tentative refusal, as the letter addressed NOT to the Garden Club, but the general public, indicates his total disregard for the Garden Club's role as caretakers of this property when he states: "I am wanting this project to become a reality."

Certainly everyone with something to offer

our community should be encouraged. Perhaps Mr. Stafford's generosity could be met by other residents? The Beautification Program has BEGGED for funds to complete the brick work at the Art Park on 43rd Street. The Garden Oaks Blvd. medians on both sides of Shepherd are dismal. Or perhaps he might "adopt" the OTHER pocket park on the north end of Lawrence Street?

Nan Kittell, Section Four Garden Oaks Garden Club

Dear Editor,

I am writing this letter anonymously because I am sure some people will be offended by it and I do not wish to be the victim of any retaliation!

I enjoy my neighborhood and many of my neighbors, but there are a few who deserve a good lecture about caring for their pets. I just cannot understand why a pet owner would willingly let their dogs run loose on the streets of Garden Oaks. Don't most people know that not all automobiles can or will brake for an animal? Don't most people know animals that get into trash bags suffer the risk of getting poisoned or violently sick? I do not know who owns the dog with the lame hind leg, or the Rotweiller, or the Beagle that I have often seen loose in Section Two, but I can tell you there is something lacking in the owner's sense of responsibility.

Many times I have seen these beautiful dogs scare someone in the Spark Park and I have seen them tear into trash bags. Was the lame dog injured because it was hit by a car? What is the matter with you owners? Can't you take your dog someplace safe for it to run under your supervision? Can't you fix your fence if your dog has a way out? If you cannot take better care of your dog, then you do not deserve one. You may be nice people, but you are dysfunctional. If you cannot treat your dogs properly, you should find a better home for them and SAVE THEIR LIVES!!!

Sincerely,

FOR THE DOGS IN GARDEN OAKS

GO-COP REPORT

We have a short Citizens-on-Patrol report this month. Crime stats for February were four house burglaries, one burglary of a motor vehicle and one auto theft.

Our patrollers were on duty for a total of 66 hours for your protection. The **Patroller of the Month for the month of April was awarded to Miles Harper**. Congratulations Miles, we really appreciate your volunteering your time to make our neighborhood a safer place.

GAZEBO TRIBUTE UPDATE

by Bill Chastain

In the March 1995 issue of the *Gazette* there was an article concerning a neighborhood gazebo project, in which the gazebo would be located in the small pocket park at 42nd St. and Sue Barnett. Since this article was published, we have had a good response to this effort. However, it has been brought to my attention that some people have misinterpreted the intent for the way donations can be submitted for the gazebo. Some thought that donations could be made only to memorialize or honor somebody. That was not the intent at all. We will accept donations of any amount for any reason. However, in order to have a name entered at the gazebo site, it will require a donation of \$50.00 for a 4" X 8" granite tablet that would have two lines of ten characters maximum for each line. To date, there has been \$3,400 total collected (including the \$2,000 being donated by Earl Dragics, the originator of this project). We are still awaiting a decision from the City about the availability of matching funds.

In order to give G.O. residents an idea of what planners of this project have in mind, there is a photo of a gazebo accompanying this article. This model is reflective of the plan that we would like to follow, depending upon available funds. A scale drawing of the park is being prepared by Ric Luck to be turned in to the Parks Department. We propose planting a Christmas tree on each side of the gazebo.

The plan for the gazebo is to have a light, along with receptacles so it can be seen and used at night. As soon as they are notified as to whether or not the electricity will be brought overhead or underground, HL&P will supply the electricity. Three quarter inch underground conduit can be donated by Oran Chadluier should we decide to bury the cable.

To accomplish this effort, we will need more material and manual help. Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to inquire if there is a licensed electrician somewhere out there who would be willing to help? If so, we could certainly use you. Please give me a call at **681-5151**. We are also in need of some filler dirt for low spots and we may require volunteer painters later on, depending upon whether we decide to go with the natural wood look or paint. In addition, the gazebo and its surroundings will need some regular maintenance over the years, which we hope to find a way to provide. There is also some concern about vehicles being driven into the park and the fact that we may have to erect a deterrent to protect the area.

On a personal note from the Editor: Bill wrote this article prior to a meeting at which the topic was raised and discussion lead to concerns about collecting enough funds for this project and the practicality of maintaining the property.

As you can see from the picture, the gazebo could be a lovely addition to our neighborhood. At this time we are waiting to see if we can find a business sponsor that may be willing to donate supplies or funds and we are not sure whether or not the city will contribute any funds. Therefore, it may be necessary to collect more donations from generous G.O. residents in order to make this project a reality.

On the other hand, it has been suggested that we may even want to down-scale the project



enough to match whatever funds we have. The long and short of it is that there are still a few aspects regarding this project that are up in the air. The people involved in the planning are very encouraged and think that all unanswered issues concerning the gazebo will be resolved, and the project will get underway within a reasonable period of time. If you have any opinions or suggestions regarding this effort, I encourage you to get involved in whatever way you desire, whether that be by writing a Letter to the Editor for the Gazette, attending the Civic Club meetings and voicing your desires and/or by donating money to this cause.



GARDEN OAKS BAPTIST CHURCH

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MONTESSORI EDUCATION MEETING

If you have ever wondered why people have camped out to put their children in the Garden Oaks Montessori Program; the May speakers for the Montessori Parent Education series will answer your questions. On May 4 at 6:30 p.m. in the multipurpose room, Dorothy Ohlhaver will speak on "Back to Basics with Montessori and the Information Highway—How Montessori meets the needs of a global economy."

We have TENTATIVELY scheduled **Betsy Coe**, last years President of the American Montessori Society, to speak on **May 30 or 31**. She will address the issue of "**Why Montessori?**". Dr. Coe has done extensive research on Montessori through the middle school years. Please call the school at **696-2930** or watch the kiosk to confirm this date. Whatever you do DON"T MISS either of these exciting speakers.

GO-COP CHALLENGE UPDATE

Challenge complete! The residents of G.O. rose to the challenge put to them by **Mark Neff** by meeting the goal to raise \$500.00 and match the funds that **Mark** agreed to put up if we accomplished this goal. Many thanks goes to all of the people that contributed to this effort. The *Gazette* would like to recognize the following people who generously donated to this cause:

Shellye Arnold
Terry and Rob Jeanes
Ed and Brenda de Alba
Ken and Patty Jeffers
Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Froehilich
Craig and Sandy Lee
Ralph and Charlotte Hayes
Harry and Gloria Paine
David and Carla Hoyer
Tina Sabuco
Deborah Jean
Frances Smith
Susan Spooner

Thought for the Month

"This is the beginning of a new day. God has given me this day to use as I will. I can waste it-oruse it forgood, but what I do today is important, because I am exchanging a day of my life for it! When tomorrow comes, this day will be gone forever, leaving in its place something that I have traded for it. I want it to be a gain, not a loss; good, and not evil; success, and not failure; in order that I shall not regret the price that I have paid for it."

SECTION ONE -NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC PROJECT UPDATE

by Marc Roberts

Current Status:

- Waiting on the City of Houston to proceed with installation of temporary traffic devices (a specific date has not been determined).
- Temporary devices will be used to determine how well traffic management proposals work and to see if any changes in plans are needed prior to permanent construction.

Background:

- Neighborhood traffic ordinance passed by City Council in 1993.
- Proposed traffic management plans prepared by professional traffic engineer consultants with input from Garden Oaks residents.
- Public meetings conducted in 1994 to review and comment on proposed plans.
- Petitions initiated to obtain approval or disapproval of proposals.

Petition Results:

- Section One between Shepherd and Yale:
 Over 80% of homeowners responded as approving or disapproving proposal.
 - Homeowners approved proposal by about a two-to-one margin.
- Overall majority approval by homeowners achieved.
- Section One west of Shepherd:
- Over 75% of residents responded as approving or disapproving proposal.
- Residents approved proposal by about a nine-to-one margin.
- Overall majority approval by residents achieved.

Questions:

- Section One between Shepherd and Yale contact Marc Roberts at 861-8512 or Ann Spiering at 862-6138.
- Section One west of Shepherd please contact **Rod Walker at 868-2469**.

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.

UNSUNG HEROES BEHIND THE SCENES

Many thanks goes to **Brian Foyt** and **Woody Mehrkam** for your hard work in preparing the barbecue briskets which were sold to benefit the Montessori Program at Garden Oaks Elementary. We really appreciate your efforts!

GARDEN CLUB NEWS...

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Garden Oaks Garden Club who served as our guest speakers at the April Civic Club meeting. It was a pleasure to hear that we have a noted gardening book author in our midst in Elvin McDonald (Section One A) and a real treat to have Nan Kittell on hand to tell us what's going on with the Garden Club and show us slides of award winning yards throughout Garden Oaks.

The Garden Club's meetings are held the second Thursday of every month from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Meeting times that vary from this will be listed. The May through July schedule is as follows:

May 11:

Yard Tour

Meeting at Misty Jones' house

June 8:

Bogg and Water Plants - Topics:

- 1) how to plant
- 2) blooming seasons
- 3) types of environments
 - 4) different varieties

June 10: Lilyponds Field trip to observe aquatic plants and animals -

> Fulshear, Texas **July 13:**

Good Bugs and Bad Bugs Location:

Texas Agricultural Extension Service

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

GARDEN TIP OF THE MONTH:

Plant basil to ward off mosquitoes.

RECYCLE RECYCLE

Volunteers please come to the site to help.

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. 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 Martha Gebhardt (861-8896) to get on the pickup list.

MEMBERSHIP NOTICE

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR CIVIC CLUB DUES????

FOR YOUR INFORMATION....G.O. CIVIC CLUB MEMBERSHIP DUES COME DUE EVERY YEAR IN JANUARY. UNFORTUNATELY WE SIMPLY DO NOT HAVE THE MANPOWER TO MAIL OUT NOTIFICATION REGARDING THE NEED TO RENEW TO ALL 1500 HOMES EVERY YEAR. THEREFORE, PLEASE DO NOT WAIT FOR SOMETHING TO BE SENT TO YOU RECARDING PAYING YOUR DUES. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE A MEMBER, SIMPLY FILL OUT A MEMBERSHIP COUPON (see below), CLIP, AND SEND IT TO OUR V.P. OF MEMBERSHIP, CRAIG LEE AT 212 W. 34TH STREET.

GARDEN OAKS CIVIC CLUB ENROLLMENT & RENEWAL					
Name:		Spouse:			
Address:		Phone:			
 Children/Birthdates:					
Year moved to Garden Oaks: Employer (Optional):					
ANNUAL FEE: Jan. 1- Family: \$10 ADDITIONAL FUNDI	Business: \$25	Senior Ci	tizen (G.O. Roots): \$5		
Beautification: \$6 GO Elementary Montessori Program*: \$6					
Plant Co-op:		GO COP (Citizen's Patrol): \$6			
Gazette (Newsletter): 5	6	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.					
These are suggested minimum amounts.					
*Gifts to the Montessori program are tax deductible.					
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.					

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

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Pastors:

Don Goodwin, Don Raschke



Carol

Meyer

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Constable Program:	001 9191				
Warren Walden	869-6534				
Education Liaison:					
Jane Ann Roberts	861-8512				
Garden Club:					
Nan Kittell	956-8600				
Hospitality & Refresh					
Terry Jeanes	680-8550				
Neighborhoods to Star					
Rich & Rebecca Stark Neighborhood Traffic	691-1067				
Marc Roberts	861-8512				
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May 2	Civic Club Meeting	7 p.m.
May 4	Montessori: Back to Basics/G.O. School	6:30 p.m.
May 10	Gazette Deadline	
May 11	Garden Club Meeting	6:30 p.m.
May 13	Recycle Drop-Off/G.O. Theater	8 a.m. to 11 a.m.
May 18	Positive Interaction Program	7 p.m.
May 30/31	Why Montessori?/G.O. School	6:30 p.m.

BUY A BRICK, BUILD A PATH

Garden Oaks Elementary School PTA and Friends of Montessori are embarking on a fund raising campaign to create a brick path to enhance the school grounds. We are building a path of history for Garden Oaks Elementary School.

We are selling brick pavers on which you can have a special message, of 30 characters or less, engraved in one, two or three lines. Traditionally pavers are sold to memorialize a loved one who has since passed on. Some other suggestions include engraving the brick with your name, your child's name, the years you attended Garden Oaks Elementary School or the year you graduated, the name of a special teacher, family member, or even a pet. The pavers will be used to create an attractive walkway on the school grounds. Everyone is invited to join us in this lasting memory and add a step along the path at our neighborhood school.

The funds that are raised will be used to support the existing and new Montessori classrooms at Garden Oaks, and the PTA.

The pavers are on sale for a minimum donation of \$50.00. HOWEVER, if you buy before June 1, 1995, which is the last day of school, you can get a special minimum price of \$40.00 per paver or two pavers for \$75.00. For further information please call Joan Harmon at 695-8318.

A portion of your donation will be tax deductible because Friends of Montessori is a non-profit organization. Please make your checks payable to Friends of Montessori and return them and the order form to: Garden Oaks Elementary School, Attn: Montessori 901 Sue Barnett, Houston, TX 77018

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Phone	
Number of pavers	
Engraved message(s)	

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