



# Garden Oaks Gazette

Volume 18, No. 7      Circulation 1550      July 1995

## NO JULY CIVIC CLUB MEETING

A very special thanks goes to *Garden Properties* for providing refreshments at the June Civic Club meeting and to **Beth Harp** for her very moving talk regarding the need for volunteers for **Child Advocates**.

**There will be no Civic Club meeting for the next two months** due to the fact that there will be other special events going on in the months of July and August.

Thanks to the hard work of resident, **Janice Walden**, we will have a Parade on Tuesday, July 4. **The First Annual Garden Oaks 4th of July Bar-B-Q and Bicycle Parade** is scheduled to start at 11 a.m. at the Spark Park near Garden Oaks Elementary School. All those interested in participating are asked to start gathering at this location at 10:30 a.m.

There will be games, a raffle and lots of fun for the whole family! There will also be judging for the "Best-Decorated Bikes" for both children and adult categories. This is a chance for our residents to let their creative juices flow. Planned participants in the parade include the Constable, Captain Joe Scott and some members of the Houston Fire Department.

After the parade, get a Texas size deal. For \$5.00 you get a raffle ticket and some BBQ brisket. Event organizers will also provide buns for the brisket, but request that you provide your own fixings and beverages.

Proceeds from this event will benefit the **Friends of Montessori** and the **Garden Oaks Constable Program**. Plus, this is a great opportunity to have fun, help your community, meet your neighbors and celebrate your patriotism all at the same time! So please come out and support your neighborhood.

Tickets for the raffle are being provided by our *Gazette* printer, **Oscar Ochoa**, and plates and cups will be provided by our very own Civic Club President, **Ed de Alba**.

In addition, the August Civic Club meeting will be called off due to yet another special event. Every year in August we celebrate "**National Night Out**." This event, designed to help you meet your neighbors, involves local communities and neighborhoods in efforts which help make things a little safer and better for all. **It falls on August 2 this year**. Many residents around the neighborhood are known to throw parties on this night. Someone on your block might be one of those carrying on this tradition. But you'll never know unless you take this opportunity to mix and mingle with your neighbors. People across the nation will be taking part in this annual event.

## INTERNATIONAL HOUSE OF PANCAKES UPDATE

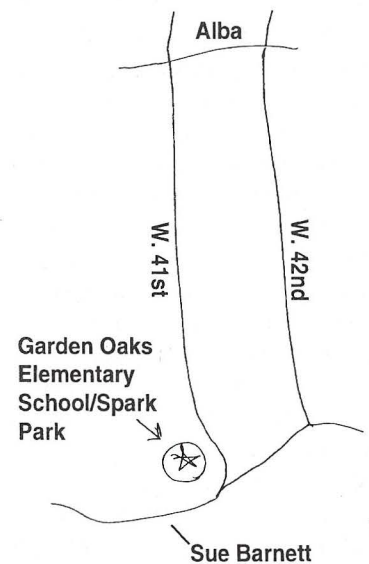
There is not much news to report with regard to the continuing IHOP saga. IHOP representatives are still pursuing the idea of building a restaurant off the 610 Loop just before the Shepherd intersection, however, their efforts seem to have slowed down a bit. Rumor has it that their people have been talking to the Conn's people about the possibility of buying up some of Conn's parking space. The writer is unsure what kind of response this got from Conn's representatives.

While it is currently uncertain, it is thought that IHOP reps will plan to attend another Garden Oaks Civic Club meeting sometime shortly after August. We will keep you posted.

## PARADE PATH

The planned path for the 4th of July Parade celebration is the following:

The parade will start at 11 a.m. at the Spark Park near Garden Oaks Elementary. From there, it will travel along West 41st Street down to Alba. It will proceed down Alba one block and make a right onto West 42nd Street and end by turning right onto Sue Barnett, finishing up back at the Spark Park.



## A TRIBUTE TO A FINE PATROLLER

Woody Mehrkam has been a tried and true patroller for four years. His loyalty in participating is one of the reasons we still have a GO-COP program going in Garden Oaks. He patrols two hours every week, has logged over 400 hours total and is also a base station for other patrollers.

**A tip of the hat and big THANK YOU goes to Woody for all he has done to help our community.**

## FROM THE EDITOR...

I thought I'd take the opportunity this month to share with you some neighborhood history that I was fortunate enough to have been given when my husband Chris and I moved into Garden Oaks. This article is taken from a move-in package we received some seven-and-a-half years ago. I hope that you enjoy it. I know that we did.

Garden Oaks began in the mind of a successful developer, Edward Lillo Crain. He came to Houston from Longview in the early twenties. In 1937, after building Southside Place and Sylvan Beach, he acquired the 750 acres which became Garden Oaks. He set out to build a "beautiful but inexpensive" community. He succeeded at doing this with some 1500 homes standing today.

Mr. Crain formed the Garden Oaks Company, along with Mr. Brace as his Vice President, and Mr. Carruth and Mr. Sushold as salesmen in offices on the corner of 39th St. and Shepherd. This was rural Houston with a dude ranch for a neighbor, an unpaved Shepherd (impassable in heavy rains), and a few stores. The new Minimax at 29th and Shepherd was a welcome addition. Before this wonderful convenience, shoppers had to catch the bus at 29th or drive the new roads.

By 1941, the majority of homes in Sections I, II, and III were sold. The school was billed as the most modern facility in the South. The Garden Oaks Company had moved to more lavish quarters in a colonial style mansion on the corner of Garden Oaks Blvd. and Shepherd Drive. The building housed Mr. Crain, Mr. Brace, the two salesmen, and two architects (one of whom was B.W. Crain, Jr., nephew to the President). The building boasted great conference rooms, sales offices, and a genuine dial front room size vault which evidenced the company's prosperity.

Mrs. Ella Sutherland was hired in 1941 as a bookkeeper. She was a widow who had been looking for work for three-and-a-half years. Katie Randall, Mr. Crain's secretary and a friend of her family, suggested Mrs. Sutherland for a temporary assignment. After a month, Mr. Brace offered Sutherland \$100 a month to make the position permanent. A forty year deal was struck that April 7, 1941.

Mrs. Sutherland's memories of the hectic development of Section IV are quite colorful. Section IV was a wartime development. Freezes on building material meant that houses not begun by a certain date could not be finished. Mr. Crain opened his own mill, lumber yard (Edloe Lumber), and warehouses so that he could finish his homes.

Construction went on day and night; as many as ten homes at a time were started. Mrs. Sutherland recalls the bookkeeping worries as billing on so many houses poured into her office.

The section was successfully completed. Young couples flowed into this area. Most paid only \$195 with a mortgage of \$2500 and a 31 year lease on the lot. The lot prices were guaranteed at \$750, and many a lot were still being leased into the 1970s.

Section V was completed when the Garden Oaks Company's Vice President, Brace, and salesman, Carruth, formed Brace and Carruth Builders and purchased the remaining lots for speculative building. As builders, they carried on the tradition of quality construction for the average man.

Garden Oaks Village was a complex of small duplexes on individual lots where Carters Grove Apartments now stand. The village, designated Section VI, became a motor hotel for a while until rerouting of highway traffic again made rentals more feasible.

Mr. Crain lived in Garden Oaks Village for a while in a specially remodeled two unit place until his death in 1950. During the primary development of Garden Oaks, he lived in a pink stucco estate on 25 acres just west of Yale and south of Crosstimbers.

Mr. Brace was actually the only principal of the Garden Oaks Company to live in Garden Oaks. His lovely home, complete with modern sleeping porches, is still a showpiece at 737 W. 43rd Street. The gracious style of the Brace home has endured for more than 45 years.

When the Garden Oaks Company disbanded, the responsibility of deed restriction enforcement was passed on to a group of homeowners selected to serve on the first Garden Oaks Board of Trustees. For 30 years these members and their successors have done their job so well that Garden Oaks has been modeled after by many newer developments. In 1981, the last of the original Board of Trustee members retired from service on the board.

When other areas are undergoing sudden revival in these nostalgic times, Garden Oaks stands quietly in its survival, remaining today much as Edward Lillo Crain had planned.

## Thought for the Month

*As I grow to understand life less and less, I learn to live it more and more.*

*-Jules Renard*

## CONSTABLE PATROL UPDATE

*by Janice Walden*

On the evening of Friday, May 26, at about 6:45 p.m., a burglar was sighted inside the home of Garden Oaks residents Wayne and Janet Forster on 527 West 34th Street. The home is currently undergoing remodeling. Janet had just come to check on the building site when she saw a black male pass in front of the front window going toward the backdoor inside the house. As she returned to her car, Forster noticed a Constable vehicle patrolling and flagged down Deputy, Dick Matthias. Matthias called for back up, entered the house, went out the backdoor and found the suspect hiding behind the back gate. The suspect was taken into custody and charged with burglary of a habitat. The man, in his late 40s, had been seen in the neighborhood before. No bond was posted, as the burglar was out on parole for other theft convictions.

## OTHER NEWS...

Now that summer is here, before you leave home, be sure to file your vacation watch with the Constable Program. While you're away, the Constable's Deputy will keep an eye on your house, and make routine checks of your property. You can obtain vacation watch forms by calling **Warren Walden** at **869-6534**, or by picking up a form at the next Civic Club meeting.

## GARDEN CLUB NEWS...

For all of those who are interested in attending, the Garden Club meets the second Thursday of every month from 6:30 to 8 p.m. For further information, please contact **Evelyn Anderson** at **864-3485** or **Janice Walden** at **869-6534**.

## GARDEN TIP OF THE MONTH

Kill weeds by laying newspaper over them in your beds. Weigh down the newspaper with sand or mulch (don't let the dog see you do this!) Then, as the newspaper decomposes, turn it under and work it into your beds.

*Evelyn Anderson*  
*Garden Club Member and Owner, Emafarms*

## YARD OF THE MONTH AWARDED FOR JULY

Congratulations to **Kenneth Smith and Mark Doucet** of 3101 Lawrence, whose yard was named "Yard of the Month" for the month of July by the Garden Oaks Garden Club. Thanks for your efforts to beautify our neighborhood.

## TRAFFIC PROJECT UPDATE

by Marc Roberts

We have recently received word from the City of Houston that they are making changes in the procedures associated with the current neighborhood traffic project ordinance.

Until these changes are complete, the City will be unable to proceed with the planning or installing of any temporary devices in our neighborhood. They anticipate final ordinance revisions to be presented to City Council in September.

The City will adopt a revised ordinance. This does not mean that we are starting over, it simply means that as soon as they make up their minds they will get back with us on how we can proceed.

In the meantime, speed humps have become an available option. Details regarding this new speed hump program and request procedures can be obtained from the City at the following address:

### Speed Hump Program

Traffic Management and  
Maintenance Division  
Public Works & Engineering Dept.  
City of Houston  
P.O. Box 1562  
Houston, TX 77251-1562

## MEMBERSHIP IDEAS

Since my January inception as Editor of the *Garden Oaks Gazette* I have received numerous comments regarding the fact that residents have a hard time knowing or remembering when to pay their Civic Club membership dues. In response to this claim, our die hard Membership V.P., **Craig Lee** has been endlessly searching for ways to cost-effectively get the word out. Several ideas have been tossed around. The one with the most promise seems to be enclosing envelopes in the end-of-the-year *Gazette*, alerting residents to the fact that their membership fee is due and providing a convenient self-addressed return envelope. We hope to be able to implement this procedure.

If anyone else should have any suggestions on how they feel we can improve our membership percentage, please either send your ideas to:

**Craig Lee, V.P. Membership at 212 W. 34th St.** or to me, **Carol Meyer, Editor at 1019 W. 41st St.**

Your recommendations are appreciated.

## CIVIC CLUB MEMBERSHIP DUES

*Civic Club dues are for each calendar year (Jan. 1 through Dec. 31). We may not be able to mail a notice to you and must rely instead on this notice in the Gazette.*

**PLEASE PAY 1995 DUES, IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY DONE SO, AND TRY TO PAY 1996 DUES BY NEXT JANUARY 1.**

Civic Club membership is voluntary, but a very much needed part of Garden Oaks' Civic funding. It is also important for you, our neighbors, to be involved in your community and the Civic Club is our best avenue for doing so.

Please fill out the coupon below and send to **Craig Lee, V.P. of Membership, 212 W. 34th St.**, and resolve to attend at least one Civic Club meeting every six months (first Tuesday of each month from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Garden Oaks Baptist Church on Shepherd.)

### 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: \$6 \_\_\_\_\_ GO Elementary Montessori Program\*: \$6 \_\_\_\_\_

Plant Co-op: \$6 \_\_\_\_\_ GO COP (Citizen's Patrol): \$6 \_\_\_\_\_

*Gazette* (Newsletter): \$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.*

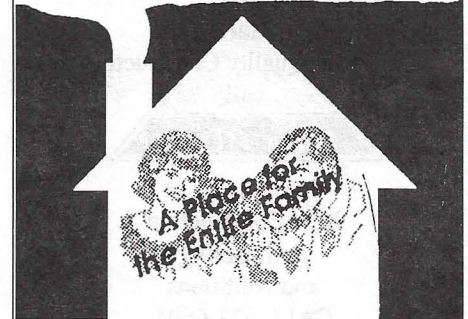
*\*Gifts to the Montessori program are tax deductible.*

**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.

## COME HOME TO JESUS



### GARDEN OAKS BAPTIST CHURCH

3206 North Shepherd Drive  
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Jeffrey W. Rees, Pastor

## SUZANNE DEBIEN and Henry S. Miller



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## GO-COP REPORT

by Bill Chastain

CRIME STATS ARE UP FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL. There seemed to be an increase in crime for the month of April. There was one assault, two burglaries, one burglary of a motor vehicle and three auto thefts.

We have some new patrollers who will be watching out for Garden Oaks, and as is evident from our April crime stats, new patrollers are very much needed.

In the past we have had a few people undergo the necessary HPD training to assist as Citizens on Patrol (COP) and never actually spend any time on patrol. We've also had several people patrol for a short time and then inadvertently drop out. This "drop-out" syndrome is a symptom of burnout. It is always hoped that this drop-out is temporary and that the patrollers will return, however, the return rate has been consistently low.

Responsibility for helping to keep our neighborhood safe is much harder when it falls on the shoulders of a small number of regular volunteer patrollers representing Garden Oaks. There is an old saying, "many hands make light work." This is our goal,...to spread the load over many shoulders to make the load lighter on each individual.

Our **Patrollers for the month of June are Dennis and Cathy Spar.** Garden Oaks will show its gratitude by treating them to a meal at the restaurant of their choice. Keep up the good work Dennis and Cathy. We appreciate your efforts!

The Positive Interaction Program meetings are on the third Thursday of every month at 7 p.m. at St. Matthews United Methodist Church. This organization, as many of you already know, is a liaison between law enforcement and civilians, so that each can gain a better understanding of the other. These meetings often feature something of interest to those in the community. The June 15 meeting featured a demonstration by the HPD Airport Division Explosive Detection Team on how the dogs find explosives.

## GO-COP PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS - GET INVOLVED!!

By Bill Chastain

It is a shame that some people feel the need to steal from others, rather than work for it. The expense that we go to to prevent ourselves from being victims of crime varies a great deal from person to person. Insurance,

alarm systems, burglar bars, and the club are just a few of the tried methods for protecting ourselves and our property. There are two inexpensive ways that the community can contribute to this protection. One is to have a block captain system in combination with neighbors having each others phone numbers. The other is our GO-COP program. The patrollers that we have are doing a great job, but as we have said before, "we could use more help."

GO-COP is a volunteer group of Garden Oaks residents who patrol our streets in cars with CB radios and/or cellular phones. They are concerned with neighborhood safety. They want to provide a service for our neighbors,...a service that you can use and rely upon when you go on vacation, or to work, or simply to the grocery store. It is the signs on the sides of the cars that are patrolling our streets that tell thieves this area is watchful, making chances of getting away with a crime harder.

## WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO BE A VOLUNTEER PATROLLER?

The following are the requirements as set by HPD:

- Fill out an application and return it.
- Attend either of the HPD required meetings held the second Thursday at 10 a.m. or the fourth Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Candlelight Park Club House at 1520 Candlelight Ln.
- Must travel in vehicle. Cannot patrol on foot or bicycle due to safety reasons.
- The COP Coordinator must know when you plan to attend the HPD training.
- No one will be allowed to patrol without having received HPD instruction.
- Trainees will be given a manual and then driven around in order to show the trainee what to expect.
- Anyone over 18 years of age that hasn't received instruction may still ride with someone who is certified.

## WHAT'S IN THIS FOR YOU?

Hopefully what's in this for you is the satisfaction that you are the eyes and ears of the police department. You are pleased you are watching out not only for yourself, but also your neighbors. The realization that when you patrol you do not see anyone breaking in is a good sign.

- Once a month, one dependable patroller is chosen to receive a gift certificate for a restaurant of their choice.
- After ten hours of patrolling, you will receive a COP cap.

°After 25 hours you will receive a COP T-shirt.

°After 85 hours there is an 85 hour T-shirt.

°When 100 hours is completed, you will receive a very nice COP jacket.

Note: Due to a shortage in patrollers, the last gift certificate to be handed out this year will be in August, unless we have some new volunteers soon.

### UNsung HEROS

It was recently brought to the attention of the Civic Club officers that our beautiful garden on 43rd Street has been progressing quickly due not only to the efforts of some of our dedicated Garden Oaks residents volunteers, but also thanks to the economical efforts of **Dallas Bernard**.

According to Ann Kilgore, a resident in charge of this project, **Dallas** has done much of the brick work and for a very reasonable price. So reasonable that it prompted Ann to comment on not only the fine job **Dallas** has done, but also the fact that he could have charged us much more.

It is through the efforts of people such as **Dallas** and Ann that these special area beautification projects are made possible. Special thanks goes to **Dallas Bernard** for his part in helping Garden Oaks. If you need a handy man for something around the house, you might think about giving **Dallas** a call at 694-1127.

## GARDEN OAKS BABYSITTING CO-OP

Would you like to get to know other Garden Oaks parents and their children? The Garden Oaks Babysitting Co-op may be able to help. It is a club organized and run by Garden Oaks residents who wish to exchange babysitting hours for free time, with membership limited to 30 Garden Oaks families. Quarterly meetings as well as four family parties a year allow members and children to become better acquainted with each other to encourage the exchange of babysitting between member families.

If you are interested, prospective members must be recommended by present members. There are several openings in the G.O Babysitting Co-op at this time. If you are interested, please call any of the following individuals for further information:

Section 1:		
<b>Jane Ann Roberts</b>		861-8512
Section 2:		
<b>Susan Gavin</b>		692-5363
Section 3:		
<b>Lauren Serper</b>		694-5467
Section 4:		
<b>Anne Ness</b>		680-2377
Section 5		
<b>Ria McElvaney</b>		682-6707

### BUSINESS NEWS

Garage sales!...Everywhere you look you can spot a garage sale. Garden Oaks is a well known spot to find some of the greatest bargains in town. So much so it seems everyone is getting into the act nowadays!!

Helping to make garage sales "in Vogue" is our very own **Garden Properties**, who recently threw a garage sale in May to benefit an organization called **Womens Council of Realtors (WCR)**. Garden Properties Broker, Judy Camp, and her crew have been very actively involved in this non profit organization and decided a garage sale, Garden Oaks style, could go a long way toward helping to fund needed scholarships through WCR. And yes,...the sale was a success! How could it not be with the incomparable, Pat Walker at the helm? (see picture)

*Style, class and grace!...That's our very own Pat Walker, of Garden Properties fame, along with Penny the penguin, modeling the latest garage sale fashions. Look out, she's a trendsetter you know!!*



**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  
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*Carol Meyer*



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**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**

407 W. 34th 863-7316

**Carol Meyer, Gazette Editor**

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

**FAX 681-2746** (O) 493-3012

**Gazette Advertising Director**

Oscar Ochoa 896-0052

**Gazette Hand Delivery:**

Brenda de Alba 694-5934

858 Lamonte Ln.

**Beautification:**

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

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Richard Broad 957-8075

Jaime Pierce 688-3237

**Section Five**

Vee Gaines 686-5042

Ria McElvaney 682-6707

Anita Cuevas 956-7809

**July Calendar**

July 4	4th of July Parade and BBQ	11 a.m.
July 8	Recycle Drop-Off/G.O. Theater	8 a.m. to 11 a.m.
July 10	Gazette Deadline	
July 13	Garden Club Meeting	6:30 p.m.
July 20	Positive Interaction Program	7 p.m.

**Come One,  
Come All!  
to the  
First Annual  
Garden Oaks  
4th of July  
Bar-B-Q  
&  
Bicycle Parade**



**Rides! Amusements! Raffle!**

**Tuesday, July 4, 1995**

**Spark Park**

**(next to Garden Oaks Elementary School)**

**10:30 - gather at the Spark Park for parade**

**11:00 - parade begins**

**noon - Bar-B-Q Brisket**

**We will provide the bread and the brisket,  
you provide the rest of your fixings.**

**Judging for Best-Decorated Bikes-  
Kids & Adults Categories!**

**Good Ol' Family Fun!**

**\$5.00 - Bar-B-Q & raffle ticket**

**\$3.00 - raffle ticket**

*benefitting Garden Oaks Constable Program  
& Friends of Montessori*