



Garden Oaks Gazette

Volume 19, No. 9 Circulation 1550 September 1996



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FROM THE EDITOR

Last month when National Night Out was being celebrated, I visited the different parties that I knew about and took some pictures. They all came out pretty good, but there was not enough room for all of them in this issue. I placed the rest in another collage and had them enlarged. All of the pictures will be on display (in color) at the next Civic Club meeting on September 3rd. As you can see by the pictures, there was plenty going on and a lot of fun being had by all. Thanks to all the hosts, hostesses and neighbors for their hospitality. Come to the meeting and see if you can spot yourself in the pictures!

Also, a reminder that in November officers for the '97 year will be nominated. Their election takes place in December. It's not too early to be thinking about it because a nomination committee will be formed in October. -Alex Martinez

-Alex Martinez

CIVIC CLUB MEETING

There will be a Civic Club Meeting at 7 PM on September 3rd at the Garden Oaks Baptist Church. No guest speaker is scheduled at this time.

YARD OF THE MONTH

The yard of the month award for August is Ralph and Rean Bowden at 725 W. 42nd Street. Congratulations to Ralph and Rean!

PARENT POWER

by Neal Talmadge

Unprecedented efforts are being made across the country to boost the role of parents in schools. Teachers and grassroots parents' groups as well as the Education Department and education associations have joined a campaign to encourage new efforts by parents as the key to raising student achievement.

Though the strategies include the traditional methods of PTA membership and help with homework, parental involvement 1990's style has broadened to include creation of parent centers at school, tutoring programs, adult education classes on parenting and even parent participation in school governance.

Research clearly shows that children's academic performance is higher at schools that have high parental involvement.

The biggest barrier to parental involvement is lack of time, according to a 1993 survey of 30,000 parents by the National PTA. Time was cited by 89%, followed distantly by such barriers as "nothing to contribute" (32%) and "feel intimidated" (25%). Despite their excuses, today's anxious parents can no longer take for granted that the American dream will be available to their children, as their parents thought it would be for them.

Parents today are going further than just joining the PTA. They're helping organize and design community-sponsored schools and programs as well as independent, locally run programs like the Garden Oaks Elementary School Montessori Program in Houston.

The genesis of parental involvement at this quaint, neighborhood elementary school can be traced back to 1993 when

continued on page 4

**GAZETTE
AD RATES**

**\$40 PER MONTH -
\$200 FOR 6 MONTHS
\$385 FOR 1 YEAR -
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DEADLINE FOR THE
OCTOBER GAZETTE IS
SEPTEMBER 10TH**

**All writers who are
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**Preferred software is
Claris Works (MAC), MS Word
or Word Perfect (IBM Format)-
please submit anything else as
ASQII Text.**

CITIZENS PATROL

Carl Waters, Jr.

Well it's September and dare I say bad words, the kids are back in school. Let's all be careful going through the area school zones and observe the posted speed limits.

I hope everyone had a safe summer and attended their local block parties on National Night Out. Parties were held at the homes of Megan Berry, in the 900 block of W. 41st., Lynn Sievers in the 800 block of Lamonte, Rob Stanchi, in the 1300 of Sue Barnett, Tina Neito in the 800 block of Azalea, Bill Chastain in the 1000 block of Althea, Cindy and John Bartos 900 block of Althea, Rick Englert in the 500 block of W. 32nd, and at my home in the 800 block of W. 31st. If you had a block party which I failed to mention I hope you had a good time.

As mentioned in the August Gazette, HPD has plans to close the North Shepherd substation and replace it with a modified store front operation working out of the area. A community meeting was held on July 31, 1996, to begin plans for this store front. During that meeting, a board of 15 community members was elected, 3 from each of the 5 districts which currently do not have a store front operating in the North command district. The 3B30 beat, which includes Garden Oaks will be represented by Ralph Smith from Oak Forest, Dan Blaze from Shepherd Park Plaza and Carmen Kraft from Candlelight. This board was going to meet to nominate officers before the next Community meeting, which was scheduled for August 8, 1996. The agenda for the next meeting will be the discussion of possible locations for the new Differential Response Team.

For the month June there were 2 crimes reported in Garden Oaks. A Burglary of A Motor Vehicle in the 800 block of W. 34th and an Auto Theft in 700 block of W. 39th.

For the month of July, 99 hours were patrolled and monitored by the Garden Oaks Citizens Patrol. At this time I would like to recognize 2 of our outstanding members. Bill and Mary Hines who patrolled 29 hours for the month of July.

G.O. CAROLING '96- VOLUNTEER MEETING OCTOBER 1ST.

G.O. Caroling '96, now a tradition in Garden Oaks, is gearing up for the holiday season. We were proud to be an entry in the July 4th Bike Parade this year ("Santa & Reindeer") and even more proud to receive an Honorable Mention!

This will be our 3rd year to bring much needed assistance to the Loving Arms Foundation, which provides a Day Care facility to children who are infected/affected with HIV/AIDS. Each year a group of carolers travel down your street singing carols and providing holiday cheer, and in return, residents fill a grocery bag (delivered the week prior) with needed items for the day care.

The G.O. Caroling Committee is trying to increase our number of volunteers that are needed to organize this event, and a meeting has been scheduled to provide information about how you can get involved.

This meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 1st from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at St. Mathew's Methodist Church (corner of 43rd and Shepherd)

Volunteers are needed in many areas such as publicity, bag delivery and inventory, volunteer participation (including caroling groups), donations and corporate sponsors, and refreshments for the day of the event. So, as you can see, you don't have to sing to be a volunteer. We need everybody!

G.O. Caroling '96 is Friday, December 13 (and we do have a rain plan). Watch the *Gazette* each month for further information.

We hope to see many of you at the **October 1st Volunteer Meeting**. If you cannot attend the meeting but still want to participate, please call either **Jay Slemmer at 956-0465** or **Audrey Vallance at 686-0707**.

We appreciate everything that the Garden Oaks residents have done for G.O. caroling and Loving Arms in the past and are looking forward to even more participation this year.

**Thank you!!!
Audrey Vallance**



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 Worship Services - 11:00 am & 5:00 pm
 AWANA - 6:00 pm
 Home Fellowship Groups - 6:00 pm

Wednesday Devotional - 6:30 pm

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Parent Power continued from page 2

a small group of community parents began sharing their interests in better providing for their children's future. Realizing the dynamics of families and how innovative programs can boost educational achievement, these parents organized and funded their own Montessori Program, which now boasts five classrooms educating 110 neighborhood students, ages 3-8, in only its third year.

The parents began to study the basic habits of good learners and compared them with the research on school success and what employers seek in resumes and job applications. Among those desired traits were confidence, motivation, effort, responsibility, initiative, perseverance, caring, teamwork, common sense and problem solving. Coincidentally, these traits are nurtured in the Montessori philosophy of schooling. "We used to think we didn't need to teach these things because they are inherent in most people," says Olga Antonetti, teacher in the Garden Oaks Montessori Program, "but that's no longer the case. These are skills that need to be taught, modeled and practiced."

The Garden Oaks Montessori Program is very accessible, giving parents a direct line so they don't have to navigate a bureaucracy. These parents are also more likely to share a common educational philosophy and appreciate the stated mission. The Program sees itself as an extension of the families they serve.

"Parents who become actively involved have a better relationship with the school", "says Jane Ann Roberts, President of the Garden Oaks Elementary Montessori Program Board. "There's a greater intimacy and a shared work ethic among parents and school personnel. The bottom line is that what you see and know about, you tend to trust and believe in. We believe not only in the early education of kids, but the early education of parents. Parents who have chosen to send their kids here know that we have certain expectations. We have the right to expect quality."

The Board now sends out a form each spring that urges all parents to select two projects for which they'll volunteer. The tasks range from hosting a student field trip to hanging up student art to cleaning tables at the annual spaghetti dinner fund-raiser. With 78% of the Program's children coming from dual-career families, duties are shared by dads as well as moms, says Roberts.

"I'm like an owner in this program," stated Neal Talmadge, a Montessori parent, "and as an owner, I bear a responsibility to participate in the system. Accountability for this program, its employees and its funding rests with me and the rest of the program's owners. My child's future depends on improvement in the educational system, and this improvement depends on my participation."

Since this program is funded to a large extent apart from HISD, a corporate funding is also critical. Parents have volunteered over 4,100 hours to make materials, set-up classrooms and produce fund-raising events to keep costs down.

For every enthusiastic, mindful, devoted parent who becomes actively involved, though, there's at least one who is apathetic and invisible. "Research on parental involvement has always been there," states Ms. Roberts. "The trick is to put it into actual practice."

The advantage of local governance enjoyed by programs such as that at Garden Oaks Elementary is catching on at many public schools. An indication of the trend is the movement for charter schools - publicly funded experimental schools organized locally around a theme, often because of parent activism.

A final note: parental loyalty one finds at the Montessori Program in Garden Oaks, which often endures after the child leaves, is loyalty not so much to the program's status as special, but to its status as an effective educational program.

If you would like more information on the Montessori Program at Garden Oaks Elementary School, please write to Ms Jane Ann Roberts, c/o Garden Oaks Elementary Montessori Program, 901 Sue Barnett, Houston, Texas 77018- or call 713-696-2930.

TIME TO PAY 1997 CIVIC CLUB DUES

We are collecting dues for 1997 which are due by December 31, 1996. Clip the coupon below and mail it with you payment. As before, we will send addressed envelopes with issues of the *Gazette* later this year for added convenience to you.

Clip here and mail to Craig Lee @ 212 W. 34th St.

GARDEN OAKS CIVIC CLUB MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL FORM

Name(s): _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Children/birthdates: _____

Year moved to Garden Oaks: _____ Section #: _____ Paying Dues for: 19 _____

ANNUAL DUES (Jan. 1 - Dec. 31):

Household \$10 _____ Senior Citizen \$5 _____ Business \$25 _____

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT NEEDS:

GO Elem Montessori * \$6 _____	Gazette (Newsletter) \$6 _____	All six of these
Garden Club \$6 _____	Beautification \$6 _____	\$30 _____
GO COP (Patrol) \$6 _____	Plant Co-Op \$6 _____	

*Gifts to the Montessori program are tax deductible.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Garden Oaks Civic Club

ENROLLMENT FORM - GARDEN OAKS CONSTABLE PROGRAM

Yes, I would like to enroll in the Garden Oaks Constable Program.
(New enrollee's dues can be pro-rated).

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Make checks payable to: Garden Oaks Civic Club

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If you have any questions, please call 802-0817.

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WHEN: Second Saturday of the month from 8 to 11 a.m.

WHERE: Drop-off at the Garden Oaks Theater parking lot

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NEWSPAPERS: Bundled or placed in paper grocery bags; no plastic bags please.

COMPUTER PAPER: Bundled, boxed or placed in paper bags; no carbon inserts, no binding, and no staples. **WHITE LEDGER:** Bond paper bundled, boxed or placed in paper bags; NO glossy junk mail, NCR (No Carbon Required) paper, or telephone books, no binding

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A STREET CALLED SUE BARNETT

by Summer Martin

As a second-generation Garden Oaks resident who began life on Sue Barnett, I had always wondered about the street and how it got its name. I recently had the wonderful opportunity to meet the woman behind the name. I had the pleasure of meeting Mrs. Barnett for lunch at her country club in Conroe and she was a delight to talk with. She has an amazing memory about the events that took place in Houston's early growth days.

In the late 1930's the founding fathers of the city of Houston were putting their heads together to improve the city. They noted that the city was in need of some "fixing up." The mayor at this time (1937) was R. H. Fonville. He and the City Council set up the City Park Board, the City Planning Commission, and the Zoning Commission. The main goal was to improve Houston. Sue Barnett worked for the city as a secretary and her duties included serving as Secretary for these boards.

The City Park Board looked for properties to be used for public housing for the needy, as well as new park sites. The Planning Commission worked to expand within the city. The Zoning Commission worked very hard to attempt to bring zoning to Houston, but was unsuccessful at that time.

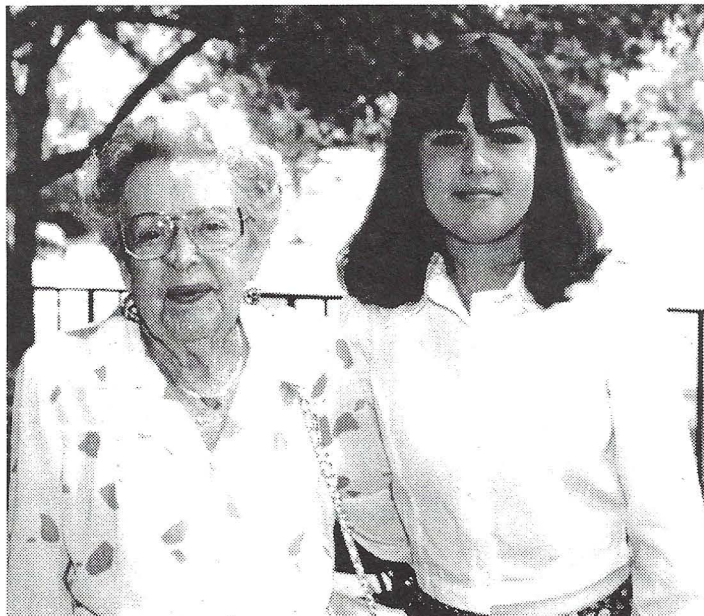
Mrs. Barnett always thought her job was interesting and exciting. She had fun times working with the city planners. During one of the meetings of the Planning Commission, the developer of Garden Oaks, Mr. Lillo Crain presented a map of the "new" subdivision we now know and love as Garden Oaks. A conflict arose when the long and winding street that goes through Garden Oaks (which was numbered 35th) crossed 43rd. Since two numbered streets could not cross each other, Mr. Crain came up with the idea to name the street after "Mrs. Sue." The Board unanimously agreed to the proposal. This was a great honor to Mrs. Barnett and continues to be proud to have a street named after her.

She was born and raised in Arkansas and was married in 1927 just before moving to Houston. She worked as a secretary for Mayor Oscar Holcomb, who I found out served as mayor of Houston for 26 years in all! His terms were from 1921-1929, 1933-1937, 1939-1941, 1947-1957, and 1956-1957. She also worked as a reporter for the Houston Press. She and her husband, Clayton Barnett were married for over 56 years before he passed away. They retired to Conroe in the 60's and she has been writing a weekly column for the Conroe Courier for the past 24 years. She remains very active and involved in community activities.

I learned about her colorful career and she even inspired me to consider journalism for my future. Her advice to young people is to "read, read, read." She is an extraordinary woman who remains very busy and full of life today. A friend once commented to her that Sue Barnett was a somewhat crooked street and she corrected him saying that it was "full of curves."

Summer Martin is the daughter of Tommy and Debbie Martin and is a sophomore at St. Pius High School.

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Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1	2 Labor Day	3 Civic Club Meeting 7PM	4	5	6	7
8 Grandparents Day	9	10 Gazette Deadline	11	12 Garden Club Meeting 6:30PM	13	14 G.O. Elem. Pancake Breakfast 8AM-10AM Recycling 8AM-11AM
15	16 Heavy Trash Pick-Up	17	18	19 Positive Interaction Program 7PM	20	21
22 First Day of Fall	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					
					August S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	October S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

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