



Garden Oaks Gazette

Volume 19, No. 10 Circulation 1550 October 1996

VEE GAINS

*by Susan McMillian
President, Board of Trustees*

One of the few things that bring sadness to a multi-generational neighborhood is the loss of a "cornerstone" resident. One of those treasured neighbors, Vee Gains, passed away on September 5, 1996, at the age of 83. Many of you who knew Vee are probably rereading that last sentence and trying to reconcile 83 with the involved, an energetic smiling person who was Vee Gains. Although she was quite proud of her age, her actions constantly denied its reality. She was a faithful member of the Garden Oaks Board of Trustees for many, many years representing Section Five. She seldom missed a meeting and never shied away from the more difficult duties of board membership. She loved Garden Oaks and demonstrated it daily in her care for her beautiful yard, her civic and garden club activities, her local church participation, and her membership in the trustees.

Her memorial service was a fitting tribute to her life, with attendance by family, Garden Oaks Baptist Church members, Royal Sunday School Class members, Garden Oaks Board of Trustees members, past Garden Oaks Civic Club presidents, Garden Oaks Garden Club members, 1500 block of Sue Barnett neighbors, and many others who have been forever touched by her life. She now joins the many others gone before her who have also left their mark on our beautiful neighborhood. We should each aspire to participate in the preservation of our community in such a way as to leave a mark similar to that of Vee Gains.

OCTOBER CIVIC CLUB MEETING

This month's meeting will be held on **October 1st**, at the **Garden Oaks Baptist Church**. Several political candidates have been invited to attend to provide Garden Oaks residents an opportunity to learn more about their possible choices in the November election. The meeting begins sharply at 7pm, with Civic Club business concluding at 7:45pm. At that time we will hear from the different candidates with a chance to ask questions after their presentations.

Also on the agenda could be the nomination of Civic Club officers. Civic Club by-laws state the nomination of officers are to be held in October, with the election being held in November. Their term in office from January to December 1997.

GARDEN CLUB NEWS

The September meeting of the Garden Club was held at the home of Susan Spooner. Mr. Odean Head, of the Houston Bromeliad Society, was the program speaker.

The **October meeting** will be held at the home of **Shawn Forney, 951 W. 43rd on Thursday, October 10**. No speaker is planned; however, officer nominations for 1997 will be discussed along with ideas for next year's activities. The meeting will begin at **6:30 P.M.**

Our next Friendship Garden work day is planned for Saturday morning, October 12th. Volunteers are **MOST** welcome!! For additional information, please call **Brenda de Alba at 694-5934**.

GARDEN OAKS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
FALL FESTIVAL
LIVE & SILENT AUCTION
NOV. 9, 1996

RECYCLING PROGRAM IN TROUBLE

Our recycling program in Garden Oaks that has kept tons of waste from reaching the landfills, is in danger of ending. The problem facing the program is falling prices. Gilbert King, head of the volunteer group, reports that the August results show the program lost money.

An informal meeting (held by the volunteers) at the end of the September recycling effort, produced a consensus that protection of the environment is the main goal of recycling. Making a profit is a bonus. Gilbert, Ed de Alba, and others will work on improving the bottom line by talking to other recycling companies, and to the city for possible options. The group was optimistic about getting the problem resolved.

During this meeting, the subject of the low number of volunteers was brought up. Some expressed some burnout. Month in and month out, you can count on a crew of about 5 to 8 people. If you can find the time to volunteer one Saturday a month, from 8-11am, we need you.

If for whatever reason our program ends, we hope that you will continue to recycle through other means.

G. O. CAROLING '96 - REMINDER

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

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! Please call either **Jay Slemmer at 956-0465** or **Audrey Vallance at 686-0707**.

Carol Meyer



*Call me for a free review
of your insurance coverage*

(R) 681-2746 OR (O) 493-3012

HOME AUTO LIFE



GARDEN OAKS RESIDENT

**TAX PREPARATION
FINANCIAL PLANNING**

*LOYD J. STEGENT
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT*

Over ten years experience in taxation.

*Fee only financial and
investment planing.*

**24 Greenway Plaza, Suite 515
621-5693**

Garden Oaks resident since 1986.

**For all your
Printing & Bookbinding
Needs**



O.D.'s Printing

Neighbor helping neighbor

Oscar D. Ochoa
Owner

8924 Emmott Road
896-0052

Printer of our Gazette

*Introducing
Lynn Hutchins
Independent Distributor for the
Houston Chronicle
in the Garden Oaks Area
For information on new
subscriptions or
current delivery service
Please call Lynn at
(713) 686-4001*

FROM THE EDITOR - PART ONE

Last month I made two mistakes. On the first one, I was wrong about the nominations and elections of the Civic Club officers. After reviewing the by-laws, the correct procedure is to nominate in October and elect in November. The second mistake was placing Heavy Trash on the 3rd Monday instead of the 3rd Tuesday on the calendar. I apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

Being editor of the *Gazette* has been a fun and enlightening experience these past ten months. I have been fortunate to be working with some very capable, dependable and dedicated neighbors. Before I took this job, I never really thought about what went into putting out a *Gazette*. I'd like to take this opportunity to explain the process and recognize the many volunteers that work to bring you your *Gazette* newsletter.

There are six steps in the process. They are: 1) accumulation of information, 2) editing, 3) formatting, 4) printing, 5) first delivery and 6) final delivery.

Before the 10th of each month, I am supposed to receive the information on paper, disk, or both that is to be considered for the next months *Gazette*. Not always does the information reach me on time. I review the information and make corrections as needed and/or verify the information is correct. I try to have this portion completed by the 15th. Often time I miss that self-imposed deadline because of late entries.

When ready, I deliver my work to the typesetter. Their job is to format the different articles, ads, and pictures into a nice neat package. They do it in such a way that we end up with an even number of pages. Sometimes, they will call me when information has to be added or deleted. After this portion is completed, it is sent back to me for a final review. When we've got it like we want it, then the typesetter gives it to Oscar Ochoa, our printer and advertising director. This phase takes about 7 days to complete.

Oscar is another veteran volunteer of the *Gazette* staff. He's been printing our *Gazettes* for 6 years. His job is to print what the typesetter formatted and to keep up with the ads. Oscar tries to save the club money by looking for good deals on the paper. During the printing process, the *Gazettes* are divided into the right amount of copies for each delivery volunteer. When Oscar is finished printing and sorting, it's close to the end of the month. Oscar then delivers them to Ed and Brenda de Alba. Brenda is the *Gazette* Hand Delivery Chairperson. Her job is to find volunteers to deliver the paper to 1550 houses. She's done a fantastic job of locating 45 volunteers throughout the five sections. Delivering to these 45 volunteers takes about 3 hours. By now, it's usually the weekend before the next regular civic club meeting, which is our goal.

Once the individual volunteers receive their bundle, they set out to deliver a *Gazette* to each house on their route. At this time, I like to recognize these volunteers for helping complete the chain of events that takes place in order to bring you the *Gazette*. They are:

- | | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Nichole Ray | Lilley Byrd | Christine Winkelmann |
| Bell Katzer | Susan Morris | Marie Gregory |
| Paul & Dawn Bick | Albert & Lydia Jasso | Sheila Briones |
| Mary Frazee | Stan Woodhead | Mark & Jane Ann Roberts |
| Debbie Kotzur | Jade Gillen | Glen & Marsha Wilson |
| Guy Hoffman | Jim Hall | Laura Morgan |
| Craig & Penny Kramer | Bennie & Liz Slavik | Diann Austin |
| Rusty Reichle | David & Carla Hoyer | Joel & Martha Rha |
| Deborah Jean | Lynn Sievers | Susan Garman |
| Megan Berry | Jamie & Celeste Zamora | Wes Moncy |
| Mark & Karen Benson | Melinda Garza | Shawn Forney |
| Susan Gavin | George & Judy Mjorsky | Craig & Ann Ness |
| Bill Bijak | Carol Meyer | Susan Kostelecky |
| Cherie Krienitz | Karen Fleeger | Sandy Daigle & Bill Powell |
| Johnny Murphy | Ed de Alba | Anita Cuevas |

Thanks to all of you who help produce and deliver the Garden Oaks *Gazette*.

FROM THE EDITOR - PART TWO

As Editor, I've gotten some positive feedback on having the minutes of the regular Civic Club meetings printed each month in the *Gazette*. Even the ones who initially didn't like it, have later expressed their approval.

My reasons for including the minutes are: 1) for the record, 2) a chance for Garden Oaks residents who cannot go to the meetings to learn about what transpired and keep up to date and 3) to encourage participation and attract new members.

Right now, there is nothing in the by-laws that require the publishing of the minutes in the *Gazette*. There is a requirement that the Budget has to be published prior to the March meeting (Article VII, par. 7.05). However, the by-laws don't specify where they have to be published. Earlier this year, the budget was published in the *Gazette*. I believe more people were able to see it that way than having to go to the meeting to get a copy.

The by-laws of the Civic Club are spelled out for our officers to govern by. It's a record of who we are and what we stand for. Article XIV. par. 14.04 deals with amending these by-laws. "These by-laws may be altered, amended, or repealed and new by-laws may be adopted by a majority or the members present at any regular, annual, or special meeting, at least two days written notice is given.....".

I want you to consider this your notice "of intention to alter, amend or repeal these by-laws ...". What I would like to do is propose amendments to two Articles:

Article V. par. 5.08 Secretary

"The Secretary shall keep the minutes of the meeting of the members and of the Board of Directors in one or more books provided for that purpose."

Proposal: insert (to be published monthly in the *Gazette*) after "meetings of the members" and before "and of the Board of Directors"

Article VII, par. 7.05 Budgets

"A budget shall be prepared annually by the Board of Directors to be presented during the February meeting and shall be published prior to the March meeting."

Proposal: insert "in the *Gazette*" after "published" and before "prior".

With these amendments, we can assure

that our members are kept well informed on a regular basis. Please give them your consideration. If possible, I will make a motion at the October meeting to adopt these amendments.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The national, state, and local elections are one month away and the October meeting is our last opportunity as a community to hear and evaluate the messages and positions of those who would be our elected representatives. Please join us at our regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, October 1. Community business will begin promptly at 7:00PM and the political presentations at 7:45.

There's lots going on in the neighborhood. Probably the most important and with the greatest immediate impact on our quality of life are two possible encroachments into Section 1. In the first, Exxon is interested in placing a 24 hour gas station with convenience store and car wash on the three lots at the southwest corner of 30th and Yale. Exxon representatives and the property owner met with the Board of Trustees at the board's August meeting to seek a variation in the Section 1 Deed Restrictions to allow the sale of alcohol within the neighborhood. The board urged Exxon to take this issue to the Section 1 property owners. Because this property is deeded commercial, we have little say in how it is used.

The second encroachment is at the opposite end of 30th where Conn's plans to purchase the five lots to the east of their existing facility. Conn's intends to expand both the store and parking lot. The two lots immediately to the east, along 610, are commercial, the three lots further to the east are deeded residential. The variation to allow Exxon to sell alcohol within Section 1 and the change in land use from residential to commercial for the lots to the east of Conn's will require changes to our deed restrictions. And changes to the deed restrictions will require the agreement of at least 50% (if not 75% because this is an off year change) of the owners in Section 1 & 1A. It is not known if or when these plans will progress. We expect the Board will keep us informed as these situations develop.

Continued page 6



New Construction
2nd Stories
Renovations
Lots Available

See our work at:

701 Garden Oaks Blvd.	855 Azalea
718 W. 41st St.	839 Lamonte
818 W. 41st St.	738 Sue Barnet
862 W. 41st St.	1315 Cortlandt
718 W. 42nd St.	802 Arlington
729 W. 39th St.	530 Byrne
705 W. 39th St.	501 Woodland

HARRY JAMES BUILDER
523-5070



"Houston Heat Is Here Again...
... and we're ready for it!"

Northwest  AirTech

BRINGS YOU PROFESSIONAL AND
QUALITY AUTO & TRUCK
AIR CONDITIONING
SERVICE INSTALLATION REPAIR
FOREIGN & DOMESTIC



122 W. Crosstimbers 77018
(713) 695-7455

Owned by Garden Oaks
Resident Adam Salazar III



Pinnacle Homes



Specializing in
New Construction
Remodeling
and Additions
CALL 623-6601

Mark Harvie, President
Garden Oaks Resident

Your
Ad
Could
Be
Here!

SUZANNE DEBIEN and Henry S. Miller



Teamed up to give GARDEN OAKS more . . .

**S
A
L
E
S**

ervice that begins and ends with my personal touch

ccessibility with 24 hour answering service, direct line and pager

ols of proven marketing techniques, now featuring premier relocation services

xperience as REALTOR for 17 years joining 80+ years of Realty success

ccess throughout the near northwest area, Houston and the State!

Call me today!!
861-0045

Henry S. Miller, Realtors
13130 Memorial Drive
Houston, Texas 77079
468-8311

GILL GREENHOUSES

1-888-292-1929

Bedding Plants
Pot Plants (gallon)
Hanging Baskets
Small Trees
"We Deliver"

We are looking forward
to serving you!

GARDEN OAKS BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday Services:

Bible Study - 9:45 am

Worship Services - 11:00 am & 5:00 pm

AWANA - 6:00 pm

Home Fellowship Groups - 6:00 pm

Wednesday Devotional - 6:30 pm

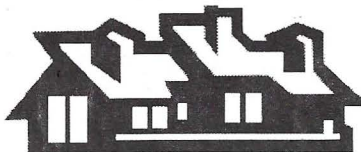
Mother's Day Out & Preschool

9:00 am to 2 pm, Tues. & Thurs.

Nursery provided for all services

3206 North Shepherd Drive
Houston, TX 77018 - 713/864-4447
Jeffrey W. Rees, Pastor

I BUY HOUSES & First Leins Foreclosure Relief, Older Homes Any Condition



Call Mark, for a Friendly,
Courteous Consultation

556-6555

Call 7 days, 24 Hours

TRAFFIC UPDATE

by Marc Roberts

PART 1: NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC PROJECT (NTP)

In late 1995 the City of Houston reactivated the Neighborhood Traffic Project (NTP) after placing the project on hold on a city-wide basis for several months. Following the reactivation of NTP, Garden Oaks Section 1A (section one west of Shepherd) resident Rod Walker submitted the NTP application, including petition documents, for Section 1A to the City in February of this year. Specifically, the application for Section 1A calls for the closure of Randall Street at Shepherd and that an exit-only device be placed on 30th Street at Shepherd. The City's legal department has been reviewing this application along with several others received from throughout the city and no official notification as to the next step(s) to be performed in the process has been received as of this writing.

The NTP application for Garden Oaks Section 1 (between Shepherd and Yale) has not been submitted to the City and remains on hold.

PART 2: SPEED HUMPS

During May and June of this year the City of Houston mailed notifications in response to requests for speed humps which were submitted from throughout the city during the period July - December 1995. Presently in Garden Oaks, speed humps have been installed on portions of Alba and 34th Street.

The City has indicated that, for the first time, the number of streets "qualifying" for speed humps far exceeded available funding which means that many streets which "qualified" will not receive speed humps at this time. Funding decisions for individual requests which "qualify" for speed humps are determined by the City based on various criteria.

Garden Oaks had eight streets or street segments which "qualified" for speed humps, however, only one received funding for installation and that was 38th Street between Shepherd and Sue Barnett. The City plans to install speed humps on this segment of 38th Street before the end of this year.

The other seven Garden Oaks streets which "qualified" for speed humps but did not receive funding were 33rd Street (between Yale and Lawrence), Lawrence (between 30th and 34th), 41st Street (between Sue Barnett and Shepherd), 41st Street (between Sue Barnett and Alba), Sue Barnett (38th to 43rd), Sue Barnett (43rd to Alba), and Sue Barnett (Alba to Apollo).

These seven Garden Oaks streets will await funding on the City's "qualified" list for up to two years. If funds for installation are not obtained within two years then the streets remaining on the list will be required to re-apply for "qualification".

Earlier this year, the City received reports of problems associated with the speed humps installed on Alba (above 43rd). Apparently, drivers were avoiding the speed humps by driving their cars off the road and around the humps. The City installed roadside posts next to the speed humps to prevent this problem.

To report problems with speed humps, to request more information on speed humps, or to obtain a request form to initiate the evaluation of speed humps on your street call 658-4300 or write to the City at the following address:

Speed Hump Program
Traffic Management and Maintenance Division
Public Works & Engineering Department
City of Houston P.O. Box 1562
Houston, Texas 77251-1562

Any resident can initiate a request for speed humps to be installed on their street. The City gathers and evaluates requests for speed humps twice a year and the next deadline for the submission of requests is December 31, 1996.

If you have questions or need more information, Rod Walker can be contacted at 868-2469 and Marc Roberts can be reached at 861-8512.

GRAHAM PARK UPDATE

Andrea Spiering

As anyone driving by the Park will notice, construction at Graham Park has been suspended. Construction was begun in January, with completion initially scheduled for early August. The tennis court area and water fountains are complete. However, a vast majority of the originally planned work remains incomplete. Some of the incomplete work includes a new picnic pavilion, a swing set within the concrete circle, playground equipment, paving to allow handicapped access, wooden bollards along the parking/street interface, a new surface on the parking area, fencing along the northern edge and general landscaping improvements. Maintenance of the park also seems to have suffered, as the park went unmowed for the summer and flooding / drainage of the Park continues to be a problem. Unfortunately, Garden Oaks has lost the use of a viable park for most of 1996.

The sign in front of the park states Graham Park is part of the Parks to Standard Program of the City of Houston. At this time, the Park resembles an unkept vacant lot, not a Park improved by the City and of which our neighborhood can be proud. Specifically:

1. Graham Park is open to the railroad tracks and two vacant buildings at the northern edge of the property. Fencing was begun in the Spring of 1996 and never completed.
2. Flooding occurs regularly throughout the park, especially around the one existing swing set.
3. Several areas within the park are fenced off as unfinished construction areas. No firm time frame has been given for either the removal of or continued construction within these areas.

Due to the delays in construction of the Park and the current condition of Graham Park, I would like to ask all residents to send a letter to the City of Houston and to City Council expressing their concern for our Park. These letters may be addressed to:

- (1) Jerry T. Dinkins, Assistant Director, Special Projects Division, Dept. Public Works
- (2) Helen Huey, City Council Member
both at City of Houston, P.O. Box 1562, Houston, TX 77251-1562.

Or you may take the letters inserted in your Gazette, sign them and send them on to Mr. Dinkins and Mrs. Huey. Please help bring pressure on the City of Houston to give us back our park!

CITIZEN'S PATROL

Here's my list of top 6 reasons you should join the Citizen's Patrol:

- 6) Be the first on your block to know what houses are for sale or being remodeled.
- 5) Spend quality time with your significant other.
- 4) You can "legally" check out what's going on at the neighbors.
- 3) You can practice your parade wave.
- 2) Prizes!, Prizes!, Prizes!
- 1) It makes Garden Oaks a safer place to live for everyone.

For the month of July there were 2 reported crimes in Garden Oaks. They were a: Narcotics Arrest in 400 block of W. 30th on July 20th at 6:55 p.m. and a Burglary which occurred in the 400 block of Azaleadale on July 24th @ 8:00 a.m.

The Garden Oaks Plaza area has been hit hard lately with Burglaries. If you see anyone or anything suspicious in this area please call the police immediately.

For the month of August, 83 hours were recorded by the Citizen Patrollers and monitored by Citizen Patrol Base operators.

Carl Waters, Jr.

Since 1913
Houston's Finest
Specialty Department Store
"in the Heights"

Kaplan's • Ben Hur

Mon – Sat 2125 Yale
9:30 – 5:30 861-2121

SHAKLEE ...

NATURE'S

NATURAL PALATTE

- VITAMIN SUPPLEMENTS/ANTI-OXIDANTS
- BIODEGRADABLE, NONTOXIC CLEANING PRODUCTS
- LAWN & PLANT CARE
- SKIN CARE
- WATER PURIFICATION
- SPORTS & FITNESS DRINKS

TOM AND BOBBIE KISTNER

(713) 861-2127

(800) 788-9097



**Terry
Jeanes**

your Garden Oaks neighbor
and area specialist

RE/MAX-METRO

528-1800

680-8550



St. Matthew's

United Methodist Church

*God's Family Reaching Out
With Christ's Love*

FESTIVAL '96

Friday, Oct 4...6:30 p.m.

Italian Feast, Entertainment,
Live Auction

Saturday, Oct. 5...9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Crafts, Food, Childrens Games, Activities
for the entire family

•4300 North Shepherd • Houston, TX 77018

• 713-697-0671

Rev. Tom Crowe, Pastor



Full Service Lawn Maintenance
and
Landscape Design

DAVID BARTULA
688-4244

Commercial

Residential

All writers who are
contributing articles -
please furnish a hard
copy and if possible,
a 3 1/2 inch disk.

Preferred software is
Claris Works (MAC), MS Word
or Word Perfect (IBM Format)-
please submit anything else as
ASCII Text.

GAZETTE

AD RATES

\$40 PER MONTH -

\$200 FOR 6 MONTHS

\$385 FOR 1 YEAR -

FLYERS ARE \$75.00

DEADLINE FOR THE

NOVEMBER GAZETTE IS

OCTOBER 10TH

Have You Funded Your IRA?

You still have time.

Call me on this or other investment needs.

Craig Wallin

Specializing in Needs Planning

(O)690-3524 (R) 681-4507

Securities offered through
FINANCIAL NETWORK
INVESTMENT CORPORATION
Member SIPC

President's Message continued from page 3

Another item concerning Sections 1 & 1A is that the State of Texas has budgeted \$250,000 to study the feasibility of creating a statewide plan for "Type II Sound Abatement Walls". These are walls built for sound reduction without a concurrent highway expansion. Once Texas has a plan in place the state will be eligible for federal matching funds. The highway department estimates the cost of a 20 foot high wall starting at Yale and 610 and running west 5730 feet will cost approximately \$2.6 million. Our letters are having an effect! It is in our best interest to get Type II Sound Walls on the 1997 State Legislative Agenda and to let our state reps and those who want to be, know exactly how we feel at this months civic club meeting. More on this in the next *Gazette*.

And on a lighter note... A special congratulations to Section 1 resident Thelma Elizalde for being one of ten Houston women recently honored by the YWCA for professional contribution to fields of art, business, and education. Thelma has two businesses, a law and mediation practice as well as The Human Works.

GARDEN OAKS CIVIC CLUB MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL FORM

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).

Name: _____ \$200.00 annual dues

Address: _____ Amt. Enclosed: \$

Phone: (hm) _____ (wk) _____

Make checks payable to: Garden Oaks Civic Club

Mail to: Angela Dickson, Garden Oaks Security Director,
3114 Lawrence, Houston, Texas 77018.

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

MINUTES OF THE GARDEN OAKS CIVIC CLUB MEETING

The Garden Oaks Civic Club met on September 3, 1996 at the Garden Oaks Baptist Church. President Ed De Alba presided.

President De Alba opened the meeting by speaking about issues which will impact the subdivision. First, he recognized the efforts of Michael Abrams and the Garden Oaks recyclers who donated \$1,000 toward establishing an Exploratorium at the Garden Oaks Elementary School. Principal Daniels accepted the check. Other funding for the dedicated classroom and science teacher will come from H.I.S.D. and corporate donors.

Jane Ann Roberts spoke about the Montessori Pancake Breakfast which will be held September 14th from 8am until 10am. A ribbon cutting for the dedicated pavers and two new Montessori classrooms will be held at 10:30am.

Next item are the deed restriction changes currently before the board of trustees. Exxon proposes to build a gas station and convenience store on the three lots at 30th and Yale. They want a deed restriction variance to allow alcohol sales at the c-store. Conn's wants to expand their parking lot to the five lots between their store and Lawrence. The two lots directly east of their store are currently zoned commercial. The other three lots are currently residential.

Sound Wall Update: The Texas legislature has proposed conducting a Type 2 "Environmental" soundwall study for a 5,730 foot wall between Yale and Shepherd. The wall would be 20 feet tall and cost approximately \$2.6 million. Citizens need to write Rep. Ken Yarbrough to make the study and the wall a reality. A sample letter will be part of the next *Gazette*.

Graham Park: Ann Spiering reported no progress since May. Letters to Mr. Jerry Dinkins, head of Parks and Recreation, with copies to Councilwoman Helen Huey and the Mayor's office might help get the project completed.

Section 1-A Traffic Plan is "still in legal". No more information about speed humps has been received this summer.

Trash Containers and City Recycling Program There are no plans for changes in Garden Oaks trash collection procedures.

Heavy Trash Collection Alex Martinez made a correction to the *Gazette* calendar. The heavy trash date for September will be Tuesday, Sep. 17.

Beautification: Garden Oaks Plaza has asked to be responsible for the maintenance of the park at 43rd and Sue Barnett. Also, the city has approved the request to put in irrigation at the triangle park at Azalea and Alba. The Civic Club will install the system and donate it to the city. The city will pay the water bills.

Other parks needing irrigation, including the circle next to Graham Park, will be investigated.

Signs: President De Alba requested volunteers for work groups to repair the Garden Oaks signs in the 700 block of 43rd and the circle on 34th. Craig Lee is in charge of the project. Others volunteering at the meeting were Kermit Foster, Johnny Murphy, Rob James and Rick Englert. Anyone who wishes to help should contact Craig.

HPD: Carl Waters reported that the HPD differential response team, which will put two additional officers in the beat area including Garden Oaks 40 hours per week, is finalizing plans to locate in the area. The team could be operational within six months. Our three beat representatives are from Oak Forest, Candlelight and Shepherd Park Plaza.

GoCops: Carl Waters said the patrollers put in 99 hours in July. He commended Bill and Mary Hines, who had 29 hours between them.

Treasurer's Report: Ray Housely reported the G.O.C.C. balance is \$20,500. No beautification funds have been spent so far. No additional funds are foreseen coming in until the 1997 dues are collected.

Neighborhoods to Standard: Terry Jeanes said that the city has been taping a Municipal Channel television program about the Neighborhoods to Standard program. Garden Oaks will be one of the featured neighborhoods.

Drainage Work: Culverts and ditch digging have occurred in the 800 block of 42nd, the 900 block of Gardenia, the 800 block of 31st and the 800 block of 41st.

October Program: Terry Jeanes asked for suggestions for political candidates for the October meeting. Sheila Jackson Lee, Dwayne Bohac and Ken Yarbrough, as well as judicial candidates, have been invited so far. Alex Martinez made a motion that the business meeting would be held from 7 to 7:45, with the candidates speaking for three minutes each from 7:45 to 9:00. The motion was seconded and carried.

Refreshments were provided by Terry Jeanes and Re/Max Metro Realtors.

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

Alex Martinez, 2nd V.P. Editor

419 W. 31st St. 862-1927

Ray Housley, Treasurer

407 W. 34th 863-7316

Lynn Sievers, Secretary

851 LaMonte Ln 691-4789

Gazette Advertising Director

Oscar Ochoa 896-0052

Gazette Hand Delivery:

Brenda de Alba 694-5934

Beautification:

Misty Jones 694-6925

Citizens-on-Patrol:

Carl Waters 864-1992

Constable Program:

Deputy, Dick Matthias

Angela Dickson 802-0817

Education Liaison:

Jane Ann Roberts 861-8512

Friends of Montessori

Jane Ann Roberts 861-8512

Garden Club:

Janice Walden 869-6534

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

Section One

Brent Batis 861-3209

Rod Walker 868-2469

Greg Wolfe 869-1982

Section Two

James Doyle 694-4134

Tim Pagel 692-7431

President-

Susan McMillian 695-8245

Section Three

Bill Hudson 694-1330

Mickey McClung 694-7448

Architectural Review Chairman

Herb Kellner 692-2776

Section Four

Stan Bohon 680-9631

Richard Broad 957-8075

Jaime Pierce 688-3237

Section Five

Kirk Dice 694-2247

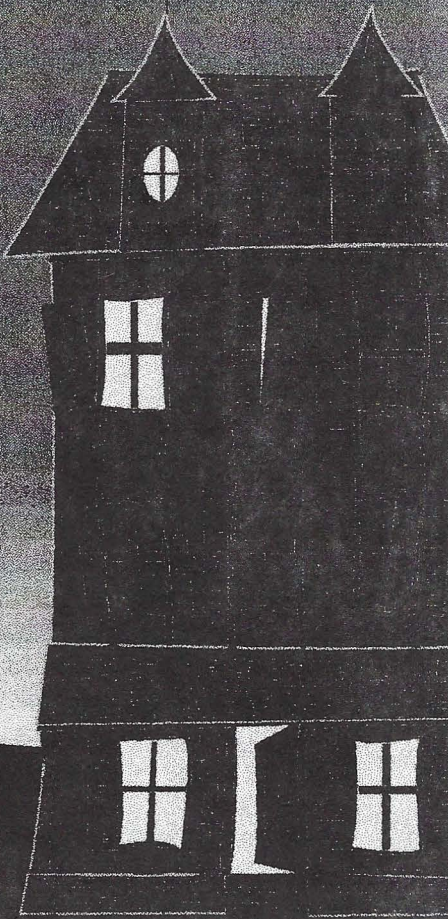
Vee Gaines 686-5042

Ria McElvaney 682-6707

October 1996



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1 Civic Club Meeting 7PM	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 Garden Club Meeting 6:30PM	11	12 Recycle Drop-off 8AM to 11AM
13	14 Columbus Day	15 Heavy Trash Pick-up	16	17 Positive Interaction Program 7PM	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 Daylight Savings Time Ends	28	29	30	31 Halloween 		
					September 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	November 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



Exxon Corporation is considering building a motor fuel facility at the northwest corner of Loop 610 and Yale Road. We believe development of this 30,749 square foot property with a state of the art, corporately owned and operated Exxon facility will be of real benefit to your community. The facility is planned with a 2100 square foot convenience store, six multi-product fuel dispensers, and a car wash (see site plan).

We believe there are many advantages to the members of your community in having this operation located on this corner. Some of the benefits:

- ***Attractive looking facility*** with extensive landscaping will greatly improve aesthetics of the corner and the intersection.
- ***Very minimal obstruction to visibility*** of adjacent properties.
- ***Owned and operated by Exxon Corporation USA*** - The facility will always be professionally managed and immaculately maintained since it will be controlled by Exxon Corp., not an independent dealer.
- ***Long Term Viability*** - Exxon facility should remain operating at the site for years into the future giving the community a comfort level of stability.
- ***Technologically Advanced*** - Today's state of the art Exxon facility provides the best in environmental safety precautions.
- ***Enhances Land Value of Surrounding Properties*** - Having an Exxon facility on a property is viewed as an amenity by the trade area's customers. This can serve to increase values of nearby properties.
- ***Very attractive use given other possible alternatives*** - The subject site is commercial in nature. Consequently, a multitude of less desirable users could potentially be located on the site in the future if Exxon does not develop the site (adult book/video store, used car lot, pawn shop, etc.).

Currently there is a deed restriction on the subject property prohibiting the sale of alcohol. Exxon would like this restriction amended to allow the sale of beer and wine only. Per Exxon company policy, Exxon will not sell hard liquor, will not allow "on premises" consumption, nor will Exxon sell "iced down" beer or wine in tubs (which is very different compared to the manner in which Taco Cabana and Gabby's Bar-B-Q sell their alcohol products).

Exxon prides itself in being a "good neighbor" and working with communities to insure folks understand how an Exxon facility enhances an area and also addressing concerns that community members may have. Following are some commonly asked questions regarding these facilities:

Q. How will Exxon control the sale of beer and wine products?

A. Exxon operating practices prohibit on-site consumption of alcoholic beverages. In addition, Exxon requires the store operator to provide proper notice to consumers of age requirements for the sale of beer and wine, the hours during which sales are permitted, and the prohibition against consumption of such beverages on the premises. Exxon also requires that all employees become knowledgeable of and comply with all applicable state and local alcoholic beverage control laws, and to make its employees knowledgeable of the legal requirements for the sale of beer and wine prior to commencing such sales at each Exxon Tiger Mart.

Finally, Exxon spends considerable time in its employee training and counseling program emphasizing the importance of full compliance with all alcoholic beverage control laws.

Q. How do you prevent this place from becoming a "hang-out" for kids, like the corner candy store?

A. Exxon will not allow activities that may invite, sanction or encourage loitering or public gatherings.

Q. Will you be selling sexually oriented magazines?

A. Exxon will not sell magazines, books or other merchandise of a sexually explicit nature; drug paraphernalia; or any other product or service which, in Exxon's judgment, may offend an appreciable segment of the public or will adversely affect the public acceptance, favorable reputation or extensive goodwill associated with the Exxon name, brand or trademark.

Q. Will you have video arcade machines?

A. Exxon has no plans to include video arcade machines in its product or services offering.

Q. What policies does Exxon have regarding promotional signs?

A. Exxon's policies specifically address the subject of interior and exterior signing. In an effort to maintain Exxon's desired image level, signs will only be placed at certain locations on the property and in limited numbers (generally two per artery). Prohibited signs currently include all window signing, all neon signs, signs affixed to walls and cigarette vendors.

Q. This store is bound to generate a lot of litter. How do you plan to control that?

A. Exxon will maintain the store in a clean, healthful, orderly, safe, and sanitary condition. To insure a favorable image, Exxon will conduct periodic inspections in addition to a minimum of three inspections annually conducted on an unscheduled basis by an outside inspector.

Q. Has Exxon conducted any consumer research at its Exxon Tiger Marts? If so, what were the principal findings?

A. Exxon conducts consumer research from time to time. In summary, consumers found our stores to be clean, convenient, uncluttered, adequately stocked and operated by helpful, courteous employees.

Q. What measures has Exxon taken to assure compliance with all beer and wine laws.

A. Exxon has implemented several programs to assure compliance with all beer and wine laws. First, all company store managers are properly trained in handling beer and wine sales prior to being employed. Second, Exxon's program "We Card For You" is offered to company store managers as a training and communication tool. The program is designed to solicit identification from individuals attempting to purchase beer or wine who appear to be 25 years of age or younger. Signs placed on the walk-in cooler doors as well as the sales counter communicate Exxon's standards to customers (they can expect to be asked for identification). Also, as part of this program, a "legal age" clock is attached to the cash register. This device eliminates the need for a cashier to mentally calculate the age of individuals presenting identification. The clock automatically changes each day and provides the birth date (month, day, year) on or before which a person is allowed to purchase beer or wine. All transactions, including beer and wine purchases are recorded by our security cameras. The walk-in cooler doors are also locked during hours when it is illegal to sell beer. Finally, all Tiger Marts are inspected a minimum of three times a year by non-Exxon employees (outside inspectors). The purpose of these inspections is to determine that the overall appearance and operation of the Tiger Marts meet Exxon's high standards. These inspections are unannounced and determine if cashiers are asking for proof of age from individuals attempting to purchase beer or wine. Finally, a 22 minute video tape titled "Handling Beer and Wine Sales at Exxon Shops" has been developed for use to train cashiers/employees in the proper handling of beer and wine products.

Q. How does Exxon plan to merchandise beer and wine at Exxon Tiger Marts?

A. Exxon prohibits the use of neon beer/wine signs as well as window signs of all types. Also Exxon does not allow single beer/wine beverages to be merchandised in "iced down" tubs at company operated stores.

Q. How many cooler doors will be devoted to beer or wine?

A. Exxon shops will offer seven coolers of which three are typically devoted to beer and wine inventory, three to soft drinks, one for dairy products.

Q. What is the typical convenience product market range for an Exxon Tiger Mart?

A. Typically, Exxon's demographic studies indicate the market for Exxon Tiger Mart convenience products is about a 1 1/2 mile radius.

Q. By offering carry-out alcoholic beverages, isn't Exxon encouraging drinking and driving?

A. No, because it should be noted that a study conducted by the Phoenix, Arizona Police department during 1986 found that 99% of the motorists arrested in Phoenix for driving while intoxicated did not buy alcohol from a convenience store or mini-market before driving. The study found that 45% of those arrested had been drinking in bars, 18% had been drinking at home, 14% had been drinking at the home of a friend, and 24% had been drinking in recreational areas.

Q. Can alcoholic beverages be purchased at the pump islands of an Exxon Tiger Mart?

A. No. The sale of beer or wine is prohibited at the pump islands.

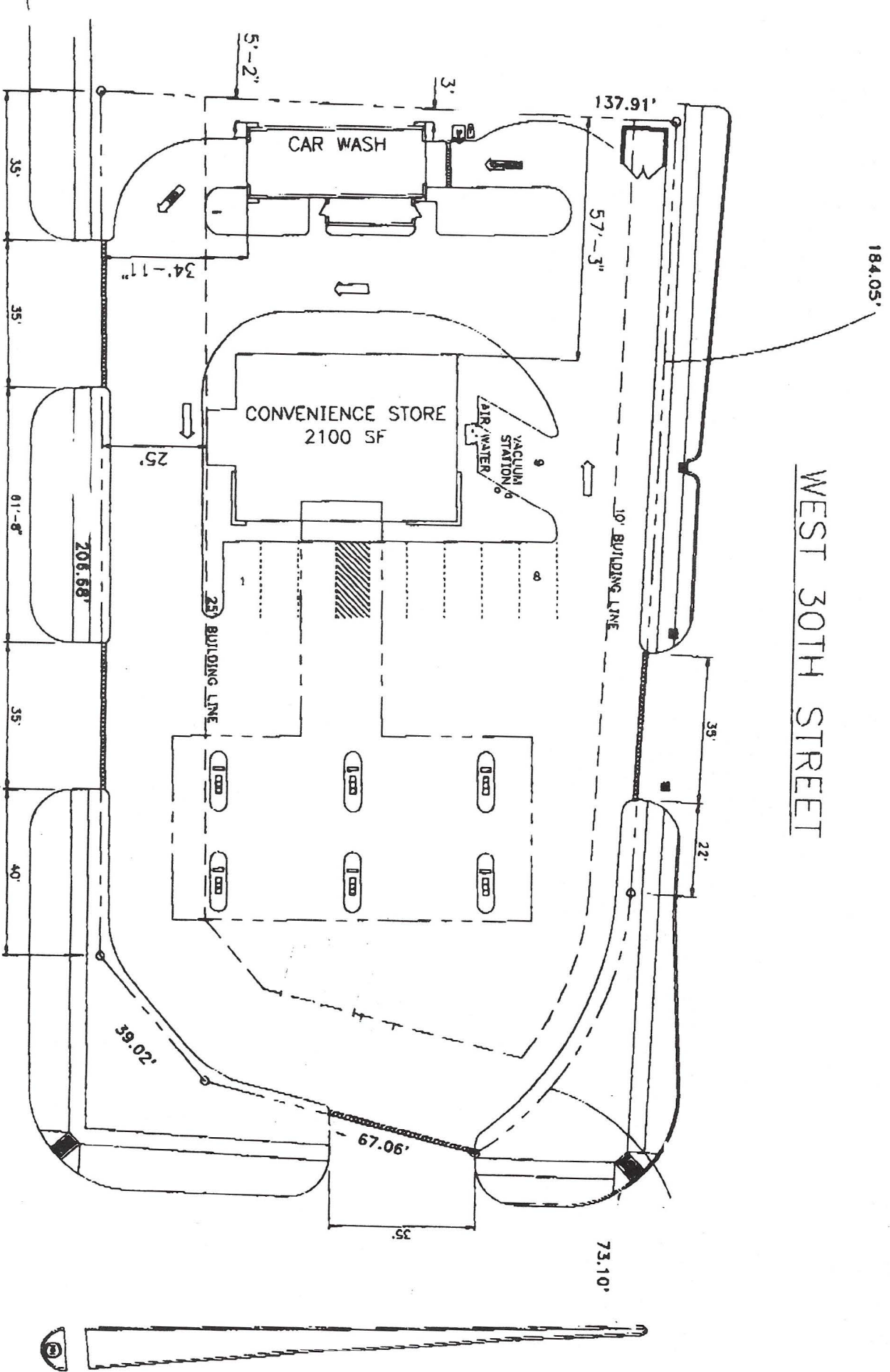
Q. Will the planned Exxon Tiger Mart offer hard liquor for sale?

A. No. Only beer and wine products are offered for sale at an Exxon Tiger Mart.

The simplest method to enable Exxon to sell beer and wine at the property is to obtain a majority of the property owners' signatures within Section One of the Garden Oaks Subdivision. We will be requesting approval from these homeowners at the next Civic Association meeting on October 1 at 7:00 p.m. We will have the amendment document ready for signature for those who would like to sign the amendment that evening after our presentation.

We thank you very much for allowing us the opportunity to present this issue before you, and look forward to seeing you on October 1st.

Joe Moore
Exxon Company, USA



WEST 30TH STREET

LOOP 610

YALE ROAD

184.05'

137.91'

57'-3"

CAR WASH

CONVENIENCE STORE
2100 SF

VACUUM
STATION
AIR/WATER

10' BUILDING LINE

25' BUILDING LINE

206.68'

35'

35'

81'-8"

35'

40'

35'

22'

39.02'

67.06'

35'

73.10'

Helen Huey
City Council Member
City of Houston
P.O. Box 1562
Houston, TX

Re: Graham Park

Mrs. Huey:

Residents of Garden Oaks have followed the progress of Graham Park since the Fall of 1994 Public Meeting. We have had input into the design of the Park, confirmed by regular updates on the park at Civic Club Meetings. Recently, however, there has been no action toward completion of the park improvements promised to Garden Oaks. In fact, as a resident of Garden Oaks, I am concerned with the present condition including public safety aspects of Graham Park. I would like to take this opportunity to officially request a written response from the City on the current status of construction and a completion date.

Your prompt attention to this matter is sincerely appreciated.

Sincerely,

Garden Oaks Resident

Jerry T. Dinkins
Assistant Director, Special Projects Div.
Dept. of Public Works
City of Houston
P.O. Box 1562
Houston, TX

Re: Graham Park

Mr. Dinkins:

Residents of Garden Oaks have followed the progress of Graham Park since the Fall of 1994 Public Meeting. We have had input into the design of the Park, confirmed by regular updates on the park at Civic Club Meetings. Recently, however, there has been no action toward completion of the park improvements promised to Garden Oaks. In fact, as a resident of Garden Oaks, I am concerned with the present condition including public safety aspects of Graham Park. I would like to take this opportunity to officially request a written response from the City on the current status of construction and a completion date.

Your prompt attention to this matter is sincerely appreciated.

Sincerely,

Garden Oaks Resident

HELLO NEIGHBOR



ARE YOU READY TO SELL YOUR HOUSE BUT DON'T KNOW WHERE TO START?

DOES YOUR HOME NEED REPAIRS YOU CAN'T AFFORD? ARE YOU MOVING AND CAN'T WAIT? LATE PAYMENTS OR POSSIBLE FORECLOSURE HAVE YOU DOWN? DIVORCE OR ILLNESS MAKING THE HOUSE A REAL HASSLE?

MAYBE I CAN HELP...

SOME OF YOUR NEIGHBORS HAVE FOUND MY SERVICES TO BE MOST HELPFUL...
THEY SOLD THEIR HOMES FOR CASH AND LET ME WORRY ABOUT THE REPAIRS AND SALES HEADACHES.

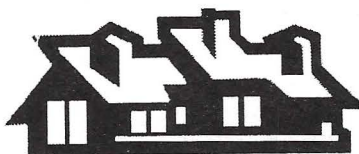
IF CASH IN YOUR POCKET AND FAST CLOSINGS ARE WHAT YOU NEED --YOUR WORRIES ARE OVER!

YOUR NEIGHBORS HAVE DISCOVERED THAT NO PIECE OF REAL ESTATE IS WORTH SACRIFICING

YOUR PEACE OF MIND...

FOR A FRIENDLY, FREE CONSULTATION, GIVE ME A CALL. YOU'LL BE GLAD YOU DID!

NO COMMISSIONS OR AGENT FEES ARE CHARGED. MUST HAVE EQUITY TO QUALIFY.



MARK A. FULLER
REAL CASH SERVICES
713-556-6555
24 hrs 7-days