

# Garden Oaks Civic Club Wolson 20. No. 2

A publication of the Garden Oaks Civic Club

**February 1997** 



#### **February Civic Club Meeting**

Make plans to attend the next civic club meeting scheduled for Tuesday, February 4, 7 p.m. at the Garden Oaks Baptist Church, 3206 N. Shepherd.

A Garden Oaks Board of Trustees Forum will follow the regular business meeting. Discussion will center on the Boards' jurisdictions, the Exxon proposal, and other pertinent matters.

#### Garden Club Speaker

The Garden Club will meet on Thursday, February 13, 6:30 p.m. at the home of Janice Walden, 220 W. 34th.

The speaker is Evelyn Anderson who will talk about "Starting Plants from Seeds." Ms. Anderson runs her own nursery, and supplies plants to many local gardening centers. She is also a homeowner in Section 1.

## **Eugenia Daniels Recovering**

Eugenia Daniels, principal of Garden Oaks Elementary School, successfully underwent a kidney and pancreas transplant in January 1997. She is currently recuperating at her home.

Assistant Principal Cynthia Moore reported, "We are delighted that Ms. Daniels' surgery went so well, and we all look forward to her return to school soon."

Ms. Moore joined the staff at Garden Oaks Elementary in August and is working as head administrator in Ms. Daniels' absence.

# **Home Tour Plans Progress**

by Janice Walden. 1997 Home and Garden Tour Pubilicity Committee Chair

In early January, the home tour committee sent letters to selected Garden Oaks residents inviting them to have their home or garden showcased on this spring's 1997 Garden Oaks Home and Garden Tour.

Responses are coming in now, and final selections will be made by early February. If you would like to have your home or garden considered for the tour, please call Laura Morgan, 1997 Home and Garden Tour Chairman, at 694-1919.

In the past, the Garden Oaks home tours have been hugely successful. One goal of the tour is to publicize the uniqueness and variety of the homes in our neighborhood. On the day of the tour, hundreds of visitors drive and walk through our streets. The Sunday of the tour is an exciting day which promotes a sense of community and pride in our neighborhood.

In addition to homes, this year the public is invited to view selected gardens in our neighborhood. With the growing interest in gardening, the yard tours should be quite popular. Many people are curious as to how residents have landscaped these oversized lots.

All Garden Oak residents are encouraged to spruce up their own yards to show off our neighborhood to its best. So on Saturday, April 19 and 26, we would love to hear the sounds of lawn mowers, leaf blowers, pruning shears, and rakes. Let's put on our Sunday best for April 27!

Volunteers are also needed in all areas of the tour — public relations, transportation, solicitations, silent auction, realtor liaison, and docents on the day of the event, to name a few. The publicity committee could use help in distribution of flyers, posters, and press releases. To offer your assistance on the publicity committee, call Janice Walden at 869-6534.

The next tour planning meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 5, 6:30 p.m. Call Laura Morgan for location information.

1997 **Garden Oaks** Home and **Garden Tour** 

Sunday, April 27





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# **President's Message**

by Bennett Bartlett, 1997 Civic Club President

I have four items that I want to bring to your attention. In hopes of keeping you reading, I'm saving Valentine's Day item until the end. So read on.

#### The Board of Trustees

We learned at the January meeting that our Board of Trustees has rejected Exxon's request for a variance from our deed restrictions. Knowing that many people would have questions, Terry Jeanes, program coordinator, arranged for members of the Board to visit our next civic club meeting to discuss their role and responsibilities and perhaps the Exxon decision. If you've wondered just who these people are and what they do, this is your opportunity to find out. See you February 4th.

#### Secretary of the Civic Club

Unfortunately, Lynn Sievers, secretary, is resigning because of increased job responsibilities. If you see Lynn, thank her for a job well done. We will elect a new secretary at the February meeting. Anne Spiering was asked by a number of people to run and has agreed to do so. Additional nominations will be taken from the floor, and anyone interested in the position is encouraged to put his/ her name in the hat. See you at the meeting.

### **Welcoming Committee**

At the January meeting, we decided to form two new committees. One will be a Welcoming Committee. The purpose, as the name suggests, is to institute a standard procedure for welcoming new residents to Garden Oaks and letting them know about things such as the civic club, Home Tour, and the function of the Board of Trustees. Craig Lee will chair the committee. If you want to serve on the committee or have suggestions for "welcoming packet," attend the next civic club meeting (any excuse to get you there, folks) to

discuss your ideas with Craig.

We have also formed an ad hoc committee on sound walls. We learned that the State of Texas has authorized a study on sound walls, and we want to make sure that we keep an eve on the study and do whatever we can to "be the squeaky wheel that gets the grease." Amy Homeyer, Gretta Dorsey, and Charlie Dickson are on the committee so far. Anvone else interested should see me . . . (vou guessed it) at the next civic club meeting.

#### Valentine's Day

Have you decided what you and your sweetheart are doing Valentine's Day? My most vivid Valentine's Day memory is the year that I managed to actually get dinner reservations Valentine's night at the most romantic restaurant in Houston. When I arrived, I realized why I was able to get reservations. The restaurant had opened another wing--I think it used to be their garage--outfitted with card tables and a plethora of pink crepe paper, and crammed in everyone who called for a reservation. My recollection may be colored just a bit by my soured experience, but the point is, Valentine's night is a lousy night to eat out. So, here is my recommendation:

Take your sweetheart to "Sweetheart's Night." For the benefit of the Friends of Montessori, the Main Street Theater and Chris Drake are presenting the one-man play, "John Henry," a tribute to Texas humorist John Henry Faulk. The play will be followed by a champagne and dessert buffet lovingly prepared by my favorite bakery chef, my wife. Live theater, good company, champagne and desserts--all for a good cause.

For tickets, call 688-4008. And you don't even have to come to the civic club meeting for this.

# **Constable Program Update**

by Angela Dickson, Constable Program

#### **Funding and Fees Due**

The constable program for Sections 1 and 1/A is not fully funded through our year-end of May 31, 1997. The program needs your help!

If you paid in two installments and have not yet sent in the second payment of \$100, please do so immediately. If you paid last year, please continue to support the program and send in the \$200 which was invoiced last May for the current 1996-97 year.

If you are a new resident in Section 1 or 1/A, consider joining. The fee for January 1, 1997 - May 31, 1997 is prorated at \$85.00

If you have lived here for a while and never joined before, consider joining now. You will help reduce the individual cost and receive additional benefits. You are already benefiting because the neighborhood is safer and property resale values are higher due to this program.

If 75% of our homes in Sections 1 and 1/A joined, our fee would be \$125 versus \$215 for the upcoming year. Our current participation is 50%. Help out by sharing the cost of this program.

Submit your payment using the Constable Program payment coupon in the *Gazette*. Make checks payable to the Garden Oaks Civic Club.

#### 1996 Crime Statistics for Section 1 and 1/A

- 4 Burglaries/Thefts.
- 2 Assaults. Includes one domestic assault.
- 1 Car vandalized.
- Trespassing. Two men were arrested after a watchful neighbor reported their suspicious behavior. One burglary was prevented.
   Note: Most of the crimes occurred in November and December.

#### **Traffic Control**



Drive at the speed limit in our neighborhood - 30 mph.



Stop signs mean just that: STOP. Not pause, slow down, or barrel through.



Slow down, look, and yield to oncoming traffic.



Let's work together to make our streets safer!

<del></del>				
Garden Oaks Cons	stable Program Enrollment Form			
	the Garden Oaks Constable Program . (New enrollee's dues can be pro-rated).			
Name(s):	\$200 annual dues			
Address:	Amount Enclosed: \$			
Phone: Home	Work			
Make checks payable to: Mail to:	Garden Oaks Civic Club Angela Dickson 3114 Lawrence, Houston, Texas 77018 802-0817			



See Our Work At:
• 701 Garden Oaks Blvd.

• 718 W. 41st St.

• 818 W 41st St

• 862 W. 41st St.

• 718 W. 42nd St.

• 847 W. 42nd St.

• 729 W. 39th St.

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SUNDAY WORSHIP 8:30 & 10:30 a.m. SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:15 a.m.

Preschool - Mon-Fri 9-2 Mother's Day Out - Wed-Fri 9-2 (ages 3 mos. - 5 years) Parent's Night Out - Fri 6:30-11:00

Senior Adult Exercise Mon, Tues, Thur - 4:15 - 5:00

4300 N. Shepherd @ Crosstimbers 697-0671

Pastor: Tom Crowe

# **Civic Club Meeting Minutes**

by Lynn Sievers, Secretary

President Bennett Bartlett opened the meeting at 7:10 p.m. on January 7. A motion to accept the minutes of the December meeting as published in the *Gazette* was made and passed by acclamation. Lynne Sievers resigned as secretary as of February. Her replacement will be elected or appointed per the provisions in the bylaws.

#### **Committee Reports**

**Beautification.** The De Albas will spearhead the committee. The Art Park cleanup was successful. Extra bricks are now stored off-site. Residents on Azalea arranged to have the beds cleaned and trees trimmed. Six Garden Oaks Plaza and six Garden Oaks volunteers spread mulch. Important to spruce up the green spaces prior to the Home Tour in April. A volunteer meeting will be held February 12.

**Budget.** Budget needs to be published in the February *Gazette* for a March meeting vote. Deadline for 1997 requests is January 13.

**GO COP**. The Kelleys and Lee Newham were thanked for their hard work. Five crimes reported in November. One patroller, Wayne Armstrong, passed away after a short struggle with cancer Volunteers are needed for afternoon base station work.

**Home Tour.** Letters sent to homeowners. Responses coming in. **Exxon.** Board of Trustees rejected the application due to the deed restriction on alcohol sales. Angela Dickson commented on the makeup of the Exxon committee because only one member resided in Section 1.

**Programs.** Board of Trustees will be the program at the February meeting. Suggestions for 1997 were solicited. Possibilities include Constable's anticrime, drugs, etc. and a gardening speaker. Contact Terry Jeanes with more suggestions.

**Constable.** Angela Dickson said the HPD crime statistics aren't always accurate. Will get statistics on Sections 1 and 1A from Constable. Program is not fully funded through the year. Need more participation. In 1996 there were three burglaries, one theft, one trespassing, two assaults (one domestic), and one vandalized car Most crimes in November and December.

**Education.** Jane Ann Roberts reported that Principal Daniels underwent kidney and pancreas transplant last week. Montessori Board positions available. President's slot is open, and some board terms have expired. Contact Trish Murphy at 688-4008. Valentine's night fund-raiser discussed. Tickets are \$30 each or \$50 per couple.

**Graham Park.** The park should be finished by February 1st. Contact Andrea Spiering to report anything in bad repair.

**Recycling.** Charlie Dickson reported that recycling will continue as is until further notice. Program is less profitable. The city might provide bins, and curbside pickup may happen. Paper bins are at GO Elementary, St. Rose, and Garden Oaks Baptist Church.

**Sound Wall.** Craig Lee volunteered to work on sound wall. A letter to state and federal representatives was discussed.

#### **New Business**

A motion was made and carried that the Garden Club, as a joint sponsor of the Home Tour, will receive 20% of the profits.

The issue of raising dues next year was discussed. Also discussed was how to increase the number of residents participating in community activities, how to get deed restrictions changed, and how to let people know where the money goes.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m. Refreshments provided by Terry Jeanes and ReMax Metro Realtors.

# **Armstrong Will Be Missed**

by Carl Waters, Jr., Citizens-on-Patrol

The Citizens' Patrol group was saddened by the loss of another of its more experienced patrollers in December. Wayne Armstrong died on December 7 after a short battle with cancer.

#### **Neighbors Give Generously**

by Rick Englert, Section 1 Resident

Thanks to all of you who gave so generously to this year's needy Christmas family. We delivered over \$1,000.00 worth of food and grocery gift certificates, four bikes, a portable basketball goal, a trundle bed, carpet, and a refrigerator just to mention a few items.

So thank you very deeply for the contributions of clothes, food, merchandise, toys, and money and for the labor contributions of the gift wrappers, loaders, and unloaders. I would like to list all of our elves, but I know I would inadvertently omit someone's name.

When we delivered our gifts to the family, the children were amazing. Their eyes were about the size of silver dollars.

We hope to make this an annual event and sponsor even more families. Maybe next year we can get a Santa Clause who doesn't cry so much!

Family members told me how Wayne looked forward to his weekly patrolling with his Garden Oaks COP partner, Helen Hawkins. We will miss Wayne dearly.

Continuing on the medical front, I learned that HPD Captain DeFoor suffered a heart attack in December and is recovering at home following corrective surgery. Captain DeFoor is the Commander of the HPD North Division which serves our area. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Houston Police Department crime statistics reported five crimes in the Garden Oaks area in November. All five were burglaries, and four occurred between November 19 and 22. The other was on November 2. Of the five burglaries, four were reported to have occurred between 6:30 and 9:00 a.m. Be extra careful when leaving your home. Call the Houston Police Department emergency number, 911, if your see or hear anything suspicious.

This is the beginning of a new year, and many people take this opportunity to make positive changes in their lives. Perhaps this year you can make a positive change in your neighborhood:

Join Citizens on Patrol. Call me at 864-1992 for more information.

Clip here and mail to: Craig Le	ee @ 212 W. 34th Stree	<u>et</u>						
Garden Oaks Civ	ric Club Membe	ership Renewal Form						
Name(s):								
	Phone:							
Children/birthdates:								
Year moved to Garden Oaks:	Section#	Paying Dues for: 19						
Annual Dues (January 1-December 31):								
Household \$10	Senior Citizen	\$5 Business \$25						
Additional Support Needs:								
GO Elem. Montessori* \$6	Garden Club	\$6 All five of these						
Gazette (Newsletter) \$6	Beautification	\$6 \$30						
GO COP (Patrol) \$6	<u> </u>							
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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

#### Mother's Day Out & Preschool

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All writers who are contributing articles to the *Gazette*, please provide a hard copy and a 3 1/2" disk.

Use Microsoft Word
(Mac or IBM format) or text only.

Deadline for the *Gazette* is the sixth of each month for the following month.

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# Caroling '96 Benefits Children and Families

by Audrey Vallance

Many thanks to all Garden Oaks residents and friends who made Garden Oaks Caroling '96 such a wonderful success in December! This annual event benefits Loving Arms Day Care which serves the needs of children and families who are infected with HIV/AIDS.

Our many carolers included the following:

- •St. Matthew's Methodist Church •Girl Scout Troop #2125
- •Cy Creek H. S. Drama Club •Friends of Audrey Vallance
- •Friends of Tina Sabuco (Rock & Roll Reindeer and Rumba Reindeer!)
- •Students and staff from Loving Arms Day Care

Special thanks to our sponsors:

- •St. Matthew's Methodist •Prince St. Market •Doyle's Restaurant
- •Office Depot/Kirby •Fiesta Mart #2/Shepherd •OD's Printing
- •Pappadeaux Seafood Kitchen •Brook Mays Piano Max •Miller's Cafe
- •Chassy's Ice Cream •Big Dave's Burger and Grill •Blockbuster Video •Academy Design •McDonald's

You, the residents, are to be thanked for all your generosity. Here is a partial list of the many items donated:

•325 Diapers •463 cans of formula or juice •672 jars of baby food •498 paper products •1,164 baby care items

Total value estimate was over \$10,000 plus \$1,000 in cash! Audrey Gassama, Executive Director of Loving Arms, was once again overwhelmed by our response. Some of these contributions will help Loving Arms Day Care for as long as six months.

## **Beautification Committee Gains Momentum**

by Ed & Brenda de Alba, Beautification

The Home & Garden Tour scheduled for April 27 will show-case our neighborhood creating a special reason to really get fired up about beautification efforts.

If you are interested in working towards beautifying Garden Oaks, please reserve Wednesday, February 12, 7 p.m., to attend an organizational meeting at 858 LaMonte. Garden Oaks Plaza residents are also welcome.

The bricks in the Art Park at 43rd and Sue Barnett are finally gone!! Well, not really gone...just stored where they will be available when the need arises.

A big THANK YOU to the SMALL number of volunteers who showed up December 7 to spruce up the park, transport the pile of bricks, remove the small mountain of sand, and spread eight cubic yards of mulch!

Six wonderful Garden Oaks Plaza neighbors combined forces with another half dozen Garden Oaks residents to help with the cleanup efforts.

Special thanks to Gayle Bell and the residents of the 800 block of Azalea who collected money and organized a cleanup crew with day laborers the weekend after Thanksgiving for the Art Park. Gayle's crew cleaned flower beds, trimmed trees, and cleaned the sculpture.

The combined efforts from those two work days made a HUGE improvement to the overall appearance of the park.

Call Ed & Brenda de Alba at 694-5934 with questions.



# **Women Only!**

# Sunday Soccer



A mixed matched group of women meet every Sunday to play soccer. Or try to play soccer. And you are welcomed to join.

The requirements are the following:

- Be female.
- Be over 30 years old.

That's it. No try outs. No drafts. No prior experience needed. As a matter of fact, most of the women playing have never played soccer before.

Karen Benson got the ball rolling (get it?) for a women's team after watching hour upon hour of kids playing soccer. So through Karen's enthusiasm, she got us off the bench and onto the field.

Ann Ness rallys the troops as the coach. She got this prestigious leadership position because she has coaching experience: she has coached a kid's team. Seems appropriate enough.

Soccer shoes and shin guards are recommended. Also bring water, a good attitude, and a willingness to look a little foolish at times.

We meet every Sunday at 1:30 p.m. at the YMCA on 34th. During each session, we warm up, run through some training exercises, learn the rules, and have two 15 minute scrimmages. To date, we still are practicing on the 7-8 year old field. No fools we.

Check out this list of Pele wannabes from Garden Oaks:
Karen Benson, Jan Erickson, Ann Ness, Patty Jeffers, Margaret Welker, Kimber Davies, Janine Fisher, Carol Smith, Celeste Zamora, Tina Sabuco, Shellye Arnold, Suzanne DePaul, and Cindy Latson.

We give a whole new meaning to the term, "Soccer Moms."

# **HPD Response Team Needs Assistance**

Currently being constructed in the 1200 block of 43rd/Ella is a headquarters for a differential response team, a place where HPD can be disbursed from at anytime.

Bill Chastain, Section 5 resident, reports that HPD will work from this station, which he believes will be maintained eight hours per day.

A spaghetti dinner, to help raise funds for the construction of the station, is scheduled for February 1, 6:30-8:30 p.m., at St. Stephen's United Methodist Church, 2003 W. 43rd.

Donations of money and construction materials are the most immediate needs, but help is appreciated in any way, shape, or form

For additional information, or donations, residents are asked to stop by the construction site.

# **Neighborhood News**

Congratulations to Henry McCoy, Section 1 resident and Roland Waguespack, Section 5 resident for their appointment to the St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church 1997 Pastoral Council.

#### Did You Know.....

that the blue reflectors on the streets mark where a fire hydrant is located? The fire department uses these markers to locate the closest fire hydrant.

# **Special Thanks!**

Thanks to Jean Walke, 528 W. 32nd, for posting the Civic Club meeting notice signs every month for the past year, at each of the main entrances in Section 1.

Shelley Rogers and Pat Buron, 507 W. 33rd, have gratiously agreed to take over this responsibility for the coming year!

## Letter from the Editor

My apologies to Alex Martinez for not thanking him publicly in last month's issue of the *Gazette* for his work as the 1996 Editor.

Fortunately, there was an inordinate amount of news events and happenings that had to be covered last month and in the rush to make sure everything was covered, I left out this very important message.

Alex, thanks for your hard work and dedication to the Garden Oaks community. Looking forward to hearing from you in the future.

Never allow your energy or enthusiasm to be dampened by the discouragements that must inevitably come.

Interested in advertising in the *Gazette*?

Contact

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The Gazette is the official publication of the Garden Oaks Civic Club and is published on a monthly basis.

Submission deadline is the sixth of each month for the following month.

Submit articles to:

Sheila Briones, Editor Garden Oaks *Gazette* 3202 1/2 Lawrence Houston, Texas 77018 (713) 861-8091

Feel free to post on refrigerator or in a conspicuous place!									
February 1997									
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday			
2	3	Civic Club Meeting 7 p.m. Garden Oaks Baptist Church	Home Tour Meeting 6:30 p.m. Call 694-1919 for location	<i>Gazette</i> Deadline	7	Recycling 8-11 a.m.			
9	10	11	Beautification Committee Organizational Meeting 7 p.m. 858 LaMonte	Garden Club Meeting 6:30 p.m. 220 W. 34th	14 Valentine's Day Sweetheart's Night Main Street Theater	15			
16	President's Day HISD Holiday	18 Heavy Trash Pick-up	19	20 PIP Meeting	21	22			
23	24	25	26	27	28				

#### 1997 Garden Oaks Civic Club

P.O. Box 92155, Houston, Tx., 77206

#### President:

Bennett Bartlett, 511 W. 33rd, 861-2155

#### Vice President, Membership:

Craig Lee, 212 W. 34th, 802-0079

#### Second Vice President, Gazette Editor:

Sheila Briones, 3202 1/2 Lawrence, 861-8091

#### Gazette Co-Editor:

Carol Smith, 335 W. 32nd, 869-1282

#### Treasurer:

Ray Housley, 407 W. 34th, 863-7316

#### Secretary:

Lynn Sievers, 851 LaMonte, 691-4789

#### Committee Chairs

Beautification: Ed & Brenda de Alba, 694-5934

Citizens-on-Patrol: Carl Waters, Jr., 864-1992

Constable Program: Angela Dickson, 802-0817

Education Liaison: Jane Ann Roberts, 861-8512

Garden Club: Janice Walden, 869-6534

Gazette Advertising Director: Oscar Ochoa, 896-0052

Gazette Hand Delivery: Brenda de Alba, 694-5934

1997 Home Tour: Laura Morgan, 694-1919

Hospitality & Refreshments: Terry Jeanes, 680-8550

Neighborhood Traffic Program: Marc Roberts, 861-8512

Programs: Terry Jeanes, 680-8550

Recycling: Gilbert King, 523-5874

#### Visit with the Board at the February Meeting!

#### **Board of Trustees**

**Section 1:** Brent Batis, 861-3209; Rod Walker, 868-2469; Greg Wolfe, 869-1982

Section 2: James Doyle, 694-4134; Tim Pagel, 692-7431;

President: Susan McMillian, 695-8245

Section 3: Bill Hudson, 694-1330; Mickey McClung, 694-7448; Architectural Review Chairman: Herb

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Section 4: Stan Bohon, 680-9631; Richard Broad, 957-8075; Jaime Pierce, 688-3237

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