



Garden Oaks

A publication of the Garden Oaks Civic Club

Gazette

January 1998

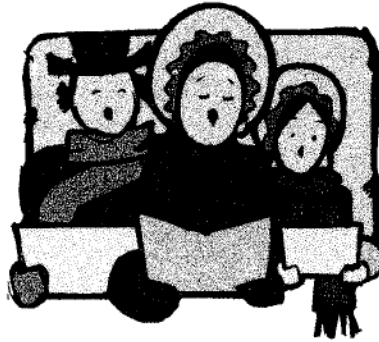
Volume 21, No. 1

G.O. Caroling Rings in a Successful Holiday Season

On Friday December 12 Garden Oaks Caroling rang in the 1997 holiday season for our neighborhood with a hugely successful event benefiting UT Pediatrics and Casa de Esperanza. Grocery bags from generous Garden Oaks residents filled a cargo van top to bottom, and included: 925 containers of baby formula/food; 375 toys and educational materials; 120 boxes of diapers; hundreds of cleaning products, personal care items, and items of clothing; and even a crib and mattress! Garden Oaks residents also contributed over \$600.

1997 was G.O. Caroling's 5th year, and a record year for participation. Garden Oaks welcomed 17 groups, including the Cypress Creek High School Drama Club, Burbank Middle School Choir, St. Matthew's United Methodist Church, and 3 Girl Scout Troops. Residents from Garden Oaks formed the Rock-n-Roll Reindeer of Azalea and Garland of Gardenia. This year Burbank Middle School was awarded the prize for the largest group (38), Cy Creek for the most spirited group, and Brownie Troops #12225 and #12265 for the most creative groups.

Excitement swelled in the Fellowship Hall at St. Matthew's United Methodist Church as the door prizes awarded to carolers grew increasingly spectacular,



culminating in prizes such as ballet and theater tickets; massage, haircare, car care certificates, and dinners from neighborhood restaurants. Over 50 prizes were awarded as carolers cheered. Thanks to this year's door prize sponsors: **Alley Theatre; Main Street Theatre; Houston Ballet; Houston Astros; Haute Groceries; Oak Forest Exxon; Chassy's Ice Cream; Discount Tires; North Shepherd Bowling Lanes; ARTS ALIVE!; Palais Royal; Doyle's; Hairsay; Regent Day Spa; Garden Oaks Civic Club; Jiffy Lube at Sears; Mancuso Harley-Davidson; Miller's Cafe; Papa John's Pizza; Pappas Restaurant; Pontchatrain's; Gold, Glass and Wood Effex; Flowertime; Audrey Vallance; and Angela Allison.**

What started with dinner, prizes and singing in St. Matthew's United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall ended with over 200 carolers traversing our neighborhood streets, many wearing costumes, ringing bells,

and carrying candles as they caroled at each home in our neighborhood. Many residents look forward to the group's return each year to kick off their own holiday festivities. "This annual event engenders a real sense of community pride and holiday celebration," according to Tina Sabuco, Garden Oaks resident and 1997 G.O. Caroling Chair.

Many thanks to the hundreds of Garden Oaks residents who donated to this effort. G.O. Caroling would also like to extend a warm thanks to our sponsors not mentioned above: **St. Matthew's (host facility), Office Depot Kirby, Ed and Brenda de Alba, Watson Moving and Storage, Exxon Tiger Mart North Loop at Yale, Fiesta Mart. No. 2, Pappadeaux, Flying Saucer Pie Company, HEB Pantry Foods, Kroger on 43rd, Popcorn Plus, Randall's 290 at 34th, Sak-n-Save Warehouse Foods, Shipley's on Ella, and Tom Stell Financial Advisor.**

Thanks also to the G.O. Caroling committee for their hard work and dedication that made the event such a tremendous success: Tina Sabuco, Michelle Franke, Tina Rowe, Robert DeVeau, Shelly Immel, Georgia Lister, Tina Nieto, Shellye Arnold, Wenden Sanders, Kenneth Santos, Tom Stell, Jennifer Weston, and Jay Slemmer.

President's Message

by Craig Lee, 1998 Civic Club President

Thank you everyone who attended last month's Civic Club Christmas Party. The turnout was good--though we always want to see more faces. Rick Englert, ala Haute Groceries, prepared one fine bird for all to enjoy. And the rest of us, myself excluded, brought many more tasty trimmings, pies, dips and refreshments. Also, someone, we believe, left an article of clothing at the party. It's something you wear to stay warm. Call me if you think its yours. If you can describe it, I have it.

A small amount of business was conducted during a brief meeting before we ate. The Civic Club by-laws were amended by vote. The amendment will permanently rename the position of Vice-President-Membership to Vice-President-Membership and Welcoming. (I will try to have a copy of the revised By-Lays available in the near future). Also, Civic Club officers for the coming year were elected--all by acclamation. Andrea Spiering will return as Secretary, Meredith Jenkins will be our Vice-President-*Gazette* Editor, Shelly Immel was elected Treasurer, and Tom Stell is the new Vice-President-Membership and Welcoming. I am president. I am really looking forward to working with each and all of the officers to continue in the path of my predecessors of running a highly effective and successful Civic Club. Thanks to each of you for volunteering your time.

Speaking of predecessors, I want to take this opportunity to also thank Bennett Bartlett for his service as 1997 President. I believe that Bennett did an outstanding job. Under his thorough and organized leadership, the Civic Club fully served it purpose. Also thanks to Ray Housley for several years as a Civic Club officer, both as the Vice President-Membership and as Treasurer. And another special thanks to Sheila Briones and Carol Smith for some really good work with the *Gazette*.

On a related note, one thing that worked especially well for Sheila Briones as *Gazette* editor was the able assistance of Carol Smith as proof reader. We, and especially Meredith Jenkins, sure would like it if someone would offer to assist the editor as proof reader for this year's *Gazette*. It's not a difficult job. Just proof read the articles before

they go to press. Give Meredith or myself a call if you might be interested.

Anyone who feels so inclined, let us know what you might like to see the Civic Club accomplish this coming year. Our phone numbers are listed in each *Gazette*. A few of the outstanding issues that will carry over this year include the Exxon "controversy" over potentially trying to sell alcoholic beverages, installation of a sound wall along the north side I-610 paralleling us, street and park improvements, and developing a "welcoming package."

We have been blessed to have Paul Brinley join us to coordinate the constable's patrol program this year, taking it over from Bennett Bartley. I am also looking to fill the position of Neighborhood Traffic Coordinator. Marc Roberts, who has coordinated the traffic program for several years, would like a well-deserved rest.

Our next meeting will be January 6. Don't forget that our meetings will take place from now on at Garden Oaks Elementary School at the end of Garden Oaks Blvd. on Sue Barnett. We meet in the cafeteria. For those of you not familiar with the school, as you look at the school from the circular driveway in front, the cafeteria is on the left and rear portion of the campus--behind the building which you can see protruding towards the left side of the circular driveway. The best place to park is in the faculty lot. The cafeteria backs up to this lot. The faculty lot is the only full parking lot visible from Sue Barnett. It in on the south end of the campus about half way between 38th Street and Garden Oaks Blvd. OK--that's pretty detailed instructions so I expect no excuses for not coming.



Beautification Challenge Exceeded!

by Brenda de Alba

Not only did we meet Terry Jeanes's \$500 Beautification Challenge...we exceeded it! The total collected donations were \$630. Thanks to Section 1 resident, Christiane Rogers; Section 2 resident, David Hoyer; Section 3 residents, Liz & Robert McCabe; and Section 5 resident Lucille Gilmore for helping us exceed the goal. OK, Terry...cough up the dough! A correction from last month's Gazette: Katherine Hardin donated a tree in honor of her late husband, J. P. Hardin.

I want to extend a special thanks to Dennis Clooney Tree Services for donating a crew to trim the trees on Garden Oaks Boulevard and then to haul away the debris...ALL FOR FREE!! Please consider them the next time you need tree work done.

Art Park - the work day, which was advertised with a 1 page Gazette flyer, on Saturday, Dec. 6, was attended by only 8 people...a BIG DISAPPOINTMENT! Because of the low turnout, we only made a small dent in the needed maintenance. The Art Park is the 2nd largest "green space" in the neighborhood and for most of the year it looks sadly neglected...not a visual enticement to prospective newcomers. Earlier this year I contacted Garden Oaks Plaza asking if their neighborhood would partner with us to maintain the Art Park. A real response never materialized, so I'm asking again. Would the residents in Garden

Oaks Plaza be interested in pursuing this idea? Call me and we'll talk (694-5934).

I've been overjoyed by the support and response of Garden Oaks residents to help with the Esplanade, but I'm at a loss to know what I can do to get more people to donate just a few hours several times a year to the upkeep of the other "green spaces". I believe the Esplanade will continue its success because the surrounding residents feel a real commitment to maintain the work. I have not seen this commitment anywhere else in the neighborhood. Early in 1997, I tried recruiting volunteers to actively participate on a Beautification Committee and we even held several meetings. There is still no "real" Beautification Committee, except for Ed and myself. We're extremely proud of what we accomplished in 1997 but we can't continue to do it all. If you would like to have your name added to Beautification volunteer list for 1998, please call me. I'd love to hear from you and hear any ideas you might have.

The next Beautification meeting will be Tuesday, January 20, 7 P.M. at 858 LaMonte. I will also make myself available after the Garden Oaks Civic Club meeting on January 6th.

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- 862 W. 41st St.
- 717 W. 42nd St.
- 718 W. 42nd St.
- 847 W. 42nd St.
- 701 Garden Oaks Blvd.
- 4232 Apollo
- 855 Azalea
- 829 Lamonte
- 738 Sue Barnett
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- 802 Arlington
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Traffic Update

by Marc Roberts

According to the most recent information provided by the City of Houston, the following streets in Garden Oaks are eligible for speed humps. However, these construction projects are currently unfunded and speed humps will not be constructed until funds become available to do so.

- 30th St (between Durham & Alba)
- 32nd St (between Yale & Lawrence)
- Apollo (between 43rd & Althea)
- Golf (between 41st & 43rd)
- Sue Barnett (between Alba & Apollo)

The purpose of speed humps is to slow the traffic in our neighborhood. Any resident can initiate a request for speed humps to be installed. The City gathers and evaluates requests for speed humps twice a year and the next deadline for the submission of requests is April 1, 1998.

To report problems, to request more information, or to obtain a request form to initiate the evaluation of speed humps for your street call (713) 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

The Neighborhood Traffic Project (NTP) application for GO Section 1A (section one west of Shepherd) was submitted to the City by Section 1A resident Rod Walker in February, 1996. NTP requires the preparation of detailed traffic plan proposals and during 1994 Garden Oaks was involved in a highly publicized process of traffic plan preparation, including the gathering of petitions. Specifically, the NTP application for Section 1A calls for the closure of Randall Street at Durham and that an exit-only device be placed on 30th Street at Durham.

Recently, the City met with the Section 1A traffic committee being headed up by Rod Walker and held a meeting to discuss traffic study results. According to the City the next steps involve the installation of temporary traffic devices in Section 1A, as indicated above, for a test period of at least 90 days. After the test period the City will study the results, solicit comments, and conduct another meeting before making a final recommendation.

The NTP application for Garden Oaks Section 1 (between Shepherd and Yale) remains on hold.

If you have questions or need more information, Rod Walker can be contacted at (713) 868-2469 and Marc Roberts can be reached at (713) 861-8512.

Gazette Deliverers . . . Unsung Heroes

by Brenda de Alba

With this being the start of a new year I think it is very appropriate to give recognition and warm thanks to the residents of Garden Oaks who deliver the *Gazette* to our doorsteps each month. A recurring question I'm often asked is why we don't mail out the *Gazette* each month and the basic answer is simply it would cost too much money. That is why our volunteer deliverers are SOOOO important to the neighborhood. The next time you encounter any of the people whose names are listed below, please express your thanks...they are truly unsung heroes!!

Section 1: Bob & Jo Bewley, Paul & Dawn Bick, Lilley Byrd, Rick Englert, Marie Gregory, Albert & Lydia Jasso, Bell Katzer, Craig Lee, Susan Morris, Marc & Jane Ann Roberts, Christine Winkelmann

Section 1A: Mary Frazee, Craig & Peggy Kramer, Stan Woodhead

Section 2: Diann Austin, Jim Hall, Guy Hoffman, David & Carla Hoyer, Laura Morgan, Joe & Martha Rhea

Section 3: Susan Gavin, Steve Geissen, Meredith Jenkins, Susan Kostelecky, Rusty Reichle, Tina Sabuco & Shellye Arnold, Lynn Sievers, Jaime & Celeste Zamora

Section 4: Megan & Doug Barlow, Cindy Bartos, Shawn Forney, Melinda Garza, Kirsten Joel, Wes Moncy, George Morawski, Bennie & Liz Slavik

Section 5: Karen Fleeger, Shelly Immel, Carol Meyer, Johnny Murphy, Anita Cuevas Smith

Garden Oaks Plaza: Debbie Kotzur



1998 Home & Garden Tour Committee Busy Planning

by Judi Morawski

Home selection for the the Home & Garden Tour will be finalized in early January, hopefully by deadline for the February issue of the *Gazette*. Response from Garden Oaks residents has been gratifying, and the committee is confident of another great tour in 1998.

The committee is still anxious for you to volunteer to assist with the event. If you can help, please call Judi Morawski at 713-956-8911 or sign up at a Civic Club meeting. Don't forget to mark your calendars for the tour on May 17th and plan to attend. Tickets will be on sale in March.

The January committee meeting will be at 7:00 p.m. on January 14th at 907 W. 42nd Street.

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5:00 pm

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In Memory

Lisabell Katzer

*Long-time Garden Oaks
Resident and Garden Club
Member*

Sunday, December 14, 1997



The *Gazette* is the official publication of 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:

Meredith Jenkins, Editor
Garden Oaks *Gazette*
855 West 43rd Street
Houston, TX 77018
(713) 697-5654



**The Garden Club
will elect 1998
Officers on January 8
at 8:30.
Join us!**

Gardening For Everyone

by Janice Walden, 1997 Garden Club President

Many of you have heard about the Garden Oaks Garden Club, and like anyone, I'm sure you have a perception based on bits of information. When my husband and I moved to Garden Oaks in March, 1994, I was excited to hear there was an active garden club. After all, this was my first home, it had a big yard, and I hadn't a clue what to do with it. My gardening experience was limited to a decrepit strip of hard dirt behind my former condo which I had mixed results in transforming into a bed of annuals. I knew nothing about the merits of mulch, the season for sowing wildflowers, or when to transplant shrubs.

I came to my first Garden Club meeting to soak it all up. Since then, not only have I learned a considerable amount about gardening, I have come to know some terrific residents. We constantly share information about plants and gardening projects.

With gardening, I learn best by doing and talking to others. Although books are a basic reference, the two most valuable learning sources are my experience and the experience of others. By exchanging information, seeds and plants with garden club members, I have avoided huge gardening mistakes, planned carefully, and come to know what works not only in my plot of soil, but in our neighborhood in general. I believe *everyone* can have a green thumb. With time and interest, the curse of, "I don't have a green thumb" will go away. Start by coming to one of our meetings.

The Garden Club's motto is, "Grow and Share". That's exactly what we do. We meet on the second Thursday evening of every month at a member's home. Usually a local gardening expert gives a presentation about a gardening topic and members talk about what's happening - or not happening - in their gardens. Last year, we had two "show and tell" meetings where members brought something from their garden for members to identify and talk about. It's a good way to learn about the amazing variety of plants in our neighborhood.

In addition to the monthly meetings, the Garden Club tends to Friendship Garden, the green space at 30th and Lawrence. Last year members helped organize and select gardens for the Home and Garden Tour. Members also planned and implemented the beautification of Garden Oaks Boulevard. This year, the club is planning monthly programs, field trips, a gardening seminar for children, and work days at Friendship Garden.

Blessed with great trees, big yards and good soil, Garden Oaks is the perfect neighborhood for gardening. Whether you've lived in the neighborhood a while, or just moved in, come visit us. Our next meeting will be 6:30pm, Thursday, January 8th at 220 West 34th Street. If you'd like more information, just call me, Janice Walden, 869-6534. And if you're interested in knowing more about the children's gardening workshop, please fill out the enclosed survey and mail it to me at 220 West 34th Street.

Garden Oaks Civic Club Minutes

Bennett Bartlett opened the meeting at 7:10 p.m. Officers in attendance: Bennett Bartlett, Craig Lee and Sheila Briones .

Officer Elections. 1998 Civic Club Officers were elected. The new officers are: Craig Lee, President; Tom Stell, Vice President, Membership/Welcoming; Meredith Jenkins, Second Vice President, *Gazette* Editor; Shelly Immel, Treasurer; and Andrea Spiering, Secretary.

Committee Reports. No Committee Reports given.

New Business. No New Business discussed.

Christmas Party. Members in attendance enjoyed a potluck dinner. Entertainment was provided by the Garden Oaks Caroling committee members.

Citizens Patrol

by Carl Waters, G0-COP

At the start of a new year many of us make resolutions to improve ourselves or our communities. If you're looking for a way to improve our community, consider joining the Citizens Patrol program. All it takes is an hour of training and a 2 hour commitment each month to patrol.

Over the course of the past year I have individually thanked the patrollers who make this program. At this time I would like to thank them as a group. My deep appreciation and gratitude go to our patrollers, base station operators and support staff:

Doug Barlow, Megan Barlow, David Bell, Bob Bewley, John Hesse, Bill Hines, Mary Hines, Woody Mehrkam, Johnny Murphy, Laverne Kelly, V. D. Kelly, Susan Kostelecky, Cathy Spar, and Dennis Spar

For the month of October HPD crime stats indicated there was one crime in the Garden Oaks area, an auto theft which occurred in the 3200 block of North Shepherd on October 4 at 5:50 p.m.

Hope your holidays were safe and happy.

Volunteers
Needed!

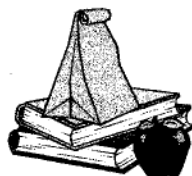


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Neighborhood School News

Garden Oaks Elementary: Back to School
January 6th

St. Rose of Lima: Back to school
January 5th



January Civic Club Meeting

* Bruce Tatro - Special Guest Speaker *
Newly-elected District A Councilman

Tuesday, January 6th, 1998
7:00 p.m.

Garden Oaks Elementary School Cafeteria

January 1998

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 New Year's Day 	2	3
4	5 HISD Staff Development Day	6 Civic Club Mtg. 7 p.m. Go Elementary <i>Gazette Deadline</i>	7	8 Garden Club 220 West 34th 6:30 p.m. Curbside Recycling 	9	10
11	12	13	14 Home & Garden Tour Meeting 7 p.m. 907 W. 42nd	15	16	17
18	19 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	20 Heavy Trash Pick-up Beautification Meeting 7 p.m. 858 Lamonte	21	22 Curbside Recycling 	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Garden Oaks Civic Club
P.O. Box 10273, Houston TX 77206

President:
Craig Lee, 212 West 34th, 802-0079

Vice President, Membership/Welcoming
Tom Stell, 1058 West 42nd, 688-4681

Vice President, Gazette Editor:
Meredith Jenkins, 855 West 43rd, 697-5654
Gazette Advertising Director:
Susan Kostelecky, 1318 Sue Barnett, 697-4110

Treasurer:
Shelly Immel, 1058 West 42nd, 6888-4681

Secretary:
Andrea Spiering, 319 West 34th, 862-6138

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

Constable Program: Paul Brinley, 862-6286

Garden Club: Janice Walden, 869-6534

1998 Home & Garden Tour: Judi Morawski, 956-8911

Hospitality & Refreshments: Terry Jeanes, 680-8550

Programs: Terry Jeanes, 680-8550

Contacts
Beautification: Ed & Brenda de Alba, 694-5934

Education Liaison: Denise Epstein, 869-0128

Gazette Hand Delivery: Brenda de Alba, 694-5934

Neighborhood Traffic Program: TBA

Board of Trustees
Section 1: Ed de Alba, 694-5934; Rod Walker, 868-2469;
Bennett Bartlett, 861-2155

Section 2: James Doyle, 694-4134; Tim Pagel, 692-7431;
President: Susan McMillian, 695-8245

Section 3: Cheryl Cohorn, 692-4904; John Goodman, 695-5814; **Architectural Review Chairman:** Herb Kellner, 692-2776

Section 4: Megan Berry Barlow, 681-1880; Richard Broad, 957-8075; Harry James, 695-7007

Section 5: Kirk Dice, 694-2247

Gardening for Kids



The Garden Oaks Garden Club may offer a gardening workshop geared for kids in 1998. We'd like your feedback:

YES! I'd be/my kids would be interested in a workshop.

Best times:

Day

Weekday

Night

Saturday

Areas you think would be good to cover:

Composting

How to grow plants, vegetables

Soil

Insects

Tools

Trees

Other: _____

Time Period:

1 day

2-3 weeks

4-6 weeks

I'd like to help out anyway I can.

Name: _____ Address: _____ Phone: _____

Children & Ages: _____

Please return to: Janice Walden, President
Garden Oaks Garden Club, 220 West 34th St. 77018 869-6534





8 New Year's Resolutions You Can Keep!

(Compliments of Haute Groceries)

8. I will treat myself for working so hard by ordering dinner five nights a week from Haute Groceries.
7. I will support Will and Rick with their new restaurant.
6. I will eat better by eating haute cuisine at Haute Groceries.
5. I will spend more time with my children and not waste time cooking when Haute Groceries' food is excellent and quick.
4. I will be more concerned about food and less about the toys.
3. I will conserve energy by not turning on my stove.
2. I will be more attentive to the quality of food and less about the quantity.
1. I will eat more fresh vegetables.

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Monday - Friday



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Monday - Friday