



# Garden Oaks Gazette

A publication of the Garden Oaks Civic Club

February 1998

Volume 21, No. 2

## Feb. Civic Club Meeting



Civic Club Meeting  
Tues., Feb. 3rd  
7:00 p.m.

Speaker: Tom Stell  
Account Executive -  
Dean Witter

“New Tax Laws and Changes  
Affecting Retirement and New  
I.R.A.’s”

## New Gazette Advertising Policy in Effect

The Executive Board of GOCC has established a *Gazette* Advertising Policy, effective January 1, 1998. All advertising must be submitted to and approved by Susan Kostecky, the Advertising Director, before publication.

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Discounts exist for Civic Club business members, Civic Club-related groups, and non-profit groups. For more information, please call Susan Kostecky at 697-4110.

## 1998 Home and Garden Tour Selections Announced

After visiting over 20 homes nominated for this year’s Home and Garden Tour, the Garden Oaks Home and Garden Tour Committee is pleased to announce the following homes and gardens for the 1998 tour:

701 Garden Oaks Blvd.

Home and garden

747 W. 43rd St.

Home and garden

717 Sue Barnett Blvd.

Home

875 W. 41st St.

Home

3213 Lawrence St.

Home

839 W. 42nd St.

Home

3201 Lawrence St.

Garden

The committee wishes to thank all of the residents who offered their homes and gardens for consideration. It was difficult to select only six homes and three gardens from the many wonderful candidates. However, with only six hours to tour, it’s not possible to include more, and you may see some of these homes on next year’s tour.

The homes selected include a new construction, homes with pools, remodeled homes, homes with additions, and a cottage that was renovated in the charming original Garden Oaks style that makes this neighborhood so attractive.

Tickets will go on sale in March; they will be available at Civic Association meetings and at retail locations to be announced.

Please consider volunteering to help plan and execute this exciting event that raises funds for many community improvement projects. Volunteers are needed to help with the following: Ticket sales, ticket collection at home and garden sites, three-hour shifts for docents during the tour, transportation assistants, and getting tour homes set up the morning of the event. Please call Judi Morawski at 713-956-8911 or Brenda de Alba at 713-694-5934. You can also sign up at a Civic Association meeting.

The next committee meeting will be at 7:00 p.m. on February 10 at 907 W. 42nd Street. Please call Judi Morawski at 713-956-8911 for more information.

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## Garden Oaks Civic Club Minutes

by Andrea Spiering, Secretary

Craig opened the meeting on January 6th, 1998 at 7:10 p.m. Officers in attendance: Craig Lee, Shelly Immel, Ann Spiering and Meredith Jenkins. Absent: Tom Stell. Minutes from the December meeting were amended to include the vote taken on the amendment to the By-laws changing the V.P. Membership to V.P. Welcoming and Membership. Amended minutes were approved by acclamation. Approximately 27 residents were in attendance.

**President's Report.** Craig introduced the new officers for 1998.

### Committee Reports

**Treasurer.** Shelly Immel received the account books recently and is in the process of reviewing them. We have \$5,100 in the GOCC operating fund and \$8,900 in our money market account. We have approximately \$3,000 in membership dues received over the past few months to be deposited. The Constable Program is paid monthly from the GOCC Constable account; please send in your checks.

**Welcoming and Membership.** Shelly reported that Tom is working on the Welcoming packet. A list was circulated for volunteers interested in helping with this project. Anyone with ideas on what to include or who wishes to help, please contact Tom Stell.

**Traffic.** Craig reported that Marc Roberts has resigned as Committee Chairman. Susan and James Garman, West 43rd Street residents, have agreed to head this committee. They will be contacting Marc for the transition of documents, etc.

**Constable Program.** No report.

**Gazette.** Brenda de Alba reported that deliverers are needed for West 31st Street and for Apollo. This requires approximately 20 minutes per month. *Gazettes* come collated and ready to pass out. Please call her to help out.

**Beautification.** Bills for work done on the Garden Oaks Boulevard esplanade have been given to us by the City. We should receive the \$5,000 soon. The next meeting of the Beautification Committee is Tuesday, Jan. 20th at 858 Lamonte. Please come! This meeting will be to set goals and a budget for the 1998 year. Bob Gabrysch spoke briefly about the Community Garden on Alba near Shepherd Park Plaza. This garden was begun 10 years ago. It now consists of 13 raised beds of crops which are donated to food pantries at St. Rose of Lima and St. Matthew's. GOCC pays for the water for the garden, but all other costs and work is on a donated or volunteer basis. It is currently cared for by two non-Garden Oaks residents - more help is needed. Call 686-5493 to help out. The Terry Jeanes Challenge was met and Terry delivered a \$500 check to Brenda: thanks, Terry!


*continued on page 7*



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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

If you are a member of the Civic Club, we would like you to have a copy of the Bylaws. They will be available at all Civic Club meetings. If you are not a member, please come to the next meeting and see what we are all about. We have a wonderful community and the Civic Club is a big part of it.

## President's Message

*by Craig Lee, 1998 Civic Club President*

Our first Civic Club meeting for 1998 was well attended and I thank each of you who came. We began the meeting by getting some information about the "Community Garden". Do you know what this is? Well, there is a plot of land near Alba and Sue Barnett that is dedicated to growing vegetables which is then given to food pantries—lately at St. Rose's Catholic Church and St. Matthew's Methodist Church. While the garden has been active in the past, now only one man tends to it. His name is Bob Gabrysch. Bob does all the soil preparation and tilling, planting, watering, harvesting and packaging. And he delivers the food. But I feel sure he wouldn't mind a little help. You can reach him at 686-5493. Give him a call.

After about 30 minutes of regular business, committee reports, etc. we had an opportunity to hear from the Honorable Bruce Tatro, council member for City of Houston District A (Garden Oaks). Bruce, elected in a runoff in December, replaces the very favorable and honorable Helen Huey, who retired from Council because of term limits. We thank Bruce for taking the time to visit our meeting and look forward to having him return.

I am happy to announce that Susan and James Garman have volunteered their time to co-chair the Civic Club's Traffic Committee. I asked them also to follow up on the progress of the sidewalks planned for 43rd Street between Shepherd and Sue Barnett. I think I'll rename the Traffic Committee to "Street and Sidewalks Committee"—seriously. I suspect that if you are interested in getting involved on this committee, they would like to hear from you (688-9052). And if you can think of a better name, I would like to hear from you. Finally, thank you Marc Roberts for all the work you did as chair of this committee.

We heard reports by nearly all committees at the meeting. More details of these reports are in the minutes published in the Gazette. Judi Morawski, chair of the Home and Garden Tour Committee, in particular gave us a pretty darn clear picture of how much help she will need from volunteers for the Tour which will begin May 17th. The Home and Garden Tour is a wonderful showcase of Garden

Oaks. It is attended by people from all over the city. But, like a large golf tournament, it requires a lot of volunteers to make it work. The good news is that almost all of the volunteers will be needed only on the two days of the tours. Judi's phone number is 956-8911.

Our Constable Patrol committee has, as usual, a cashflow problem. The problem is not a result of bad management. It's a result of lack of support for the program (I'm not addressing those who paid). Of course, if this or any program is not going to be adequately supported, it must be dropped. Sorry. Section 1 residents: if the constable's patrol is discontinued, crime issues will gradually begin to surface again. If you are not going to support the constable's patrol, what alternatives could you suggest? (Don't suggest Houston Police should fill the gap because that's—by itself—not going to replace the benefits received by having a dedicated officer cruising the streets). Think about it and let us know. The committee's chair is Paul Brinley (862-6286).

The Constable Patrol committee will be meeting in January to decide what to do next. For Section 1 and 1A residents, look for more information coming your way soon if not already by the time you receive this Gazette.

Our next Civic Club meeting will be Tuesday February 3rd. We will have a program given by our very own Tom Stell on the new tax laws and how they affect retirement and new IRA's. Again it will be at Garden Oaks Elementary School's "Multi-Purpose" room. For best access, park in or near the circular drive. The Multi-Purpose in on the north end of the campus and backs up to the SPARK Park. Meetings run from 7-8:30. Refreshments and child care (\$1 per child) are provided. The Civic Club is your best avenue to get involved in this community.



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- 701 Garden Oaks Blvd.
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## Constable Corner

*by Paul Brinley, Constable Security Director*

First of all, Happy New Year to all Garden Oaks residents! I hope everyone had a safe and healthy holiday season.

As the new director of the Constable Program in Section 1 and 1A, and as a new resident of Garden Oaks, my family and I would like to thank those families who have generously supported the program, as well as the many individuals who have spent countless hours working to ensure that the program remains afloat financially.

As we enter 1998, it is time once again to reaffirm that commitment. The contract we maintain with Harris County was just renewed and runs on a calendar year. The cost of the program, is as follows:

- \$230 per family, annual dues
- \$750 per business, annual dues

The benefits of our contracted security program to the community are enormous, but to name a just a few:

- Residents have 24-hour security service, 7 days a week
- Our deputy patrols only a marked area exclusively, during their watch, which increases visibility and reduces response time significantly
- Alarm system response time is greatly increased
- Vacation or special security watches can be arranged for those participating in the program
- Most importantly, our deputy is empowered to enforce all aspects of the law, from moving violations to criminal

misconduct.

Implementing the program has worked: from its inception, our property values have risen, and our streets, our children, and our homes are safer than they have ever been.

We have all chosen Garden Oaks as a place to live and raise our children, and I (and believe many others) feel that the Constable Program has been a tremendous asset to the community. Yet, because the program is voluntary, we may not be able to continue funding it through 1998.

Currently, the program is in arrears, and we need to meet its immediate financial obligations to continue its existence at all. In the coming days and weeks, you will be contacted by me and hopefully other volunteers to answer any questions you may have about the Constable Program. I believe we all share the same goal: to improve our community, and make it safer for everyone. The Constable Program, through your continued support, is a very big part of this goal.

Please help our community, and make your pledges now. Your contributions may be tax deductible, and should be made payable to: **Garden Oaks Civic Club, ATTN: Paul Brinley, 234 W. 32nd St, Houston 77018.** And remember: Ana, our deputy, is a part of our community, as well.

Finally, I would welcome any

*continued page 5*

**Constable Corner** *continued from page 4*

assistance in organizing and maintaining the program. Specifically, individuals who could help with canvassing our streets and talking to residents are most needed. I will do my best to keep this moving, but as with any community program, it requires the efforts of the entire community for it to succeed.

Thanks to everyone in advance for their generous support. Please call me with any ideas you have to help our efforts!



**Community Garden Update**

*by Brenda de Alba*

I'll bet you never knew that Garden Oaks has a volunteer community garden right in our very midst. The garden which is located on Alba, two blocks north of W. 43rd Street, was started over 10 years ago by Garden Oaks residents. Through the years, volunteer participation has been spotty, at best, and has dwindled down to two non-Garden Oaks residents, Beth Galiano and Bob Gabrysch. The Garden Oaks Civic Club has paid the monthly water bills for the garden all these years.

What happens to the food grown in the garden? Over 90% of the food is donated to two local church food pantries...St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church and St. Matthew's Methodist Church.

Beth and Bob are to be congratulated for their dedication to keeping the garden growing and for helping the underprivileged in our area but they NEED MORE HELP!! Bob came to the January Civic Club meeting and briefly spoke about his efforts. Gardening is good for the soul so if you would like to learn more about the community garden and how you can help, he would love to hear from you. Bob can be reached at 686-5493.



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## Welcome Committee Plans Package for New Residents

by Tom Stell, VP  
Membership/Welcoming

One of the goals of the executive committee is to develop a welcome package for new neighbors moving to Garden Oaks. The package would include everything from the trash schedule to church times and coupons from local merchants. One of the most important pieces of information is descriptions of our local schools and which part of the neighborhood is zoned to which schools. It is also our goal to put this and other useful information on a Garden Oaks web site, to help inform and attract prospective residents to Garden Oaks. If you would like to participate please send any current information on our community and its organizations (churches, schools, clubs, etc.) to me at 1058 West 42nd Street, or give me a call at 966-5946 to volunteer your time. or if you have experience with creating web sites.

---

## Garden Club Elects Officers for 1998

President - Janice Walden  
Vice-President - Diana Coldiron  
Secretary - Meredith Jenkins  
Treasurer - Lisa Hertwick  
Sunshine - Susan Spooner  
Yard-of-the-Month - Brenda de  
Alba

## Beautification Report

by Brenda de Alba

The Sledge family in Section 3 has kindly donated a swing for the Gazebo Park. The swing used to hang in an oak tree in their front yard but recent rains caused the tree to uproot itself. Their loss is the neighborhood's gain.

Spring is near and it's time to start planning our perennial planting for the Esplanade Project. We will need volunteers to help prepare the ground for planting (Saturday, March 21) and then we will need volunteers two weeks later to put the plants in the ground (Saturday, April 4). So please mark your calendars and call me if you can volunteer on either of these dates. If you can only spare an hour or two, your help will be MOST appreciated! I'll have a flyer in the March Gazette to remind everyone.

If you have an over abundance of any of the following plants in your own garden and would like to donate them, please call me at 694-5934. If you are one of our "senior" residents and would like to donate plants but need help in dividing the roots, I can make arrangements to have someone come to your home. If you have other plants than what you see below, call me anyway...we might be able to use them. We want hardy plants, which return year after year (perennial) rather than annuals (bloom only one year).

Day lilies, Iris, Agapanthus,  
(Lily of the Nile)  
Ferns (Wood Fern, Holly  
Fern, etc.), Liriope,  
Monkey Grass, Mondo

Grass, Gingers (all  
varieties)

More next month...

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## Citizen's Patrol

by Carl Waters, Jr.

From time to time I receive a calls from persons in the neighborhood which should have been made directly to the Houston Police Department. Please do not delay help to yourself or your neighbors by calling the patrol program before you call the police or other emergency services.

- To report a crime in progress or other emergency

**Dial 911**

- For other non-emergency calls to the Houston Police Department, call 713 322-3131
- For the fire dispatch, call 713 227-2323
- For ambulance dispatch, call 713 222-3434

This month HPD crime stats were not available before press time. I did receive calls from neighbors reporting one car theft and one theft of property in December.

Our first patroller of the month for 1998 is Bob Bewley. Bob is the newest of patrollers, starting last September. He has proven to be a dedicated member of the unit, patrolling almost every week since he began. Thanks, Bob, for your hard work with the patrol program.



## Civic Club Minutes *continued from page 2*

**Garden Club.** No report. Next meeting scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 8th at 220 West 34th.

**Home Tour.** Progress is being made toward the May 17, 1998 Home Tour. Twenty homes were reviewed for inclusion in the tour. Six homes, two with gardens, and one additional garden have been selected for the tour. Judi described the different areas where volunteers are needed, both now and especially the day of the tour. Next meeting is Wednesday, Jan. 14th at 907 West 42nd St. Please come!

**Citizens on Patrol.** Only 15 patrollers are currently taking care of our neighborhood. More volunteers are needed. Crime is down in the area. A couple has been noted visiting garage sales in the area and passing counterfeit \$50 bills with their purchases - be aware of them.

**Education.** Bob Setterquist announced that Friends of Montessori at Garden Oaks Elementary are selling cookbooks for \$10 with proceeds benefitting the Montessori Program.

**GO Caroling.** Tina Sabuco thanked everyone who caroled or donated money or goods. The event was a great success, with \$800 and an additional van of goods collected after the evening of caroling.

### Old Business

**Sidewalks on West 43rd.** The addition of sidewalks along West 43rd Street was discussed. Sidewalks will be put in on West 43rd from Shepherd to Sue Barnett on both sides of the street. They will be placed approximately 3 feet from the street in the City easement. The addition of sidewalks to the rest of West 43rd is pending interest from any 43rd St. resident followed by approval by the City.

### New Business

**Budget.** Craig reported that the budget for 1998 will be presented at the Feb GOCC meeting. The Board will meet prior to the Feb. meeting; all committee chairmen should get their budgets together.

**Property on West 30th St.** SW Bell has approached Craig concerning the property adjacent to Conn's on West 30th St. This property is deeded residential. SW Bell would like to use this property as an area storage building for their service representatives. They were informed of the deed restrictions and told to contact the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees representatives present said they had not been contacted.

### Presentation.

Bruce Tatro, new City Council Representative for District A, was introduced and discussed his transition into City government, his staff and his ideas on helping District A. An open forum followed.

Refreshments were supplied by Terry Jeanes. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

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# February 1998

| Sunday | Monday  | Tuesday  | Wednesday                  | Thursday  | Friday                          | Saturday |
|--------|---|--|----------------------------|---|---------------------------------|----------|
| 1      | 2   | 3<br>Civic Club<br>Mtg. 7 p.m.<br><br>Go Elementary              | 4                          | 5<br><br>Curbside<br>Recycling     | 6<br><br>Gazette<br>Deadline    | 7        |
| 8      | 9   | 10<br><br>Home &<br>Garden Tour<br>Meeting 7 p.m.<br>907 W. 42nd | 11                         | 12<br>Garden<br>Club<br>6:30 p.m.<br>Place TBA<br>869-6534  | 13<br><br>St. Rose-No<br>School | 14       |
| 15     | 16<br>St. Rose-No<br>School<br><br>President's<br>Day | 17<br>Heavy<br>Trash Pick-<br>up                                 | 18                         | 19<br><br>Curbside<br>Recycling  | 20<br><br>St. Rose-<br>Go Texan | 21       |
| 22     | 23  | 24   | 25<br><br>Ash<br>Wednesday | 26  | 27                              | 28       |



Remember -  
Lots of school holidays this month;  
drive slowly & watch for children!

## 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 Co-Editor:

Rebecca Stark, 734 West 42nd, 691-1067

### Gazette Advertising Director:

Susan Kostelecky, 1318 Sue Barnett, 697-4110

### Treasurer:

Shelly Immel, 1058 West 42nd, 688-4681

### 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

Beautification: Ed & Brenda de Alba, 694-5934

Nominations: TBA

### Contacts

Education Liaison: Denise Epstein, 869-0128

Gazette Hand Delivery: Brenda de Alba, 694-5934

Neighborhood Traffic Program: Susan and James Garman, 688-9052

### Board of Trustees

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

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

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

Section 4: Richard Broad, 957-8075; Harry James, 695-7007  
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Choice of Two:  
*Grilled Asparagus with Hollandaise Sauce  
Artichoke Velvet  
Green Beans with Creamy Dill Sauce  
Spinach in Tomato Cups  
Minted Peas with Lemon*

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3:00 to 8:00 p.m.**

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Year moved to Garden Oaks: \_\_\_\_\_ Section# \_\_\_\_\_

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Household \$20 \_\_\_\_\_ Senior Citizen \$5 \_\_\_\_\_ Business \$50 \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDITIONAL SUPPORT NEEDS**

GO Elem. Montessori\* \$7 \_\_\_\_\_ Garden Club \$7 \_\_\_\_\_ Beautification \$7 \_\_\_\_\_

*Gazette* Newsletter \$7 \_\_\_\_\_ GO-COP \$7 \_\_\_\_\_ All five of these \$35 \_\_\_\_\_

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

I would like to be involved with the following program (s) or committee (s). Please call me.

Mail form to Paul M. Brinley, Contract Security Director , 235 West 32nd Street, Houston, Texas 77018

**GARDEN OAKS CONSTABLE PROGRAM  
1998 Annual Membership Dues**

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Thank you very much for your support.

**Garden Oaks Civic Club**  
Craig Lee, VP/Membership  
212 W. 34th.  
Houston, TX 77018

**Garden Oaks Civic Club**  
Craig Lee, VP/Membership  
212 W. 34th.  
Houston, TX 77018