

# Garden Oaks Gazette

A publication of the Garden Oaks Civic Club

August 1998

Volume 21, No. 8

## August

August 4th - National Neighbor's Night Out

August 18th - 1999 Home Tour Committee

7:00 pm  
1318 Sue Barnett -  
Susan Kostelecky's

If you are interested in being on the Home Tour Committee for 1999, please come to this meeting to find out more about how you can be involved. If you need more information, please call Meredith at 697-5654.

### DON'T FORGET!!

There will be no Civic Club meetings during August.

**HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!!  
WE'LL SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER!**

## Motel Update

Dear Fellow Houstonian:

I am proud to announce that on June 30, 1998, City Council passed a new ordinance that will further restrict the proliferation of "hot sheet" hotels in our neighborhoods and communities. Following is a summary of the changes made to the hotel/motel ordinance.

- \* An additional residential density test was added for hotels and motels of 75 or fewer units that are not situated on freeway access roads. The test will exclude sites that have 50% or more residential tracts within 750 feet of the project site (measured from the property line).
- \* The definition of *residential street* has been enhanced by allowing *major thoroughfares* (i.e. Antoine, Yale St.) to be classified as residential streets when at least 30% of the frontage area on both sides of the street is residential within one full block or 250 feet of the project site, whichever is longer.
- \* The new ordinance applies to all current and future projects for which a formal building permit application was not filed by June 30, 1998.
- \* All projects that fail the residential test requirements are not eligible to receive a permit, but do have the option of requesting a variance from the Planning Commission.
- \* In the case of a variance request, nearby property owner notification would be required, and a public hearing would be mandatory.

### Antoine/Yale Hotel Update:

Both the Antoine Hotel and the Yale Hotel are affected by the new ordinance. The Planning Department will not approve hotel construction on these locations. If the Antoine group wishes to proceed further with their application, they must seek a variance, or "exception", from the Planning Commission. To date, the Antoine Hotel applicant has not forwarded a variance request to the Planning Commission and a formerly scheduled hearing for the Yale Hotel has been cancelled. A new request has not been submitted.

I would like to thank all of the residents of District "A" who called, faxed, wrote letters and attended council meetings regarding this important issue.

If you have any further questions or concerns on this issue, please do not hesitate to contact my office at 247-2010.

Sincerely,  
Bruce Tatro

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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

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Note: This is not a solicitation for R.E.  
listings

**President's Letter**

*by Craig Lee, 1998 Civic Club President*

What a difference a month can make. Last month we were battling a proposed day motel on the corner of Yale and 30th, this month all is quiet. With the tremendous assistance of council members Bruce Tatro, Annise Parker, Carroll Robinson and Ray Driscoll, an ordinance was drafted and passed by the city which now prohibits motels with fewer than 75 rooms from being built within 750 feet of areas that are more than 50 percent residential. (2 footnotes: The Yale location was approximately 85 percent residential as measured by the city; and not one motel over 75 rooms has ever requested a permit to build in or next to a neighborhood—excluding freeway locations). Good news, huh.

Well it took a lot of work to get to this point. And without tooting our horns too much, it was from the work of the Garden Oaks residents and residents of the greater Inwood Forest area that got this ordinance passed—in record time to boot. What's more amazing is that this city council, like many of our city councils, still continues to give the preferential nod to business interests when those interests are in conflict with residential protection. When will a majority of council realize that while growth can be and should be positive, it should not come at the expense of the potential deterioration of residential areas.

At least, finally, the city has recently addressed some of the more intrusive encroachments: sexually-oriented business, the vast number of cell towers that are expected to be built, and hourly motels. But even as the motel ordinance was being passed, both council members Rob Todd and Bruce Tatro commented somewhat as follows: 'this just shows that neighborhoods can get what they want when they work together with businesses – and – these residents are not anti-business.' Of course we're not anti-business. And we are always willing to work with business. But business won't always work with us.

I would like to express my most sincere gratitude to the members of the task force which the Civic Club organized to address the motel issue, leader Stacey Park, Sheila Briones, Kim McMath, Shelly Rogers and Terry Jeanes. They have done a magnificent job. Continue to show them your support as they endeavor to address what to recommend for the tract of land on 30th and Yale before something else undesirable comes along and we have to start this process all over again. While they're on that subject, they may get an opportunity to address the apartment complex at 34th and Shepherd.

We also received very much appreciated support from Ed de Alba at the meetings, and from Nathan and Debbie Kvinge, Shannon Kerney and Megan Barlow at the committee and council hearings; and, of course I can't forget the cameo appearance of those two new television wonders, Ms. Christine Winklemann and Ms. Mildred Christian, both of whom looked awful good on the Channel 2 newscast.

Don't forget Tuesday (August 4th) is National Night Out. Get together with your neighbors up and down the street for barbecue, or watermelon, or whatever you might enjoy. This is a great opportunity for neighbors to meet and that's important. Our next regular Civic Club meeting will be September 1st at 7 p.m..

I hope the remainder of your summer is blessed, relaxing and fun.

*Craig*



## Garden Oaks Civic Club Minutes

by Joan Harmon

The June 16 meeting of the Civic Club was called to order at 7:05pm by President Craig Lee at GO Elementary School. A motion to waive Notice of Meeting made, seconded and approved.

A motion was made and seconded to reimburse the Baptist Church \$100 for their cleaning crew and pay Church Use Fee of \$150 for the use of their building for the last Civic Club meeting.

President Lee made the following announcements:

- There will be no July 4th Bike Parade as no one volunteered to head it
- There are no Civic Club Meetings in July and August. Tuesday, August 4th is National Night Out.
- Ken Yarborough was thanked for coming to tonight's meeting.
- Offered sympathy for Section One Constable Ana Herrera for the loss of a family member in a car accident.

## Citizen's Patrol

by Carl Waters, Jr.

August 4th is National Night Out. Please organize a party on your block to meet your neighbors. If you are planning a party and would like a representative from HPD to attend, please call me at 864-1992 and I will see if an officer can stop by. The sooner you call the more likely it can be arranged.

Residents continue to report thefts of lawn furniture and plants. One neighbor lost \$2,000 in palm trees after moving to our neighborhood. If you are a victim of this type of crime, regardless of the dollar amount, PLEASE report it to HPD and/or the Constable's Office. Crimes that are not reported cannot be investigated. If you see someone taking property from your neighbor's home call 911 and report a crime (theft) in progress so HPD will dispatch an officer at a higher priority.

May crimes were as follows: Two burglaries, one in the 700 block of W. 30th St. on 5/6 at 1:31 pm and one in the 700 block of W. 42nd St. on 5/18 at 6:55 am; and two auto thefts, one in the 700 block of W. 39th St. on 5/5 at 11:00 pm and one in the 1400 block of Sue Barnett on 5/25 at 4:30 am.

Patrollers and bases were in operation for 40 hours during May. I thank all our patrollers and bases for the time they dedicate to this program each month. These numbers are down from our normal levels. The program could certainly use some new members. If you are interested please call me at 864-1992.

In closing for this month, I would like to thank the members of the Home and Garden Tour for the generosity shown to our program with their donation of \$800 from the Home Tour profits.

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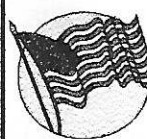


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- 847 W. 42nd St.
- 701 Garden Oaks Blvd.
- 713 Garden Oaks Blvd.
- 4232 Apollo
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## Education Corner

### Oak Forest Elementary

This past school year (97/98), we received the highest rating of "Exemplary" on the TAAS test. In addition, Oak Forest was one of only 14 schools to exempt 5% or fewer students from the TAAS test.

The 98/99 school year will soon begin. The following information should give you a head start in preparing for a successful year!

- Registration for new students-starts Monday, Aug. 3, 9am. Please come to the main office.

- School begins-August 17th. School hours-7:45a-2:45p.
- School administration-Ms. Rosalind Haynes (Principal) & Mr. Fred Boyer (Assistant Principal)

- PTA officers-Elizabeth Kuntz (President); Jan Rotenberry, Lynne Devine, Shani Broderick (Vice Presidents); Cathy Rowell (Treasurer); Patty Whiting (Secretary); Cathline Kmiecik (Historian); Allison Blizzard (Parliamentarian).

- School location-1400 West 43rd Street. The school phone number is 613-2536. Vanguard office is 613-2538.

- School supplies-Prepackaged school supplies will be on sale in the Parent Education Bldg, Thursday/Friday (August 6-7) from 8-9am or Monday/Tuesday (August 17-18) from 7:30-9am. Prices range from \$25-\$37, cash or check accepted. This is the most cost effective way to purchase supplies. Supplies are delivered directly to the classroom, ready for immediate use.

- Uniforms-This is the second year of the uniform policy at Oak Forest. Shirts are "polo" style with collars. Colors include white, navy blue, and hunter green.

Shorts/pants-navy or khaki in color (No blue jeans).

Girls skirts and jumpers-navy or khaki in color.

Oak Forest "logo" shirts are available and will be sold along with the prepackaged school supplies in August and at the 1st PTA meeting, August 27th. Prices are \$11/youth & \$13/adult.

Our official uniform store is Weiners, located at 11061 Northwest Frwy (290). Watch your newspaper for sale dates.

- Parent's Night Out & PTA general meeting-MARK August 27, 6:30pm on your calendar. At this meeting, you'll learn about your child's curriculum as well as this year's school plans and activities.

- Pick up and drop-off of students-The school gates open at 7:15 am. Early arrivals must go to the cafeteria or library (Vanguard) until school begins. At 2:45 pm students will be escorted by their teacher to one of several locations: Spark park exit, LaMonte street by flagpole, LaMonte street closest to Black Middle School, and the Main gate on 43rd.

- After school program-Contact the YWCA at 713 868-9922 for more information.

## St. Rose of Lima

St. Rose Catholic School is gearing up for another year full of learning & fun. Plans for August include a reception August 9 welcoming our new associate priest, Rev. Clint Ressler, and our new principal, Paul Boer. The reception follows 10:45 Mass. Tour Day is scheduled for August 12 from 9-12. The first full day of school is August 13. This year, St. Rose students will enjoy a fully stocked science lab. A new Outdoor Classroom created in honor of previous principal, Judy McCullough, provides teachers & students a garden spot for study, prayer, & relaxation. Registration for 1998-99 is on-going & enrollment is still open. St. Rose offers a comprehensive academic program to students in pre-k through 5th grade. Please call 713 692-9123 to learn more.

## St. Michael's Parish Day School

Registrations for 1998-99 are now being accepted.

The following classes: 3 year olds, Pre-K and Kindergarten are offered Monday-Friday 8:40-11:30 am. Comprehensive and accelerated programs are offered in all classes and there is limited enrollment in each class so that individual attention can be provided.

An extended day program is available for all students that are enrolled in the school program. Before School Care from 7-8:30 am and After School Care from 11:30-6pm as well as Mothers' Day Out from 11:30-2:30 is offered.

The fall term begins August 24. For more information call the school office at 681-6422 or Virginia Baros at 686-0645.

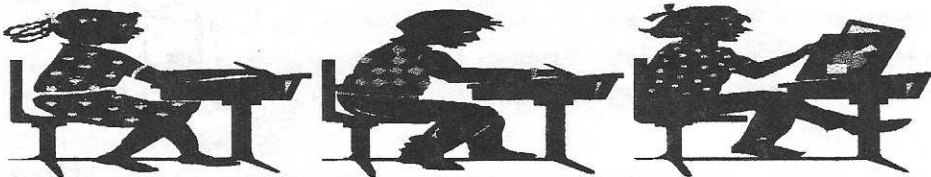
## Garden Oaks Elementary

GO Elementary is again an HISD Exemplary School! Our Spring 1998 TAAS passing rates were:

Reading 92%	Math 91%	Writing 98%
Spanish TAAS:	Reading 93%	Math 80%

We are still **THE BEST IN THE NORTHWEST!!** We have higher scores than any other school in the Northwest District.

GO Elementary will have a **Parent-Teacher Work Day, Saturday August 8, 8am-3pm.** We need volunteers to help teachers set up classrooms for the new school year! Teachers will be decorating rooms, counting book, preparing activities and materials for the first weeks of school and organizing supplies. Come volunteer an hour or two of your time! Whether you're a parent, grandparent or none of the above, **COME JOIN US!** We'll even have snacks & refreshments for all our volunteers!



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THE GAZETTE'S  
DISTRIBUTION  
INTENTIONALLY. THIS WAS  
IN ORDER TO TRY TO  
PROVIDE THE LATEST  
UPDATE ON THE MOTEL  
PROPOSED IN SECTION ONE  
FOLLOWING THE CITY OF  
HOUSTON'S JUNE 30TH  
COUNCIL VOTE ON A  
PROPOSED MOTEL  
ORDINANCE THAT WOULD  
ADDRESS THE ISSUE.**

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## August Birthdays



Robert McCracken - 15th

Happy 3rd Anniversary to Carmalyn & Robert McCracken on the 12th!

### TO SUBMIT BIRTHDAYS TO THE GAZETTE:

**CALL OR WRITE THE EDITOR, MEREDITH, AT 697-5654 OR 855 WEST 43RD. THE YEAR BORN IS NOT REQUIRED!!**

## OUR TREES ARE NOT SIGNPOSTS!!!

During the last six months, people have nailed signs to advertise garage sales and lost pets to trees in Friendship Garden (Section 1), the Gazebo Park (Section 2), and the SPARK Park next to Garden Oaks Elementary.

I am sure that none of the neighbors who nailed the signs to the trees meant any intentional harm; however, through their ignorance, that's exactly what they've done! Nailing signs on the trees introduce the possibility of disease and insects, besides **BEING ILLEGAL!!**

I checked with the officers at the Near North Storefront to find out if there is a city ordinance outlawing signs on trees which are located on City property. City Code Section 28-39 states that placing any type of advertising (sign, poster, political advertisement, etc.) on a tree located on public property is against the law. Anyone violating this law may be fined \$50-\$200 per sign per instance.

Please call Officer Bart Jandal or Officer Richard Hetmaniak at (713) 956-3152 to report instances of signs nailed to trees. The officers will investigate, remove the signs, and pay a visit to the address listed on the sign.

# Neighborhood Tidbits

## ENERGY SAVING TIPS FROM HL & P

- If a dish requires more than an hour of cooking, don't preheat the oven.
- Minimize opening the oven door. Every time the door is opened the temperature drops 25 degrees.
- Turn off the oven a few minutes before the dish is fully cooked. The remaining heat will finish the job.
- Unplug all TVs & converter boxes while on vacation. They can draw as much as 40 watts each even when they're off.



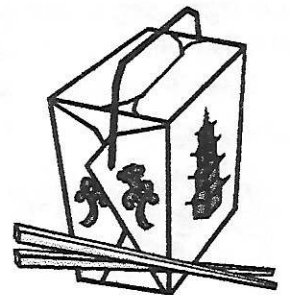
## Garden Oaks Galloping Gourmet

Happy All Cafe was the restaurant chosen for this month's GOGG. It is located just 10 minutes from Garden Oaks (in the Heights) at 1343 Yale. Since Garden Oaks could use a close Chinese "take-outie" restaurant, this reviewer was really anxious to see if this would fit the bill, but it was a disappointing visit.

At first impression, the restaurant seemed small with only a few tables for dining - which would not have been a problem except the service appeared to be unorganized so we ordered food to go. We had to give them 30 minutes to prepare it, so we left and came back because there really is not a good place to wait.

The menu is very large and includes both Chinese and Vietnamese dishes. We ordered two different Kitchen Specialties and steamed vegetable dumplings - and all three were just "o.k." Their prices are reasonable; ranging from \$1.50 for soups to \$15.95 for seafood dishes.

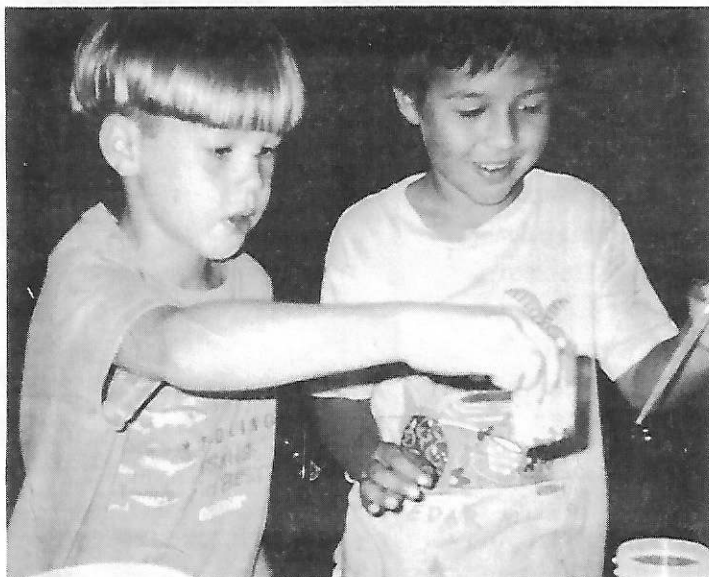
Some of the problems could be because Happy All Cafe had just opened and they need some time to settle down - so, you might try them in a few weeks and see what you think. Their hours are Monday - Friday: 11:00 am - 10:00 pm and Saturday & Sunday: Noon - 10:00 pm.



## Children's Gardening Workshop

by Janice Walden, Garden Club President

Children of Garden Oaks developed their green thumbs in June when the Garden Club sponsored a children's gardening workshop. Held each Friday morning in June at Garden Oaks Elementary, the one-hour sessions covered soil types, composting, insects, growing seeds, and our neighborhood community garden. Special thanks to Principal Eugenia Daniels for making the cafetorium at the school available for use as a classroom; to Tina Sabuco of "Arts Alive!" for her special nature-active presentations; to long-time resident Thelma Fields, Etymologist Pat Ireland, and Community Garden Coordinator Beth Galiano for their teaching; and to Colleen Housley for her assistance during the workshop sessions.



Austin Jones (left) & Alexander Goodman (right) test soil from their back yards during the Children's Gardening Workshop sponsored by the Garden Oaks Garden Club.

## Park Beautification

Plans are underway for beautification of the park at 34th and Lawrence. Requests for improvements have been submitted to the City's Parks & Recreation Department, proposed beds have been staked out, and an irrigation plan is being drafted. Please see insert for the map.

The centerpiece of this park will be a large memorial bed of antique roses. If you'd like to donate a rose in memory of a loved one, look for the sign-up form in next month's *Gazette*. Janice Walden and Sheila Briones are co-chairing this project. If you'd like to help out with the planning and planting, please call Sheila at: 861-8091.

## Upcoming Garden Club Activities and Events!

-  September 10th  
Bulbs - Sally Squire  
858 LaMonte Ln.
-  October 8th  
Show & Tell/Officer Nominations  
220 West 34th St.
-  October 10th  
Friendship Garden Work Day

## Pine Straw Badly Needed!

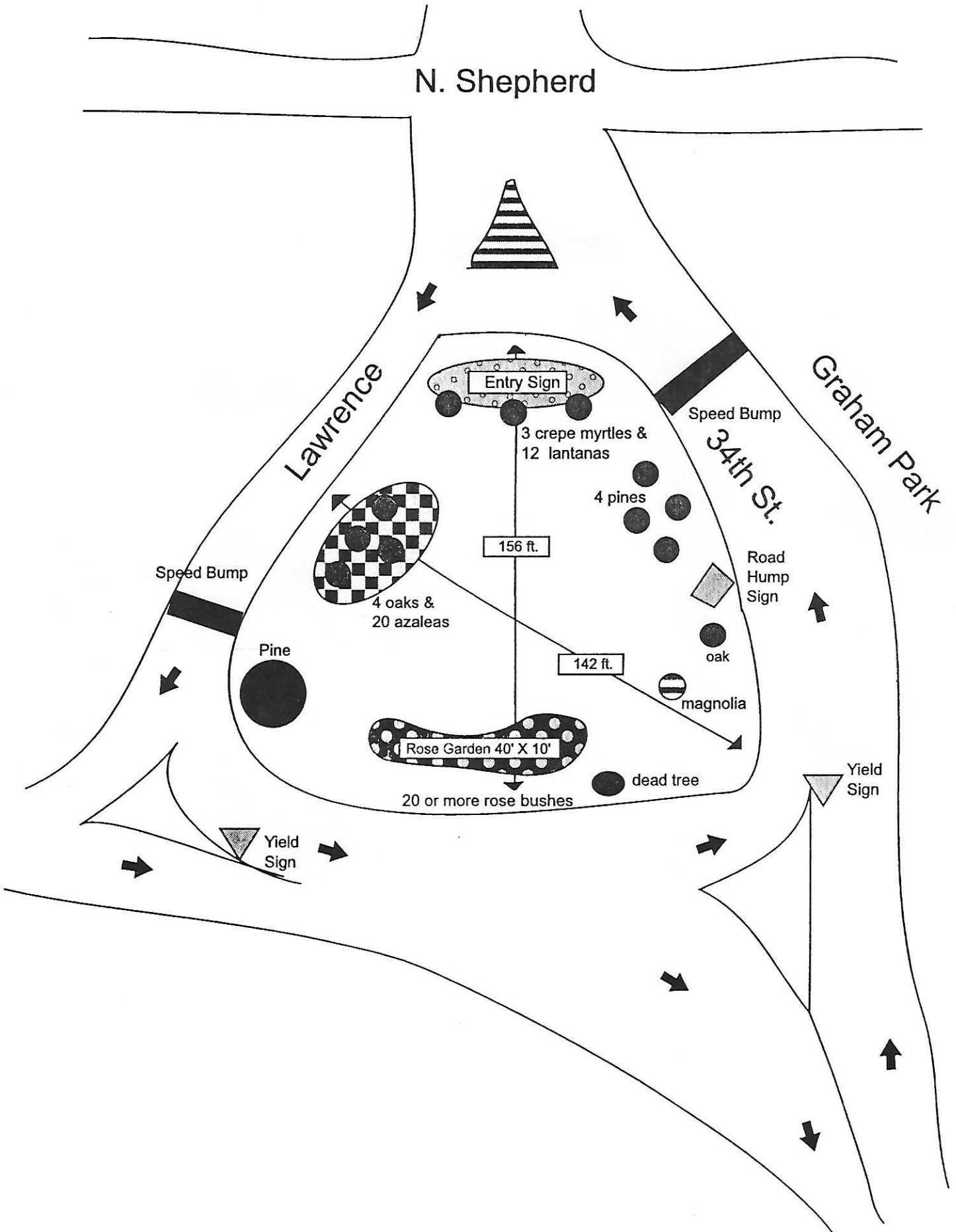
by Brenda de Alba

Through our beautification efforts, we're finding that the best mulch we can use to discourage weed growth is good ole pine needles. Bales of "pine straw" are expensive, even at wholesale prices so I'm sending out an ALL POINTS BULLETIN for bags of pine needles (now, this fall, whenever). PLEASE call 694-5934 instead of putting your bags out on the street! Leave your name, address, & phone number and someone will get back to you and come collect the bags. The Esplanade and other green spaces will GREATLY benefit from your gift and best of all, you'll save the neighborhood beautification effort a pile of money.

July Yard of the Month  
was awarded to  
John & Jan Ciccarelli  
4306 Apollo  
Congratulations!

As Garden Oaks residents for 23 years, John & Jan combine their gardening talents in a team effort to produce a green & healthy yard.

# 34th Street/Lawrence Esplanade





# August 1998

*Sunday      Monday      Tuesday      Wednesday      Thursday      Friday      Saturday*

						1
2	3 School registration @ Oak Forest 9 am	4 National Neighbor's Night Out	5	6 Gazette Deadline	7	8 GO Elem. Parent- Teacher Workday 8am - 3pm
9 St. Rose Reception for new principal	10	11	12 St. Rose Tour Day 9am - noon	13 First Day of School @ St. Rose	14	15
16	17 First Day of School @ Oak Forest Elementary	18 Home Tour Committee 7 pm - 1318 Sue Barnett	19	20	21	22
23	24 First Day @ St. Michael's	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 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:**  
TBA - Volunteer Needed!!

**Committee Chairs**

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

**Constable Program:** Donna Archer, 869-3388

**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:** Missy Coward, 956-6492

**Gazette Hand Delivery:** Brenda de Alba, 694-5934

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

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

**Section 5:** Kirk Dice, 694-2247



# Celebrate America's Night Out!

Tuesday, August 4, 1998

Join your Garden Oaks' neighbors for a special evening to get to know each other better. Host a block party in your front yard and pick up supper from Haute Groceries!



Haute Groceries now offers three advertised entrees each day along with a **daily cold plate!**

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Faxed menu: 713-914-5074  
Office: 713-682-6320

Monday - Friday 3:00 - 8:00 p.m. 3468 Ella at 34th



**Garden Oaks Civic Club Membership Form**

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**ANNUAL DUES (January 1 - December 31) Make checks payable to: Garden Oaks Civic Club**

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 Craig Lee, 212 West 34th Street, Houston, Texas 77018

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

NAME (S): \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP \$230 Make checks payable to: Garden Oaks Civic Club**

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \_\_\_\_\_