Garden Oaks Neighborhood
Holiday Party

Civic Club Meeting &
Holiday Potluck Dinner
Tuesday, December 1st, 1998
Garden Oaks Elementary School
7 pm

Please join your friends and neighbors as we ring in the holiday season with our annual Holiday Potluck Dinner. This meeting is a social event, with our only business the election of 1999 officers. We ask that you bring the following, according to your last name:

A-F Covered vegetable
G-L Dessert
M-R Bread
S-Z Appetizer

1999 Slate of Civic Club Officer Candidates

President: James Flowers
Vice Pres: David Bell
Gazette Editor: Robert DeVeau
Secretary: Felicia Adams
Treasurer: Jay Slemmer

Elections for these positions will take place at the Civic Club Holiday Dinner on Tuesday, December 1st.

Santa Claus plans special visit to Garden Oaks!!!

Once again Santa Claus will make his early Garden Oaks visit in the West 42nd/Sue Barnett pocket park (Gazebo Park). On Mon., Dec. 21st and Tues., Dec. 22nd (weather permitting) he will be in the Gazebo from 7-9 pm. Cookies and wassail will be served to all visitors, so come by and bring you Christmas list & camera!
President’s Letter
by Craig Lee, 1998 Civic Club President

This is my next to last letter for the Gazette. How do I know? Because we have not one but in fact two very qualified candidates for President for next year’s Civic Club. I am also very pleased to note that we have candidates for most of the other offices of the organization. As of this writing, the recommendations of the nominations committee have not been finalized, but hopefully they are listed somewhere in this Gazette. I do think that Ed and Brenda de Alba would appreciate a break from the beautification program. They have worked very hard on the program, and their results tell the story. There are a number of highly visible improvements that have taken place throughout the neighborhood during the past few years. But they tell us they’d like some rest once in awhile. If one of you would take over the program’s planning and coordination, I’m sure you will still be able to count on their help and support. If interested, give me (Craig Lee) or Ed or Brenda a call.

Constable Patrol: Section I residents who read this letter last month, you might have noticed that a referenced update on the constable patrol was nowhere to be found in the Gazette. That’s because I failed to get the article to Meredith, the Gazette’s editor. I apologize for that error.

Here’s the scoop. A meeting of interested residents from Section I took place back on November 5th to discuss the issue. A healthy group turned out and the meeting was quite productive. By now, you probably know which direction the program is going.

One of the issues that came up and deserves additional exploration is the possibility of expanding the single constable to more of Garden Oaks than just Section I. After discussing this issue with deputy constable Chief Scott, we understand that this is not only feasible, but encouraged. Realistically, there would be no substantial difference in response time, the deputy patrolling the area is less bored, and the overall costs can be spread among many more people. If any, or all, areas of Garden Oaks are interested, including individual streets, get together and touch base with Karl Engellman or Sam Mehta who both of whom have kindly volunteered their times to coordinate the program next year. Look for their phone numbers in the back of the Gazette starting in January.

December Civic Club Meeting: Our December meeting will follow a tradition of having a covered dish Christmas dinner. We will get an opportunity to vote on a new slate of officers for 1999’s Civic Club. So your attendance is important. Also there will be a children’s choir from Garden Oaks Elementary School to sing. I think the meeting will be enjoyable for everyone. It’s Tuesday night at 7 p.m. on December 1st. Look for more information on the gathering in this Gazette.

I wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season. Don’t forget to send me Christmas gifts!

Craig
Garden Oaks Civic Club Minutes
by Felicia Adams, Acting Secretary

President Craig Lee called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Business:
Committee Reports
-Nominate process- election of officers will take place at the December meeting. Committee has found volunteers to run for offices and will be presenting a slate at the December meeting if not in the December Gazette.
-Terry James- annual holiday feast will be with the 2nd and 3rd graders @ GO Elementary caroling. Bring a covered dish. Check the Gazette for dish assignments according to your last name.
-Beautification- Water system will be installed in circle park at 34th and Lawrence. Waiting on approval from the city for water. On December 5th, a workday is planned for the Spark park. Please join in to help. Beautification fall festival is November 15th. See Gazette insert.
-Treasurer- There is greater than $30,000 in our combined accounts.
-Home Tour- The committee is soliciting homes for next year’s tour. Call Meredith Jenkins to make suggestions or nominations.
-COP- 1600 hours between the Kelleys and Mehrkams acknowledged and appreciated. GO-COP was instrumental in minimizing damage during an attempted robbery to a home on W. 38th. The organization continues to need more volunteers.
-Constable patrol- Section I paid is up through September and half of October. Program terminated (perhaps just suspended) in October. A meeting to discuss what can be done about this is scheduled for Thursday, November 5th at 7 p.m. in the G. O. Elementary Multi-Purpose room.

Old Business – None.

New Business – None.

Guest Speakers-
Vicki Cave with the High School for Engineering Professions, Ray Morgan, principal of Waltrip High School and David Baxter, principal of Black Middle School spoke about their respective programs. The speakers were introduced by Jeannie Daniels, principal of G. O. Elementary School. The next meeting will be December 1st (Christmas party with meeting).

Dear Garden Oaks,
Great things have been happening in Garden Oaks lately. We ranked 3rd in the City for increase of property values, following only the Heights and River Oaks. About ten years ago I made a decision to build my business in Garden Oaks. I believed in you and you believed in me. I am very optimistic that there are even brighter things ahead for Garden Oaks. May you all have a wonderful holiday and a safe, prosperous, and a fine New Year!

Thanks for the Opportunity,
Harry James
Education Corner

Baptist Temple School

Dates to Remember for December

December 4th - 5th  The Heights Home Tour will include Baptist Temple Church. The Baptist Temple School children will be singing on Friday, beginning around 6 pm.

December 18th  The Christmas Chapel program will include performances by each grade. The parents, grandparents and friends are invited.

Dec 19th - Jan 3rd  Baptist Temple School will be closed for the holidays, but Baptist Temple School Day Care will be open except on December 24 & 25 and January 1.

Baptist Temple School
230 West 20th
864-0154

A learning environment for the spiritual, academic, physical and emotional growth of your child.

Durham Elementary

Durham’s Christmas program and PTA meeting will be on Tuesday, December 15 at 7 pm. This year’s slogan is “This Is Christmas”. The Choir, Drama Club, Dance Club and sign language classes will be performing.

On December 16, the Durham choir will be singing holiday cheer at the new Kroger on West 43rd from 10 - 11 am and then making their way to the Lyric Center to perform from 12 - 12:45 in the lobby. All parents and visitors are welcomed to attend.

We will also be collecting Turkey Bucks and non-perishable items to make food baskets to help some of our families that are less fortunate.

Denise Kaminiski
Garden Oaks Elementary School

Garden Oaks Elementary wishes to give a huge thanks to ALL who voted for the HISD Bond Issue on November 3rd! We appreciate your vote of confidence in our school. We have an excellent feeder pattern that includes Garden Oaks, Durham, Holden, Oak Forest, Sinclair and Stevens elementary schools, Black Middle School, and Waltrip High School. Students who live in Section 1 of Garden Oaks are zoned to our school, Black Middle School and Booker T. Washington High School. Principals at all these schools are meeting monthly to improve instruction all the way up the line through high school. We are proud to be an exemplary and recognized school! We want all the others in our feeder pattern to become the same. Look for some positive changes!

Our school is enjoying our new computer lab. Classes attend the lab at least twice a week. All teachers have a PowerMac in their classrooms to use for teaching and student material. Our PTA funded cabling for our lab, and the Civic Club contributed last year to much of the software we have in the lab. Thank you so much! At Open House, our parents were so impressed!

Garden Oaks Elementary has two dance troops: the Garden Oaks Eagles and the Eagles Folkloric Dance Troop. Both groups will be happy to be invited to perform at any community functions, including the Civic Club meetings or other occasions. They would love to “strut their stuff” for you!

Thanks to you all, and have a VERY HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON!

Jeannie Daniels, Principal
Citizen’s Patrol
by Carl Waters, Jr.

On October 16th, Deputy Constable Ana de la Fuente-Herrera and a fellow officer apprehended two armed robbers in the 400 block of West 32nd St. The duo had broken into a home on 33rd St. and jumped over the fence into the yard of another resident on 32nd.Alerted by neighbors, the constables apprehended the duo and recovered $50,000 worth of stolen property in a nearby hotel room. If your home has been broken into recently, contact the Precinct 1 Constable’s Office to see if they have your property.

A similar incident occurred the last week of October. Two males, one Hispanic and one Black, were observed parked in the driveway of a home in the 700 block of West 38th St. Alert neighbors flagged down a passing patroller who alerted the base station and in turn HPD was called. These two unfortunately got away but they were not able to do much damage before being discovered. Their get-away vehicle was a small black car with a taped up driver’s side window bearing the license plate NUP 760. If you see this car in the neighborhood, please call 911.

Ana’s actions may have been her last deed of service to our neighborhood. As I write this article, the Constable Program was running in arrears and scheduled to stop at the end of October unless funds were raised to finish the year. While I may not have always seen eye to eye with the way this program was administered, I am sad to see that it is going. I have always supported this program. As head of the COP and as a probation officer, I know you can never have too many officers looking out for you.

September Crime Stats - 7 totals
Burglaries (3)
  1300 block of Sue Barnett 9/4/98 at 10:30 am
  800 block of Lamonte Ln. 9/9/98 at 6:00 pm
  800 block of Lamonte Ln. 9/15/98 at 7:00 pm
Burglary of a Motor Vehicle (4)
  3100 block of N. Shepherd 9/9/98 at 2:30 pm
  1000 block of W. 42nd St. 9/15/98 at 11:30 pm
  1000 block of Gardenia 9/16/98 at 12:01 am
  700 block of W. 42nd St. 9/18/98 at 12:00 pm

In September, patrollers and bases were active for 45 1/2 hours. Thanks for those who make this program happen!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE C.O.P TO ALL GARDEN OAKS RESIDENTS!!

'til next year
Carl

Upcoming Garden Club Activities and Events!

December 5th
Art Park Workday

December 10th
Holiday Party
420 West 32nd - Ann Best’s

Beautification Update
by Brenda de Alba

WORK DAY PLANNED FOR THE ART PARK!!! (W. 43rd & Sue Barnett) at 9 am on Saturday, December 5th. Please come help even if it’s for an hour! This is probably the most visible park in the neighborhood to outsiders . . .

Theft on the Esplanade - Another tree (Banana Magnolia) was stolen in mid-October on the northeast end of the Esplanade...just dug up and carted away! Someone also helped themselves to 6 of the Firecracker Ferns, which are planted on the south side of the Esplanade. If you see any suspicious activity of ANY KIND in any of our parks, PLEASE call the Police!

Memorial Rose Garden at 34th & Lawrence - I can’t thank Janice Walden & Sheila Briones enough for championing this project. The response from the neighborhood has been wonderful for rose donations...up to 35 at last count! Ed de Alba, Warren Walden, Karl Engelmann, Pat Buron, and Ray Housley volunteered their time on Halloween Day to install the irrigation lines for the park. Next comes creating the planting beds, installation of the water meter, and finally the plants.

Triangle Park at Alba & Azalea - Just a note of thanks to James Sommers for keeping the park mowed and to the tireless efforts of Tina Nieto.

Fall is one of the best times of the year for gardening, planting trees, shrubs, and perennials!

November Yard of the Month
was awarded to
Charlie and Sheila Amalfi
319 West 32nd
Congratulations!
Neighborhood Church News

Baptist Temple

Baptist Temple Church is excited to announce their participation in the Heights Victorian Holiday Home Tour. Highlighting the tour will be musical presentations by all age groups showcasing the Music Ministry of the church. Areas of the church to be open include the Sanctuary, Music Room, Library, Nurseries, Gymnasium, Chapel, some Classrooms and the Parlour, where refreshments will be served.

As a special ministry event, the church will open their beautiful childcare facilities free of charge to ticketholders during the hours of the tour on Friday December 4th from 6-9 pm and Saturday December 5th from 3-9 pm. The church office is accepting reservations at this time. Anyone interested in registering their children up to age 6, should call the church office on Mondays or Wednesdays at 713 862-6655 before December 1st. Home Tour tickets must be presented at the ticket stand to participate and may be purchased at the door. For more information on the tour, please call the Houston Heights Association at 713 861-4002.

Other Holiday programs and events at Baptist Temple are:

I Have Seen the Light  The Search for Christmas
Sunday, December 13th @ 6:00 pm
A musical that combines the sentiment behind the search for Christmas with the warmth and grandeur of songs familiar and new. Presented by the Sanctuary Choir with Drama by Ken Bailey.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Thursday, December 24th @ 5:00 pm

St. Matthew’s United Methodist Church

St. Matthew’s United Methodist Church
SUNDAY WORSHIP  8:30 & 10:30
SUNDAY SCHOOL  9:15
Preschool - Mon-Fri. 9-2
Mother’s Day Out-Wed-Fri 9-2
(ages 3 moa. - 5 years)
Parent’s Night Out - Fri 6:30-11:00

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

4300 N. Shepherd @ Crosstimbers
697-0671
Pastor: Tom Crowe

Baptist Temple

St. Matthew’s United Methodist Church

Baptist Temple

Lydia Circle will hold its annual Christmas Meeting December 9th - this year will be a catered Barbecue Dinner. Children & spouses are invited to attend. Dinner is free, however, a donation of an unwrapped toy is requested. These toys are to be handed out through our Food Pantry during the Christmas Holidays.

Friendship Class will have their Christmas Party Saturday, December 12th.

The Explorer’s Class Christmas Party will be Saturday, December 19th at 7 pm.
### December 1998

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**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 Kostelchky, 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  
1999 Home & Garden Tour: Meredith Jenkins, 697-5654  
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

**Board of Trustees**  
Section 1: Bennett Bartlett, 861-2155; Secretary: Ed de Alba, 694-5934; Rod Walker, 868-2469  
Section 2: Treasurer: 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: President: Megan Berry Barlow, 681-1880; Harry James, 681 9840  
Section 5: Helen M. Sestak, 688-0993; Marshall McInnis, 956-8129; D. Keith King, 956-2162
Delicious Gourmet Food to Go!

Give the perfect gift this holiday season:
Gift certificates from Haute Groceries!
Give to:
Teachers
Grandparents
Neighbors
Friends

Every day you get to choose from 3 entrees, 2 starches and 7 vegetables! Or you can select a cold plate or a hot sandwich!

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

Direct order:  713-267-0703
Fax or menu:   713-914-5074
Office:        713-682-6320
Northwest Mall & Ritz Camera

Holiday Home Decoration Contest

1. Take photos of the exterior of your home decorated for the holidays.

2. Bring the film to Northwest Mall’s Ritz Camera for developing. (They will provide you with a $2 discount when you mention this promotion.)

3. When you get your photos back at Ritz, the store associate will enlarge the best picture to 6”x 8” at no charge and enter it in the contest.

4. Be sure to put your name, address, phone number, and neighborhood on the back of the photo.

Northwest Mall merchants and customers will then choose one (1) Grand Prize Winner who will receive a $1000 Mall Shopping Spree and another five (5) winners who will each receive $200 in Northwest Mall gift certificates!

Prizes will be awarded December 21st.

NORTHWEST MALL