

# GARDEN OAKS GAZETTE

VOLUME 22, ISSUE 1

JANUARY, 1999

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## MEET YOUR 1999 CIVIC CLUB OFFICERS

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**W**ith the campaign trail behind them and the victory party a distant memory, it's time now for your new Civic Club Officers to get down to business. But just who are these individuals the nominating committee selected as a slate of candidates and you saw fit to elect? This being the '90s and everyone wired for the millennium, e-mails were sent to President James Flowers, Vice President David Bell, 2nd Vice President/*Gazette* Editor Robert De Veau, Secretary Felicia Adams and Treasurer Jay Slemmer to probe a little deeper so you can know just who is representing your concerns in Garden Oaks.

A resident of Garden Oaks for two years, **President James Flowers** lives in Section 1 at 3213 Lawrence. But why Garden Oaks? "I choose this area because of the attractive homes with large lots and lots of trees. I enjoy the proximity to the medical center, downtown and most other locations which I need to travel to." When he's not standing in front of a mirror practicing saying "this meeting is now called to order", James is the owner of a behavioral health organization which treats chronic pain and

*("Introductions" continued on page 8)*

### JANUARY CIVIC CLUB MEETING

*Tuesday, Jan 5  
7:00 PM in the Multi-  
purpose Room at G.O.  
Elementary*

**Join Councilman Bruce Tatro, other invited city representatives and members of the Board of Trustees to discuss the Conn's issue and other deed restriction matters.**

**See the related story on page 3.**

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### HOLIDAY PARTY WRAPS UP THE YEAR

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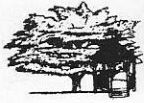
**A**lways a favored tradition, the December Civic Club Meeting was short on business but long on holiday cheer! A potluck buffet of breads, side dishes, appetizers and desserts was provided by those in attendance. The main course, a delectable prime rib roast, was carved and served by none

*("Holiday" continued on page 8)*

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**CIVIC CLUB OFFICERS**

**President:** James Flowers, 3213 Lawrence (713) 862-6593  
**VP/Membership:** David Bell, 855 Azalea (713) 694-5016  
**VP/Gazette Editor:** Robert De Veau, 974 W 42nd (713) 686-6012  
**Treasurer:** Jay Slemmer, 733 W 38th (713) 695-7953  
**Secretary:** Felicia Adams, 336 W 34th (713) 869-1784

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

**Beautification:** Ed & Brenda de Alba (713) 694-5934  
**Citizen's on Patrol:** Carl Waters, Jr. (713) 864-1992  
**Constable Program:** Karl Engelmann (713) 861-1978  
 Sam Mehta (713) 880-0720  
**Garden Club:** Janice Walden (713) 869-6534  
**Home & Garden Tour:** Meredith Jenkins (713) 697-5654  
**Hospitality & Refreshments:** Terry Jeanes (713) 680-8550  
**Programs:** Terry Jeanes (713) 680-8550  
**Education Liaison:** Missy Crawford (713) 956-6492

**EDITOR'S CORNER**

**W**elcome! Nice of you to stop by. Care to join me for a cup of coffee? Forgive me, where are my manners? We haven't been properly introduced yet. I'm the new *Gazette* Editor and this is my little Corner. My partner, Kenneth Santos, and I stumbled into "Houston's Best Kept Secret" four years ago having just arrived from Rhode Island and not knowing where to live. Friends convinced us to look around Garden Oaks and subsequently we found a house for rent on the 900 block of Gardenia. The house quickly became a home as we filled it with new found friends, visiting families and friends from New England, our two dogs, Brooks and Tempo, and our newest addition, a stray cat we've adopted and named Chloe. It quickly became the site for neighborhood block parties, holiday gatherings and a place to relax, have a beverage and watch the neighborhood happenings.

We fell in love with everything which G.O. offers and decided the time was right to start looking at real estate. Last December, we closed on our new home at 974 W 42nd St. The house was owned by Mrs. Lillian Mae Southworth, perhaps some of you knew her and her family. The Southworth family had lived in the house since 1945. And, as some of you read this now and realize

who your new neighbors are, we look forward to meeting you.

In the middle of inspections, packing, closing, moving and getting ready for the holidays, I had to begin the task of taking over the *Gazette* from my predecessor, Meredith Jenkins. It's a new year, and a time

for new beginnings. During my term, I'll be continuing what our former editors have done, adding some new features and keeping you in touch with our community. Some of the articles I would like to include are Remodeling/Repair, Interior Design, "Our Resident Settlers," Theater Reviews, Book Reviews and Restaurant Reviews. If you have expertise in any of these areas or any article which would be of interest, I would like to hear from you. I also want to extend a hearty welcome to my new co-editor (and former editor herself) Shelia Briones. On the subject of the *Gazette* staff, we are also in need of an Advertising Director and someone to coordinate the home delivery distribution. Both of these positions have been filled tirelessly by Susan Kostelecky and Brenda de Alba, respectively, and kudos to both of them for all their work. If you have some free time and would like to get involved, please let us know. Feel free to give us your feedback, contribute an article or just say hi. You can reach us by fax at (713) 812-0459, by e-mail at [GOGazette@aol.com](mailto:GOGazette@aol.com) or phone at (713) 686-6012.



*That's me on the right with my partner Kenneth. Photo provided by Sharon Lauder and Amy Stevens of Lauder Properties.*

**GAZETTE CONTACTS**

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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 6th of each month for publication the next month.



## BOARD OF TRUSTEES UPDATE ON CONN'S

*Ed de Alba, Secretary*

Again Section 1 faces the pressure of Commercial Development. In the last week, as this article was written, Conn's employees began parking on the two residential lots immediately behind the store at 2902 N. Shepherd. This was after a partial demolition and replacement of the existing fence. Since the replacement of the fence, Conn's has added a card reader and opening device to provide secure access to the parking area. These actions are a clear violation of our Deed Restrictions. This is Commercial Encroachment on Residentially Deed Restricted Property and the Board has asked the City of Houston to assist us in this case. A call to City Councilman Bruce Tatro resulted in immediate action by the Code Enforcement Office. They issued a 10-day notice to remove the fence and parking lot. Failure to comply will initiate referral to the City Legal Department. Code Enforcement may also issue tickets for each day the fence and parking lot remain after the notice period. We appreciate the swift response on the part of Councilman Tatro's office and Code Enforcement.

If you are interested in this and other deed restriction matters please join us at the next Civic Club meeting Tuesday, January 5th at 7:00 in the Multipurpose Room of Garden Oaks Elementary. Councilman Tatro, other City Representatives and several members of the Board of Trustees will be there.

### CIVIC CLUB OFFICERS E-MAIL CONTACTS

|                            |                               |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| President: James Flowers   | jflowers@chapman-schewe.com   |
| VP/Membership: David Bell  | david.bell@chase.com          |
| VP/Gazette: Robert De Veau | GOGazette@aol.com             |
| Treasurer: Jay Slemmer     | jayslem@swbell.net            |
| Secretary: Felicia Adams   | felicia.adams@parke-davis.com |

### GARDEN OAKS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- Section 1  
Bennett Bartlett (713) 861-2155  
Secretary: Ed de Alba (713) 694-5934
- Section 2  
Treasurer: James Doyle (713) 694-4134  
Tim Pagel (713) 692-7431  
Susan McMillian (713) 695-5814
- Section 3  
Cheryl Cohorn (713) 692-4904  
John Goodman (713) 695-5814  
Architectural Review Chairman:  
Herb Kellner (713) 692-2776
- Section 4  
President: Megan Berry Barlow (713) 681-1880  
Harry James (713) 681-9840
- Section 5  
Helen M. Sestak (713) 668-0993  
Marshall McInnis (713) 956-8129  
D. Keith King (713) 956-2162

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES CORNER

*Ed de Alba, Secretary*

One of the tasks the Board of Trustees has is the maintenance of the Architectural Restrictions in Garden Oaks. All changes to the exterior design of existing structures and new construction must be submitted to and approved in writing by the Board of Trustees. A fee of \$25 is assessed on approval of the submitted plans. Listed below are building approvals granted in the last four months.

#### Section 1:

- 304 W. 31st – Bedroom extension to rear.
- 520 W. 32nd – Extension to rear & side.

#### Section 2:

- 923 W.42nd – Bedroom addition to rear.

*("Approvals" continued on page 8)*



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- 970 W 41st St.
- 717 W 42nd St.
- 718 W 42nd St.
- 847 W 42nd St.
- 701 Garden Oaks Blvd.
- 713 Garden Oaks Blvd.
- 1026 Althea
- 4232 Apollo
- 855 Azalea
- 815 Lamonte
- 839 Lamonte
- 738 Sue Barnett
- 1458 Sue Barnett
- 1575 Sue Barnett
- 1043 Gardenia

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# MINUTES OF DECEMBER 1 MEETING

The December Garden Oaks Civic Club meeting was held at the Garden Oaks Elementary School.

Meeting was called to order by President Craig Lee.

**General Announcements**

- December 8, 1998 - Garden Oaks Elementary is going to have a toy drive around 10:00 am. Please bring gifts. There may be media coverage.
- Second annual Northwest District Book Drive today through December 18th.
- Craig presented gifts to those who have helped during his time as president. He acknowledged Vice President, Membership: Tom Stell; Vice President, Gazette Editor: Meredith Jenkins; Treasurer: Shelly Immel and also Ed and Brenda de Alba for their work on the Beautification Committee.
- Ken Yarborough was acknowledged as being present and congratulations given for his recent victory.
- New resident Mike Haldwell on 38th street, Section 2, introduced himself. Welcome!!
- Art Park Work Day 9:00 am Saturday, December 11. Please come out to help!!
- Rick Englert of Haute Groceries brought prime rib for the pot luck dinner. Thanks Rick!

**Business**

**Election of 1999 Civic Club Officers**

- The Nominating Committee put forth their slate of candidates:  
President: James Flowers  
1st Vice President/Membership: David Bell  
2nd Vice President/Gazette Editor: Robert De Veau  
Secretary: Felicia Adams  
Treasurer: Jay Slemmer

A motion was made to accept the slate after no further nominations came from the floor. The motion was seconded and all voting members present approved the slate.

The meeting was adjourned and residents and guests were entertained by the Garden Oaks Elementary Eagles.



## PRESIDENT LEE LOOKS BACK ON 1998

Dear Neighbor,

Happy New Year! The Civic Club provided us with a wonderful Christmas party. The Garden Oaks Eagles (a choir of Garden Oaks Elementary students) were marvelous as they performed many favorite Christmas tunes and orated seasonal and inspirational passages. Of course I would like to thank all who came, including the children's family members. And those who brought food, including Haute Groceries.

Looking back over the year as president of the Civic Club, I have had the opportunity to make many new friends. We tackled a number of big issues, including finalizing the Exxon controversy, getting the Graham Parks lights working, affecting a change in the city's Hotel Ordinance in response to a hotel proposed in Section I and changing the speed limit on 43rd Street to 30 mph (through Garden Oaks) thanks to the help of the Garmans. We also have spent a great deal of time trying to address the diminishing participation in Section I's constable patrol. And always, all sorts of individual concerns that perpetually needed attention. One thing I wish I could change is to get people to stop putting trash out way before the truck picks it up (particularly heavy trash). For all practical purposes, offenders make their front lawn into a trash dump for a few weeks.

I would like to thank the individuals who helped me or helped the Garden Oaks community during the past year. You are very much appreciated. I hope you can continue to participate and that others will follow in your footsteps. Going forward, I wish the new officers of the Civic Club all my best wishes for a successful year.

Craig



*Garden Club members celebrated the end of the year with their traditional Christmas Party. Ann Best was the hostess and President Craig Lee joined in.*

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### 1999 GARDEN CLUB OFFICERS

President: Janice Walden  
Vice President: Lisa Hertweck  
Secretary: Kim Salls  
Treasurer: Brenda de Alba  
Sunshine: Meredith Jenkins  
Yard of the Month: Lynn Sievers  
Telephone Comm: Ann Hollis



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## 1999 HOME TOUR ANNOUNCES SPONSORSHIPS

**P**lans for the 1999 Garden Oaks Home and Garden Tour are shaping up. Scheduled for Sunday, May 2 from 12:00 - 6:00 PM, the tour promises to be another blockbuster event. Chaired by Meredith Jenkins, she and her committee of 20+ volunteers have been busy since last October meeting monthly to plan this extraordinary event. The most challenging aspect has been visiting potential home and garden sites, narrowing down the selection field to the chosen few which will provide an interesting diversity of tour stops.

The committee has also announced their Sponsorship Levels program and is currently soliciting sponsors. The packages to select from can accommodate any size advertising and promotions budget.

◆ **Gold Sponsor - \$250**

Name printed on 3,000+ tickets

Invitation to the Preview Party

Acknowledgment in *Garden Oaks Gazette* before and after the tour

◆ **Platinum Sponsor - \$500**

All of the above plus:

Name on easel at sponsored tour location

Company promotional materials placed at sponsored tour site

Full page insert in *Garden Oaks Gazette* in any month

◆ **Corporate Sponsor - \$1,000**

All of the above plus:

Name on banner at Home Tour Command Station

Inclusion of company name in all Home Tour publicity

Name on 500+ posters prominently placed throughout Houston

Company promotional materials placed at each tour location and at Command Center

Name on tour "goodie bags"

◆ **Full Corporate Sponsor - \$5,000**

All of the above plus:

Signage on Shuttle Buses

Spokesperson for all broadcast interviews

If you, or someone you know would like to become a sponsor, contact Susan Kostecky at (713) 697-4110, or if you would like to volunteer for the Home Tour Committee itself, contact Meredith Jenkins at (713) 802-7273.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 19 at Susan Kostecky's home, 1318 Sue Barnett.




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## BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

*Brenda de Alba*

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Garden Oaks realized significant improvements in 1998 regarding beautification efforts.

The Boulevard has seen dramatic change and we're now in strictly "maintenance mode". Whenever someone compliments how great it looks and tells me they're proud of the changes, I can't help but glow with pride!

The Triangle Park at Azalea & Alba also looks like a completely different plot of land. Thanks very much to the Garden Club for donating a concrete bench that was recently installed in this park. Neighborhood children sit on it every morning waiting for their school buses.

The Memorial Rose Garden at 34th and Lawrence is on its way too. City of Houston red tape delayed us in getting the water meter installed, so our production schedule has been pushed back to early spring. We DID make some progress though, and that's what counts!

The Art Park workday in early December was truly a success! I was really dreading it because the last few work days had drawn so few volunteers, but lots of people showed up to help (some brand new to the neighborhood) and we accomplished everything we needed to do in 3 hours! THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO CAME. YOU RESTORED MY FAITH IN THIS ENDEAVOR BY SHOWING ME YOU CARED.

Ed and I really need more assistance with the coordination of the workdays. Two years ago, I had hoped to establish small groups of people, who lived nearby, to adopt the various parks and to name a Captain. The Captain would be responsible for coordinating workdays and for working with me to determine a yearly budget for their park. Captains were named, but we really never followed through on firmly defining their responsibilities. I need a recommitment from those of you who volunteered as Captains two years ago by the beginning of February. Ed and I simply can't continue to do it all...

The weather did not cooperate for our November Fall Festival so we will reschedule for late Spring. Watch for

the new date in a future edition of the *Gazette*.

*Editor's note: The work of the Beautification Committee is something from which we all benefit, as can be witnessed any time we drive by the Esplanade, the Gazebo, the Art Park or any of the other pocket parks which they have adopted. If you would like to assist Ed and Brenda de Alba with this worthy endeavor, they can be reached at (713) 694-5934. This is a great way to give a little something back to the community we call home.*

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## CITIZENS ON PATROL

*Carl Walters*

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Hope you all had a safe and happy Holiday season and that Santa filled your stocking with all kinds of goodies.

On November 12, patrollers met at Ducho's Steak House for a well deserved Appreciation Dinner. In addition to the 16 patrollers, Civic Club President Craig Lee also joined in the festivities. All in attendance reported positively on the dinner. Following dinner, a brief meeting was held to discuss the future of the program and our neighborhood's safety.

In October, patrollers and bases recorded 37 hours. This is quite low but should improve over the next few months with two new patrollers joining our ranks. The patrol program would like to welcome Cheryl Pressley and Julian "Buck" McIlvain.

Look for the October crime statistics to appear in the next edition of the *Gazette* as well as a new way to contact the program with ideas and suggestions.

### DECEMBER YARD OF THE MONTH

AWARDED TO  
ED DREIER AND DAVID RAE  
978 W 42ND STREET

CONGRATULATIONS!



("Holiday" continued from page 1)

other than our resident chef — Rick Englart of Haute Groceries.

Once everyone made their way through the buffet line, the attendees were treated to a delightful program. Performed by the Garden Oaks Eagles, under the direction of Miss Majors, the cast of second and third graders presented their premier performance of "The Heart of Christmas", prior to undergoing an arduous schedule of future performances throughout the month of December. Through song and storytelling, the Eagles left the standing room only crowd in a festive holiday mood.



Waiting in a buffet line is so much more fun with friends!

("Approvals" continued from page 3)

Section 3:

- 839 W.41st – Bedroom addition.
- 815 La Monte – Modify garage, add to rear, remove carport.
- 1335 Sue Barnett – Addition to rear.

Section 4:

- 4211 Alba – Tear down of existing structure with new house in its place.

Section 5:

- 1030 W. 41st – Addition to existing residence.
- 1038 Althea – Addition of new garage to rear of lot.

("Introductions" continued from page 1)

other chronic illnesses.

"Active involvement in our community will ensure safety and develop growth and prosperity in the neighborhood," he quipped. "The biggest challenge I face is to see all our families and children become active members in our neighborhood. I want to continue the work that the Civic Club has started and ask the residents what they feel needs to be accomplished in each section of Garden Oaks." So just what does James enjoy doing in his spare time? "You know, just the simple things in life...work in the yard, train for marathon running and relax in the hammock under two very large pecan trees in my back yard."

**Vice President David Bell** can lay claim to being the "senior" Garden Oaks citizen on the Board, having lived here since 1987. David, his wife Gail and their two children Allison and Andrew reside at 855 Azalea. "We chose Garden Oaks because of its location and convenience, quality of homes and neighborhood, the people who live here and the uniqueness of the subdivision in and layout." When David is not out stomping for dues, he's em-Bank in the division. His community COP for five years and volunteering with the Beautification Committee on various projects.

*"ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT IN OUR COMMUNITY WILL ENSURE SAFETY AND DEVELOP GROWTH AND PROSPERITY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD"*

"The community will not continue to improve and thrive without the active involvement of the residents," David answered when asked why he wanted this position. "We each have a choice to get involved or do nothing and sit back and watch others. If I want my home and property to gain in value and for GO to maintain its reputation for low crime and absence of other maladies, then it is my obligation to be involved and work to bring about changes or continue to evolve with progress." David's biggest challenge in the coming year is "allocating sufficient time to the various activities in which I am involved to make a difference."

As Vice President of Membership, David's hope is to focus his efforts in getting more people involved. If he could change just one thing about himself he would "be less demanding of others" and he challenges every resident "to get involved and make a difference."

**Vice President/Gazette Editor Robert De Veau** has been a Garden Oaks resident for four years, now a new home owner in Section 4 on 974 W 42nd. "We chose Garden Oaks because we moved from a small blip of a town in Rhode Island and this area, with its mature trees, gave us that 'small town'

(Continued on page 9)





*("Introductions" continued from page 8)*

feel even though we live in Houston just minutes from downtown and uptown." When Robert's not trying to fill 12 pages of the newsletter, he's a kitchen manager at Pappadeaux Seafood Kitchen. Prior to getting involved with the Civic Club, "I served as a volunteer with G.O. Caroling. I was interested in becoming the editor because I wanted to bring [it] a fresh look and a new voice." The biggest challenge is "knowing that 1500 homes are reading this newsletter and trying to create something which will appeal to a wide range of interests." When asked what one thing he would change about himself he replied, "learn to better balance all the responsibilities in my life and find more time for myself."

Having lived here for 1½ years **Secretary Felicia Adams** makes her home with her husband Michael at 336 W 34th. "We choose Garden Oaks because it's a beautiful community." Soon to be pacing the floors at all hours of the night, Felicia and Michael are expecting their first child in April.

When not taking the minutes at Civic Club meetings on her laptop, Felicia is a pharmaceutical sales rep. "I wanted to help out the Civic Club and volunteered to fill the vacancy last year. I thought it would just be a three month gig, but Craig Lee is persuasive and I'm glad to be able to give something back to the community." Felicia's biggest challenge in the coming year is "giving birth to my first child". But on a more serious note, "I want to be able to provide clear, concise minutes delivered to the editor on time." If she could change just one thing it would be "to win the lottery". Felicia's favorite activity is to spend time with her husband. "If we all stay involved in the neighborhood activities, we can keep Garden Oaks as the environment we want."

Last up is **Treasurer Jay Slemmer**, a seven year resident of Garden Oaks. He and his partner, Jeff Benjamine, have acquired their second home here in the 'hood at 733 W 38<sup>th</sup> Street last June. "The diverse neighborhood, big yards and good property values are what attracted us to this area."

When Jay isn't counting beans, he's the Assistant Director of Nursing for Alternate Resources. "I wanted to become more involved [in the community] and saw this as an opportunity to do so. I also was a volunteer with GO Caroling and have served in different capacities with several HIV service organizations in Houston, so I understand how community groups function." Jay's biggest challenge for the coming year? "Learning to use Excel which is the format used for the Civic Club's spreadsheets. One of my goals for 1999 is to bring about more unity within the financial activities of the Civic Club and its' various committees." Jay's one wish to change about himself is to have more hair. He enjoys going to the movies, cooking and having parties.

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## JANUARY PLANTING GUIDE

*Shawn Forney*

**P**repare tender plants for frost by mulching with 3" of well composted manure, compost or dried leaves. Watering well and covering (but not with plastic!) will also help tropical tender plants.

Collect yours and your neighbor's leaves for composting or making "leaf mold".

Plant trees and shrubs as early as possible before the hot summer months. Most of their energy will go into establishing a good root system.

Plant the following bulbs: crocus, tulips (previously refrigerated), and ranunculus.



## HOME REPAIR/REMODELING SANDING AND REFINISHING HARDWOOD FLOORS

### Part One

Many homes in Garden Oaks have beautifully crafted hardwood floors but you or a previous owner may have covered those floors with wall to wall carpeting when it was all the rage. If you would like to show off those hardwood floors again and you're the ambitious type who likes to do things yourself, read on for tips and the "how to" for refinishing floors.

There are several videotapes and books available to the consumer on how to sand and finish hardwood floors. If you follow some simple procedures, take your time and use the proper equipment, you will sand and finish a floor that you will proud to show off.

Job Preparation is the first step in your floor sanding job. It doesn't take a lot of time but it is very important. Line up people to help you with the project. Remember, you will have to move furniture, possibly remove old carpets, etc. and the sanding process is easier with two people.

Get out your phone book and locate rental dealers. When you are speaking with the rental store, ask for the cost to rent the sander and edger and also the cost of the sandpaper. Most stores will take a deposit on the sander, edger and sandpaper and then charge for the sandpaper actually used while sanding. Check with the store on the cost of sandpaper per sheet, per disc and per grit.

Once you find the equipment, reserve the machines. If you can go into the store, check out the condition of the units. Some stores have multiple units and you may be able to choose the machines you want to rent. Check the drum, wheels and general look of the sander. On the edger, check out the disc pad and casters. On both machines, look at the condition of the dustbags. If the machine doesn't look up to snuff, tell the person at the store. If the equipment is not maintained properly, it won't function properly.

The following is a list of items that you may need to complete your floor sanding project.

- Hammer, nailset and nails (6D or 8D)
- floor sander and floor edger with 25' cord, bags and

wrenches

- floor sanding abrasives including: sander sheets, edger discs, screens, 9x11 sheets
- floor polisher (13" or 17")
- wet/dry vac
- finish applicator and brush
- block sander or electric finish sander (fix spots, blend edges)
- tack cloths (for oil modified finish)
- scraper for corners
- safety equipment: dust masks, ear plugs, eye protection
- dustpan and broom

After you have prepared yourself for the project, picked a time to do the work and reserved the machines it is time to prepare the room for the job. To save time and money, complete all the room preparations before you pick up the rental equipment, make a list of the tools and supplies that you will need and check it off before you start the project.

The people that are going to do the work should wear comfortable clothing and non-marking shoes. Avoid black soles! Remove all obstructions from the area to be sanded. This includes, but is not limited to: furniture, drapes, pictures, wall hangings and breakables. Heating grates can be removed, or you can leave them in place until you are sanding near them.

If you sanding a room that had been covered by wall to wall carpeting, it is time to remove the carpet. This job takes time so be sure to allocate enough time and energy to tackle this. Pull up the carpet, carpet pad and tackstrip and remove them from the area.

Next get on your hands and knees and inspect the floor for:

- staples from the pad
- nails from the tackstrip

*("Floors" continued on page 11)*



(“Floors” continued from page 10)

- nails protruding from the floor

Remove the staples and tackstrip nails. The floor nails should be set and countersunk below the surface of the wood. At this time you could also nail down squeaky floor boards, trying to hit a joist if possible.

Next you will want to protect the areas not being sanded from sawdust. Sawdust is like water, it will always find its own level. The more you do to prevent the spread of sawdust, the less sawdust there will be to clean up. But, be aware that no matter how much you do, you’ll always find some sawdust at the end of the project. Tape off doors and cabinets with plastic or use old damp sheets (dust will stick to these), close adjoining doors and open windows. If your house has a forced air heating system, plug the vents in the work area to prevent circulation of the dust.

After these steps have been completed, sweep the floor and vacuum the whole room. When your room prep is done, go out and pick up your rental equipment.

When you return home with the equipment, take a moment to make one final inspection for nails, tacks, etc. and remove any items from the area. Sweep the floor one last time and then get ready to sand!

Before you start to sand your hardwood floors, it might be a good idea to know just what you want to accomplish. Sanding is a process in which you cut your floors with different abrasives to remove old finish, level the floor and smooth out the wood to accept the new finish! The heavier grits make deeper cuts into your floors and the successive lighter grits remove the earlier scratch marks to make the hardwood floor ready to be finished with your choice of coatings.

Sanding jobs can be completed in either 3 or 4 cuts with the different abrasive grits. It depends on the condition of the floor being refinished. New floors will not need as aggressive cuttings as a floor being sanded and refinished.

Start your sanding with the highest grit possible to achieve the objective of the first cut. The first cut is to remove the old finish and level the floor so that it is flat across the room, removing high and low spots. This will be the heaviest sanding and will make heavy scratch marks. Most of the time, sanding a room can be completed with all grits with the grain if the wood. Most finishes can be removed

with the proper grit of sandpaper. If a 36 grit will do the job than stay with it. If you find the finish is not coming off, then go down to a 20 grit sheet. A typical sanding process includes 20, 36, 60 and 100 grits. Sanding your floor at a 45 degree angle to the grain should be a LAST RESORT!!

The second cut is to eliminate the roughness from the first cut, smooth out the scratch marks and to remove any finish that may not have been removed on the first cut.

The final cut is done to obtain a smooth finish when the coating is applied. It also removes more of the remaining marks from the previous sandings.

Now that you know what to accomplish, start the sanding. At the rental store pay attention to the person helping you. He or she should show the proper method for paper installation for the sander and edger. The most common problem that renters encounter is incorrect installation of paper on the sander drum.

Take the sander to the room to be sanded. Sanding will be done from right to left. Locate an outlet in the room that will allow the cord to be behind you as you sand. Before you put on any sandpaper or plug the machine into the wall, you may want to practice the movement of sanding. Practice lowering the drum to the floor while you are moving forward and also feathering the drum off the floor as you approach the wall. Do the same practice motion as you would make the return cut.

**Note:** Some sanders will sand with the edger first and then follow with the sander. The reason they do this is so the edger casters are not rolling across the floor where the sander has already finished its cuts.

Most use the sander first and then follow with the edger. The reason behind this was to sand the field of the room to the desired level and then bring the edges to that same level. The rest of this article will follow the sander then edger method. *End of Part One.*

*Join us in February for Part Two: Sanding the Room, and Screening the Floor and in March when we conclude the article with Part Three: Proper Finishes, Applications and Care for the Floor.*



**HEAVY TRASH SCHEDULE**

- 1st Tuesday  
Sections 1 & 1A
- 2nd Tuesday  
Sections 2 - 5  
South of West 41st St.
- 3rd Tuesday  
Sections 2 - 5  
North of West 41st St.

**RECYCLING SCHEDULE**

- 1st and 3rd Tuesday  
South of West 43rd St.
- 2nd and 4th Tuesday  
North of West 43rd St.

**DIRECTORY OF ADVERTISERS**

- All Star Construction pg. 9
- Central Bank pg. 6
- Controlled Air pg. 4
- DJ Lawn Care pg. 9
- Harry James pg. 4
- Kaplan's Ben Hur pg. 6
- Lauder Properties pg. 5
- Luxury Lawns pg. 6
- O.D. Printing pg. 5
- Shannon & Assoc. pg. 5
- Terry Jeanes pg. 6
- Tree Experts pg. 4

**JANUARY EVENTS**

- 5th: Civic Club Meeting, 7:00 PM  
G.O. Elementary School
- 14th: Garden Club, 7:00 PM  
220 W 34th (Janice Walden)
- 19th: Home Tour Cte. 7:00 PM  
1318 Sue Barnett  
(Susan Kosteledy)



Sunday      Monday      Tuesday      Wednesday      Thursday      Friday      Saturday

*"Come ye cold winds, at January's call,  
On whistlings wings, and with white flakes  
bestrew the earth."*

—Ruskin

|    |                                   |                                      |               |                              |                     |    |
|----|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|------------------------------|---------------------|----|
|    |                                   |                                      |               |                              | 1<br>New Year's Day | 2  |
| 3  | 4                                 | 5<br>Civic Club Meeting<br>7:00 PM   | 6<br>Epiphany | 7                            | 8                   | 9  |
| 10 | 11                                | 12                                   | 13            | 14<br>Garden Club<br>7:00 PM | 15<br>Arbor Day     | 16 |
| 17 | 18<br>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day | 19<br>Home Tour Committee<br>7:00 PM | 20            | 21                           | 22                  | 23 |
| 24 | 25                                | 26                                   | 27            | 28                           | 29                  | 30 |
| 31 |                                   |                                      |               |                              |                     |    |