

# GARDEN OAKS GAZETTE

VOLUME 22, ISSUE 3

MARCH 1999

## HOME & GARDEN TOUR ANNOUNCES FINAL SELECTIONS

*Brenda de Alba*



With May 2<sup>nd</sup> soon approaching, the Home & Garden Tour Committee has finalized its selections. A combination of seven homes and four gardens will be featured on this year's Tour with all five sections of Garden Oaks represented. The neighborhood has profited greatly from the two previous home tours with money being directed to beautification, neighborhood security, deed restriction enforcement, and area school programs. This year's selections are listed below:

208 W. 34 <sup>th</sup>	Section 1	Home	733 W. 43 <sup>rd</sup>	Section 2	Garden
420 W. 33 <sup>rd</sup>	Section 1	Home	826 LaMonte	Section 3	Home
504 W. 32 <sup>nd</sup>	Section 1	Home	851 LaMonte	Section 3	Garden
527 W. 34 <sup>th</sup>	Section 1	Home	922 W. 43 <sup>rd</sup>	Section 4	Home
720 W. 43 <sup>rd</sup>	Section 2	Home	1019 W. 41 <sup>st</sup>	Section 5	Garden

*("Home Tour" continued on page 9)*

## MARCH CIVIC CLUB PREVIEW

The March Civic Club Meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 2 at the Garden Oaks Elementary School. Join together with concerned neighbors to make Garden Oaks a safer community. Plans will be discussed to begin a neighborhood wide Constable Patrol for all sections. The highlight of the evening will be a traditional covered dish meeting. Attendees are asked to bring a heapin' portion of the item which corresponds to your last name.

A - F	Appetizer
G - L	Main Dish Casserole
M - R	Vegetable, Side Dish or Salad
S - Z	Dessert/Sweets

The business portion of the meeting will include approval of the 1999 budget. In addition to the monthly door prize (donated by Lauder Properties), there will be a prize for the member who brings the most

*("Preview" continued on page 11)*

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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  
 e-mail: GOCop77018@aol.com  
 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 Coward (713) 956-6492

**EDITOR'S CORNER**

**D**o you have any idea how many shades of yellow there are? I wanted to do a simple project; remove the blue wallpaper from the kitchen and breakfast nook and paint the walls yellow. First, I had to begin the arduous task of convincing my other half to go with a color other than white. He's a firm believer that only a daring person will use white. I say it's a cop out for not having to stare at tiny little paint chips, trying to imagine the color on the entire wall. Well, after many trips to the home warehouse to collect lots of tiny paint shapes in every imaginable hue, the other half was finally convinced to give a color a try. So, we decided on yellow. Before the paint could even go on the wall, the other half needed the approval of anyone and everyone entering the house. Of course, opinions differed but the decision was made. Now, what I envisioned was a sponge painted wall. We settled on two shades of yellow, cornchip and nacho. The only problem was the colors were so similar that when the second coat was sponged on, you couldn't see any difference. Day two, back to the home warehouse to purchase a darker base coat — cocoa. The base coat was applied and the

cornchip was sponged on. The breakfast nook looked as if someone had vomited on the walls. Day three, the walls were painted over AGAIN with just the cornchip yellow. After all, if my other half can compromise on using a color, I can compromise on sponge painting. But the rest of the indoor projects are on hold because now the other half has discovered the backyard.

After four years of renting and doing all our gardening in pots, the other half is anxious to plant shrubs, annuals and perennials. There's something to be said for turning the earth, adding peat and humus and getting dirt under your fingernails when you know the land is yours. Of course, we're taking a risk with two black labs who think that every patch of newly turned soil is their little play area but it's worth it. The back yard doesn't have much in the way of landscaping. Clearly, it was meant to be low maintenance. There are five azaleas, a spirea and one fig tree. To date, we've added three camellias and have two bougainvillea, ten roses, day lilies, Asiatic lilies, liatris, a Myer's lemon tree and agapanthus all waiting to be placed in just the right beds. However, before any serious planting can take place, we have to take down a chain link fence and replace it with a wooden privacy fence. For privacy? Not really. The primary reason is to keep my male lab in his own yard. It seems he's quite adapt at scaling 4' chain link and likes to visit with the neighbors. For my own peace of mind, and the safety of that little rascal, Brooks, a 6' fence will be put up. Then there'll be no stopping the other half!

I'm just about ready for some more French roast. Care to join me?

**GAZETTE CONTACTS**

E-Mail: GOGazette@aol.com FAX: (713) 812-0459

Editor: Robert De Veau (713) 686-6012  
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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.





## PRESIDENT FLOWERS

In the February issue of the *Gazette*, I spoke a bit about crime in our neighborhood. In this issue of the *Gazette*, I would like to again address this topic. Please be aware that if, as a community, we do not do something to contribute to the security of our neighborhood, the few people that are contributing time for the other 1,995 households of Garden Oaks will not continue to succeed. We continue to experience sporadic crime throughout Garden Oaks. Again, all neighborhoods experience crime to some extent, and most neighborhoods have a very active volunteer group that patrol on a monthly basis. We need people who are willing to COMMIT ONLY TWO HOURS PER MONTH to patrol with a sign on the side of their car through the neighborhood. The impact of just driving with a sign on the car will put these petty thieves on notice that we are watching and will discourage them from trying to strike in our neighborhood. The crime rate rose 83% in the last year. If you are not able to commit time by patrolling, maybe you could donate money to the cause. Bank debiting begins March 1 for all those interested in the monthly withdrawal for the constable program in Section 1.

On a much happier note, I am excited that we now have 7 homes and 3 Gardens on the 1999 Garden Oaks Home and Garden Tour. Thanks to everyone who have volunteered their homes for this. This is a perfect time for us to show off our community. It gives people the opportunity to see what they can do to homes they may be interested in purchasing here. After last year's tour, I had three people offer to purchase my home. If you are interested in your home being open next year, let us know.

### CIVIC CLUB OFFICERS E-MAIL CONTACTS

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

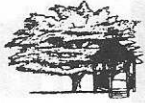
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March is bring a friend to the Civic Meeting for fun and dinner (Tuesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7:00 p.m. at Garden Oaks Elementary School), we will be reviewing and hopefully approving the budget that has been set forth in this issue of the *Gazette*. Please review the budget and prepare any questions for the meeting. As always, fun childcare is provided for only \$1 per child. I look forward to seeing you there.

### AD DIRECTOR JOINS STAFF

I'd like to welcome our newest *Gazette* volunteer, Christine Stevens, in the role of Advertising Director. She and her husband Craig are new to the 'hood, having purchased their home in March 1998. In that short time, they have volunteered for the home tour and deliver the *Gazette* on the 900 block of Gardenia. Christine is a student at U of H majoring in marketing and business management. Last year she sold ads for the school newspaper and won "Salesman of the Year". We look forward to having Christine utilize her advertising sales expertise.



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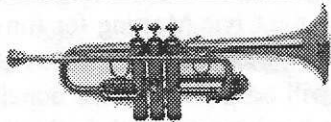
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- 818 W. 41st St.      855 Azalea
- 858 W. 41st St.      815 Lamonte
- 970 W. 41st St.      839 Lamonte
- 862 W. 41st St.      738 Sue Barnett
- 717 W. 42nd St.      1458 Sue Barnett
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# MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 2ND CIVIC CLUB MEETING

*Brenda de Alba, Acting Secretary*

President James Flowers called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM. The minutes from January's meeting were accepted with no additions or corrections.

**Announcement:** Sheila Briones reported there will be a neighborhood "Spring Fling" in Graham Park (Section 1) on Sunday, April 11th from 2 PM 'til dark. It will be a celebration for the entire family and will be advertised in the March *Gazette*.

### Officer Reports

**VP Membership - David Bell:** So far an outstanding response has resulted from the membership coupons and envelopes inside each *Gazette*. 1998 membership was reported to be 33% of the neighborhood.

**VP Gazette Editor - Robert De Veau:** Problems with the quality of the ads in January's *Gazette* has been resolved. New Ad Director will be Christine Stevens and new Coordinator for *Gazette* Distribution is Jerry Vuchak.

### Committee Reports

**Beautification - Roses** will be planted in the Memorial Rose Garden (Section 1, 34th & Lawrence) on Saturday, Feb. 13th. Still looking for story behind the plaque which was at the base of the Magnolia tree that died. Section 1 residents Shelly Rogers & Pat Burun are donating a 15-year-old Magnolia tree from their front yard to be planted in the Rose Garden.

**GOCOP - Crime rate** in Garden Oaks up 83% from YE97 to YE98 (84 crimes reported, 25 of which were in Oct-Dec.). Patrollers averaged less than 60 hours/month. More patrollers are needed who can devote at least 2 hours/months.

**Constable Program - New start-up date** is Feb. 13th. Bank debiting begins March 1st.

**Home Tour - Home selection** has still not been determined. Compared to years past, very few homes were submitted as possible tour candidates. Additional homes are being solicited for consideration.

### Old Business

**Conn's - It was reported** that Conn's had ceased using the adjacent lot for parking while another resident contradicted that statement saying a truck

*("Minutes" continued on page 5)*



(“Minutes” continued from page 4)

was parked there on Saturday, Jan. 30th. Conn’s still has not complied with the City’s request to remove the fence and electronic gate.

Sound Walls Along 610 Feeder - State Representative Ken Yabrough has introduced a House bill (#567) proposing sound walls be built. Call 1-800-995-0648 for more information.

### New Business

1999 Civic Club budget - Treasurer Jay Slemmer passed out a copy of the draft of the proposed 1999 budget. The proposal will be published in March’s *Gazette* and voted on at the March Civic Club meeting. A recounting of money spent by Year End 98 will also be reported.

Expanded Constable Patrol for all sections of Garden Oaks - In light of the neighborhood’s rising crime statistics, Terry Jeanes proposed soliciting volunteers for organizing an expansion of the Constable Program throughout the neighborhood. Next month’s Civic Club meeting program will discuss Neighborhood Security. She urged everyone to bring their block neighbors and will award a prize to the person responsible for bringing the most neighbors.

Montessori - David Hoyer announced that sign-up in the Montessori 2000 academic year classes is set for Monday, March 21st. Enrollment is limited.

Information on the status of speed humps and neighborhood traffic program was requested. Speed humps in the 700 block of W. 38th were never rebuilt after the road construction was completed.

Woody Merkhams was the recipient of the door prize contributed by Sharon Lauder of Lauder Real Estate.

Meeting was adjourned.

## WON’T YOU BE MY NEIGHBOR?

*Terry Jeanes*

The following real estate transactions occurred from January 1 through February 11, 1999. These are MLS listings and do not include private transactions. If you haven’t already done so, take a moment to welcome these individuals to the neighborhood and show them what makes Garden Oaks so special.

3110 Randall      702 W 32<sup>nd</sup> St.  
508 W 31<sup>st</sup> St.    510 W 33<sup>rd</sup> St.



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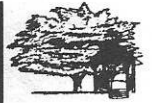
713-528-1800  
713-680-8550



**CIVIC CLUB 1999 PROPOSED BUDGET**

*Jay Slemmer, Treasurer*

(1) Unaudited as of 2/10/99	1999 Budget	1998 Actual <sup>(1)</sup>	1998 Budget
<b><u>Revenues</u></b>			
Gazette Advertising	\$7,000	\$5,015	\$9,000
Beautification	2,500	5,679	4,999
Home Tour	20,150	18,055	7,150
Membership – Dues & Program Contributions	7,000	11,088	7,000
GO COP	1,000	1,098	300
City Grant – SPARK Park Fountain	0	1,500	0
Executive – Interest Income	500	497	185
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$38,150</b>	<b>\$42,932</b>	<b>\$28,634</b>
<b><u>Expenditures</u></b>			
Gazette Printing & Distribution	\$9,174	\$8,716	\$10,600
Beautification	10,000	8,420	9,462
G.O. Boulevard Esplanade	\$2,350		
Triangle Park	\$1,350		
Memorial Rose Garden	\$3,200		
Gazebo Park	\$ 600		
Art Park	\$ 400		
Misc.	\$2,100		
Home Tour	9,020	7,749	7,150
Membership	700	0	650
Monthly Meetings – Supplies, Program, etc	700	0	0
Citizens on Patrol	800	379	1,165
SPARK Park Fountain & Flyer for Hotel	0	2,604	0
Executive – Meetings & Administration	1,500	1,157	1,500
Dues Pledges	600	1,572	1,106
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$32,494</b>	<b>\$30,597</b>	<b>\$31,633</b>
<b>Net Surplus/(Deficit) in Budget</b>	<b>\$5,656</b>	<b>\$12,335</b>	<b>(\$2,999)</b>




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## NEIGHBORHOOD CRIME RATE UP 83% IN 1998

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*Carl Waters, Jr.*

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**Y**es neighbors and friends, it is my sad duty to report that despite the trends elsewhere in the city **OUR** neighborhood suffered through an 83% increase in crime last year. Thankfully the vast majority did not result in injuries to our neighbors and friends. The question now becomes what do we do about it? The answer will not be easy and in some way will require sacrifices. The issue becomes: "What do you sacrifice?". Your safety by ignoring the problem? Money for a paid patrol? Or maybe some time? If your answer is time, join the Garden Oaks Citizen on Patrol Program. After a one hour training course by the Houston Police Department and a "shake down" patrol with an established patroller, you are set to go. After that, all we ask is two hours a month, but we would prefer an hour a week.

At last month's civic club meeting several neighbors expressed interest in the patrolling and signed up.

Three crimes were reported in November:

**1 Burglary**

500 block of West 34th on November 20 at 11:15 a.m.

**2 DWI**

3000 block of N. Durham on November 8 at 5:50 a.m.

3200 block of N. Shepherd on November 28 at 3:07 a.m.

Seven crimes were reported in December:

**1 Assault**

500 block of West 31 St. on December 19 at 1:25 a.m.

**2 Burglaries**

3400 block of N. Shepherd on Dec 11 at 8:00 p.m.

800 block of Lamonte on Dec 12 at 9:30 p.m.

**Burglary of a Motor Vehicle**

300 block of West 34 St. on Dec 20 at 10:00 p.m.

**2 Auto Thefts**

3000 N. Shepherd on December 6 at 8:45 p.m.

3400 N. Shepherd on December 26 at 2:03 a.m.

Narcotics

3400 N. Shepherd on December 1 at 9:29 p.m.

The total number of crimes reported for 1998 was 84. In 1997, 46 crimes were reported.

During November and December patrollers were out for a total of 98 hours. Our total for the year was 661.

HPD tells coordinators that for the program to be effective it needs to average 60 hours a month. As you can see, we have some work to do to reach that goal.

Volunteering is easy. Just call me at 713-864-1992. If you'd like, I am also available by e-mail at [cwatersjr@AOL.com](mailto:cwatersjr@AOL.com) or at the patrol program's e-mail address of [GOCOP77018@AOL.com](mailto:GOCOP77018@AOL.com).

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## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

*Author unknown*

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First, plant five rows of "**Peas**":

**Prayer, Perseverance, Politeness,  
Promptness, and Purity.**

Next, plant three rows of "**Squash**":

**Squash gossip, Squash doubt,  
and Squash indifference.**

Then plant five rows of "**Lettuce**":

**Let us be faithful to duty, Let us  
be unselfish, Let us be gentle,  
Let us follow wisdom, and Let us  
love life.**

Finally, no garden is complete without "**Turnips**":

**Turn up for CHURCH,  
Turn up with new ideas, and  
Turn up with determination to  
make everything you do count for  
something good and worthwhile!**

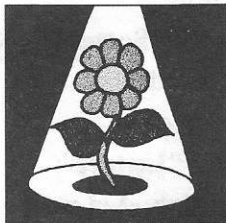


## MARCH PLANTING GUIDE

*Tina Sabuco*

**P**run to reshape all your spring flowering shrubs and vines (including azaleas, bridal wreath, wisteria and Carolina jasmine) immediately after blooming and fertilize to promote vigorous growth with a high nitrogen fertilizer. Dig and divide your summer and fall flowering perennials very early in the month. Supplies of woody plants at garden centers will be at their best by late month. Shop early for unusual types you've been seeking. After your spring bulbs have bloomed, don't remove the foliage until it is brown.

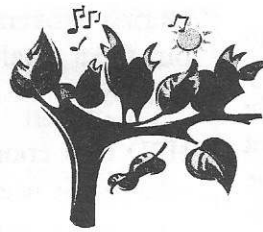
It's easy to have great color in a March landscape. The secret is to have color from May through the summer. Plant annuals and perennials now that will reach their peak several months later. Have a color scheme. Fertilize your shrubs and plants to stimulate rapid spring growth. Follow the label's directions carefully when applying. Use a high phosphorus fertilizer for more blooms on annuals and perennials.



"Scalp" your lawn early in the month by setting the mower down one or two notches. You'll remove many weeds with the cutting, plus you'll see new green growth more quickly. Be on the lookout for black spot and powdery mildew on roses. Keep the foliage dry and apply fungicide on 10-day intervals.

## SPRING FLING FESTIVAL SET TO BURST FORTH

*Sheila Briones*



**A**s a way of expressing thanks for the help the neighborhood has given the Beautification Committee, a "Spring Fling" Festival is scheduled for Sunday, April 11 from 2:00 p.m. to dark at Graham Park, located at W. 34<sup>th</sup> and Lawrence in Section 1. The festival promises fun for the whole family!

Pony rides and a children's petting zoo (\$1 per child donation) and a plant sale will take place from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. For those who enjoy showing off their culinary artistry, two contests are on the agenda. Leading things off will be a Salsa/Picante Contest at 2:30 p.m. Celebrity judges will include Bruce Tatro, District A Councilmember; Ken Yarbrough, State Representative, District 138; Megan Barlow, President of the G.O. Board of Trustees and Adrian Guerra of Adrian's Mexican Restaurant.

At 3:00 p.m., the Dessert Contest will commence. Entrants will have two categories of desserts to choose from: Decadent Desserts or Dieter's Delight. Judges will be awarding blue ribbons in each category.

At 4:00 p.m. Rick Englert of Haute Groceries will serve a sumptuous meal and Tina Sabucco of ARTS ALIVE! will lead an integrated children's art program.

All Garden Oaks residents are invited to attend this fun event. Look for more information in the April 1999 issue of the Garden Oaks *Gazette*. Spring Fling committee members include Brenda de Alba, Sheila Briones, Robert De Veau, Stacey Park, Carol Smith and Jean Walke.



FEBRUARY YARD OF THE MONTH

AWARDED TO  
DAVID AND MISTY JONES  
733 W. 43RD ST

CONGRATULATIONS!





(*"Home Tour" continued from page 1*)

Spread throughout the neighborhood, the homes range from small to grand, new to remodeled, formal and informal. The gardens are an interesting mix reflecting how Garden Oak's rich soil and ample properties can produce a satisfying range of plants, flowers, and landscaping alternatives.

Funding is in full swing and underwriters at all levels are still needed. Sponsorship levels, which were announced in January's *Gazette*, are listed below. Please call Susan Kostelecky (713-697-4110) if you would like to underwrite part of the Tour or if you need more information on the Sponsorship Levels program.

- Gold Sponsor - \$250
- Platinum Sponsor - \$500
- Corporate Sponsor - \$1,000
- Full Corporate Sponsor - \$5,000

To volunteer as a tour docent, ticket taker, transportation assistant, or refreshment vendor, please contact M.T. Herring (713-681-1185). This year, volunteers will be given a special T-shirt to be worn during their volunteer activity. As an additional incentive, each volunteer will be given a **FREE** tour ticket good for use on Preview Night, May 1<sup>st</sup> or on Tour Day, May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Transportation will once again be provided **FREE** and Metro Trolleys will take tour attendees from the Garden Oaks Shopping Center (Shepherd & W. 38<sup>th</sup>) to the front door of each tour stop.

For admission to all homes and gardens, advance tickets are \$8.00; \$10.00 the day of the event. Tickets will be on sale at the April Civic Club meeting. For information on area ticket pre-sale outlets and up-to-date information about the tour, call the HOME TOUR HOTLINE at 713-267-7800.

## CLASSIFIED AD SPACE AVAILABLE

For the mere cost of \$15 — the *Gazette* is now introducing classified ad space! Have something to sell? Want to make a special announcement? Having a yard sale? How about congratulating that someone special for that momentous occasion: promotion, anniversary, wedding, graduation, birthday or just to say "I love you". You get the idea and 1,500 readers in Garden Oaks will know all about it. Interested? Just call Christine Stevens at 713-956-7067 by the 6<sup>th</sup> of the month and your classified ad will appear in the next month's issue.

We are also taking reservations for Mother's Day greetings to appear in the May issue and Father's Day greetings for the June issue. Show Mom or Dad how much you care. Call Christine for details!

## GO RESIDENTS FINISH HOUSTON MARATHON

*Sheila Briones*

**M**eredith Jenkins and Jennifer Taylor, two Garden Oaks residents, competed in the Houston Marathon, a 26-mile run, held Saturday, January 17. The Marathon began and ended in front of the George R. Brown Convention Center in downtown Houston. The course took runners through the Medical Center, West University, the Galleria, memorial Drive and Allan Parkway and finally, back to downtown.



*Pictured are Catherine Kruppa & Meredith Jenkins*

Meredith, chair of the Home Tour Committee, resides in Section 3 on 43<sup>rd</sup> Street, and Jennifer, also resides on 43<sup>rd</sup> Street in Section 5. Both are avid runners

who get up at 4:30 a.m. three to four mornings a week to put in a good 6 mile run. Both trained for the marathon for the past year.

To make matters worse, Meredith ended up with a broken leg this past September but despite Doctor's orders; Meredith kept up with her training. During Meredith's last six miles of the marathon, her dad, Marc Cobb, ran with her for extra support.

Congratulations Meredith and Jennifer for the tremendous accomplishment!



## HOME REPAIR/REMODELING SANDING AND REFINISHING HARDWOOD FLOORS

### *Part Three*

**B**efore you begin coating a floor with any stain or finish, you must thoroughly vacuum the room. This means the floors, walls, woodwork, light switches, etc. Any surface can catch dust.

After vacuuming, you will tack the floor to remove any dust that was left by the vacuum. You will want to use a tacking agent that is made with the solvent used in the finish. If you are using a water based finish, use water on a cloth diaper, make the diaper damp, not wet. For an oil modified stain or polyurethane, use a pre-made tackcloth or a rag, damp with paint thinner or mineral spirits.

Staining a floor adds color and brings out a different look and texture to the hardwood floor. There are many different colors of stains and choosing one can be tricky. Color charts are helpful, but actual samples on your wood give a better indication of the final finish.

Follow the instructions of the manufacturer when applying stain. Take your time, do not get ahead of yourself when in the staining process. Screening the floor is critical if you plan to apply a stain to the wood. Stain will highlight any imperfections from the sanding. After application, let the stain dry. It will flash off quickly, but will not totally dry for 24-36 hours.

If you are not staining your hardwood floor, or if the stain has dried completely, it is now time to apply your floor finish. There are several types of hardwood floor coatings: waxes, lacquer sealers, Swedish finishes, and oil modified or water-based polyurethane. The most popular tend to be the oil modified or water based polyurethane. The final choice will be based on personal preferences. Once you decide on the type of finish to use, beware of the differences between products on the market. Always select a top quality floor finish. Think of the cost of the good finish extended over the life of the floor, not just at the time of purchase. We'll now examine the process of applying oil modified or water based urethane.

**Oil Modified:** You will need to apply 3 coats. The final finish will provide a traditional warm appearance. Apply with the grain of the wood. Pour a line of urethane across the

grain of the wood, or dip the applicator in the finish and draw out the urethane in a line. Using a lambswool applicator, spread the polyurethane following the grain of the wood. You can push or pull the finish, as long as you make the last pass over each area in the same direction. Apply an even, thin coat without puddles or drops. After a pass with the applicator, excess finish can be removed by rolling the applicator in the next area to be coated. A top quality finish will be self leveling and easy to apply. Avoid the bubbles that can result from "working the finish" too much.

You should check the area that has just been finished for missed spots or puddles before you begin the next area. Once you are satisfied that the area is complete, cut in the next area and apply the finish. Make sure to overlap the areas completed and keep the applicator movements in the same direction. Keeping the last strokes with your applicator in the same direction is even more important when you apply a satin finish. The dulling agents in this finish must be applied in the same direction to keep the sheen the same throughout your project.

**Water based:** You will need to apply 4 to 5 coats of finish for proper wear, more coats will give a higher gloss. The final finish provides a light appearance and will not yellow with age. With a water based finish, you pull the applicator when applying the finish. Pour a line of finish on the floor, following the grain. Then pull the applicator like a squeegee plowing the finish to the end of the room. The applicator should be positioned with a slight angle so the urethane flows into the next area to be coated, and not back into the area just completed. Water based finishes are designed to be used in many thin coats. The advantage of the drying time will be effected if you apply it to heavily.

With either type of finish, do not stop the applicator in the finish as you apply it. Feather the applicator in and out of the urethane.

Once the whole area is coated, you must close it off until the finish dries. A water based finish should dry in 2 to 4 hours, and the oil modified finish can dry in 4 to 8 hours. Read the can for dry times.

*("Floors" continued on page 11)*



(“Floors” continued from page 10)

After the first coat dries, you must prepare for the next coat. If you are using a water based urethane, you just re-coat the floor. Unlike the previous coat on bare wood, it will be harder to see areas that need their second coat. Use the wood as a guide and take your time. Some refinishers will put pieces of masking tape along the baseboard to keep track of where they are on the floor.

If you are using the oil modified finish, you must screen the floor. This time the process will remove any grain raise resulting from the application of the finish. When you screen the floor, it should powder up. If you do not get a powder, then the finish is not sufficiently dry. Stop and wait for the finish to dry. You will screen the floor with a buffer like before but a much faster rate. Again, screen with the grain of the room, outside edge first and then the body. For screening between coats, you can use a new 150 or 180 grit screen or a used screen you saved from the original screening. Be careful not to remove the finish you just applied.

After you screen your finish, you must vacuum and tack rag the whole room. When this is completed, you will apply your next coat of finish in the same manner as the previous coat. You will screen the floor between all the coats when applying oil modified finish. When you apply the water based finish, you will not screen after the first coat, but you will screen between the following coats. Repeat this process until you have applied the recommended number of coats for the finish.

When you are done with applying the finish, it is time to let the urethane dry or cure. In 2 to 3 days, most urethanes should be dry enough to place the furniture back into the room. It is recommended to purchase furniture pads and use them on the legs of all furniture. You must wait at least 10 to 14 full days before you place any area rugs on the floor. The urethane will fully cure in 14 to 21 days.

Now that you have sanded and refinished your floor, you should think about the proper maintenance of it. The following Do's and Don'ts should keep your floor looking great.

- *Do not* wax a urethaned floor.
- *Do* be careful where you use furniture wax. Over spray can lead to problems with recoating the floor.
- *Do* use cleaners recommended by the finish manufacturer.
- *Do* clean the floors regularly, using a vacuum or dust mop to remove heavy grit.
- *Do* clean dirtier floors with clear water on a damp mop, but remember, water is the enemy of wood and do not get your floor too wet.
- *Do* place rugs at entrances to avoid dragging in excessive grit.
- *Do* recoat the floor periodically, when it begins to show signs of wear. If the finish wears off the floor completely, you may have to sand and refinish the floor again, due to staining in the bare spots.

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(“Preview” continued from page 1)

neighbors and individual prizes will go to the members of the most represented block. So bring a neighbor, bring a covered dish, bring the kids (babysitting is available for \$1 per child) and bring your questions about how to improve safety in our community.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Rumor has it that the residents of W. 32<sup>nd</sup> Street in Section 1 are planning a neighborhood Garage Sale for Saturday, March 27<sup>th</sup>. You'll be able to walk up and down 32<sup>nd</sup> Street and discover tons of bargains.

Organizers of the event are hoping that this will become an annual event.





### 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.

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### MARCH EVENTS

2<sup>nd</sup>: Civic Club Meeting, 7:00 PM  
G.O. Elementary School

3<sup>rd</sup>: Home Tour Cte. 7:00 PM  
432 W 30<sup>th</sup>

11<sup>th</sup>: Garden Club, 7:00 PM  
Contact Janice Walden for  
location 713-869-6534

23<sup>rd</sup>: Home Tour Cte. 7:00 PM  
1079 LaMonte



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Civic Club Meeting 7:00 PM	3 Home Tour Committee 7:00 PM	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11 Garden Club 7:00 PM	12	13
14	15	16	17  St. Patrick's Day	18	19	20
21 Spring Begins	22	23 Home Tour Committee 7:00 PM	24	25	26	27
28 Palm Sunday	29	30	31	<p><i>"Ah, March! We know thou art kind-hearted, spite of ugly looks and threats, and, out of sight, art nursing April's violets."</i></p> <p>—Helen Hunt Jackson</p>		