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

("Home Tour" continued on page 9)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

THE EDITOR'S CORNER 2

PRESIDENT FLOWERS 3

MINUTES OF FEBRUARY CIVIC CLUB MEETING 4

1999 CIVIC CLUB BUDGET 6

MARCH PLANTING GUIDE 8

SPRING FLING FESTIVAL 8

SANDING AND FINISHING HARDWOOD FLOORS (PART THREE) 10

("Preview" continued on page 11)

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
M - R Vegetable, Side
S - Z Dessert/Sweets
Casserole
Dish or Salad

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
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 Vauu, 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) 697-5554
Hospitality & Refreshments: Terry Jeanees (713) 680-8550
Programs: Terry Jeanees (713) 680-8550
Education Liaison: Missy Coward (713) 956-6492

EDITOR'S CORNER

Do 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, lirias, 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 adept 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 Vauu (713) 686-6012
Co-Editor: Sheila Briones (713) 861-8091
Advertising Director: Christine Stevens (713) 956-7067
Delivery: Jerry Vuchak (713) 862-6593

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.

Garden Oaks Board of Trustees

- Section 1
  Bennett Bartlett (713) 861-2155
  Treasurer: Ed de Alba (713) 694-5934

- Section 2
  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
  Secretary: Helen M. Sestak (713) 688-0993
  Marshall McInnis (713) 956-8129
  D. Keith King (713) 956-2162

March is bring a friend to the Civic Meeting for fun and dinner (Tuesday, March 2nd, 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.
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.). Patrolers 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...
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 Merkham 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
508 W 31st St.
702 W 32nd St.
510 W 33rd St.
## Civic Club 1999 Proposed Budget

**Jay Slemmer, Treasurer**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(1) Unaudited as of 2/10/99</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1999 Budget</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Revenues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>1999 Budget</th>
<th>1998 Actual (1)</th>
<th>1998 Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gazette Advertising</td>
<td>$7,000</td>
<td>$5,015</td>
<td>$9,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beautification</td>
<td>2,500</td>
<td>5,679</td>
<td>4,999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home Tour</td>
<td>20,150</td>
<td>18,055</td>
<td>7,150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership - Dues &amp; Program Contributions</td>
<td>7,000</td>
<td>11,088</td>
<td>7,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GO COP</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>1,098</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City Grant – SPARK Park Fountain</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive – Interest Income</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>497</td>
<td>185</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Revenue**

$38,150

### Expenditures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>1999 Budget</th>
<th>1998 Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gazette Printing &amp; Distribution</td>
<td>$9,174</td>
<td>$8,716</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beautification</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>8,420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G.O. Boulevard Esplanade</td>
<td></td>
<td>$2,350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Triangle Park</td>
<td></td>
<td>$1,350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memorial Rose Garden</td>
<td></td>
<td>$3,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gazebo Park</td>
<td></td>
<td>$600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art Park</td>
<td></td>
<td>$400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misc.</td>
<td></td>
<td>$2,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home Tour</td>
<td></td>
<td>9,020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monthly Meetings – Supplies, Program, etc</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citizens on Patrol</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>379</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPARK Park Fountain &amp; Flyer for Hotel</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2,604</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive – Meetings &amp; Administration</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>1,157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dues Pledges</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>1,572</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Expenditures**

$32,494

**Net Surplus/(Deficit) in Budget**

$5,656

$12,335

($2,999)
NEIGHBORHOOD CRIME
RATE UP 83% IN 1998
Carl Waters, Jr.

Yes 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 patrol, 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 or at the patrol program's e-mail address of GOCOP77018@AOL.com.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT
Author unknown

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

Prune 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

As 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. 34th 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!
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 Kosteacky (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 1st or on Tour Day, May 2nd.

Transportation will once again be provided FREE and Metro Trolleys will take tour attendees from the Garden Oaks Shopping Center (Shepherd & W. 38th) 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 6th 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

Meredith 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 Krupa & Meredith Jenkins

Meredith, chair of the Home Tour Committee, resides in Section 3 on 43rd Street, and Jennifer, also resides on 43rd 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

Before 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 lamb's wool 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)
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.

("Floors" continued from page 10)

("Preview" continued from page 1)

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Civic Club Meeting, 7:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>G.O. Elementary School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Home Tour Committee, 7:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>432 W 30†</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11th</td>
<td>Garden Club, 7:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Contact Janice Walden for location 713-869-6534</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23rd</td>
<td>Home Tour Committee, 7:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1079 LaMonte</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

### Directory of Advertisers

- All Star Construction pg. 11
- Andrew Smith, CPA pg. 5
- Central Bank pg. 6
- DJ Lawn Care pg. 11
- Harry James pg. 4
- Kaplan's Ben Hur pg. 6
- Lauder Properties pg. 5
- Luxury Lawns pg. 6
- Merle Norman pg. 4
- O.D. Printing pg. 5
- Shannon & Assoc. pg. 5
- Terry Jeanes pg. 6
- Tree Experts pg. 4

---

### Recycling Schedule

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

---

### 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.

---

### March 1999 Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Civic Club Meeting 7:00 PM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Home Tour Committee 7:00 PM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Garden Club 7:00 PM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>St. Patrick's Day</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Home Tour Committee 7:00 PM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Palm Sunday</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

"Ah, March! We know thou art kind-hearted, spite of ugly looks and threats, and, out of sight, art nursing April's violets."

—Helen Hunt Jackson