



# GARDEN OAKS GAZETTE

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 1

DECEMBER 2000

## CIVIC CLUB ANNUAL MEETING

**E**lection of Officers, budget approval, covered dish dinner and entertainment...it's all part of the Garden Oaks Civic Club Annual Meeting on Tuesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM in the Multi-purpose Room of the Garden Oaks Elementary School. If you only attend one meeting all year, this is the one to be at.

The Nominating Committee, under the guidance of Sheila Briones, has assembled a stellar slate of Officers worthy of election, or more appropriately, re-election. Running for second terms are President: James Flowers, Vice President: Robert De Veau and Treasurer: Jay Slemmer. Joining the slate for her first bid as Secretary is Amy Shaugnessy. Nominations for these positions will also be taken from the floor.

Breaking with past tradition of approving a budget in March for the current operating year, Treasurer Jay Slemmer has whipped the Committee Chairs into shape and assembled their requests, along with the general operating budget for the Civic Club and will present the 2000 Budget for membership approval. A detailed copy of the budget can be found elsewhere in this issue of the *Gazette*.

Keeping with past tradition, the meeting will feature everyone's favorite Covered Dish Potluck Dinner. Please bring an item that corresponds to your last name.

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

*("Meeting" continued on page 3)*



## SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN

**O**ne of Santa's little helpers sent the *Gazette* an e-mail message confirming not one, but TWO special appearances of that jolly little man we've all come to know and love—Kris Kringle. Santa will be in the Gazebo at the crossroads of Sue Barnett, 42<sup>nd</sup> Street and La Monte on Tuesday, December 21<sup>st</sup> and Wednesday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> from 7:00 PM until 8:30 PM (weather permitting, of course). This marks the eleventh year that Santa has found the time in his busy schedule to visit with all the children and young in heart folks of Garden Oaks at Gazebo Park! Cookies and wassail will be served to all visitors. Don't forget to bring your wish list and camera for those perfect photo opportunities. I know I'll be there.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

THE EDITOR'S CORNER	2
PRESIDENT FLOWERS SPEAKS OUT	3
MINUTES OF NOVEMBER CIVIC CLUB MEETING	4
ART PARK WORK DAY, SATURDAY DECEMBER 11	5
HOME TOUR 2000 ANNOUNCES HOME SELECTIONS	6
DEED RESTRICTIONS PRELIMINARY SURVEY RESULTS	9
DECEMBER GARDENING GUIDE	13

**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 42<sup>nd</sup> (713) 686-6012Treasurer: Jay Slemmer, 733 W 38<sup>th</sup> (713) 695-7953Secretary: Felicia Adams, 336 W 34<sup>th</sup> (713) 869-1784**COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Beautification: Ed &amp; Brenda de Alba (713) 694-5934

Citizen's on Patrol: Carl Waters, Jr. (713) 864-1992

Constable Program: Jay Slemmer (713) 695-7953

Deed Restrictions Research: Shelly Immel (713) 341-3737

Garden Club: Janice Walden (713) 869-6534

Home &amp; Garden Tour: Meredith Jenkins (713) 697-5654

Co-Chair: Sheila Briones (713) 861-8091

Hospitality &amp; Refreshments: Terry Jeanes (713) 680-8550

Programs: Terry Jeanes (713) 680-8550

Senior Helper League: Sharon Lauder (713) 683-0353

**EDITOR'S CORNER**

*"Twas the night before Christmas and Santa's a wreck...How to live in a world that's politically correct. His workers no longer would answer to "Elves", "Vertically challenged" they were calling themselves.*

*And labour conditions at the North Pole, Were alleged by the union to stifle the soul.*

*Four reindeer had vanished, without much propriety, Released to the wilds by the Humane Society.*

*And equal employment had made it quite clear, that Santa had better not use just reindeer*

*So Dancer and Donner, Comet and Cupid, were replaced with four pigs, and you know that looked stupid.*

*The runners had been removed from his sleigh, the ruts were termed dangerous by the EPA*

*And people had started to call for the cops, when they heard sled noises on their roof tops.*

*Second hand smoke from his pipe had his workers quite frightened. His fur trimmed red suit was called, "unenlightened".*

*And to show you the strangeness of life's ebbs and flows, Rudolf was suing over unauthorized use of his nose.*

*He had gone on Geraldo, in front of the nation, demanding millions in over due compensation.*

*So, half of the reindeer were gone; and his wife, who suddenly said "I've had enough of this life",*

*Joined a self help group, packed, and left in a whiz. Demand-*

*ing from now on her title was Ms.*

*And as for gifts, why, he'd ne'er had a notion, that making a choice could cause such a commotion.*

*Nothing of leather, wood, plastic or fur; which meant nothing for him and nothing for her.*

*Nothing that might be construed to pollute. Nothing to aim, nothing to shoot.*

*Nothing that clamoured or made lots of noise. Nothing for just girls or just for the boys.*

*Nothing that claimed to be gender specific. Nothing that's war like or non-Asian Pacific.*

*No candy or sweets...they were bad for the tooth. Nothing that seemed to embellish the truth.*

*And fairy tales, while not forbidden, were like Ken and Barbie, better off hidden.*

*For they raised the hackles of those pathological, who claimed the only good gift was one ecological.*

*No baseball, no football - someone could get hurt. Besides, playing sports exposed kids to dirt.*

*Dolls were said to be sexist and should be passé. And Nintendo would rot your entire brain away.*

*So Santa just stood there, disheveled, perplexed. He just could not figure out what to do next.*

*He tried to be merry, tried to be gay. But you've got to be careful with that word today.*

*His sack was quite empty, limp to the ground. Nothing fully acceptable was to be found.*

*Something special was needed, a gift that he might, give to all without angering the left or the right.*

*A gift that would satisfy, with no indecision, each group of people, every religion;*

*Every ethnicity, every hue' everyone, everywhere, yes...even you!*

*So here is that gift, it's price beyond worth...*

***"May you and your loved ones enjoy Peace on Earth"***

**GAZETTE CONTACTS**

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## PRESIDENT FLOWERS

I decided to print a copy of one of my favorite holiday stories for my last letter of the year. I hope you have a wonderful holiday. My holiday wish is that you will find someone this season that needs a little assistance and help in whatever capacity you can. I hope you think for a minute about what purpose you're on this earth for. Certainly not to just exist and go about life not contributing what you have to offer. Please contribute this season in some way, it will make you feel wonderful.

Happy Hanukkah, Kwanzaa or whatever your faith is.....  
Happy Holidays.

See you at the December meeting. Remember, bring a covered dish.

*Editorial Page, New York Sun, 1897*

We take pleasure in answering thus prominently the communication below, expressing at the same time our great gratification that its faithful author is numbered among the friends of The Sun:

*I am 8 years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says, "If you see it in The Sun, it's so." Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?*

*Virginia O'Hanlon*

Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours, man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus.

He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The external light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies. You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if you did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived could tear apart. Only faith, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus? Thank God he lives and lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay 10 times 10,000 years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!!!

*("Meeting" continued from page 1)*

The Garden Oaks Eagles will entertain Civic Club Members and guests with an encore performance of their holiday program. The cast of second and third graders of the Garden Oaks Elementary School promises a delightful program of song and storytelling, guaranteed to leave even Ebenezer Scrooge in a festive holiday mood.

### CIVIC CLUB OFFICERS E-MAIL CONTACTS

President: James Flowers	jflowers@chapman-schewe.com
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VP/Gazette: Robert De Veau	GOGazette@aol.com
Treasurer: Jay Slemmer	benslem@msn.com
Secretary: Felicia Adams	felicia_adams@excite.com





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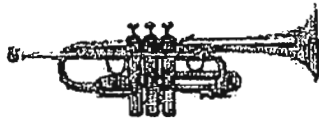
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## MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 2ND CIVIC CLUB MEETING

*Felicia Adams, Secretary*

President Flowers called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. A call for corrections to the October minutes was made. There being no corrections, a motion was made, and seconded, to accept the minutes as submitted.

Deputy Green, Constable for Sections 1 and 1A gave his report for October. If you need his assistance please call (713) 697-3600.

Guest Speaker- Smith Alarm Systems.

### Officer Reports

Vice President/Membership: David Bell reported 20 additional residents paid their dues in October. We are at approximately 27% of the residents having paid dues for 1999.

Treasurer: Jay Slemmer passed out the proposed 2000 budget. We will vote on this in December's meeting. The Home Tour 1999 funds will be dispersed. Please come to this meeting if you have concerns/questions about the budget.

Vice President/Gazette Editor: Robert De Veau stated there is a need for a volunteer Assistant Advertising Director to ease the burden from the current Ad Director, Christine Stevens.

### Committee Reports

Beautification: Chair Brenda de Alba gave an update on the rose garden. A "Work Day" for the Art Park at 43<sup>rd</sup> and Sue Barnett will be scheduled for the second weekend in December.

GOCOP: Carl Waters reported crime statistics. We need volunteers! It will only take one hour a week...GET TRAINED AND VOLUNTEER!

Deed Restrictions Research Committee: provided an update on how the survey is going. November 18<sup>th</sup> is a working meeting at Garden Oaks Elementary School. This affects all of us, please fill out your surveys!

Home Tour Committee: Committee member Brenda de Alba reported that 7 homes have been selected. We need gardens! Call Meredith Jenkins with nominations.

Nominating Committee: Cathy Land reported on the recommendations of the committee. Voting will be during December's meeting.

### Unfinished Business

Sharon Lauder proposed the Senior Assistance League as a standing committee to help the seniors in Garden Oaks. This committee was approved. Sharon will chair the committee for 2000.

### New Business

A revision in the number of Officers for the Civic Club was announced. According

*("Minutes" continued on page 5)*



("Minutes" continued from page 4)

to the By-laws, the current Officers can determine the number of Vice Presidents needed. Presently, there have been two Vice Presidents, each one also serving as chair of the Membership Committee and the *Gazette*, respectfully. In order to provide future continuity on the Board, the number of Vice Presidents, beginning with the 2000 election, will be one. The position of Chairs for the Membership Committee and the *Gazette* will be appointed as standing committees. The position of Vice President will be a grooming position for the individual to succeed the President in the following year. The current slate of Officers was revised to reflect the new positions. There will now be four officers: President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary

Jay Slemmer distributed copies of new operating rules for the Civic Club. These will be voted on in December.

Acting Chair and Treasurer Jay Slemmer reported the Constable program is in need of financial help. A shortfall in funds from Section I and IA residents has resulted in the contract not being able to be paid and penalties accruing on the past due balance. A motion was made for the Civic Club to loan the Constable Program the needed money for this program to be paid back by year end from collected funds or immediate cancellation of the program will result. After discussion, the motion was seconded and passed.

There being no further business, President Flowers adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

## ART PARK WORK DAY

*Brenda de Alba, Beautification Chair*



Join us on Saturday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. in the Art Park located on Sue Barnett and W. 43<sup>rd</sup> for a Beautification workday. After a long hot summer, the flowerbeds are in desperate need of weeding and some TLC! Come with your gardening tools (labeled with your name), gloves, and sun screen. We'll provide plenty of water.

In the giving spirit of the Holiday Season, let's all give a little something back to the community we call home.

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## HOME AND GARDEN TOUR ANNOUNCES HOME SELECTION

*Barry Skipton*

**T**he Garden Oaks Home & Garden Tour committee is pleased to announce that the homes have been selected for the Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2000 tour. They are as follows:

- 208 W. 34<sup>th</sup> Street
- 311 W. 34<sup>th</sup> Street (home and garden)
- 403 W. 34<sup>th</sup> Street
- 807 W. 41<sup>st</sup> Street
- 810 W. 41<sup>st</sup> Street
- 1051 Althea

The gardens are still being confirmed, and a complete list will be announced in the next *Gazette*.

The various sub-committees have been busy, but there is still a tremendous amount of work to be done. We need volunteers! There is an "open" meeting scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2000 at 742 W. 41<sup>st</sup> Street. Keep in mind that the Home and Garden Tour benefits the entire neighborhood. Proceeds from this event are pumped directly back into our schools, beautification projects, and other Civic Club sponsored programs. If you are interested in our neighborhood, and are available to assist, please try to attend the January meeting. Let's try to make this year's tour our best ever!

The committee would also like to take this opportunity to extend a big THANK YOU to the homeowners who have already agreed to open their homes and gardens for the 2000 tour. Without the continued support of homeowner's like these, there would be no tour.

For additional information or to suggest a Tour Garden, contact Meredith Jenkins, Home Tour Chair, at (713) 697-5654. For up-to-the minute Tour information, call the Garden Oaks Home and Garden Tour hotline at (713) 267-7800.

See you on January 17<sup>th</sup>.

## IN MEMORY

**L**ong time Garden Oaks resident, Earl V. Dragics (Section 5), died Sunday, November 14<sup>th</sup>. Earl was 84 years old, but young in mind and spirit. He was a true refined gentleman who loved his family and this neighborhood. His legacy to Garden Oaks is the beautiful Gazebo which graces the park at the intersection of Sue Barnett, LaMonte, and W. 42<sup>nd</sup> Street. After losing his wife, Lenore, a son, Earl Jr., and a grandson, Jason, all within the short span of several years, Earl expressed his desire to memorialize his loved ones and donated the money to build the Gazebo. He also paid to have the plantings put in adjacent to the Gazebo (2 Little Gem Magnolias and Pittisporum shrubs). The Gazebo project was spearheaded by Bill Chastain and was dedicated during the Thanksgiving holidays 4 years ago.

Those who knew and loved him will miss Earl.



## SPECIAL CONSTABLE PATROL MEETING

*Terry Jeanes & Jay Slemmer*

On Thursday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, 1999 a special meeting was held to discuss the current Constable Patrol Program in Sections 1 and 1A and the expansion of the project to the other four Sections. There were approximately 16 people in attendance at the meeting. Various topics discussed were:

1. hiring private security would not be able to arrest, write tickets, etc.
2. HPD does not offer this service
3. securing one Constable to cover all five sections of Garden Oaks
4. expanding the Constable Patrol to two Constables
5. the success of the current program with Constable Green.

Jay Slemmer gave the attendants information regarding his conversations with Chief Scott and expanding the program, the renewal of the 2000 contract, and the increase in the cost of the program (which will be 5%). Terry Jeanes reported how many blocks currently have block captains that have committed to canvass the neighborhood. Also reported, was the need for approximately 302 households to participate throughout all five sections to provide one (1) Constable. The outcome of the meeting was as follows:

- work with the Deed Restrictions Committee and join forces in going door to door soliciting for people to sign up
- put together a block captain information sheet including statistics
- have the needed commitments by the second week in December
- solicit participation by businesses throughout Garden Oaks at \$750 per year

The following residents offered to become Section Leaders and coordinate the various Block Captains in their Section:

James Flowers and Jerry Vuchak: Sections 1 & 1A  
 Jay Slemmer: Section 2  
 Brenda de Alba: Section 3  
 Terry Jeanes: Section 4  
 Sharon Lauder: Section 5

Lastly, we would like to thank everyone in attendance for his or her participation and willingness to assist in this project. If you have any questions, please contact Terry Jeanes at (713) 680-8550 or myself at (713) 695-7953.

## LIVE NATIVITY TO CELEBRATE BIRTH OF CHRIST

One of Houston's oldest Baptist churches will present its first live Nativity scene on Wednesday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> at its North Shepherd location.

From 5:30 p.m. - 6:50 p.m., Garden Oaks Baptist Church members will reenact three scenes from the story of the birth of Christ. Using props and live animals, actors will portray shepherds seeing angels, kings traveling to see Jesus and the manger scene.

"It's easy to get distracted at Christmas. If just one driver stops to visit the nativity, then we will have succeeded in bringing attention to the real reason for Christmas: the birth of a savior who, out of love, died to pay the penalty for our sins," said Pastor Jeff Rees.

Garden Oaks Baptist Church is located at 3206 N. Shepherd Drive. The nativity will be in the parking lot across from the church and admission will be free. Visitors can drive by or tour the nativity on foot. Refreshments will be served.

A candlelight service will follow at 7:00 p.m. in the church sanctuary with music and worship. For additional information, call (713) 864-4447.

*Suzanne Anderson*

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## SEMI-ANNUAL GARDEN OAKS GARAGE SALE

December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>

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## GOCOP REPORT

Carl Waters, Jr.

On November 6<sup>th</sup>, I attended the annual meeting for Coordinators of COP programs around the city. The keynote speaker was Assistant Chief Dennis Richardson who is in charge of the Support Programs which includes the COP. He announced at the meeting that the Houston/Harris County Area had received national recognition by the agency that monitors National Night Out activities. Pat yourselves on the back, Houston/Harris County had the largest number of parties and activities in the country.

Also discussed were ways to reduce burglaries in our neighborhoods. One of the ways is HPD's "Operation ID." Through the Community Service Division, engravers can be borrowed to engrave your Texas Driver's License number on your valuables and receive Operation ID stickers to place on the windows of your home. Contact HPD or myself for further information.

Over the next few weeks, many of us will be adding new items to our homes for the holidays and of course all those goodies from Santa. Protect your new purchases by locking doors and windows, especially if you are out or cannot hear someone entering the areas where they are located. When you put boxes out after Christmas, break them down and put them in garbage bags so that thieves have a harder time finding out what you have added to your home.

### September Crime Statistics (8)

#### Burglary (2)

- 200 block of W. 32<sup>nd</sup> on September 23<sup>rd</sup> at 11:20 p.m. (residence)
- 3100 block of Lawrence on September 8<sup>th</sup> at 12:55 p.m. (location type listed as unknown)

#### Burglary of a Motor Vehicle (4)

- 300 block of W. 34<sup>th</sup> on September 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 p.m. (public street)
- 900 block of Sue Barnett on September 9<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m. (parking lot)
- 900 block of Sue Barnett on September 29<sup>th</sup> at 3:03 p.m. (public street)
- 3200 block of Lawrence on September 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 p.m. (parking lot)

#### Auto Theft (2)

- 600 block of W. 34<sup>th</sup> on September 17<sup>th</sup> at 8:15 p.m. (parking lot).
- 3000 block of N. Durham on September 22<sup>nd</sup> at 5:00 p.m. (parking lot)

In September, patrollers and bases were in operation for 56 ¼ hours. Thanks to all for their efforts.

For those of you who would like to join us, HPD offers training classes twice a month: on the second Thursday of each month at 10:00 a.m. and on the fourth Thursday at 7:00 p.m. In December, the fourth Thursday falls on December 23, so I doubt that classes will be held that evening.

Happy Holidays to all the citizens of Garden Oaks from all of the members of the COP program.

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[http://www.onelist.com/subscribe/Houston\\_GO](http://www.onelist.com/subscribe/Houston_GO)





## DEED RESTRICTION COMMITTEE REPORT

*Shelly Immel, Chair*

**C**ongratulations to Linda Walke, the winner of our \$50 drawing for returning her survey by 10/20/99! Thanks to all of you who have sent us your survey responses! You make our task easier by responding and doing it promptly.

For the rest of you, it's not too late. We'd still like to hear from you. If you need another copy of the survey, you can download it if you're a member of the Garden Oaks list serv, or you can call our hotline (713-341-3737) to leave a message requesting another paper copy.

During December, we will focus on selecting an attorney to advise us on our options for creating a new enforcement organization and on the process to update our deed restrictions. Based on our initial consultations, we will form a more specific plan of action. We intend to present this at the January Civic Club meeting.

Other committee members and I will be at the December Civic Club meeting if you have questions or comments, or if you would like to volunteer to help out.

Now, here are the results of the 130 surveys we've received as of November 18<sup>th</sup>. (Due to the thickness of the stack of surveys, we overestimated the total number in the November Civic Club meeting. Apologies!) This number represents less than 10% of properties in Garden Oaks, so we obviously want responses from many more of you before we start writing proposed updates to our deed restrictions. But it's what we know so far, so we're passing on that information to you. And after all, if no one else sent in another survey, we would be forced to draft the updates with what we've got so far.

There was a clear majority response for all but 3 questions. The majority response is indicated by a ✓ and boldface type.

First, these were the questions with clear majority agreement.

1. **Front setbacks**  
 ✓ **63% No change.**  
 37% Relax by 5 feet.
2. **Side setbacks for houses**  
 ✓ **65% No change.**  
 23% Relax to 10 feet.  
 12% Relax to 7 feet.
3. **Garage apartments** are not dealt with clearly in the current deed restrictions. Proposal is to clarify language for each section.  
 12% No change.  
 12% Prohibit garage apartments.  
 ✓ **56% Allow garage apartments, but not renting.**  
 20% Allow garage apartments and allow renting.
4. **Temporary outbuildings** such as garden sheds are currently prohibited (although they exist widely in our neighborhood).  
 16% No change.  
 ✓ **84% Allow these within outbuilding setbacks.**

(“Survey” continued on page 10)

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Free ESTIMATES  
**713-681-4079**  
**713-712-1720** (Pager)

Guillaume "GEM" Murvan (Shepherd Park Plaza Resident)





("Survey" continued from page 9)

5. Proposal to clearly state that we allow *maintenance on existing grandfathered violations* (as opposed to upgrades, expansions, replacement with a new structure, which would still be prohibited).  
13% No change.  
✓ 87% Clearly allow maintenance.
6. Proposal to *grandfather all documented violations that exist when the deed restriction updates go into effect*. To grandfather their violations, property owners would have to *submit dated proof* such as a current property survey (blue line drawing) to the enforcement organization. This would document that the violation existed prior to the effective date of the deed restriction updates, and avoid confusion about future enforcement. (The purpose of this proposal is to offer "amnesty" to encourage people with existing violations to support the new restrictions.)  
26% No change.  
✓ 74% Grandfather all documented violations when updated deed restrictions go into effect.
7. Proposal to allow *fences, walls, and/or hedges* in front of the front setback line for houses for those homes with a side property line abutting certain very busy streets such as Yale and Shepherd.  
12% No change.  
24% Allow hedges for these specific homes.  
✓ 64% Allow hedges, wrought iron fences, and walls for these homes.
8. Proposal to remove the clause restricting residents to using "*attractive*" *paint colors* and types of building material. The reason is that the attractiveness of a paint color and building materials is highly subjective, and therefore difficult to enforce consistently and fairly. Any restriction that is not clearly and consistently enforced becomes hard to enforce at all. We have never enforced this restriction. Therefore it weakens the whole document.  
29% No change.  
✓ 71% Remove restriction.
9. Proposal to update our *funding* for enforcing the deed restrictions. Currently funding comes from a fee when a property is sold. The fee is 40 cents per lineal foot of the front property line, which is around \$30 for a standard lot. In June 1999 dollars, this would be equivalent to about **\$4.60/ft. or about \$368 per closing**. (Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics: [www.bls.gov/](http://www.bls.gov/)). The fee has not increased with inflation, so it doesn't cover the cost of enforcement anymore.  
24% No change.  
✓ 71% Make the fee a percentage (.2% - .75%) of property price collected at closing and paid by purchaser.  
5% Eliminate fee at property sale. Instead create a

mandatory annual fee of \$50 - \$100 for all property owners.

11. The following general suggestions about the *organization for enforcing the deed restrictions* were supported by almost 100% of respondents. Members will be volunteers. They will be openly nominated and elected, not appointed. Their names and phone numbers will be published in the *Gazette* so residents can contact them with questions and suggestions. They will report on their work regularly at Civic Club meetings and in the *Gazette*. The organization will have some level of liability protection (e.g., D&O / liability insurance). Meetings will be open to Garden Oaks property owners and residents.

There was a more even split in the responses to the following questions. These are the areas we will have to work on to reach consensus.

11. *Side setbacks for outbuildings*  
✓ 42% No change.  
36% Relax to 5 feet.  
22% Relax to 3 feet.
12. Proposal to add a requirement that a *current survey* (e.g., blue line drawing) be provided to the enforcement organization whenever a property changes hands. This is to document what violations existed at that time and are therefore grandfathered.  
24% No change.  
✓ 45% Add requirement.  
31% Add requirement, but only if survey is also required by another party.
13. Proposal to allow *rebuilding of grandfathered violations if destroyed*. (Currently if a grandfathered violation is destroyed, it can not be rebuilt to match the violation. It must conform to restrictions.)  
✓ 52% No change.  
48% Allow rebuilding of registered violations.

Thank you, and Happy Holidays!



<b>Income: 2000 Budget</b>		
Gazette	(9,100.00)	
Membership Dues		\$1,000.00
Advertising		\$8,100.00
Beautification	(2,100.00)	
Membership Dues		\$1,100.00
Other		\$1,000.00
Home Tour	(17,350.00)	
Sponsorships		\$7,000.00
Ticket Sales		\$8,000.00
Raffle Ticket Sales		\$2,000.00
Silent Auction		\$2,000.00
Concessions		\$150.00
Sponsor Party		\$200.00
Membership	(\$6,725.00)	
Dues		\$6,725.00
Deed Restriction		\$1,000.00
GO COP		\$1,100.00
Garden Club		\$900.00
Constable Patrol Program		\$48,000.00
Interest Income		\$804.00
<b>Total Income:</b>		<b>\$87,079.00</b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>		
Gazette	(9,100.00)	
Printing/Distribution		\$9,392.00
Home Tour Tickets for Advertisers		\$320.00
Supplies		\$500.00
Committee Charges		(\$1,112.00)
Beautification	(4,954.00)	
Esplanade		\$2,050.00
Gazebo		\$700.00
Rose Garden		\$250.00
Triangle		\$750.00
Community Garden		\$500.00
Misc		\$200.00
H.L.P.		\$264.00
City of Houston - Water		\$240.00
Home Tour	(7,346.02)	
Pre-Tour Sponsorships		\$1,500.00
Graphics Committee		\$3,204.98
Volunteer Refreshments		\$150.00
Copies, supplies, etc.		\$225.00
Raffle		\$200.00
Transportation		\$2,200.00
Traffic Control		\$300.00
Tour set-up		\$740.00
Publicity		\$214.00
Storage rental		\$550.00
Concessions		\$250.00
Volunteers		\$470.00
Membership		\$1,500.00
Deed Restriction	(9,262.00)	
E-Mail Account (\$11 per month X 12 months)		\$132.00
Printing		\$1,770.00
Signage		\$60.00
Supplies		\$100.00
Voting Kick-off/Spring Fling		\$1,000.00
Legal Fees		\$6,200.00
GOCOPS	( 900.00)	
Appreciation Dinner		\$600.00
Supplies, etc.		\$300.00
Constable Patrol Program (1 Constable)		\$46,700.00
Elder Committee		\$2,500.00
General Expenses		\$1,500.00
<b>Total Expenditures:</b>		<b>\$83,762.02</b>
<b>Total Income:</b>		<b>\$87,079.00</b>
<b>Total Expenditures:</b>		<b>\$83,762.02</b>
<b>Net:</b>		<b>\$3,316.98</b>



## 1999 FINANCIAL REPORT AS OF OCTOBER 31

*Submitted by Jay Slemmer, Treasurer*

<b>INCOME</b>	
Gazette	\$7,839.75
Beautification	2,996.75
Home Tour	19,410.31
Membership	6,335.00
GO COP	1,069.00
Garden Club	826.00
Montessori	0.00
Computer Rebate	50.00
Constable Program	29,791.94
Interest—All Accounts	709.67
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$69,028.42</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Gazette	\$6,679.09
Beautification	8,303.07
HL&P and Water Department	341.97
Home Tour	7,836.60
Home Tour 1998	200.00
Membership	589.00
Monthly Meetings	108.34
GO COP	73.81
Executive	821.68
Constable Program	28,006.38
Garden Club	0.00
Montessori	0.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$52,959.94</b>
<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>	<b>\$16,004.21</b>

## BEAUTIFICATION UPDATE

*Brenda de Alba, Chair*

November proved to be a month filled with Beautification activity. The Garden Oaks Boulevard received a MAJOR cleanup and the Rose Garden now sports brick edging complimented by a new paver patio. Be sure to drive by and prepare to be WOWed by how wonderful everything looks! Ruiz Construction Company completed the paver work and I'll be happy to pass their number on to anyone who is interested. I owe Sheila Briones a BIG thanks for being a good sport and helping me move 300+ bricks over to the park when faulty calculations landed us with a material shortage. Even with this snafu, the results turned out fabulous!

Our annual Art Park (W. 43<sup>rd</sup> & Sue Barnett - Section 2) cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. Mark your calendars and please come help, even if you can only spare an hour! Last year we were blessed with enough volunteers so that the cleanup was accomplished in one morning.

Bring your pruners, rakes, hoes, brooms, and gloves (don't forget your sunscreen). We'll provide the water. NOTICE TO GARDEN OAKS PLAZA RESIDENTS: We'd love to have you join us...you and anyone coming to visit you have to drive past this park to get to your home.

A contribution was made to the Beautification Committee in memory of Helen Keener for additional plantings at the Rose Garden. Helen, a Section 1 resident of Garden Oaks since 1940, cherished her home, her flowers, and Garden Oaks. In 1979 her garden was even featured in Houston Home and Garden. She is survived by Section 3 residents, Doug and Lori Johnson. Contributing to the memorial were Gary and Kelly Gould, David and Shannon Thompson, Rusty and Linda Reichle, and Mike Siemer and Mary Thompson.

As I mentioned in October, Jeff Benjamin will be taking over as Beautification Chairman in 2000. Ed and I are leaving this activity in very good hands! Jeff is fresh and motivated to keep things rolling...he's already attended one of the City seminars to learn about the matching grant program. I want to thank all of the many neighbors who have helped us the last 3 years with the Esplanade, the Triangle Park, and the Rose Garden projects. We aren't disappearing from the scene; we're just taking more of a backseat role. I've lived in Garden Oaks almost 20 years and my love for this neighborhood and our many friends deepens with each passing year.

Ciao...



### CONSTABLE PROGRAM

*Jay Slemmer, Acting Chair*

**N**ot much has changed since the last article for this program. Here is where we are through November 15, 1999.

1998 Unspent Monies	\$ 2,739.12
1999 Residents Paid	\$28,408.49
Loan by Civic Club	\$ 8,500.00
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$39,647.61</u></b>

Cost through 11/99	\$34,998.08
Cost for 12/99	\$ 3,656.50
Late Fees	\$ 470.72
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$39,125.30</u></b>

As you can see the program owes back to the Civic Club approximately \$8,000 as of November 15, 1999. If you are someone currently living in Section 1 or 1A and haven't yet contributed to the program or you have paid for only 1/2 of 1999 please send a check. If you have any questions regarding this information or need to know if you have paid or not paid for 1999, please feel free to contact me at (713) 695-5654.

Number of Households contributing for 1999 is 130 out of 442 or 29%

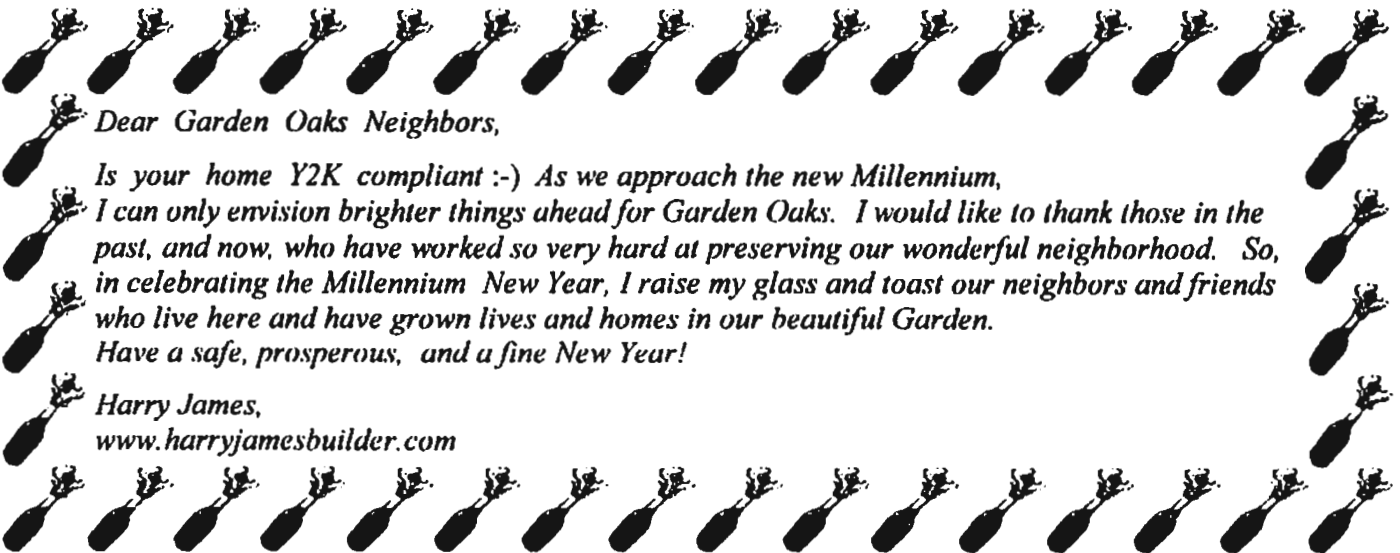
Number of Households needed to offset the deficit = 35

### SENIOR LEAGUE OF HELPERS

*Sharon Lauder, Chair*

**T**he Senior League of Helpers is off to a running start. Mary, a senior in the neighborhood, asked if she could get some help weeding her flowers gardens. The first weekend we had eight volunteers and the next weekend some of the volunteers returned and joined by several new ones for another total of eight! Hats off to Garden Oaks residents with the giving spirit. The owner, Mary, was very grateful and feels she has made some new friends.

Seniors are welcome to call for help and volunteers are needed. Please call Sharon Lauder at (713) 683-0353 or (713) 862-3747. Our G. O. Seniors are our roots of the neighborhood and giving back is a full circle event – a good feeling for all. Happy Holidays!



*Dear Garden Oaks Neighbors,*

*Is your home Y2K compliant :-) As we approach the new Millennium, I can only envision brighter things ahead for Garden Oaks. I would like to thank those in the past, and now, who have worked so very hard at preserving our wonderful neighborhood. So, in celebrating the Millennium New Year, I raise my glass and toast our neighbors and friends who live here and have grown lives and homes in our beautiful Garden. Have a safe, prosperous, and a fine New Year!*

*Harry James,  
www.harryjamesbuilder.com*



## DECEMBER GARDENING GUIDE

*Tina Sabuco*

**D**on't just dream of a white Christmas – create one by forcing a pot or two of paperwhite narcissus indoors in pots of water and pebbles for holiday blooms. Thanks to Kathy Huber, Garden Oaks' resident and *Houston Chronicle* Gardening columnist, for providing the following information.

To force paperwhites in water: Place 1 to 2 tablespoons (or a few pieces) of agricultural charcoal in a clean, shallow pot or bowl with sides at least 4 inches high and without drainage holes in the bottom. If your pot has drainage holes, plug them. Charcoal helps keep the water fresh.

Fill the container two-thirds full with clean gravel or stones. Place as many bulbs as possible in the container, but do not let them touch one another or the sides of the pot. Place the bulbs on the gravel, pointed-side up. Fill in around them with gravel. You want the gravel to hold the bulbs upright but not cover them. This crowded grouping will give the best display of flowers.

Fill the container with water until it's just beneath—but not touching—the bottoms of the bulbs. The roots will grow down into the water. Maintain the water at this level. Place the pot in a cool (45 degrees to 50 degrees), dim or dark area. Good air circulation is important. You might place the bulb pot under boxes in a cool garage.

Roots will appear in days, and when they have developed and the foliage is 4 to 5 inches tall—on the average, in about three weeks—gradually move the container to cool, brighter spots. The light will green up the foliage. Rotate the pot for even growth. The new shoots will develop rapidly, and in three weeks the fragrant, white flowers should open and last for up to 10 days.

Bulbs that are forced in water (or pebbles and water) usually are exhausted, and you're better off discarding them.

To force paperwhite bulbs in soil:

Fill a terra-cotta pot or shallow dish with a well-draining potting soil. A 6- to 8-inch pot will hold eight paperwhite bulbs.

Place the bulbs nose up and a pencil-width apart on top of the soil, then gently press each bulb into the soil. Add soil around the base of each bulb until only the shoulders are visible above the soil.

Water thoroughly, then keep the soil evenly moist. Place the pot in a cool, dark area. Avoid freezing tem-

peratures. When the stems are 2 to 3 inches tall, move the pot to a bright window.

Keep the bulbs watered, and enjoy fragrant blooms in six weeks or less.

Bulbs forced in soil are weakened. While they're not suitable for forcing again, you can take the chance they'll bloom again in the garden. It may take awhile, and if flowering does occur, it may be diminished at first.

If you wish to try them in the garden, keep the pot in good light and allow the foliage to mature, brown and wither. This helps replenish the bulb. Then store the potted bulbs until fall and replant them in the garden.

When buying a poinsettia, select a plant with dark green leaves and brilliant colored bracts. Pick one that hasn't shed its pollen yet (check the bracts for yellow pollen stains), because once plants drop their pollen, they decline faster. Choose plants displayed in areas that provide bright light, temperatures in the 60s and high humidity.

If you are planning to buy a live Christmas tree to plant in the ground after the holidays, prepare its planting hole before the soil freezes. Mulch the area heavily to prevent freezing, or dig the hole and store the soil in a protected, nonfreezing area, such as a garage or basement.

Consider planting hollies with colorful berries to attract birds and provide cuttings for indoor decoration. They can be planted in the fall in all regions. Make the planting hole as deep as the root ball and twice as wide. Once you set the plant in place, the top of the root ball should be just above ground level. A mulch will help protect the shallow roots.



To extend the life of poinsettias, Christmas cactus, and other holiday plants, keep them in the coolest rooms—at least during the night. Temperatures in the 60s will slow growth and flowering. To speed up flowering, move the plants into sunny spots where the temperature is in the 80s.

If you have young children in the house, you may want to use discretion about what holiday plants you buy. Parts of some holiday plants can be hazardous if eaten. Although not poisonous, sap from poinsettia leaves, and holly and mistletoe berries can cause stomach upset when ingested.

May your days be merry and bright!



**HEAVY TRASH**

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**

1st and 3rd Tuesday  
North of West 43rd St.

2nd and 4th Tuesday  
South of West 43rd St.

**DIRECTORY OF ADVERTISERS**

All Star Construction pg. 9  
 Central Bank pg. 6  
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 Terry Jeanes pg. 6  
 Tree Experts pg. 4  
 US Trees pg. 9

**DECEMBER EVENTS**

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

9<sup>th</sup>: Garden Club, 7:00 PM  
Call for location 713-869-6534



11<sup>th</sup>: Art Park Work Day 9:00 AM  
W. 43<sup>rd</sup> and Sue Barnett

19<sup>th</sup>: Judging of G.O. Lighting Contest

21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>: Santa's Visit 7:00—8:30 PM  
Gazebo Park



# December 1999

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4  Hanukkah
5	6	7 Civic Club Annual Meeting 7:00 PM	8	9 Garden Club 7:00 PM	10	11 Art Park Work Day 9:00 AM
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 Light Up G.O. Holiday Lighting Contest	20	21 Santa at Gazebo Park 7:00—8:30 PM	22 Santa at Gazebo Park 7:00—8:30 PM Winter Begins	23	24	25  Christmas
26	27	28	29	30	31	

