

Garden Oaks

Gazette

A publication of the Garden Oaks Civic Club

July 1998

Volume 21, No. 7

In July

July 19 - Stop the Motel Rally

6 - 8 pm
Graham Park -
Section 1

July 23 - Planning
Commission meeting

2 pm
City Hall Annex

July 23 - Garden Club
Meeting

7:00 pm
Another Place in
Time

DON'T FORGET!!

There will be no
Civic Club
meetings during
July and August.

**HAVE A GREAT
SUMMER!!
WE'LL SEE YOU IN
SEPTEMBER!**

Home Tour Wrap-Up

by Shana Tatum, 1998 Home Tour Committee

A few more thoughts and thank you's to share on the 1998 Home and Garden tour before we move on to planning next year's tour, which by the way will be kicked off with a meeting August 18th at Susan Kostelecky's home, 1318 Sue Barnett.

As you read in the last Gazette, the 1998 tour was a big hit. We were so pleased with the turnout and especially with the weather. While we thank Mother Nature for her graciousness, there are a few others that deserve recognition.

The beautiful arrangements our local florists created helped make each home a little brighter. We appreciate the donation of time and effort of the following:

701 Garden Oaks Blvd.
839 W. 42nd
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875 W. 41st
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FlowerTime - 1203 W. 34th
Heights Floral Shop - 401 W. 20th
FlowerTime - 1203 W. 34th
Alfred's Time Square - 2214 Ella
Fisher Florist - 505 Shepherd Drive
Gaye Jacksons Flowers Etc. - Four Seasons Hotel

We also want to recognize Rick Englert and his crew at Haute Groceries. He provided an excellent Italian affair for the Preview Party. If you haven't tried his pesto, you don't know what you are missing! We enjoyed this delicious meal at the home of James Stafford and Debra Keyser. Their generosity was so appreciated. The guests and sponsors were in awe as they wandered through this urban garden just tucked away in Garden Oaks. Thanks also to Pat Buron for the wonderful renderings of the tour homes that were given as gifts to the homeowners. Your talent as an artist was greatly appreciated. Many of the decorations and displays for the party were on loan from event planner Rebekah Johnson of Bergner and Johnson Design. All of these people and their kindness helped create the energy we needed to have a successful tour.

Another word of thanks is extended to the management of Garden Oaks Shopping Center. They allowed us to run the command center and shuttle buses from this location. The buses would not have run so smoothly without such a central location. Another location we appreciated was the Kroger store on 43rd. They allowed us to set up shop and sell our raffle tickets and tour tickets over three weekends.

Printing of all marketing and invitations were done by Oscar Ochoa at O.D.'s Printing. Thanks again this year for a first class job!

Finally, the committee would like to thank Judi Morawski for stepping

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The Gazette is the official publication of Garden Oaks Civic Club and is published on a monthly basis. Submission deadline is the 15th of each month for the following month.

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President's Letter

by Craig Lee, 1998 Civic Club President

What a difference a month can make. Last month all was quiet; we reveled in the success of the Home and Garden Tour. This month, a "day motel" threatens the privacy and solitude of section one, and frankly, in my opinion, the entire reputation of Garden Oaks. On June 2nd representatives from the Greater Inwood Partnership along with myself representing Garden Oaks addressed the Houston City Council session. We requested a moratorium on the development of motels and hotels next to any residential neighborhood and the enactment of a permanent buffer zone between any proposed motel and the boundary of any residential neighborhood. That issue is scheduled to be discussed with the mayor during the week of June 8th. We await the outcome.

My thanks to District A Council Member Bruce Tatro and to Council At-Large Member Annise Parker for showing an interest in the issue and working with us. Cicely Wynne from Parker's office and Tatro himself (along with two city officials - one from signage, the other from planning) were at the Civic Club meeting. Also at the meeting were representatives from the Greater Inwood Partnership, the president of the Houston Homeowner's Association, Mike O'Brien, and representatives of the Garden Oaks board of trustees. Trustee president Megan Berry Barlow (I would like to extend my apologies to Megan for carelessly misspelling her name last month) was able to better explain to the membership how the property the motel wants to build on is impacted by the section one deed restrictions. Finally, thanks to Rick Englert for providing some very tasty snacks from his Haute Grocery kitchen.

The Civic Club meeting was very well attended—I would estimate around 80 residents—and could not be completed. It will resume on June 16th. (Because I have to write this article prior to the 16th, I can't provide any information on the outcome of the meeting). My thanks to all of our concerned neighbors who came to the Civic Club meeting to discuss this very important issue. This sort of response from our neighborhood officials and the residents of Garden Oaks just proves one more time that this is a vibrant group of residents who really care about the future of Garden Oaks - one of the many reasons that this neighborhood has such a good reputation around the city.

A task force was formed to review our options regarding the motel. In the end, we may be able to keep the motel out due to a zoning issue relating to a church. But the longer term use of the lot the motel is considering should still concern us.

Locked out: The Garden Oaks Elementary School inadvertently locked the doors and went home leaving us without a meeting place. We ended up at the Garden Oaks Baptist Church and sincerely appreciate their

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Garden Oaks Civic Club Minutes

by Joan Harmon

Meeting called to order by President, Craig Lee at 7:25 PM on June 2, 1998. Due to the fact that the Garden Oaks Elementary School was closed, the Civic Club changed their meeting to the Garden Oaks Baptist Church on Shepherd Drive at the last moment.

Minutes to the last meeting were approved and the meeting started with the proposed Scottish Inn building. President Lee began the talks with the negative elements this site could bring to the neighborhood. He then introduced some of the guests we had in attendance. Included were District A Council Member Bruce Tatro, Cicely Wynne representing Council Member Annise Parker, state representative district 138 candidate Dwayne Bohac, and representatives of the Greater Inwood Partnership who were addressing a similar motel issue in the Arbor Oaks neighborhood.

First, Mr. Tatro talked about the process of permitting the project. He explained the process of getting a motel permit and what they must do to fulfill the requirements. First, get the motel permit, then get a building permit.

The Scottish Inn (hereafter referred to as "the Inn") is in the process of getting a motel permit. In order to get one however, they must first get a "variance" granted from the City of Houston Planning and Development Commission. This is because they are within 750 feet from the Rock Church (a church) which is located directly across the street from the proposed motel. The councilman stressed that we must protest the variance by instituting a vigorous letter writing campaign to the Planning Commission, which would be meeting on June 25th to vote on the variance. A "Q & A" session follow and there were many questions. Many ideas to stop the Inn were discussed. Some members offered to start a fund to purchase the three lots that the motel is proposing to build on. Terry Jeans mentioned the property was listed at \$200,000.

The councilman went one to stress that we must stop the variance from being passed, because there is NO APPEAL on this issue. He mentioned handwritten letters are better and the names of some of the more "pro neighborhood" commission members.

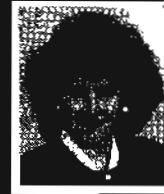
Dee Jones of Arbor Oaks Subdivision spoke next and asked for our support in their fight against the motel being built in their neighborhood. She pledged their support in return.

Pres. Lee asked for someone to lead the motel fight and Stacey Park of Section One volunteered. Ms. Park briefly outlined before the members her plan to address the issue. Talk continued about purchasing the vacant property. A motion to table the motel discussion was made and passed and the Civic Club meeting was scheduled to reconvene in two weeks, June 16th at the Garden Oaks Elementary School at 7:00 p.m..

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Garden Oaks Board of Trustees

by Megan Berry Barlow, 1998 Board of Trustees President

On behalf of the Garden Oaks Board of Trustees (or B. O. T.), I would like to thank Craig Lee and the Garden Oaks Civic Club for inviting us to speak at their May meeting. Garden Oaks residents asked a lot of questions pertaining to the Deed Restrictions that govern the construction of homes in our neighborhood. Thanks to Board Members Herb Kellner and Harry James, an architect and a homebuilder respectively, for being on hand to answer specific questions.

As Craig pointed out in his "President's Letter" column in the June 1998 *Gazette*, the work of the B. O. T. is very important in maintaining the vision and integrity of Garden Oaks. By enforcing the original Deed Restrictions, the B. O. T. helps keep property values up and the integrity of our neighborhood intact.

A few highlights from the meeting are listed below:

- 1) The Architectural Review Committee of the Board of Trustees **MUST** approve any and all exterior construction prior to commencement.
- 2) Garden Oaks residential lots are for residential use only. Occupants are not permitted to operate businesses from their homes.
- 3) While the Deed Restrictions apply to all Garden Oaks lots, they vary by individual section. If you do not have a copy of the Deed Restrictions that apply to your property, please contact a B. O. T. member (listed on the back of each and every *Gazette*).
- 4) It is important for all residents to help keep an eye out for new construction. Like many of you, B. O. T. members have full time jobs and really need your help.

Finally, to paraphrase Craig's words, the Board of Trustees needs to maintain a higher level of visibility. In an effort to do so, the B. O. T. will write a monthly column in the *Gazette*. If you have a specific topic you would like to see addressed, please let a Board member know. We look forward continuing our efforts to make Garden Oaks a desirable place to live.



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St. Stephen's United Methodist Church

Coming July 13-17 is Vacation Bible School's "Jesus Expedition". We will travel to five different areas plus go back in time to the Bible Village of ancient time to bake bread, make baskets, weave and many other activities just like our ancestors used to do. VBS is open to all children preschool (ages 3-4) to finishing 5th grade and costs \$10.00 per child. Call Cheryl Flores at 713.686.5788 or Pam Leighton at 281.448.6458 for more information.

Sunday Worship Services

- Celebration Worship Service 8:15 am
- Worship Service 10:55 am
- Sunday School for All Ages 9:30 am
- Children's Church - Melinda Johnson 11:40 am

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- Ask someone in your church office to begin mailing the church bulletin/newsletter to Meredith, the *Gazette* Editor.
- Bring your copy of your church's bulletin/newsletter to Meredith.

The address for both of these options is:

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With Sympathy . . .

Our condolences to the family of Summer Martin. Summer, a long-time Garden Oaks resident, passed away May 23rd after a lengthy illness. Please remember her family, her father Thomas, her mother Debra, and her brother Matthew in your thoughts and prayers.



Please remember that the deadline for submission is the **6th of each month** for the following month. Space is limited and preference is given to articles in the order that they are received.

Home Tour

continued from front page

forward and getting our committee running again after all the hard work of the 1997 Tour led by Laura Morgan. It took efforts from each committee person, but someone had to get it started. Thank you Judi!

As a reminder, if you missed the last Civic Club meeting, the funds from the tour were voted to be distributed as follows:

GOCC Subcommittees

<u>% of Profits</u>	<u>Name of Subcommittee</u>
25%	Beautification
20%	General Fund
15%	1999 Home Tour – storage fees and purchase of reusable supplies
8%	GOCOP (Sections 2-5)
5%	Garden Oaks Garden Club
2%	Sheriff's Constable Patrol (Section 1 & 1A)

Other Organizations

<u>% of Profits</u>	
15%	Garden Oaks Board of Trustees (to assist in upholding deed restrictions)
5%	Garden Oaks Elementary School
5%	Garden Oaks Montessori Program

Citizen's Patrol

by Carl Waters, Jr.

At the May PIP meeting the North Division's new Captain was introduced. He is M.L. Yates and he comes to us from the Westside Command Center and other administrative duties within the Houston Police Dept. He stated that he had no plans to change any of the programs established by Assistant Chief DeFoor during this tenure as captain of the North Division. He added that like his predecessor he strongly believes in community oriented policing.

Seven crimes were reported & investigated by HPD in our neighborhood during April. They were: a robbery in the 600 block of W. 34th on 4/19 at 6pm in Graham Park. Burglaries occurred in the 800 block of W. 34th on 4/3 at 3pm, 700 block of W. 34th on 4/4 at 10pm, 700 block of W. 30th on 4/15 at 8:13pm, 800 block of W. 34th on 4/24 at 4:38 pm & 600 W. 30th on 4/26 at 6:10am & Burglary of a Motor Vehicle in the 1000 block of Althea on 4/3 at 6:15 am.

In a recent newsletter for patrol coordinators the Lazybrook COP reported it was also having problems with plants & lawn furniture being stolen. If you are a victim of this type of crime please report it to the police.

Our patrollers & base operators logged 74 hours in April. Thank you all for time and efforts.

President's Letter

continued from page 2

cordiality on such short notice. The school apologized for the mistake and promises to continue to be available for our future meetings.

Other matters: Unfortunately, my friends and neighbors, we do not have a volunteer to spearhead a bike parade on July 4th. Unless someone can organize one in the next few days, it appears there will not be one this year. Disappointing for many kids...but maybe not for so many parents, huh! We do not, I remind you, have a Civic Club meeting this month or in August. But on the first Tuesday (August 4th) we celebrate once again National Night Out. Get together with your neighbors up and down the street for barbecue, or watermelon, or whatever you might enjoy. This is a great opportunity for neighbors to meet and that's important. Our next regular Civic Club meeting will be September 1st.

I hope your summer is blessed, relaxing and fun.

Craig

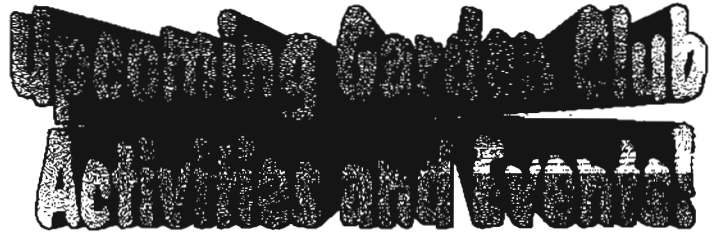
Beautification Update

by Brenda de Alba

Take a drive by the Triangle Park at Alba and Azalea to admire its recent transformation. On a VERY hot Saturday (May 30th), a small band of hardy souls spread and tilled in 7 cubic yards of compost in new flowerbeds and planted a nice variety of perennials. Many of the new plants are ones we've gained familiarity with through the Esplanade work; however, we have introduced some additional plants to this compact park (Purple fountain grass, *Abelmoschus*, Cat Whiskers, Variegated Japanese Roof Iris, Neon Flash Spirea, Leatherleaf Fern, Asparagus Fern, and Purple Mexican Heather, Angel's Trumpet - *Datura*). The Leatherleaf and Asparagus ferns were transplanted from Friendship Garden in Section 1 and the Angel's Trumpet was donated from Section 4 resident Mr. Johnny Martinez. I wish to say a special thanks to the neighbors living around and near the park for their help on May 30th and for their expressed commitment in sharing the watering responsibilities.

The Esplanade plants continue to bloom and provide us summer color. The *Vitex* trees have been blooming, along with both varieties of *Clerodendrum*. The daylilies on the north side are called Scaramouche and have such a beautiful flower, we planted more of them in the Triangle Park. One of the Flame Leaf Sumac trees has died due to what looks like some kind of trunk damage and one of the *Halesia Diptera* (Silverbell) trees, is not looking too good either. I try to visit the Esplanade as often as possible, but sometimes several weeks go by between my visits so if you happen to notice an ailing plant, please don't hesitate to call me and help keep me informed. My phone number, 694-5934, is always on the back of each *Gazette*.

Our next project will involve the Entrance Park on 34th Street with work beginning in early fall. Before labor begins we'll schedule a meeting in the park to discuss potential plans and distribute flyers announcing the meeting to homes within several blocks of this park to obtain buy-in and support for the project.



July 23rd

Ferns - Mike Lowery; Owner, Another Place in Time
421 West 11th Street



September 10th
Bulbs - Sally Squire
858 LaMonte Ln.

Plants of the Esplanade

by Brenda de Alba

The flowerbed on the east end of the Esplanade next to Shepherd is filled with *Agapanthus* (Lily of the Nile), a rhizomatous perennial that hails from Africa. Gardeners in temperate climates use showy *agapanthus* as focal points in borders or plant them en masse in sunny areas. Bearing tight, ball-shaped clusters of blue funnel-shaped flowers, *agapanthus* should be planted in rich, well-drained soil, in full sun to light shade. The blooms make excellent cut flowers and may be dried and used in arrangements. Thick strap-like foliage remains handsome long after blossoms fade (in general, the narrower the leaf, the hardier the cultivar). *Agapanthus* also make excellent container plants since they enjoy having their roots pot-bound, as long as they receive plenty of water in summer.

June Yard of the Month

was awarded to

Luanne & Larry Kopecky

3206 Lawrence - Section 1

Congratulations!

Larry is a Garden Oaks newcomer, having married Luanne (a 32 year resident) just 8 months ago.