



Garden Oaks Gazette

Volume 19, No. 8 Circulation 1550 August 1996

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT
National Night Out
is on
Tuesday,
August 6
this year

CIVIC CLUB MEETING

There will be no Civic Club meeting for August due to National Night Out. Regular Civic Club meetings will resume in September. See you then. In the meantime, take advantage of National Night Out.

GARDEN CLUB NEWS

The Garden Club held its July meeting at the home of Brenda de Alba. Shawn Kelly, the featured speaker, was unable to attend and will be rescheduled in the fall.

The August meeting will be held at the home of Misty Jones, 733 W. 43rd. Donna McGraw is scheduled to speak on African Violets. The meeting begins at 6:30PM and all are welcome. For more information or to join the Garden Club please call Brenda de Alba at 694-5934.

YARD OF THE MONTH

In June the Yard of the Month award was given to Kimber Davies of 407 W. 33rd Street. For July the award was given to Ray and Colleen Housley of 407 W. 34th Street. Congratulations to Kimber and to Ray and Colleen, great job!

THE FOURTH OF JULY PARADE

The second annual 4th of July Picnic & Parade had a terrific turnout of patriot two-wheelers. Over 80 kids and adults entered in the parade, more than last years registered 50. Crew 31 of Houston Fire Department arrived in time to lead the way down 41st Street and up 42nd Street. Four Constable Deputies, including Yvonne Wilson and Dick Matthias, were on hand to direct traffic. Sag wagons picked up weary bikers and served cold drinks to heated Moms with strollers and kids bursting with energy, as the temperature rose to the mid 90's.

Civic Club President Ed de Alba returned as Master of Ceremonies and thanked the local volunteers and delivered a brief message about the Freedom we enjoy in America. Civic Club Secretary Lynn Sievers led the committee of judges for the best decorated bicycles...And the winners are:

Ribbons were awarded to the following participants for outstanding decorations, originality and July 4th spirit -

Winners in the kids category were 1) The Goodman family "Star Kids"; 2) Jacob White; 3) Ellie Quisenberry. Honorable mention kids were Omar Ramirez, Myriah Perez and Blake Bijak (along with his entire star spangled roller blading group). The adult winners were 1) Peter Seferian and son Mathew; 2) John and Linda Ross; 3) Tony "Rocket Man" Padon.

A special honorable mention was awarded to the GO Caroling organization's Christmas in July group. Santa Claus and all nine reindeer, throwing candy and singing after the parade, were a special addition to our picnic.

An event like this does not happen without volunteers - thanks to all of the organizers, judges, sag wagon drivers and our civic club president Ed De Alba for delivering his 4th of July address! A special thanks goes to the North Main Street McDonald's store for donating toys for all the kids.

The Garden Oaks Civic Club looks forward to seeing you all at the 1997 4th of July Picnic & Parade.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

July 4 Bicycle Parade and Picnic was a huge success! So many contestants showed up that our judges ran out of numbers and had to make an emergency trip for additional supplies. Last year roughly 50 youngsters attended and this year over 80 paraded through the neighborhood. Thanks to all the hardworking people that made this happen-the firemen of Crew 31, our constables, the judges, and, of course, everyone who participated or watched along the parade route. Let's make it even better next year! Call me with any suggestions you may have.

National Night Out is on Tuesday, August 6 this year. I know there are several parties being held around Garden Oaks. If there isn't one on your block, walk or drive around, find a party and meet your neighbors!

Congratulations to Laverne and V.D. Kelley for their 55th wedding anniversary in June. They've spent all those years of wedded bliss here in Garden Oaks.

TRADE FAIR - SUNDAY, AUGUST 11, NOON - 5 PM - SPARK PARK

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CITIZEN'S PATROL

By Carl Waters, Jr.

I hope everyone had a safe and happy 4th of July and now our thoughts turn to the annual National Night Out celebration on 8/6/96. I hope as many of you as possible have a block party and getting to know your new neighbors as well as reacquaint yourselves with the old ones.

Crime stats for the month of May showed no reported crimes in the Garden Oaks Area. Let's keep up the good work one and all. During June the Citizen Patrol group patrolled 83 hours which was matched by an equal number of hours monitoring patrollers by our base station operators. A big tip of the patrol hat goes out to Base operators V.D. and LaVerne Kelly and Woody Mehrkam who monitor the lion's share of the hours each month.

On a sad note, one of our former patrollers, Joyce Skeen, passed away in early July. She and her husband, Walter, were faithful patrollers through late last year. She will be missed and we extend condolences to their family.

At the June Civic Club meeting I introduced a proposal from HPD Captain Defoor, for the development of a Unit known as a Differential Response team, to replace the 2 officers currently staying in the North Shepherd substation. I have had a couple of follow up conversations with the Captain, which provided the following information:

Currently HPD has 2 officers assigned to the North Shepherd Substation 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for the purpose of taking walk-in reports and complaints from citizens. They will remain there until a decision is made on the status of the substation. As stated at the June meeting, to keep the building open will cost \$35,000 to \$37,000 annually for utilities, maintenance and repairs.

If the Differential Response Team is established, Captain Defoor stated he would commit 10 officers and a Sergeant to the program. The officers would work a 40 hour work week Tuesday through Saturday mid mornings to early evening (approximately 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.).

Their duties would include the following:

- Patrol their beat and be highly visible.
- Assist in the investigation of crime in their beat area.
- Volunteer for Priority One calls when in close proximity.
- Work closely with civic groups, businesses and individual citizens to identify problems that affect the quality of life in the area.
- Handle Community problems that are not considered traditional law enforcement functions like RAT ON A RAT AND NUISANCE ABATEMENT PROGRAMS with Neighborhood Protective Services.
- Assist Beat Officers in updating business and citizen group contacts.
- Develop Patrol Management Plans to address crime trends and patterns in the community that require additional resources to manage.
- Work closely with Divisional Gang Units and Storefronts in adjacent beats to address common gang problems and activities.
- Document and report graffiti in the area to be cleaned up.
- Liaison with area school officials to address problems they might experience during and after school.
- Attend monthly Civic Association meetings and functions related to area businesses.

If the area neighborhoods agree with this proposal an organizing committee would be formed to choose a site which would have to be approved by the City, and then designed and built. Area residents on the committee would have input to the process along the way. One site currently under evaluation is located in the shopping center on the southwest corner of the intersection of 43rd and Ella. Weingarten Realty, which owns the property, has indicated they would be willing to lease space to the City for \$1 a year. No agreement has been reached at this time, but since the City has similar leases with Weingarten, the legalities of a lease could be sped up by using wording similar to other contracts.

SUZANNE DEBIEN and Henry S. Miller



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 Mother's Day Out - Wed -Fri 9-2
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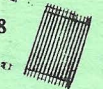
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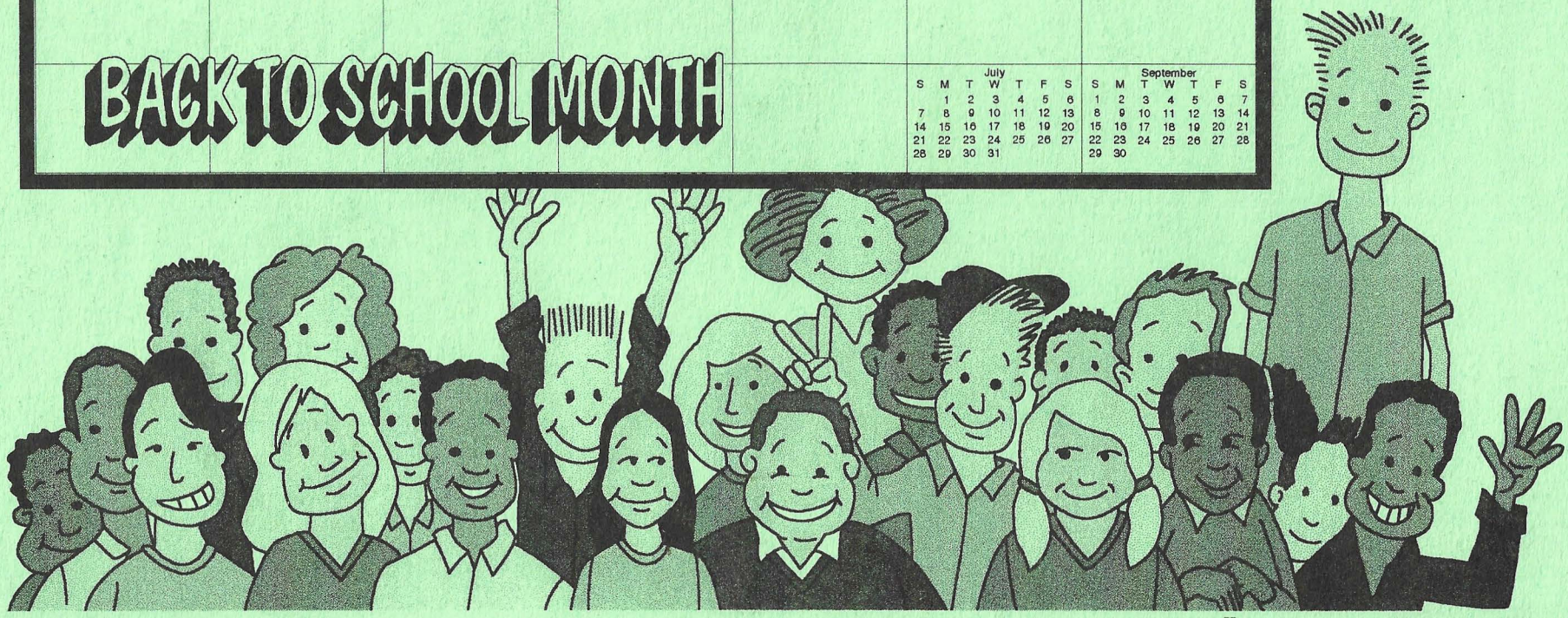
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AUGUST 1996





1996 National Night Out

**Greet Your Neighbors
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