



Garden Oaks

A publication of the Garden Oaks Civic Club

Gazette

March 1997

Volume 20, No. 3

March Civic Club Meeting

Make plans to attend the next civic club meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 4, 7 p.m. at the Garden Oaks Baptist Church, 3206 N. Shepherd.

The 1997 budget will be presented, discussed and voted upon. Also up for discussion is the HPD Differential Response Unit located on 43rd, just west of Ella.

Proposed budget on Page 3!

Garden Club Meeting

The Garden Club will meet on March 13, 6:30 p.m. at the home of Susan Spooner, 336 W. 33rd.

For this "show and tell" meeting, members and guests are encouraged to bring a plant to discuss.

The Garden Club is comprised of neighbors who love plants and want to learn more about gardening. The meetings are open to everyone!

1997
**Garden Oaks
 Home and
 Garden Tour**
 Sunday, April 27



Home & Garden Tour Committee Announces Final Selections

by Janice Walden, 1997 Home and Garden Tour Publicity Committee Chair

With April 27th soon approaching, the Home & Garden Tour Committee has finalized its selections. Nine home and gardens have been selected.

Two highlights of the tour include Houston Chronicle Garden Editor Kathy Huber's garden and Channel 51 talk show host and former KPRC weatherman Doug Johnson's home and garden.

The following are the homes and gardens that will be featured on April 27:

Stafford Home & Garden	328 W. 31st
Anderson/Hajek Garden	327 W. 32nd
Hayes Home	523 W. 32nd
Davies Garden	407 W. 33rd
Huber Garden	427 W. 33rd
Johnson Home & Garden	814 W. 41st
Willey Home	946 W. 42nd
Cohorn/Wilkins Home	850 Lamonte
Sabuco/Arnold Home	859 Azalea

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

The Garden Oaks Home Tour Committee extends its heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all the homeowners who graciously allowed the committee into their homes during the selection process.

Funding is still underway. Underwriters will be recognized as follows for a contribution:

- \$250 - a yard sign at the home or garden of their choice
- Gold Sponsors - \$100 or more
- Patrons - \$50 or more
- Friends - \$10 or more

For admission to all homes and gardens, advance tickets are \$8.00 and \$10.00 on the day of the event. A single admission ticket is \$3.00. Tickets will be on sale at the March and April civic club meetings. For information on area ticket sale outlets and up-to-date information about the tour, call 956-6641.

Volunteers are needed for two hour shifts to sell tickets and serve as docents during the tour. If you'd like to volunteer for a couple of hours that Sunday afternoon, call Brenda de Alba, 694-5934.

Carol Meyer



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President's Message

by Bennett Bartlett, 1997 Civic Club President

As you can see from the minutes printed in this issue, February's civic club meeting was quite eventful. I invited several speakers to talk about an HPD Differential Response Unit that is being installed on 43rd Street just west of Ella.

I won't explain fully what this unit does because the minutes cover much of that. But in a nutshell, HPD will have a presence from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at that location. Ten or 11 officers will be assigned to that office to investigate gang activity, illegal drug sales, and vandalism. This sort of police work takes investigation rather than I-need-an-officer-now sort of police work. For that emergency service, you still call 911. Teams of two officers will be assigned a beat, and Garden Oaks is one of those beats.

So, we will soon have two HPD officers whose job it is to investigate and respond to problems in our area. The police invite us to bring worries and potential problems to their attention.

Now the catch. The city expects community support for this office and others around the city: specifically financial support. The differential response units strike me as a good idea. The question I put to you is this: do we support our local Differential Response Unit as a civic club or just as individuals? Come to the March 4 civic club meeting and tell us your thoughts.

This brings us to the other item for this month: the budget. Under our bylaws, the budget is to be presented to the membership at the February meeting and published in the *Gazette* before the March meeting. We are a month behind schedule.

The 1997 budget information you see printed in this issue is what we will be voting on at the

March meeting. With the help of our treasurer, Ray Housley, I have added the 1996 proposed budget and actual expenditures as a comparison.

Now some caveats before you balk at the \$10,000 decrease in reserves that the board is proposing for 1997. First, much of that money was already approved last year but was not spent.

Second, in years past the home tour has brought in \$3,000 to \$4,000 in profit. We hope that our tour will do so this year as well. However, because Garden Oaks has not held its home tour in several years, the board felt it would be wise to be conservative, and we have budgeted it to break even.

Do we support
our local Differential
Response Unit as a
civic club or just as
individuals?

Third, we also expect to take in revenue from *Gazette* advertisements in 1997. However, at press time we have not found a person to coordinate and oversee *Gazette* advertising for 1997. Heretofore, (I know, only a lawyer would use that word), the *Gazette* advertising responsibilities have not been well defined, and the board did not feel that it had any reliable way to budget expected advertising revenues. I am, however, working on this situation.

I would welcome any volunteer who wants minimal responsibility in an important position, a cool title like Director for *Gazette* Advertising, and my personal thanks.

See you at the March civic club meeting!

Garden Oaks Civic Club Budget

Proposed 1997 and 1996 Actual

	1997 Budget	1996 Actual	1996 Budget
Revenues			
Membership Dues	2,500	3,318	3,000
Program Contributions	4,000	6,286 ¹	4,600
Home Tour	4,000	-----	-----
Recycled Material Sales	-----	704	2,400
Gazette Advertising	<u>---0---</u>	<u>568</u>	<u>3,500</u>
Total Revenue	10,500	10,876	13,500
Expenditures			
Gazette Printing & Distribution	4,200	6,604	6,000
Beautification	600	505	5,000
Entrance Sign Work	500	53	2,000
Home Tour	4,000	-----	-----
Meetings ²	650	923	1,000
Administration	650	-----	-----
Citizens-on-Patrol	600	367	350
Membership	<u>1,100</u>	<u>573</u>	<u>400</u>
Total Expenditures	12,300	9,025	14,750
Carry-over Authorizations³			
Beautification	4,800		
Neff/Jeanes Challenge Grants	1,611		
Entrance Sign Work	<u>1,947</u>		
Total Supplementary Budget	8,358		
Unbudgeted Contributions ⁴	-----	1,861	
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Reserves	(10,158)	(10)	(1,250)



1 This number includes the \$1,611 Neff/Jeanes challenge funds that are dedicated to Beautification.

2 Meetings and Administration were lumped together in 1996 and given a budget of \$1,000. We have broken those items out in this budget.

3 The bylaws state that any amount authorized by the membership for a specific committee but not spent in the year of authorization is carried over into the next year as funds available for that committee.

4 In 1996, the membership voted to donate \$1,000 to Garden Oaks Elementary for the Exploratorium and \$861 to the Friends of Montessori elementary school program.

This budget will be presented at the March 4 Civic Club meeting for adoption purposes. Please bring this copy of the budget for your reference.



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- 847 W. 42nd St.
- 729 W. 39th St.
- 705 W. 39th St.
- 954 Gardenia
- 738 Sue Barnett
- 761 Sue Barnett
- 855 Azalea
- 829 Lamonte
- 1315 Cortlandt
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SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:15 a.m.

Preschool - Mon-Fri 9-2

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

(ages 3 mos. - 5 years)

Parent's Night Out - Fri 6:30-11:00

Senior Adult Exercise

Mon, Tues, Thur - 4:15 - 5:00

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697-0671

Pastor: Tom Crowe

Civic Club Meeting Minutes

by Andrea Spiering, Secretary

President Bennett Bartlett opened the meeting at 7:10 p.m. on Feb. 4, 1997. Officers present were Bennett Bartlett, Ray Housley, and Andrea Spiering for Lynn Sievers. Copies of the meeting agenda, annual budget, and February *Gazette* were available for all attendees. A motion to accept the minutes of the January meeting as published in the *Gazette* was made and passed by acclamation.

Bennett introduced Sergeant Debbie Hewitt, HPD, who presented information on the new near north storefront at 1335 West 43rd St. at Ella. This facility is being established because of the relocation of the North Shepherd Police Station to West Montgomery Road. This unit is properly termed a Differential Response Police Unit and is different from the community storefront HPD facilities in other neighborhoods. This location is the first of its kind in Houston.

Officer Hewitt explained that this unit will consist of ten officers with combined experience in crime sweep, narcotics, gang task force, and tactical policing. The officers have an average of seven years experience, and all have college degrees. The unit will not be driven by dispatchers; they are to be a presence in the community and to respond to the needs and concerns of the residents. Our contacts in the unit will be the partner team of Bart Jandal and Lisa Jandal. They may be contacted at 713-405-5466 or Sgt. Hewitt may be reached at 713-504-5328. Hours of operation will be Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Residents are urged to contact 911 for emergencies and to continue to contact the constable program for services related to that contract.

Ms. Debra Bales of the Near North Advisory Council, a nonprofit group raising money for the near north storefront, presented information on the needs and goals of the police unit. The city will not be supplying furniture, fax machines, or other items to complete the facility. A lively discussion followed about the role of the City of Houston and HPD in the funding and support of the unit. Ms. Bales listed items needed and suggested a proposed fund-raising goal. She welcomes any questions, comments, or donations of money, goods, or services and may be reached at 999-4350.

Bennett briefly discussed the City of Houston's new Matching Gift Program. Through this program, neighborhoods could receive up to \$5,000 in matching funds for new projects. The meeting to explain the application process and types of projects acceptable is later this week. The de Albas will be attending for the Garden Oaks Civic Club.

Budget. The 1997 budget as available is incomplete. A motion from the floor was accepted to table discussion and approval of the budget until March.

Vice-President's Report. None given.

Beautification. Brenda de Alba discussed the upcoming volunteers meeting on Feb. 12. This meeting will be an organizational meeting to determine which projects will be pursued this year. As always, more volunteers are needed.

GO-COP. Four incidents occurred in December 1996. Our numbers keep going down from a high of 10 to 12 incidents of several months ago. Thank you to the volunteers. Again more volunteers are needed!

Constable Program. No report given.

Education Liaison. The next fundraiser for Friends of Montessori at Garden Oaks Elementary is Sweetheart's Night on Friday, Feb. 14. Tickets were made available. Principal Daniels continues to recover well from her recent transplant surgery.

Continued on page 5

Garden Club. Please consider sprucing up your yards for the Home Tour in April. Remember the February meeting on Feb. 13.

1997 Home Tour. Laura Morgan reported that homeowners have begun to agree to have their homes and gardens on the tour. She expects to hear from all invited homeowners by the 14th. A home tour meeting is scheduled for Feb. 5. All committees need more members, so please come to the meeting or call if you want to be involved.

Recycling. The normal schedule for recycling will be followed for the next several months. We are working with the city on containerized trash pickup and on use of the old civic club site on 34th Street for a possible city-supported area recycling center.


New Business

Secretary. Lynn Sievers resigned as secretary, and Andrea Spiering's name was placed in nomination. No other names from the floor were received. Andrea was approved by unanimous acclamation as the new secretary.

Gazette Inserts/Flyers. The placement of flyers in the *Gazette* and any policies for doing so were discussed. A recent flyer sent to Section 1 residents was criticized. After some lively discussion on censorship, paid advertisements as inserts, free inserts, and deadlines, action was tabled pending discussion with the *Gazette* Editor, Sheila Briones.

Board of Trustees Presentation. Five members of the Garden Oaks Board of Trustees were present: Susan McMillian, Herb Kellner, Greg Wolfe, Rod Walker, and James Doyle. The board's duty as discussed by Ms. McMillian is the enforcement of our deed restrictions. The makeup of the board is determined by the 1933 deed restrictions with three members per section. Monthly meetings deal with problems either noticed by the board or brought to their attention by other residents. The course of action of the board in dealing with discrepancies in the deed restrictions was discussed. The board recently rejected Exxon's application to build a facility on 30th and Yale due to the company's intent to sell alcohol. Because the site is deeded commercial, the board can only refuse construction if swine are to be on the premises, signage is inappropriate, or alcohol is to be served or sold. Questions were entertained about changing deed restrictions, petitioning requirements, and filing of possible violations.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m. Rick Englert provided refreshments.

 Clip here and mail to: Craig Lee @ 212 W. 34th Street

Garden Oaks Civic Club Membership Renewal Form

Name(s): _____
 Address: _____ Phone: _____
 Children/birthdates: _____
 Year moved to Garden Oaks: _____ Section# _____ Paying Dues for: 19 _____

Annual Dues (January 1-December 31):

Household \$10 _____ Senior Citizen \$5 _____ Business \$25 _____

Additional Support Needs:

GO Elem. Montessori* \$6 _____ Garden Club \$6 _____ All five of these
 Gazette (Newsletter) \$6 _____ Beautification \$6 _____ \$30 _____
 GO COP (Patrol) \$6 _____

* Gifts to the Montessori program are tax deductible.
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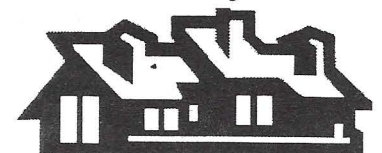
We are looking forward to serving you!

GARDEN OAKS BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday Services:
 Bible Study - 9:45 am
 Worship Services - 11:00 am & 5:00 pm
 AWANA - 6:00 pm
 Home Fellowship Groups - 6:00 pm
 Wednesday Devotional - 6:30 pm
Mother's Day Out & Preschool
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Notice to Contributing Writers

All writers who are contributing articles to the *Gazette*, please provide a hard copy and a 3 1/2" disk. Use Microsoft Word (Mac or IBM format) or text only.

Deadline for the *Gazette* is the sixth of each month for the following month.

Gazette Advertising Rates

\$40 per month
\$200 for six months
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Constable Program Requires Full Support

by Greg Wolfe, Constable Program Supporter

Section 1 & 1A residents received an insert in the February *Gazette* indicating the current funding status of the program. As of February 1st, \$5,000 still remained to be collected to complete funding for the June 1996 through May 1997 program year.

If you read the insert you are aware of the continuous challenge and frustration of collecting money for a volunteer program even for one as successful as this. Your full support of this program will be greatly appreciated and will work to lower the individual cost for all of the program supporters.

A list of the program's current record of full sponsors for this program year was in the flyer. Unfortunately the list had some inaccuracies. The program records may be incomplete, and we appreciate those who have called to identify any errors.

Because the program is not on a calendar year, program supporters may lose track of when they have paid. If you were not on the list that probably means a) the program records are incomplete, b) you were on the two payment plan and your second payment had not yet been received, c) you are a new resident and not involved in the annual funding drive, or d) you do not support the program.

If you have not been a supporter and would like to learn the benefits this program brings to the neighborhood, call 802-0817. A team of program promoters can inform you of the positive impact the constable program has made in Section 1 & 1A over the last five years.

Also program supporters, the funding drive for the June 1997 - May 1998 program year is set to begin soon. Next year's campaign will start assuming, of course, that the funding of the remainder of this year meets with full success!

Garden Oaks Constable Program Enrollment Form

Yes, I would like to enroll in the Garden Oaks Constable Program serving Sections 1 & 1A only. (New enrollee's dues can be pro-rated).

Name(s): _____ \$200 annual dues

Address: _____ Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Phone: Home _____ Work _____

Make checks payable to: **Garden Oaks Civic Club**

Mail to: Angela Dickson, 3114 Lawrence, Houston, TX 77018, 802-0817

Membership On the Increase

by Craig Lee, Vice President, Membership

During 1996, the Garden Oaks Civic Club received a total of \$8,500 from its members and friends. The contributions were as follows: 39% Dues; 27% Beautification (with two matching \$500 donations); 9.6% GO-COP; 8.8% Gazette; 5.4% Garden Oaks Montessori; 5.3% Plant Co-op; 2.8% Garden Club (added later in the year). The rest was undesignated.

Of the approximately 1,400 households in Garden Oaks, 26% or 362 individuals, businesses, or families enrolled in the Garden Oaks Civic Club during 1996. While this number increased from 1995, more residents are urged to participate in such an important neighborhood association.

Most of you (53%) contributed more than the minimum dues with 15% paying \$40 or more. Thank you for your support.

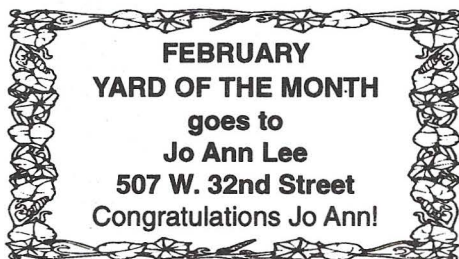
GO-COP Patrollers Earn Jackets

by Carl Waters, Jr., Citizens-on-Patrol

Congratulations to the following Garden Oaks patrollers who earned their 100 hour patrol jackets during 1996: Susan Kostelecky (100.5), Bill and Mary Hines (150 each), and myself (108). Keep up the good work.

HPD crime statistics for December reflected another small decrease with four reported crimes for the month. A robbery occurred on New Year's Eve in the 700 block of Sue Barnett at 10:15 a.m. We had three burglaries: one on December 1 in the 300 block of W. 32nd at 1:20 p.m.; one on December 4 in the 900 block of Gardenia at 7:00 a.m.; and one on December 16 in the 3000 block of Lawrence at 8:00 a.m.

For the month of December patrollers and bases were out protecting the neighborhood for a total of 70.75 hours. Thank you one and all for your time.



Welcoming Packets Need Insertion Ideas

by Craig Lee, Vice President, Membership

The Civic Club used to have a designated way to welcome newcomers to the neighborhood. I want to rekindle that process. Ideas are needed to include in a welcoming packet, how to find new residents, and how to deliver the packets.

We want to include useful information for new residents. For example, when or how heavy trash pick-up works?

If you have other helpful ideas to be included, call me at 802-0079 or 227-5818, ext. 21.

Beautification Committee Has Big Plans

by Brenda de Alba, Beautification

If you have any interest in becoming a participating member of a "reactivated" Beautification Committee, PLEASE CALL 694-5934. WE NEED PEOPLE with creative ideas and the willingness to help make those ideas a reality.

The city of Houston created the Neighborhood Matching Grant Pilot Program to help neighborhoods fund various improvement projects by providing a dollar for dollar match between \$1000 and \$5000. This pilot program has earmarked \$30,000 to be distributed in 1997, with a submission deadline of April 18. Proposed projects must 1) improve a neighborhood 2) involve residents 3) be completed within 12 months and have lasting benefits.

The Beautification Committees' goal is to submit a plan for the Garden Oaks Boulevard esplanade of installing two new entrance signs, creating a crushed stone path from Shepherd to Sue Barnett and adding low maintenance landscaping.

A plea has been issued to

Neighborhood News



Rick Englert has finally done it! He is now cooking professionally. Englert is opening Haute Groceries around the first of March to offer freshly prepared, complete dinners for pick up or delivery in the Garden Oaks area.

Haute Groceries will feature a complete meal each evening Monday through Friday and will be located at 3468 Ella.

Congratulations to Rick and Darla on this new venture! Rick has generously cooked for many neighborhood functions such as Neighbor's Night Out, civic club meetings, and is going to participate in our 1997 home tour.

any landscapers and landscape architects residing in Garden Oaks to help transform the esplanade into a neighborhood jewel. Your help and the help of many other neighbors is needed with crafting the plan to submit for the grant program, with obtaining discounts on needed materials, and with giving of your time to help get the manual labor done.

SEE THE ENCLOSED FLYER FOR INFORMATION. CALL 694-5934!!



Kathleen Stivender



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MASSES

Saturday: 5:45 p.m. (Vigil)

Sunday:

7:30 a.m., 9 a.m.*, 10:45 a.m.*, 6 p.m.

Monday-Friday:

6:15 and 8:15 a.m.

1st Saturday of ea. mon.: 8:15 a.m.

* Babysitting available






The Gazette is the official publication of the Garden Oaks Civic Club and is published on a monthly basis.

Submission deadline is the sixth of each month for the following month. Submit articles to: Sheila Briones, Editor, Garden Oaks Gazette, 3202 1/2 Lawrence, Houston, Texas 77018, (713) 861-8091

Feel free to post on refrigerator or in a conspicuous place!

March 1997

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Women's Soccer 1:30 p.m. YMCA 34th St.	3	4 Civic Club Meeting 7 p.m. Garden Oaks Baptist Church	5 Home Tour Mtg. 7 p.m. Call 694-1919 for location	6 Gazette Deadline	7	8 Recycling 8-11 a.m.
9 Women's Soccer 1:30 p.m. YMCA 34th St.	10	11	12 Home Tour Mtg. 7p.m. Call 694-1919 for location	13 Garden Club Meeting 6:30 p.m. 336 W. 33rd	14	15
16 Women's Soccer 1:30 p.m. YMCA 34th St.	17  St. Patrick's Day	18 Heavy Trash Pick-up	19 Home Tour Mtg. 7p.m. Call 694-1919 for location	20 PIP Meeting	21	22
23 Women's Soccer 1:30 p.m. YMCA 34th St.	24 HISD Spring Break	25 HISD Spring Break	26 Home Tour Mtg. 7 p.m. Call 694-1919 for location HISD Spring Break	27 HISD Spring Break	28 HISD Spring Break	29
30  Easter	31 HISD Holiday					

1997 Garden Oaks Civic Club
P.O. Box 92155, Houston, Tx., 77206

President:
Bennett Bartlett, 511 W. 33rd, 861-2155

Vice President, Membership:
Craig Lee, 212 W. 34th, 802-0079

Second Vice President, Gazette Editor:
Sheila Briones, 3202 1/2 Lawrence, 861-8091
Gazette Co-Editor:
Carol Smith, 335 W. 32nd, 869-1282

Treasurer:
Ray Housley, 407 W. 34th, 863-7316

Secretary:
Andrea Spiering, 319 W. 34th, 862-6138

Committee Chairs
Beautification: Ed & Brenda de Alba, 694-5934

Citizens-on-Patrol: Carl Waters, Jr., 864-1992

Constable Program: Angela Dickson, 802-0817

Education Liaison: Jane Ann Roberts, 861-8512

Garden Club: Janice Walden, 869-6534

Gazette Hand Delivery: Brenda de Alba, 694-5934

1997 Home & Garden Tour: Laura Morgan, 694-1919

Hospitality & Refreshments: Terry Jeanes, 680-8550

Neighborhood Traffic Program: Marc Roberts, 861-8512

Programs: Terry Jeanes, 680-8550

Recycling: Gilbert King, 523-5874

Board of Trustees

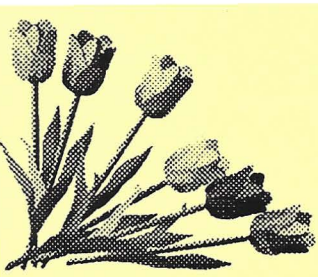
Section 1: Brent Batis, 861-3209; Rod Walker, 868-2469; Greg Wolfe, 869-1982

Section 2: James Doyle, 694-4134; Tim Pagel, 692-7431;
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Section 5: Kirk Dice, 694-2247



BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE NEEDS VOLUNTEERS!

CALL Brenda & Ed de Alba
(694-5934) & make a difference!

Garden Oaks Beautification Committee needs "Captains" to coordinate current maintenance and future plans for the following "green spaces" identified by section:

- Section 1 - Circle Park at entrance of G.O. on 34th St.
- Section 1A - Triangle space at junction of Randall & 30th St.
- Section 2 - Art Park at 43rd St. & Sue Barnett
- Section 2 - Gazebo Park at 42nd St. & Sue Barnett
- Section 2 - Garden Oaks Boulevard Esplanade

PRIMARY PROJECT CHOSEN FOR 1997 ALLOCATED FUNDS IS IMPROVEMENT OF THE "ESPLANADE":

- Repair and return existing sprinkler system to functional level
- Install 2 Garden Oaks signs on east entrance at Shepherd
- Install a crushed stone path on the north side of the "Esplanade"
- Landscape with low maintenance plantings

The City of Houston is taking applications to apply for a Neighborhood Improvement grant of up to \$5000. Garden Oaks will be submitting a phased, detailed plan to accomplish the "Esplanade" beautification project. The submission deadline is April 18th. Please help the neighborhood make this project a reality....

PLEASE CALL & VOLUNTEER TODAY!!!!!!

