



## PATRONS *for* BELLAIRE PARKS

PATRONS for Bellaire Parks started the New Year with the election of its 2007 Board of Directors. There have been momentous achievements by the previous Board and great new accomplishments in connection with Bellaire Town Square are expected in the next two years.

Taking the helm for this term will be newly-appointed President, Mandy Nathan. Ms. Nathan has participated on the PATRONS Board for the past 2 years and served as the Chair of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board in 2003 and 2004 when the Parks Board created and City Council approved the conceptual master plan for Bellaire Town Square. She has been a resident of Bellaire for 8 years and also currently serves on the City's Board of Adjustment. Ms. Nathan is an attorney, her husband David is a teacher, and her sons Zach and Max, ages 10 and 8, attend Condit Elementary School. "I am very excited to have the opportunity to continue my involvement with PATRONS and the development of Bellaire Town Square. With the invaluable leadership of Marybeth Flaherty and the hard work of the previous Board, PATRONS has in two short years build a solid and successful fundraising organization that is poised to successfully tackle our first two major fundraising goals – meeting a prestigious \$500,000 Challenge Grant from the Wortham Foundation by the end of June and fulfilling our commitment to the City to provide \$1 a million contribution for the aquatics facility by the end of September. We can meet these goals, but we need support from the Bellaire Community. The time is now for the Bellaire Community to come together in making Bellaire Town Square a reality, hopefully in time for most of it to be completed by Bellaire's 2008 Centennial."

New to the PATRONS but providing great expertise and experience is new Treasurer Bill Thorogood, who has also served on the City's Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and is currently on the Planning and Zoning Commission. He has also previously served as the Treasurer of The Park People. The other newly elected PATRONS officers are Vice President of Administration Jamie Allen, Vice President of Development Lynne Skinner, Vice President of Publicity Sharon Veldman, Vice President of Grants Sandra Nauert, Assistant Treasurer Linda Rosenbaum, Secretary Kelly Grubbs, and Assistant Secretary Kayla Ezelle.

Additional voting members of the Board are Joe Agris, Terry Agris, Lenora Carlson, Karen Erwin, Larry Haas, Michelle Jeffrey, Janet Jenkins, Hedley Karpas, Diane McLaughlan, Karen St. Denis, Kim Rexford and Paula Ticatch. Exofficio Board Members include Dave Stevenson, Toni Franklin, Trish Wise, Moke Boone, Anne Favoriti and Dale Farrar. Mayor Cindy Siegel, City Councilwoman Peggy Faulk and Parks and Recreation Advisory Department Chair Jane Dembski are Advisory Committee members.

"The Bellaire Community is always strongly supportive of the City and especially its parks, and now is time for people to show their support for Bellaire Town Square. People need to know that PATRONS is a solid and successful organization, that a great many Bellaire residents and businesses as well as corporations and foundations are already supporting PATRONS, and that if we want Bellaire Town Square to be completed so we can enjoy its benefits in the next few years, we need to work together to make it happen now," says Nathan. "The Wortham Foundation's Challenge Grant provides that if PATRONS raises \$500,000 from the community in the twelve month period ending June 30, 2007, the Foundation will make a \$250,000 gift. So, we really need people to make their donations and pledges now – between now and the end of June, every two dollars pledged or donated by residents and businesses will bring in another dollar from the Wortham Foundation.

###