

# GARDEN OAKS GAZETTE

VOLUME 36

ISSUE 12

## HERE COMES SANTA CLAUS!

By Tina Sabuco

Children and children at heart will be welcomed by "Gazebo Santa" on

**Tuesday, December 10th  
and  
Wednesday, December 11th  
6:00 – 7:30 p.m.  
Gazebo Park**

Our winter wonderland was well attended last year and we hope to see just as many smiling faces this year!

Please bring an unwrapped, new toy for the Constable's Cruise for Smiles Toy Drive. This program benefits underprivileged children of Precinct One.

Elves Georgia Lister, Terry Jeanes, and Tina Sabuco will be on hand once again to assist Santa in spreading Christmas cheer. These three little elves will also be decorating Gazebo Park at the beginning of the holiday season for all Garden Oaksians and passersby to enjoy.

If you would like to join the elves in decorating and/or lending an elving hand on either event night, please contact Elf Tina at 713-819-9339 or [goddess@abundanceretreat.com](mailto:goddess@abundanceretreat.com).



## December 2013

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### December Civic Club Meeting and Potluck Dinner

Tuesday, December 3rd, 7:00 p.m.  
701 Garden Oaks Blvd.  
*Holiday Celebration, vote on GOCC Board and GOCC Annual Budget*

#### January Civic Club Meeting

Tuesday, January 7th, 7:00 p.m.

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## BARNES AND NOBLE HOLIDAY BOOKFAIR BENEFITING GARDEN OAKS MONTESSORI

Knock out some of your holiday shopping while having fun and supporting Garden Oaks Montessori!



**Saturday, December 7th  
and  
Sunday, December 8th  
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

**Barnes and Noble  
2030 West Gray**



Take a break from the holiday hustle and bustle with a complimentary cup of coffee or hot chocolate while you enjoy holiday performances and presentations and complimentary gift wrapping by Garden Oaks students. A portion of purchases made at the store will go directly towards our teachers' classroom library wish lists. You may also participate by shopping online at [www.bn.com](http://www.bn.com) **December 7-13** and entering **Bookfair ID 11176773**.



## HEARD UNDER THE OAK TREE

By Terry Jeanes

### Welcome, New Neighbors!

Congratulations on joining us. We hope to see you at a civic club meeting soon.

4133 Apollo	507 West 31st
3303 Lawrence	307 West 33rd
765 Sue Barnett	416 West 33rd
236 West 30th	501 West 34th
520 West 30th	

### Happy Birthday

Joel E. ....	12/1
Pierce E. ....	12/4
Ella C. ....	12/9
Jason Espeseth .....	12/9
Jayne Maltbie .....	12/10
Terry Jeanes .....	12/11
Ian M. ....	12/12
Julia M. ....	12/12
Chris Lindsey .....	12/13
Jim McDaniel .....	12/15
Sabrina Innocenti .....	12/15
Brian O'Leary .....	12/17
Cameron C. ....	12/17
Sandy Altman .....	12/24
Katie C. ....	12/30

### Happy Anniversary

Bob & Debbie Driver .....11/4  
Hal Bowman & Georgia Lister. .11/11

### Congratulations

**Lucy McLean** on her trophy win at the Highland Games in Salado. **Lenore Craig** and her theater group at Lanier Middle School for winning second place in the UIL district championship competition. **Devin** and **Joey Hunter** for running the Rock & Roll Half-Marathon in Las Vegas.

### Out and About

**Sean** and **Caroline McLean** also visited Las Vegas. **Brian O'Leary** and **George Appling** enjoyed a great week in Hawaii celebrating George's retirement from the corporate world. **Dian Austin** and **Sandy Altman** enjoyed a fabulous, relaxed trip to London. **Terry Jeanes** recently enjoyed a trip to New Orleans with family. The **Klein, Knauth, McKeown,** and **Murata/Bunge** families ventured to

Huntsville State Park for a weekend camping trip. **Chavonne Slovak** and **Tammy Ganze** saw *Chicago* at the Hobby Center. **Sarah Klein, Cade Klein,** and **Matthew Knauth** appeared in the Waste Management video *Recycle Often, Recycle Right*. The Halloween stomping grounds of Azalea Street were featured on ABC Channel 13; **Tina Sabuco** and **Shellye Arnold** had 1,414 trick-or-treaters this year!

### Special Thoughts

Condolences to **Lynn** and **Don Sievers** on the loss of their dog, Bonnie; **Ed** and **Brenda de Alba** on the loss of their cat, Elvis; **Mitch** and **Nancy Weigand** on the loss of two of their cats; the **Bernelle, Bowen,** and **Shannon** families on the loss of their beloved cats.

To highlight an event, celebration, or other tidbit, contact Terry Jeanes at [terry@terryjeanes.com](mailto:terry@terryjeanes.com).

## Garden Oaks Gazette

The Garden Oaks Gazette is the official publication of the Garden Oaks Civic Club and is published on a monthly basis. Submission deadline is the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month for publication the next month unless otherwise noted.

### No exceptions.

Publication of any article not related to the Civic Club does not imply endorsement by the Garden Oaks Civic Club and is solely the opinion of its author.

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## Standing Committee Chairs

**Gary Harmon** *Beautification*  
827 Lamonte 713-818-9683 [beautification@gardenoaks.org](mailto:beautification@gardenoaks.org)

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922 West 41st 713-812-9154 [constable@gardenoaks.org](mailto:constable@gardenoaks.org)

**CITIZENS' PATROL**

By Carl Waters, Jr.

The holidays are here once again. I hope yours are safe and bountiful. Here are some important holiday shopping safety reminders:

- Stay alert to your surroundings.
- Avoid trips by yourself after dark when possible. Go with friends or family members; there is safety in numbers. Park in well-lit areas as close to the entrance as possible.
- Use checks, debit cards, or credit cards to avoid carrying large amounts of cash. Keep your purse close to your body or your wallet in your front pocket to make them harder to steal.
- Keep an eye on your purchases when you stop to eat.
- Avoid carrying large numbers of packages; use a package pickup service when you can.
- Have your keys out before you leave the store. Place packages in

the trunk of the car or in other hidden areas.

- Fold or cut up large boxes and place them in your recycling bin to keep curious eyes from curbside "shopping" for items they may want to re-gift to themselves.

**October Crime Statistics (3)**

**Burglary (2)**

- 800 block of West 41st Street on Friday, October 4 at 8:00 p.m. (residence).
- 300 block of West 31st Street on Tuesday, October 15 at 10:30 a.m. (residence).

**Auto Theft (1)**

- 1100 block of Althea Drive on Tuesday, October 8 at 12:00 a.m. (street).

Through October, 59 crimes have been recorded for the year on the HPD website for the neighborhood. For the same period last year, 68 crimes had been recorded.



**Emergency Numbers**

Emergency Services **911**

HPD Non-Emergency Services  
**713-884-3131**

Constable Dispatch  
**713-755-7628**

All Other City Services **311**

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Inquiries about joining the Citizens on Patrol (COP) program or about other community safety issues can be directed to me via neighborhood website [GardenOaks.org](http://GardenOaks.org), COP e-mail address [GOCOP77018@aol.com](mailto:GOCOP77018@aol.com), or phone **713-864-1992**.



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## GARDEN OAKS CIVIC CLUB MEETING MINUTES

By Heather Leverett, Secretary,  
and Mark Klein, President

**November 5, 2013**

**Location:** Garden Oaks Montessori School, formerly known as Garden Oaks Elementary School

**Welcome:** President Mark Klein called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

A motion was made and carried to accept the September 2013 minutes as published in the Gazette.

### PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

**\$1.75MM City of Houston Storm Water Project:** President Klein announced that design work has started on this project with construction slated for 2015. A representative from Councilwoman Ellen Cohen's office and a representative from the City of Houston Public Works & Engineering will be available at January's meeting to discuss the project. The impacted area is from Brinkman down Alba and will relieve flooding. Side streets are not impacted but intersections will be as they are hooked into the lines. The project is slated to build to current city specifications which would mean wider streets along the impacted areas. Additional details can be found on the Rebuild Houston website.

**GOCC Holiday Gathering:** Brian O'Leary and George Appling are hosting the December meeting and holiday potluck at their home. Ham and turkey will be provided by the GOCC. Please bring your favorite dish. We will vote on the 2014 budget and board of directors positions.

**GO Gazette Help:** Volunteer(s) are needed to be editor(s) of the Gazette. The responsibilities could be a shared function. Please contact [gazette@gardenoaks.org](mailto:gazette@gardenoaks.org) to discuss.

**Central Northwest Super Neighborhood Update:** 33 Candidates attended the CNWSN Council's first candidate forum to speak to the neighborhood voters.

### 2014 Board Nominations:

The Nominating Committee has proposed the following GOCC Board of Directors for 2014:

Sheila Briones – President  
Vic Seghers – Vice-President  
Jerry Butler – Treasurer  
Cindy Bartos – Secretary

Nominations will be accepted from the floor at the December 3, 2013 GOCC meeting.

**Wine Walk:** Dian Austin announced that the two-hour wine tasting fundraiser in the backyard of Ed and Brenda de Alba's home was a success. There was initial concern about the weather but the day cleared. With the increased sponsorship, 200 tickets, and 13 hosts, over \$17,300 was raised to support the Constable Program. Twelve of the 13 hosts have already agreed to sponsor again next year. A special thank you to the de Albas for once again providing a wonderful venue

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Phil Ramirez reported that the Constable program has been funded for 2013. The Gazette has remained cash flow positive for the year. Copies of the 2014 proposed budget are available for review. The proposed budget will be published in the December 2013 Gazette, and voted on in the December 2013 meeting.

## STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Membership:** Dian Austin awarded a Starbucks gift card to a meeting attendee. Mailers will go out in November for the membership drive. Neighbors can also sign up easily online to support the Civic Club. Dues are among the lowest of any neighborhood in the City.

**GO Citizens Patrol:** Carl Waters reported five crimes on the HPD website – 2 burglaries, 1 theft, and 2 auto-thefts. There have been fewer crimes overall this year than last year. Volunteers are needed for Citizens Patrol. You must be 18 years old and able to pass a background check. During the holidays, remember to shop safely. Pay attention to your surroundings, shop during the day, and hide your purchases.

**Constable Program:** Terry Jeanes announced that we have a new team of deputies, all with prior experience. She also reported that the Constable Program will no longer be accepting donations via bank draft. An issue with the drafting process was identified and anyone who was donating via monthly draft will be contacted to determine how to handle future donations. Anyone can donate securely online at [gardenoaks.org](http://gardenoaks.org) via Paypal or credit card. Fundraiser mailers will also be going to every home in the neighborhood by Thanksgiving. As the holiday season approaches, use the GOCC Constable vacation watch so that the deputies can keep an eye on your home. If you walk or run in the area, please be aware that in Oak Forest a man in a silver Toyota has been exposing himself to female joggers. There have been multiple cats killed in the area, potentially by loose dogs. Please bring animals in at night.

**Beautification:** Gary Harmon reported that he is focusing on restoring the parks to a well-maintained state to prepare for spring. Dr. Pollock's 7th grade class has adopted Garden Oaks Boulevard to provide plants and other beautification.

**GO Gazette:** Chavonne Slovak announced that she will be stepping down as editor. Serving as Editor of the *Gazette* is a great way to be involved and meet people in the community.

**GardenOaks.org Website:**

No update.

**Garden Oaks Home Tour 2014:**

Jane Ann Roberts reported that the venue for the Preview Party has been secured. Details will be announced in January. Photos have been taken of all the GOHT 2014 homes. Donations are in progress. Two \$2,500 donations have already been received. The GOHT is marketing to larger companies this year and asking for larger donations. If anyone has connections, the Home Tour committee would like corporate sponsors for the event, the preview party, and transportation. The GOHT also needs a volunteer coordinator; please contact [hometour@gardenoaks.org](mailto:hometour@gardenoaks.org) to volunteer or suggest a volunteer coordinator.

**Garden Oaks Elementary School:**

Stephanie Acosta, Parent Engagement Officer for Garden Oaks Elementary, announced that the school will be changing its name to Garden Oaks Montessori since the student population will span Pre-K through 8th grade. Magnet Awareness Week is this week with daily tours at 9:30 a.m. Tours will continue to be available through April. The annual school book fair is December 7-8 at Barnes and Noble on West Gray and December 7-13 online at [www.bn.com](http://www.bn.com). A portion of

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**Santa in the Gazebo:** Santa will return to the Gazebo from 6:00-7:30 p.m. December 10-11. Bring kids and pets for pictures. Snacks will be available.

President Klein adjourned the meeting at 7:54.

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**2014 HOME & GARDEN TOUR MOMENTUM BUILDING**

By Brenda de Alba

Please don't forget to put Sunday, April 27, 2014 on your calendar so you will not miss the opportunity to tour 6 great homes, 3 unique gardens, and the grounds of Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet school. The tour locations are listed below:

**Homes:**

- 411 West 32nd (remodel)
- 730 West 41st (remodel)
- 807 LaMonte (new construction)
- 834 West 41st (remodel)
- 1003 Gardenia (new construction)
- 1530 Sue Barnett (remodel)

**Gardens:**

- 404 West 34th
- 827 LaMonte
- 938 LaMonte
- 901 Sue Barnett (Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet)

A new underwriting/sponsorship format was unveiled in September and two \$2500 sponsors have already stepped forward to lend their support. **Deanna Zugheri** with **Keller Williams Metropolitan Realty** was our first \$2500 sponsor, followed closely by **Shannon Nelson, ASID** of **Shannon & Associates**. This will

be Deanna's 6th tour sponsorship and Shannon's 11th. Who will be our next sponsor? There is a wide range of underwriting levels starting from \$250 all the way up to \$10,000. If you own or work for a business that wants to see their donation dollars stay in the community, this is your opportunity!

**SAVE THE DATE!** A Preview/Sponsorship Party honoring the tour's location owners, sponsors, and underwriters is scheduled for Saturday, April 26th (the night before the tour) from 7:30-11:00 p.m. A large venue has been secured (to be announced after the New Year) and the party is open to everyone! Ticket prices have been rolled back to \$60 (open seating) and \$75 (reserved table seating) and include live music, dinner, along with two drink tickets. Oh, but there's more... the cost of the tickets also includes admission to preview the homes and gardens on Saturday evening 5:00-7:30 p.m. before the party to avoid the long lines on Sunday (a \$20 value). And there's EVEN MORE... a silent/live auction will be available for bidding to the party attendees.

The silent/live auction, chaired by Missy Alwais and Jennifer Osowski, is already securing auction items. If you have something to donate, please send an e-mail to [htsilentauction@gardenoaks.org](mailto:htsilentauction@gardenoaks.org).

The tour committee is still missing a Volunteer chairperson. This position procures volunteers to staff open positions for the committees and tour locations. We have a great database with volunteer names and contact information from 2012 to get you started. If you'd like more information about this role, please contact me at [hometour@gardenoaks.org](mailto:hometour@gardenoaks.org). If you would like to volunteer in ANY capacity, please email [volunteers@gardenoaks.org](mailto:volunteers@gardenoaks.org). WE NEED YOU!

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Timely information about neighborhood happenings and events can be found online on the **Garden Oaks Yahoo** page:

[groups.yahoo.com/group/houston\\_go](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/houston_go)

and on **Facebook**:

[www.facebook.com/groups/3591430713](http://www.facebook.com/groups/3591430713)



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**GROW YOUR BRAIN!**

By Lindsey Pollock

There has been a great deal of research conducted in the last few years about the importance of having a “growth” mindset, but philosophers and educators have known for centuries that making mistakes and learning from them are fundamental to success! In the words of Chinese philosopher Yan-Ming Wang, “The sages do not consider that making no mistakes is a blessing. They believe, rather, that the great virtue of man lies in his ability to correct his mistakes and continually to make a new man of himself.” Neuroscientists have discovered that the brain continues to develop (even in adults) when a person makes mistakes. During the learning process, neural pathways continue to develop and the brain’s healthy plasticity is maintained. This is one of many reasons researchers are also finding that continued learning throughout life helps stave off degenerative brain conditions such as Alzheimer’s. Not only is having a “growth” mindset good for us physically, it is a fundamental trait for success in today’s rapidly changing world. Gone are the days when a skill or body of knowledge was mastered and remained virtually the same throughout a person’s career. In today’s world, change is the norm and the ability to adapt and innovate are key, both of which require a willingness to take a certain degree of risk and try new things. But maintaining this healthy “growth” mindset is a struggle. In early childhood, children are driven to succeed. Think of a child learning to walk, they fall down but never give up! As children grow, however, they become more anxious about getting the “right” answer and may be reluctant to ask questions. What can we do to support our children’s mindset and develop a growth mindset of our own?

Dr. Maria Montessori recognized that children enjoy a challenge and actually prefer an assignment that will stretch their abilities as long as they have the support and guidance to work in a balance of independence and collaboration. The teacher in the Montessori classroom is a “guide” or resource to students should they request help; however, this guidance is intended to be that of a coach as opposed to a problem-solver or critic. In a Montessori environment, children self-monitor and develop the ability to persevere at a task and self-check for quality. Finding a learning environment that supports inquiry and innovation through a non-threatening, nurturing philosophy is one step a parent can take to ensure your child is working in a “growth” environment.

At home, parents can create a learning environment to enhance children’s willingness to take risks and innovate:

- **Show don’t tell** – work together with your child and try new things! Learn to play an instrument or take Tae Kwon Do classes together. Sharing a new endeavor and modeling perseverance (practicing) can encourage a child to keep trying!
- **Go on family field trips** – children are fascinated by the way the world works around them. For example, Igloo Corporation has a factory on the west side of town – schedule a tour and talk to your child about innovations in manufacturing and design. Create a mock-up together of your ideal cooler including color and purpose.
- **Take things apart** – do you have items that don’t work anymore? Allow your child to deconstruct it! You can also find items at garage sales or resale shops that are inexpensive but will provide hours of entertainment

for your child. Provide a set of small screwdrivers or hand tools to support your child’s inquisitive nature. (If it is an electronic item remove the cord and stress to your child that you must ensure safety even in innovation!)

- **Take a class** – there are many free, online courses now offered through major universities! One of my favorite sources is Open Culture [www.open-culture.com/freeonlinecourses](http://www.open-culture.com/freeonlinecourses). While your children work on their homework, you can learn, too, and model the importance of life-long learning!
- **Set goals** – In Cal Newport’s latest book, *So Good They Can’t Ignore You*, he emphasizes that setting goals for learning is also an important component for learning. Children ask “why” non-stop when they are exploring the world. Setting goals for your family and with your child can help them develop a sense of responsibility and power in navigating the world. Most importantly, having a “growth” mindset is intertwined with a determination to do your best and to take a degree of risk. In the words of Colonel C.E. Wheat from the West Point Cadet’s prayer, “Make us to choose the harder right instead of the easier wrong and never to be content with a half truth when the whole can be won.” Enjoy the adventure and grow your brain!

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**HISD MAGNET SCHOOL APPLICANTS AND PARENTS**

By Stephanie Dubroff-Acosta

You MUST bring required documentation to your primary choice school by **December 20, 2013**. If you are applying to Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet you will need to bring the following documentation to our front office:

**PK3 - PK4**

- Birth Certificate
- Proof of Current Address (e.g. utility bill)
- Copy of Parent ID
- Home Language Survey (form available at the school)
- HISD PK application

**Kindergarten - 8th Grade**

- Birth Certificate
- Proof of Current Address (e.g. utility bill)
- Copy of Parent ID
- Report Card (last year's and most current)

- Home Language Survey (for students new to HISD; form available at school)
- HISD Montessori application

Notification of applicants' acceptance into the program or placement on our waiting list will be sent to parents on March 28, 2014. Parents of accepted applicants must then notify the school of their intent to accept or decline the offer of enrollment in the program as soon as possible and no later than April 11, 2014.

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**MISTLETOE**

Most people have heard of mistletoe, particularly at Christmas time. It is a parasitic plant which often grows on other trees and shrubs. The white berries are full of a sticky juice and are poisonous.

In ancient times the Druids believed that mistletoe would bring good luck and good health and it was used to treat certain ailments. In the Middle Ages mistletoe was hung from ceilings or placed above stable and house doors to drive off evil spirits and to insure fertility.

The most fully developed myth regarding mistletoe comes from the Norse mythology of the Vikings. Mistletoe's curative powers and the belief that it can raise humans from the dead relates to the resurrection of the Norse god Baldar.

The story goes as follows: Baldar, the Norse god of the summer sun, saw in

a dream his death. Frigga, his mother and the goddess of beauty and love — and from whom we get the name Friday — compelled the elements, plants and animals not to kill Baldar. She neglected to extract this same promise from the unique mistletoe. The mischief god Loki, realizing that mistletoe grows on trees and has no roots in the ground, fashioned a poisoned dart from mistletoe and, with the aid of Baldar's blind brother Hoder, shot the mistletoe missile to kill Baldar. His death brought winter and his mother's lamentation.

Frigga's tears over her son changed the red mistletoe berries to white and raised Baldar from the dead. From her gratitude she blessed with a kiss everyone who walked beneath mistletoe, declaring that the mistletoe must forever after bring love rather than death into the world.



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**5<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL WINE WALK A SUPER SUCCESS!**

*By Dian Austin*

The weather was a bit challenging – it rained hard most of the night before – but Saturday, October 19th turned out to be one of those gloriously cool, breezy, low-humidity fall days. It was perfect for an afternoon of sipping, strolling, and mingling at the 5th Annual Wine Walk, our constable program fundraiser. With the combined efforts of our cash sponsors, many generous neighbors, and area businesses who donated all the wine and food, and all those who purchased tickets to the event, we netted a record \$17,300 for the constable program. Many, many thanks to all involved!

Precinct One Constable Alan Rosen and some of his deputies were in attendance, as were Mayor Annise Parker and District C Council Member Ellen Cohen. DJ Eric Jarvis kept the blues music rolling, and everyone had a great time celebrating Reds, Whites...and the Blues.

HUGE thanks go to Ed and Brenda de Alba who year after year provide us with the loveliest of all possible venues for this event. Brenda and Ed have already offered their fabulous yard for next year's wine walk, and almost ALL of the table hosts have committed to hosting again to ensure another successful fundraiser for our constable program.

One last round of thanks goes to our Gold, Silver, and Bronze sponsors and in-kind donor. Many of these people and organizations have supported us throughout the years, so please support them in return. Their continued support demonstrates how much they truly care about our neighborhood.



**Gold (\$500)**

Terry Jeanes, Re/Max Metro  
BPR Beverly Public Relations  
Chase Baker, DDS  
Cottonwood  
Wakefield CrowBar

**Silver (\$250)**

Oak Forest Veterinary Clinic  
Chris Schmidt, SCM Construction  
John R. Bartos, Attorney at Law  
Pat Walker, Keller Williams-Metropolitan  
Irma G. Galvan, Irma's Restaurant  
Council Member Ellen Cohen, District C  
Constable Alan Rosen, Harris County Precinct One  
Mi Sombrero Mexican Restaurant  
John and Lizbeth Saracho  
Linda Sparks  
Hal Bowman & Georgia Lister  
Missy Alwais, Clear Channel Radio  
Mayor Annise Parker

**Bronze (\$125)**

Houston Civic Symphony  
Merle Norman Cosmetics & Gift Boutique  
My Trees Houston  
Tonya L. Knauth, Attorney, PLLC  
Allegiance Bank Texas  
Blake Woods Design  
Yoga Collective  
Ace Tree Specialist  
Massage Associates (Janet Collins)  
Mathew Naftis, DDS  
Jennifer Klein Physical Therapy / AATB Pilates Heights & Feagan St.

**In Kind Donor:** Kroger on W. 43rd (cheese trays, bottled water, ice and mosquito spray)

And the whole event would not be possible without the fun participation of all the table hosts, each of whom supplied their own wine(s), foods, decorations, and hosted all of us during the event:

- Tina Rowe and Jim DiCola
- SK Designs/Susan Kostelecky
- Heidi & Stuart Arouty
- Garden Oaks Vineyard (Lorie & John Reno)
- Aged To Perfection – Peggy Smith, Pam Parks, Teresa Coleman, Elisa Cuellar & Knox Wright
- Facundo Home Builders/Miguel Facundo
- GO Red Hot Chili Peppers (Ron & Sheree' Peoples, Emilio & Patti Chemali, and Francisca & Jeff Webster)
- Danyel T. Ramelow – Financial Advisor, Edward Jones (GO Shopping Center)
- Harry James Building + Design
- Solution Builders/Dara & Laura Childs and Lesli Dabney Photography
- GO Kids
- Scott Miller
- Karie & Alyn Goad, Daniel & Kimberly Horowitz, and Kirstin & Tony D'Amico

Thanks also to the Wine Walk Committee, who worked hard behind the scenes: Shelley Rogers, Dea Larson, Tina Rowe, Brenda de Alba, Sheila Briones, Dian Austin, Sandy Altman, Jessica Jarvis, Terry Jeanes, and Jerry Butler.

**CONSTABLE PROGRAM***By Terry Jeanes*

Your constable supporter and civic club membership forms should be arriving soon in your mailbox, if they haven't already. We'd greatly appreciate their timely return. Please note that the draft payment option for the constable program has been cancelled and you now have the additional option of paying online as noted on the mailer forms.

Thank you to the following mailing helpers: M'lissa Dilley, Leslie Ryan, Tammy Ganze, Sheree Peoples, Sue Walmsley Amash, Isela Villareal, George Anderson Wood, Julie Gomez, Lucy Gilmore, Dian Austin,

Sandy Altman, and Terry Jeanes. We welcome Deputy Corey Greer to our Garden Oaks patrol. He has replaced Deputy Brien Le who moved to another Precinct One assignment.

**Constable Program Contribution Form:**

[www.gardenoaks.org/constable](http://www.gardenoaks.org/constable)

**Vacation Watch Form:**

[www.gardenoaks.org/resources/VacationWatch.pdf](http://www.gardenoaks.org/resources/VacationWatch.pdf)

To receive more timely notices on crime alerts, please provide your name, e-mail, and home address to [secretary@gardenoaks.org](mailto:secretary@gardenoaks.org).

**CRUISING FOR SMILES TOY DRIVE**

New, unwrapped toys are being collected for the Precinct One Constable's Annual Toy Drive. Donations may be made at the December Civic Club Meeting or dropped off at 922 West 41st in the box on the porch. Further details about the program will be communicated via e-mail, the Garden Oaks Yahoo group, and/or Facebook page. Dr. Gleem Car Wash on Ella Blvd. is tentatively planning to offer free car washes in exchange for toy donations in the second week of December. Toys may also be brought to Santa in Gazebo Park on December 10th and 11th.

**A VISION OF A GREEN HOUSTON***By Mayor Annise Parker*

I am thankful Houston voters have returned me to office for another two years. We have a lot to get done. Houston is the job creation capital of the nation and we are the place more people are moving to than anywhere else in country. Jobs and a low cost-of-living are important, but we must also be able to offer a high quality of life if we are to keep Houston attractive for the future.

One area we will see progress on during my last term in office is the Bayou Greenways 2020 initiative. This voter-approved program will create a continuous network parks and hike a bike trails along our bayous.

Rich and Nancy Kinder, through their family foundation The Kinder Foundation, recently announced plans to donate \$50 million to the nonprofit Houston Parks Board to help fund the project. Their donation is the largest in the history of Houston's park system and one of the largest grants to a public greenspace in the United States.

I love this project not only because of the impact it will have on our parks system, but also because it will complete the 100-year-old vision of city planner Arthur Comey and many like-minded leaders who saw the potential benefits of integrating Houston's waterways into our recreational system. The Kinders have made a major gift to the citizens of Houston and I am thankful for their generosity and commitment to the future of our city.

In November 2012, voters approved a bond referendum allowing the City of Houston to fund \$100 million to complete the project. The Houston Parks Board has committed to raising a matching \$115 million. So far, more than \$70 million has been raised in private donations.

The Houston Parks Board is managing the private fundraising, design and construction. In addition, the organization will be responsible for maintaining approximately 4,000 acres of existing and new parklands in the completed Bayou Greenways 2020 project.

Project segments along the bayous will be announced in phases and will be complete by 2020 creating ample opportunities for neighborhoods and communities to connect and explore both the existing trails and the new ones to come. Overall the project is projected to generate \$70 million annually in benefits which includes \$10 million in economic health benefits; another \$10 million in environmental health benefits; and, finally, \$50 million in physical and mental health benefits.

The creation of parkland, trails and natural areas along our major bayous will help protect and preserve water quality, natural habitat and native wildlife while at the same time promoting the overall health and welfare of the city. Once Bayou Greenways 2020 is complete, Houston will have the largest off-street shared use path system in the nation. This project will put six out of every 10 Houstonians within a mile and half of a bayou park or trail and help Houston retain its current position as the best place to live, work and raise a family for generations to come.

# GARDEN OAKS





Wine Walk photos provided by Marisa D. Hoffman.



WALK 2013!



**GO KIDS**

By Lisa Rentschler

With membership of over 300 families, GO Kids offers something for everyone: age-based playgroups, a monthly Moms' Night Out, new parent dinner drops, a book club, a babysitting co-op, potlucks, and many other scheduled events and activities. GO Kids range in age from newborn to school-age and all Garden Oaks families are welcome. We look forward to seeing you around this great neighborhood!

**GO KIDS SPONSORSHIP**

THANK YOU, SPONSORS! Please support these local businesses that in turn support GO Kids and the greater community we live in!

**Kiddo Level**

- Alleanza Custom Homes
- Aitu Taube - State Farm
- Deanna Zugheri – Keller Williams Realty
- Harry James Building + Design
- MoreHands Maid Service
- SCM Construction Services
- Signature Smiles

**Toddler Level**

- Adolf Hoepfl Garage Auto Repair
- Manning Pool Service
- Nash Lawn & Landscape Maintenance
- Nolan Strange, ACE Tree Specialist
- Sue Schmidt – Keller Williams Realty
- Terry Jeanes – RE/Max Metro
- Will Zugheri – Envoy Mortgage

**Infant Level**

- Mark Rafail – Farmers Insurance

If you would like more information about how to become a sponsor, please contact Marcia Rasmussen at [marcia2ras@gmail.com](mailto:marcia2ras@gmail.com).

**GO KIDS ACTIVITIES**

Members can access our calendar of events at [www.bigtent.com/group/calendar](http://www.bigtent.com/group/calendar).



Photo Courtesy of Grace Hill Photography

The Witches of Gardenia: Jenny, Jordan, Lisa, Megan, Sheridan, and Sue

**GO Kids Halloween Bash**

Thanks to everyone who made it out and participated in this year's Spooktacular GO Kids Halloween Bash. The Witches of Gardenia (Lisa, Sheridan, Jordan, Megan, Jenny, Maria, Deanna, and Sue) would like to extend a HUGE enormous GrEaT big THANK YOU to all ~250 of you who made it out! We hope you enjoyed all the FUN! We appreciate all the sponsors who came out to participate in this year's event! A very special thank you goes to Sue and Chris Schmidt for the wonderful backdrop for the pictures taken by our very own Grace Hill Photography. This was a wonderful event and everyone had a great time.

**GO Babies and GO Buddies**

Our GO Babies and GO Buddies have been very active this month. You can catch them at parks in the area and other happenings around town. We like to extend a special thank you to those moms who have decided to help host these special play dates. Your contribution to this neighborhood and the GO Kids program is very much appreciated.

**GO Kids Dinner Drops**

Are you or someone you know an overwhelmed, sleep-deprived new parent? Don't worry because help is on the way! We are happy to provide several meals to new families during those stressful few weeks. Please consider volunteering for this program. We even have an app for that! Well, Lotsa Helping Hands has an app for that, rather – it's the service we use to facilitate this great program.

Contact our Dinner Drop coordinator Angelica Sullivan at [angelicapuerto@hotmail.com](mailto:angelicapuerto@hotmail.com) if you have any questions about signing up or volunteering for the program.





**Website / Communication**

[www.gardenoakskids.com](http://www.gardenoakskids.com)

Our website offers a login portal to BigTent, information on contributing to our annual bouncy house fund, and purchasing your Garden Oaks Cookbook.

GO Kids was started by a group of parents who wanted to build a family friendly neighborhood where children and parents know each other and grow together. All Garden Oaks families are welcome. If you have questions or would like more information about the GO Kids group, please contact Lisa at [gypsy9601@yahoo.com](mailto:gypsy9601@yahoo.com).

Please understand that our organization is moderated entirely by volunteers who are also parents with hectic schedules. While we hope to answer your questions and get you through the membership process as soon as possible, we cannot guarantee an immediate response.

**GO Kids Membership**

1. Go to [www.gardenoakskids.com](http://www.gardenoakskids.com).
2. Select "e-mail us for an invitation".
3. Provide some identifying information about yourself, e.g. your full name, address, and information about your family. Please ensure that you complete all your information in BigTent (physical address and e-mail) when you have been granted membership.

To help make our activities and events special, we ask that each member family make a \$20.00 donation. Please go to [www.paypal.com](http://www.paypal.com) and enter "jenny.odinet@yahoo.com" in the "To" field to make your donation. If you have any membership questions or would like to make a donation another way, please contact Marcia Rasmussen at [marcia2ras@gmail.com](mailto:marcia2ras@gmail.com).

 <p><b>Oak Forest Veterinary Clinic</b></p> <p><b>Monday - Friday: 7:00 AM - 6:00 PM</b> By appointment only</p> <p><b>Saturday: 7:30 - 11:30 AM</b> Walk-in's welcome</p> <p><b>2120 West 34th Street</b> (Between T.C. Jester &amp; Ella)</p> <p><b>(713) 682 - 6351</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.oakforestvetclinic.com">www.oakforestvetclinic.com</a></p>	<p><b>Hallie Ray Moore, DVM</b> <b>Jessica K. Parkerson, DVM</b></p> <p><b>Wellness Exams &amp; Vaccinations</b> <b>Convenient Drop-off Service</b> <b>New In-house Laboratory</b> <b>Baths &amp; Grooming</b> <b>Acupuncture</b> <b>Pet Food &amp; Treats</b> <b>Radiology</b> <b>Large Boarding Facilities</b> <b>24/7 Medical Record Access</b> <b>Surgery &amp; Dental Procedures</b></p> <p><b>Supporting our community since 1964</b></p>
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**GOMO Board of Directors**

**SECTION 1**

**Sheila Briones** (2014)  
 412 West 34th  
 713-861-8091 Home  
 281-685-8133 Cell  
[sbriones@hotmail.com](mailto:sbriones@hotmail.com)

**Mark Saranie**, Vice President (2015)  
 235 West 33rd  
 713-861-7994 Home  
 713-724-1271 Cell  
[msaranie@comcast.net](mailto:msaranie@comcast.net)

**Wayne Forster** (2016)  
 527 West 34th  
 713-880-4367  
[wayneforster@mac.com](mailto:wayneforster@mac.com)

**SECTION 2**

**Ed de Alba** (2013)  
 744 West 43rd  
 713-694-5934 Home  
[ferrocem@yahoo.com](mailto:ferrocem@yahoo.com)

**Gale Gorman** (2015)  
 742 Sue Barnett  
[gale\\_gorman@mac.com](mailto:gale_gorman@mac.com)

**Lori Kennedy** (2014)  
 750 Sue Barnett  
 713-691-6833 Home  
[lorikgomo@blue-funk.com](mailto:lorikgomo@blue-funk.com)

**SECTION 3**

**Joan Harmon** (2014)  
 827 Lamonte  
 713-818-9682  
[joanharmon827@yahoo.com](mailto:joanharmon827@yahoo.com)

**Dea Larson** (2015)  
 823 Lamonte  
 713-695-3634  
[dealarson@aol.com](mailto:dealarson@aol.com)

**Kathy Silver** (2016)  
 826 Lamonte

**SECTION 5**

**Tim Weltin**, President (2014)  
 1567 Sue Barnett  
 713-540-5315 Home  
[timweltin@mycase.info](mailto:timweltin@mycase.info)

**Jim Willburn** (2015)  
 1583 Sue Barnett  
 713-812-0564  
[jimwillburn@yahoo.com](mailto:jimwillburn@yahoo.com)

**Teresa Coleman** (2016)  
 1003 Gardenia  
 713-686-7728  
[teresa.coleman@pobox.com](mailto:teresa.coleman@pobox.com)



Photos Courtesy of Grace Hill Photography



**GOMO Review Meetings**

take place prior to Civic Club meetings at 6:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of the month and on the third Wednesday of the month. Meetings are open to the public. Additional information about the Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization is available online at [GardenOaks.org](http://GardenOaks.org). Property owners in Sections 1, 2, 3 and 5 are all members of the GOMO.





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**CRITTER CORNER**

By Molly Taylor

Our GO Pet of the Month for November is **Penny**.



Penny is a boxer mix, about two years old, and full of energy. She loves people and will crawl forward on her stomach to you when she is being an extra sweet little ham. She is currently living at the Mutt House and needs a forever home or a foster home. Contact Molly directly at [molly@mutthouse.com](mailto:molly@mutthouse.com) if you are interested in meeting her or giving her a vacation away from the Mutt House.

If you think your dog should be the next GO pet of the month, please drop us a line at [gazette@mutthouse.com](mailto:gazette@mutthouse.com) along with a picture.

**Critters 101: Puppy Thoughts**

Christmas is coming and puppies will be arriving as gifts, so here are some "puppy thoughts" to ponder.

**Vaccines:** Do your research and ask your veterinarian questions. Educate yourself so you do not over vaccinate your new puppy. Understand each vaccine you choose and decide whether they should get certain vaccines as a group or spread them out individually. There might even be some vaccines you choose not to get for your puppy.

**Feeding:** Don't just feed your dog a food because it says PUPPY on the bag. Educate yourself on nutrition. Whether you choose canned food, kibble or a raw diet, feel confident you are doing the best you see fit for your puppy. If you are not feeding a raw diet, ensure your puppy does get some fresh protein in his diet. You can boil eggs for 4 minutes, then crush them up, shell and all and feed them with your food. You can add some cottage cheese to his meal or lightly cook some chicken and toss it in the food. Make feeding time fun for you and your puppy. It is also a good idea to feed your puppy 3-4 small meals a day instead of letting him gorge once or twice a day. It is better for the digestive system and will allow the body to better utilize the food.

**Socializing:** Dogs are social creatures by nature. It is a learning process as they grow and being around other dogs can help prepare them

for the world. Ensure your puppy is healthy to socialize, and aim for your puppy to meet 1 new person and 1 new dog every day. Let him meet men, women, children, big and small dogs, puppies and adult dogs. Take a few training classes to meet more people and to learn to behave on leash around dogs. Take your puppy for weekly rides in your car. Take him shopping wherever dogs are allowed.

**Do not be afraid!!** After all, we all want a well-rounded socialized dog that goes everywhere with us. Just ensure the people, places and dogs you introduce to your puppy are safe. You do not want your puppy to have bad experiences because it could affect him for life. So start socializing your puppy safely and you will have a better relationship with your dog for years to come.

Molly Taylor operates Molly's Mutt House and co-owns Mutt House Relief Effort pet sitting. Please forward your questions and pet news to [gazette@mutthouse.com](mailto:gazette@mutthouse.com).



[relief@mutthouse.com](mailto:relief@mutthouse.com)

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**Chris Schmidt**  
 Garden Oaks Resident  
[chris@scm-texas.com](mailto:chris@scm-texas.com)

**MICKEY'S MINUTE-**

*By Mickey Morales*

I say foey on Black Friday sales, especially when you can buy unique gifts on Green Saturdays every week from Thanksgiving to the Saturday before Christmas from the Farmstand. We will be working overtime to put together gift items that you won't find anywhere else: locally roasted coffee and a french press, unique jams or jellies, fresh baked goods, hand carved wood cheese boards, knives and spoons or artisanal pottery. And let's not forget that the market also offers fresh veggies and fruit for your Holiday feast. So do yourselves a favor and get your goods from our hardworking vendors.

We have so enjoyed these past few months and year serving the local neighborhood and the support y'all have extended us. Your support is

exactly what we're thankful for, and our hope is that we can continue our quest to bring "clean food" to a wanting group of patrons in the months to come.



**Local Farmers' Market**  
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## FRESH FROM THE MARKET- EGGPLANT

By *Jeremy Goodwin*

Buying vegetables from your local farmers means learning about varieties that are never found in the store. A wonderful example of this is eggplant (aubergine), as the great big black things in the vegetable bins are probably the least useful example of a range of berry varieties that numbers in the hundreds.

The reputation for soaking up oil got them into the book *One Thousand and One Arabian Nights*, and their occasional bitterness has led to myths about there being a male and a female fruit, and that you must be able to tell which sex they are to avoid the one with the seeds. Tall tales aside, they can be challenging for many people. There are some simple methods of making them palatable, and this is especially easy if you start with the thin skinned Indian and Asian varieties that you will find at the local farmer market.

The best way to bring out the flavors is to slice the berry about ½ an inch thick, and roast in the oven at high heat until the surface begins to caramelize slightly. Then the eggplant can be incorporated into your vegetable dishes, ratatouille being one of the more popular, where it will impart a richness and depth of flavor that can be startling.

This week's recipe is a Mediterranean staple, and in Greek known as melitzanosalata, which really just means eggplant salad, but every country around the Mediterranean Sea has its own variant. To change it into baba ganoush (Turkish) version, add cumin and sesame seed paste (tahini), or you can add paprika, cumin and tomatoes for the Moroccan style - they are all excellent.

### **Melitzanosalata: Eggplant Dip**

1lb eggplants  
3 tablespoons fresh lemon juice  
3 medium-cloves garlic, chopped

½ cup Extra virgin olive oil  
½ cup Italian parsley, chopped  
salt & pepper to taste

Preheat the oven to 400 F. Slice the eggplants across about ½ an inch thick, discarding the stem end. Put them on a baking sheet and bake for 15-20 minutes, turning once about halfway through. Remove and cool on a paper towel or wire rack. When they are cool, remove the skin; with the soft skin varieties you can leave it on if you want.

Put the eggplant into a food processor and add the garlic and lemon juice. Pulse a few times to combine. Continue to pulse while adding a steady stream of olive oil. After the oil is added, put in the parsley, taste to judge how much salt and pepper to add, and pulse again to combine. Serve with crusty bread or fresh tortilla chips.

Find more of Jeremy's recipes at [www.facebook.com/singlemanskitchen](http://www.facebook.com/singlemanskitchen).

## **Our Savior Lutheran School** *A Classical Christian Education*



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### **School Preview**

**Sunday, January 26, 2014**

**2:00 pm - Opening Remarks by Principal Lance Gerard & ECE Director Lynette Cherington.**

**2:45 pm - Introduction of Faculty**

**3:00pm - Classroom visit**

**3:30 pm - refreshments served in the cafeteria**

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**SUPERIOR INDOOR AIR QUALITY COMES WITH CLEAN DUCTWORK**

*By Mitch Weigand*

Last month, we talked about the importance of your A/C system's ductwork. It should be correctly sized and in good condition (no leaks or blockages) in order to function well. However, what about the condition of the ductwork's interior?

**Mold, mildew and microbes, oh my** Houston's warm temperatures and humidity create the perfect breeding ground for airborne irritants such as mold, mildew, microbes and pollen. Along with rat feces, dust mites, animal dander and hair, these particles build up in your ductwork over the months and years. Many illnesses such as asthma are caused or aggravated by contaminated indoor air. For allergy sufferers, it can create genuine discomfort as well.

Whenever your air conditioning or furnace is running, these built-up irritants are spread throughout the home. Take a moment to look at your home's vents (those are where the air comes out in the ceiling). If the vents are dirty, your ductwork definitely needs to be inspected and cleaned.

**Breathe in the benefits**

Clean ductwork creates a variety of benefits for you and your home:

- Improved indoor air quality with fewer allergy-provoking irritants
- Better energy-efficient operation
- Less wear on the A/C system along with the potential for increased lifespan

Regular ductwork cleaning is a crucial part of HVAC maintenance. I recommend having this done by trained technicians once every five years. They attach a large suction tube to one of the vents and run a fringed tether through the duct. By spinning vigorously, it dislodges

the accumulated debris which coats the duct's interior. This debris is then sucked through the tube and into their van outside, never contaminating your home. The technicians proceed to each vent throughout your home until all of the ductwork has been cleaned.

Along with the ductwork, they should also clean the following:

- Supply and return grilles
- Plenum
- Heat exchanger
- Blower motor, assembly and housing
- Evaporator coil, drain and drain pan

As you can see, your entire A/C system will benefit from this cleaning. This leaves your home's air healthy and clean.

Mitch is the owner of Air Wise™ and a member of the Garden Oaks Civic Club.

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# DECEMBER 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 Civic Club Meeting & Potluck Dinner 7PM	4	5	6	7 Farmers' Market 9AM-1PM St. Rose Holiday Market 10AM-3PM GOMM Book Fair Fundraiser @ Barnes & Noble 10AM-4PM
8 GOMM Book Fair Fundraiser @ Barnes & Noble 10AM-4PM	9 Gazebo Santa 6:00-7:30PM	10  Gazebo Santa 6:00-7:30PM	11	12	13	14 Farmers' Market 9AM-1PM
15	16	17	18 GOMO Review Meeting 6:30PM	19 Junk Waste Pick-up	20	21 First Day of Winter Farmers' Market 9AM-1PM
22	23	24  Christmas Day	25	26	27	28 Farmers' Market 9AM-1PM
29	30	31	1 JAN New Year's Day	2 JAN	3 JAN	4 JAN Farmers' Market 9AM-1PM

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