

# GARDEN OAKS GAZETTE

VOLUME 37

ISSUE 1

# 2014

*A New Year of Opportunity  
to Connect With Your Community*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*By Sheila Briones, 2014 Garden Oaks Civic Club President*

Happy 2014! Welcome back to everyone after what I hope was a wonderful holiday break for each and every one of you and your families. As we begin a new year, I want to immediately thank all the volunteers, especially my predecessor, Mark Klein, and Phil Ramirez and Heather Leverett, outgoing Treasurer and Secretary, respectively, for their service to our community for the past four years.

When I think of volunteers, I think of time and value. In our lives, one thing we cannot create, accumulate, acquire, buy, or even borrow is time. We have a limited amount of time for sleep, work, family, and our own interests. Therefore, an individual's time is a very precious commodity. When an individual commits to volunteering, s/he has chosen to give up his or her own time to support activities to benefit others. Some of the strongest values, service and sacrifice, are shown when one places the needs of another above his or her own. The true volunteer chooses to give up his or her personal time and energy and expend it to help others. So it is my pleasure, on behalf of the Civic Club's new Board of Directors and Committee Chairs, to formally express our gratitude to Mark, Phil, and Heather for giving of their time and talents for the benefit of everyone in Garden Oaks and hope that we will continue to see them at our many community events.

**Continued on Page 3.**

## January 2014

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**January Civic Club Meeting**  
Tuesday, January 7th, 7:00 p.m.  
Garden Oaks Montessori  
901 Sue Barnett

**GOMM Pancake Breakfast**  
Saturday, February 8th, 8:00 a.m.  
Garden Oaks Montessori  
901 Sue Barnett

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Oh, the Places We Will GO!

Mark your calendars!

**Garden Oaks Montessori  
20th Anniversary  
Pancake Breakfast**

**Saturday, February 8th  
8:00 - 10:30 a.m.**

Please remember to pay Civic Club and Constable Dues for 2014. Pay online at [www.gardenoaks.org](http://www.gardenoaks.org) or complete the included forms.

## HEARD UNDER THE OAK TREE

By Terry Jeanes

### Welcome, New Neighbors!

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

822 Azalea  
235 West 31st  
733 West 39th  
1050 West 41st  
818 West 43rd  
947 West 43rd

### Happy Birthday

Hannah Stender ..... 1/4  
Maeve M..... 1/5  
Katy G..... 1/6  
Mae T. .... 1/8  
Phil Ramirez ..... 1/10  
Patricia Semands..... 1/19  
Lindsey V..... 1/24  
Joe Muscara ..... 1/30  
Shellye Arnold ..... 1/30

**Special Celebration** of young cancer survivor **Emma Maltbie's** 9th birthday and 2 ½ cancer-free years!

**Happy Anniversary** to **Bonnie & Rudy Hernandez.**

**Congratulations** to **Robert DeVeau** for running the BCS Marathon.

### Out and About

**Dian Austin** visited the Chihuly Museum in Seattle. **Hal Bowman** and **Georgia Lister** hosted their 13th annual caroling party with many neighbors joining in the festivities. There was lots of frolicking and holiday merriment at Gazebo Park when **Santa Claus** greeted children of all ages and even 4-legged neighbors. The **Noser** and **McDaniel** families enjoyed an evening at the Zoo Lights. **Gina** and **John**

**Greenslate** visited Natchitoches, Louisiana for the town's Christmas Festival. **Sarah Klein** and her friends from TUTS entertained the crowd at Houston Achievement Place Gala. The **Acostas** visited New York City, as did the **Jernigan** family.

**Well Wishes** for **Devin Hunter** as she recuperates from heart surgery and **Joyce Barton** as she recovers from pneumonia.

**Special Thoughts** for the **Polasek** family following the loss of their family cat Tigger.

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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*Terms expire in October of year in parentheses.*

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

*By Sheila Briones, 2014 Garden Oaks Civic Club President*

**Continued from Page 1.**

The New Year offers a chance to start over, with our spirits invigorated and our minds fresh. I'm looking forward to serving as your 2014 Civic Club President and hope to continue the great work that Mark and his team accomplished.

I am pleased to introduce the new 2014 Civic Club officers, starting with Victor Seghers, returning as Vice President. Victor and his wife, Deborah, and their 3 young children have lived in Garden Oaks since 2009. Victor is a Pediatric Radiologist at Texas Children's Hospital in the Texas Medical Center but also frequently works at the West Campus Hospital in Katy and the Health Center in the Woodlands, so Garden Oaks is the ideal central location for the family.

Serving as Treasurer is Jerry Butler, Section 3 resident. Jerry is a CPA with an accounting and tax practice and is a graduate of Texas Tech University. Jerry was Treasurer of the Civic Club several years ago and more recently represented Section 3 on the board of directors of the Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization (GOMO).

Cindy Bartos, our new Secretary, has lived in Garden Oaks with her husband, John, since the early 80s. They share their Section 3 home with Buddy Boy, their Golden Retriever. Cindy served as civic club secretary previously from 2007 through 2009 and has also served on several Home Tour committees. In 2008, Cindy retired from the Aldine Independent School District after teaching for 32 years. In addition to various political and environmental volunteer activities, Cindy and John enjoy birdwatching, biking, canoeing, and kayaking. Of special note, Cindy and John have been delivering the *Garden Oaks Gazette* for 15+ years.

As for myself, I'm a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin and I've lived in Garden Oaks for 21 years. In my time here, I've served as Civic Club President (2006-2007), Vice President, Secretary, Gazette Editor, Home Tour Chair, and I currently serve on the board of directors of GOMO, representing Section 1. I work for Houston Community College as the Director of Community Development. I am fortunate that my position requires me to regularly spend time out in the community; as a consequence, I am a member of several community organizations and serve on the boards of local organizations such as AVANCE, Talento Bilingue de Houston, and the Asian Chamber of Commerce.


I encourage everyone to attend the next Civic Club meeting on Tuesday, January 7 beginning at 7:00 p.m. Representatives from Council Member Ellen Cohen's office and City of Houston Public Works & Engineering will discuss and provide updates on the \$1.75 million City of Houston storm water project (see Mark Klein's article on page 7 for further information). Also on the agenda is a vote on the proposed Civic Club budget for 2014, which is printed here on page 5.

Hope to see many of you January 7!

Respectfully,

*Sheila Briones*

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## GARDEN OAKS CIVIC CLUB MEETING MINUTES

By Mark Klein, Former President and  
Presiding Secretary

**December 3, 2013**

**Location:** O'Leary-Appling Home,  
701 Garden Oaks Blvd.

**Welcome:** The Annual Garden Oaks Civic Club Holiday Potluck began at 7 p.m. GOCC President Mark Klein called the working meeting to order at 7:23 p.m.

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

### PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Klein offered a special thank you to Brian O'Leary and George Appling for volunteering to host the Annual GOCC Holiday Potluck & Meeting. They have graciously opened their beautiful home to the GOCC for its December meeting for several years now, and President Klein said their effort was most appreciated. President Klein went on to thank each GOCC Director and committee chair for the dedication, hard work and energy they've consistently provided to make Garden Oaks one of Houston's best places to live. President Klein also thanked Treasurer Phil Ramirez and Secretary Heather Leverett for their multi-year commitment to the GOCC board; he also thanked Vice President Vic Seghers for his insightful work and for agreeing to continue his role into 2014. President Klein said that while he is stepping down after four years as GOCC President, he hopes to continue to represent the neighborhood and its needs as President of the Central Northwest Super Neighborhood (CNWSN) Council. Elections for the CNWSN Council will be held in January.

**Tailgate thefts:** President Klein noted there has been an increase in pickup truck tailgate thefts in Oak Forest. Tailgates are a hot item. President Klein reminded pickup truck owners to avoid parking on the street, and to take precautions

such as locking your tailgates, installing a tailgate lock, or parking tailgate-in well back on well-lit driveways.

### 2014 GOCC Board of Directors

**Election:** President Klein announced the 2014 nominees for the GOCC Board of Directors, introducing Sheila Briones for president, Vic Seghers for vice-president, Jerry Butler for treasurer, and Cindy Bartos for secretary. A motion was made and seconded to vote for the entire candidate slate. The motion passed; all candidates won approval to begin their one-year terms starting January 1, 2014.

**Treasurer's Update:** Treasurer Phil Ramirez reviewed the GOCC November financials. He also noted that several residents have taken advantage of the convenient gardenoaks.org online payment program to join or renew their membership to the GOCC and GO Constable Program. Treasurer Ramirez then discussed the 2014 GOCC Annual Budget and asked if there were questions. A motion was made and seconded to approve the annual budget. The motion passed.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**GO Citizens Patrol:** Carl Waters, Jr., Citizens Patrol Committee Chair, reported a total of six crimes were reported for the neighborhood on the Houston Police Department (HPD) website. (Look for Mr. Waters' full report in this issue of the Gazette.) At this point, crime is on track to decrease 10-15 percent from 2012 to 2013. Mr. Waters said Citizens Patrol volunteers are always needed. You must be 18 years old and able to pass a background check.

**Constable Program:** Terry Jeanes, GO Constable Program Chair, noted the Constable Toy Drive, which collected toys during the GOCC Annual Potluck & Meeting, would continue to accept toys at several locations. Ms. Jeanes then said the 2014 GOCC Constable Program Membership Drive was in full swing, and that mailings with membership forms for the Constable Program and the GOCC were sent to all residents. Ms.

Jeanes also noted how easy it is to pay Civic Club dues and Constable Program membership online at [gardenoaks.org](http://gardenoaks.org) using PayPal. Residents can use the site to pay their Constable dues monthly or annually, and even set up convenient, recurring payments.

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

**Beautification:** Gary Harmon, GO Beautification Chair, reviewed current GO Beautification efforts and said he is working on improving the sprinkler systems.

**GO Home Tour 2014:** GOHT Chair Brenda de Alba discussed the progress of the 2014 Home Tour and said they are seeking corporate title sponsors for the event. (Read more about the GO Home Tour in her article in this edition of the Gazette). The GOHT still needs a volunteer coordinator; please contact [hometour@gardenoaks.org](mailto:hometour@gardenoaks.org) to volunteer or suggest a volunteer coordinator.

**GO Gazette:** President Klein announced that GO resident Jenny Espeseth has stepped up to volunteer to be editor of the Gazette. He thanked Jenny for volunteering and went on to note his appreciation for Chavonne Slovak and past Gazette editor Jessica Jarvis for their incredible efforts to produce a monthly newsletter that has few peers among civic clubs.

**Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet:** Principal Dr. Lindsey Pollock discussed the name change from Garden Oaks Elementary School to Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet. The change reflects that the school will be serving students pre-kindergarten through eighth grade. Dr. Pollock also discussed that HISD magnet school applications were currently being accepted, and that Garden Oaks Montessori has a long waiting list. She reminded the GOCC about the annual Garden Oaks Barnes & Noble book fair December 7-8 in the River Oaks store and

December 7-13 online, where a portion of purchases will go to support the acquisition of classroom supplies.

President Klein again thanked everyone who has worked to make Garden Oaks special, then adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

**GARDEN OAKS CIVIC CLUB, INC.**  
PROPOSED BUDGET  
2014

	REVENUES	EXPENSES	NET
Civic Club Membership	\$9,000	\$1,550	\$7,450
Gazette	21,000	20,850	150
Home Tour	40,000	15,000	25,000
Wine Walk	10,000	4,500	5,500
Constable	85,000	85,000	-
Beautification, Improvements & Maintenance	20,000	20,000	-
Garden Club	500	500	-
Interest Income	50	-	50
Website redesign		5,000	(5,000)
Utilities		4,000	(4,000)
Community Events		3,000	(3,000)
Friends of Montessori-Pancake Breakfast		1,000	(1,000)
Rent-Aztec Rental		1,260	(1,260)
Santa at Gazebo Park		500	(500)
Citizen Patrol		500	(500)
Bank Fees		250	(250)
Insurance		500	(500)
Accounting Fees		500	(500)
Miscellaneous		1,500	(1,500)
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$185,550</b>	<b>\$165,410</b>	<b>\$20,140</b>



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Regretfully omitted from our list of generous cash sponsors for the 2013 Wine Walk:

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Adolf Hoepfl Garage has been a generous contributor to our neighborhood for many events and we are deeply sorry for the error.

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## CONSTABLE PROGRAM UPDATE

*By Terry Jeanes, Constable Program Committee Chair*

By now, all households should have received in the mail the 2014 constable program and civic club membership forms. Many thanks to those who have already paid their civic club dues and constable program contributions for the new year. Residents may now contribute to the constable program online via PayPal (or debit or credit cards) at [www.gardenoaks.org/constable](http://www.gardenoaks.org/constable) and have the option of paying a lump sum for the year or spreading it out into monthly payments of \$20.00 per month. Of course, you may still mail a check with the form included in this issue

of the Gazette. However you choose to contribute, we greatly appreciate your support of this program.

To illustrate the value of our constable patrols, here is an excerpt from a neighbor's letter following a recent break-in:

"Someone kicked in the door to our home and stole several items. Deputy Greer responded and thanks to his good efforts and those of his colleagues, a suspect was apprehended and all our items were found. I'm writing to say how grateful my wife and I are for Deputy Greer's service. An unsettling and damaging situation was made bearable due to the professionalism and diligence of the officers assigned to the Garden Oaks

neighborhood...While the break-in disrupted our home, it also reinforced our faith in law enforcement. Please know your work is valued and appreciated by those you protect."

Constable Program Contribution Form:

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

Vacation Watch Form:

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

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



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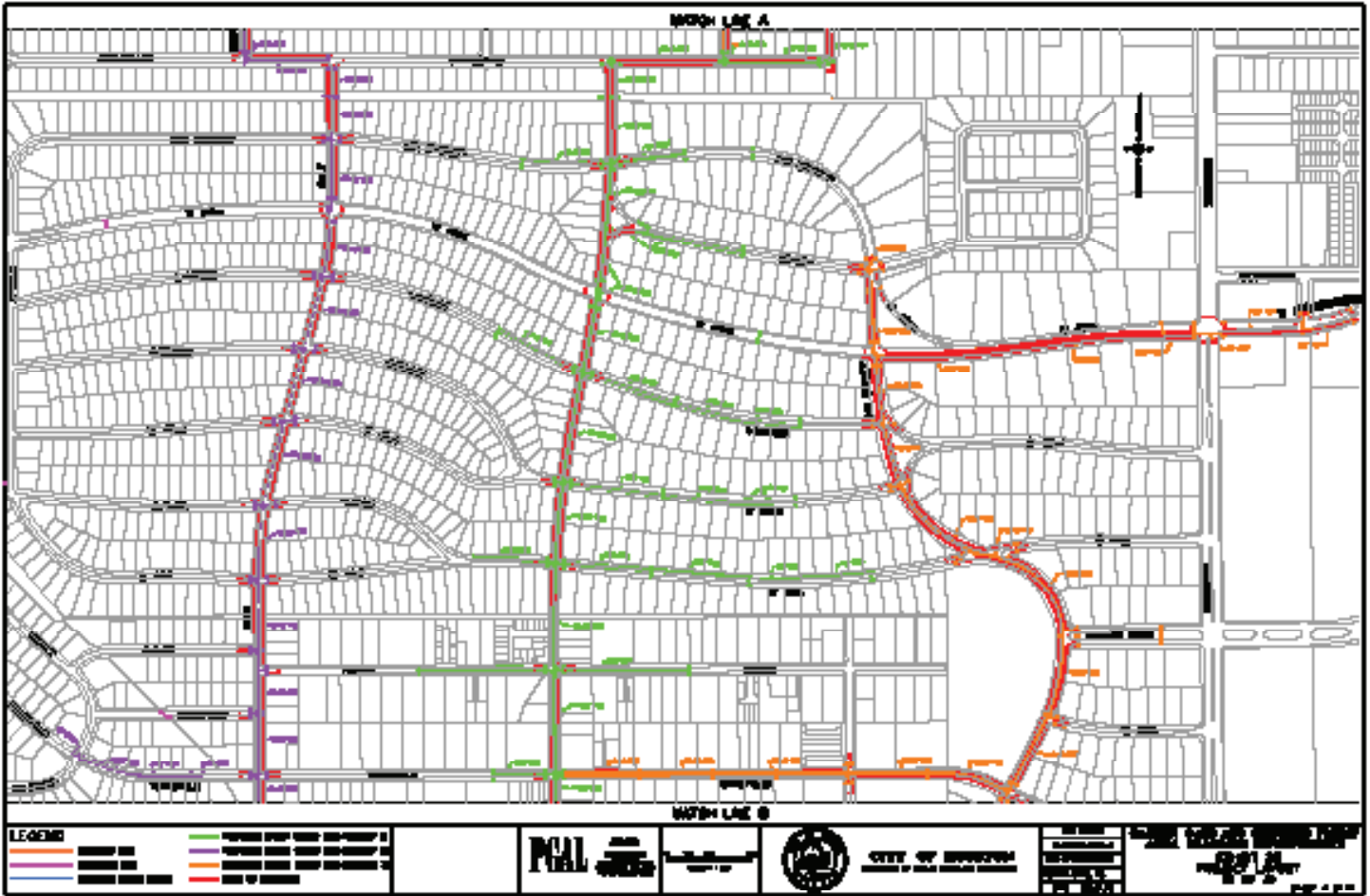
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**\$1.75 MM GARDEN OAKS DRAINAGE PROJECT PRESENTATION PLANNED FOR JANUARY GOCC MEETING**

*By Mark Klein*

The \$1.75 million storm drainage project slated for Alba and Brinkman streets will be the featured presentation at the next Garden Oaks Civic Club meeting, scheduled for Tuesday, January 7, 2014, at Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet School.

City of Houston (COH) Public Works & Engineering representatives will be on hand to discuss this significant Capital Improvement Project (#M-000285), designed to “construct storm drainage improvements to address the risk of structural flooding improvements,” according to the City’s 2014-2018 Capital Improvement Plan.

The project calls for the design and construction of storm drainage improvements primarily along Alba and Brinkman, with “necessary concrete paving, curbs, sidewalks, driveways and underground utilities,” and include modification of street conveyance and sheet flow, while providing detention as needed for flooding mitigation.

While construction is planned for 2015, initial design work is under way. COH contract crews have already surveyed Alba and its intersecting streets.

A representative from Council Member Ellen Cohen’s office is also planning to attend the January 2014 GOCC meeting. Don’t miss this opportunity to better understand a multi-million dollar storm drainage project slated for one of Garden Oaks’ and Shepherd Park Plaza’s main

thoroughfares. Information from the meeting can help the neighborhood provide meaningful input before construction begins.

Make plans now to attend the January 2014 GOCC meeting to learn more.

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

**2014 HOME & GARDEN  
TOUR MOMENTUM  
BUILDING**

*By Brenda de Alba*

The 2014 Home and Garden Tour committee is pleased to share some highlights of the wonderful homes and gardens for the upcoming tour in April. Over the next few months leading up to our tour we hope to excite everyone by sharing snippets and photos of the tour locations. You are also encouraged to follow the event on our Facebook page... Garden Oaks 2014 Home and Garden Tour.



**834 West 41st Street**

This original Garden Oaks home has undergone a fantastic transformation which pays homage to the original structure. The main living areas are open and spacious; the open plan kitchen is light and bright and fosters entertaining and modern day living. A staircase has been added to access the attic conversion of a spacious Master Bedroom retreat which includes a bathroom with a large walk-in shower. A wonderful back deck extends the living and kitchen area. The home is furnished with beautiful artifacts collected by the homeowner from around the world. Truly inspirational!



**807 LaMonte Lane**

The new construction at 807 LaMonte is designed by Houston architect Natalye Appel with sensitivity to scale and proportion to fit into the original landscape of Garden Oaks. Natalye Appel is the renowned architect who designed the recent renovation of the Oak Forest Library which has received national recognition. This stunning home is the third home in Garden Oaks for the homeowners. The first floor boasts an open floor plan with sightlines to outstanding garden vignettes and amenities galore. The second floor is host to two bedrooms and a writer's loft full of books and artifacts. Don't miss this fabulous home!



**938 LaMonte Lane**

The first impressions of the garden at 938 LaMonte are of a colorful wildscape; however, upon closer inspection, one sees a brick pathway meandering through a front yard planted with a distinct variety of species that grow well in our Houston climate. A walk through the garden will unveil creative displays of found objects and artifacts. The front and back yard are masterful displays of creativity!





**2014 Home & Garden Tour Sponsors as of mid-December**

We wish to thank our committed sponsors below!

**Silver Level - \$2500**

- Deanna Zugheri, Keller Williams Realty
- Shannon & Associates
- Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization (GOMO)

**Nickel - \$500**

- Terry Jeanes, RE/Max Metro

**Copper - \$250**

- Diane Morish, Merle Norman Cosmetics & Gift Boutique
- Ace Tree Specialist
- Aztec Rental
- Jennifer Klein Physical Therapy & Pilates
- Marek Brothers Systems, Inc.
- Molly's Mutt House

We'd love to see your name or business listed next month.

Contact: [htsponsorships@gardenoaks.org](mailto:htsponsorships@gardenoaks.org)

**2014 HOME & GARDEN TOUR PREVIEW PARTY & SILENT AUCTION**

**SAVE THE DATE!** The tour Preview/Sponsorship Party is always one of the highlights of tour weekend and this year's event is scheduled for Saturday, April 26th (the night before the tour) from 7:30pm – 11:00pm. The party is our opportunity to recognize and thank both the generous sponsors who help underwrite tour expenses and the home and garden owners who willingly open their properties to showcase our wonderful neighborhood to the rest of Houston.

Who doesn't love a party? This year's party, co-chaired by Tina Rowe and Gretchen Dreher, will be held at the Knights of Columbus #2917 Odin Hall at 607 E. Whitney, less than two miles from Garden Oaks and just a short cab drive away for those who like to party. Odin Hall accommodates up to 600 and is the perfect venue for a night of live music, dancing, dinner, drinks, and visiting with neighbors. It has hardwood floors, a real band stand...and it even has a Mirror Ball. How retro is that??? Tickets will go on sale March 1st and will be limited to the first 300

purchased. Open seating tickets are \$60/person and reserved premium tables, with seating for up to 10, can be purchased for \$750. Why the limit? We need to leave space for the silent and live auction items that will be available for bidding by party attendees.

Another perk to attending the party is that the ticket cost also includes admission to preview the homes and gardens on Saturday evening 5pm-7:30pm (a \$20 value).

**Silent/Live Auction**

Another way of raising money for this year's tour expenses is through the Silent and Live Auction held during the Preview/Sponsorship Party. Auction co-chairs Missy Alwais and Jennifer Osowski are looking for any amazing item(s) that you or your business would like to showcase through the auction. Crider's on the Frio, near Garner State Park, has already committed \$1000 worth of cabin rental.

Are you an artist? Do you own a vacation home? Do you have season tickets to any of Houston's sports teams? Do you have a special talent to donate: handyman, gardening, crafts, etc.? Can you donate a gift certificate (Amazon, local restaurants, retail shops)? How about donating a bottle of wine? Please email Missy and Jennifer at [htsilentauction@gardenoaks.org](mailto:htsilentauction@gardenoaks.org) to make a donation.

Many businesses and individuals have donated in the past and we look forward to hearing from everyone!

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## CITIZENS' PATROL

By Carl Waters, Jr.

Many, many thanks to the volunteers who gave their time last year to make the Citizens' Patrol program work. Without these volunteers, this program would not exist, and we need more neighbors to get involved. If your New Year's resolution is to become more active in the Garden Oaks community, our program could use your help. It takes just a few simple steps to become a member: first, contact me by telephone at **713-864-1992**, or by e-mail at [GOCOP77018@AOL.com](mailto:GOCOP77018@AOL.com). Secondly, you will need to complete a one-hour training class and pass a criminal background check conducted by the Houston Police Department (HPD). The program is open to all Garden Oaks residents 18 years of age or older.

## November Crime Statistics

A total of six crimes were reported for the neighborhood on HPD's website for the month:

### Burglary (5)

- 1000 block of W. 43rd on Monday, November 4 at 8:00 a.m. (residence).
- 1000 block of W. 43rd on Thursday, November 14 at 7:00 a.m. (residence).
- 900 block of W. 43rd on Friday, November 15 at 7:40 a.m. (residence).
- 800 block of W. 41st on Tuesday, November 26 at 10:20 p.m. (residence).
- 900 block of W. 43rd on Thursday, November 28 at 5:30 a.m. (residence).

### Theft (1)

2900 block of N. Loop West on Tuesday, November 26 at 2:00 p.m. (parking lot).

According to the numbers received from the HPD website, 65 crimes had been reported through the month of November. 77 crimes had been reported for same time period last year. In addition to inquiries about joining the Citizens' Patrol Program, inquiries about other community safety issues can be directed to me via neighborhood website [GardenOaks.org](http://GardenOaks.org) or to the COP email account at [GOCOP77018@AOL.com](mailto:GOCOP77018@AOL.com) or by phone at 713-864-1992.

Be safe everybody!

## 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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Discounts are available if you sign up as a member of [www.HOUSEANDLAWN.com](http://www.HOUSEANDLAWN.com) (it is free to join)

**HOW TO PREVENT CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING**

*By Mitch Weigand*

Carbon monoxide (CO) is an odorless, colorless gas that's the result of incomplete combustion of organic substances. It's dangerous because CO interferes with your body's normal oxygen intake. Symptoms of CO poisoning include headaches, dizziness, tiredness and nausea that may lead to impaired judgment, memory, and coordination.

Simple measures can protect you and your family. While new gas furnaces are equipped with safety features that shut them off when problems are detected, older furnaces have no such safeguards. Over time, a furnace can develop small cracks in its combustion chamber allowing CO to leak into your home. Also, be sure to change your A/C system's filter regularly. This helps your furnace run

more efficiently and keeps dust from being circulated throughout your home. It is strongly recommended that you have your gas furnace cleaned and inspected every year.

The US Consumer Product Safety Commission recommends installing at least one carbon monoxide detector per household. It should be located in close proximity to where you sleep and, if possible, to the A/C system's return air vent. That way, it can monitor all your home's returning air at the same time. Also, be sure to choose an Underwriters Laboratories Inc. (UL) listed detector that emits an audible alarm and has a digital display.

**Other helpful hints:**

- Never leave a car running in your garage, even with the garage door open. Fumes can build up very quickly in the garage and living area of your home.

- Never use a gas range, oven, or dryer for heating, even for a short time.
- Never burn charcoal in houses, garages, vehicles, or tents.
- Never sleep in a room with an unvented gas or kerosene space heater.
- Never use any gasoline-powered engines (mowers, weed trimmers, chain saws, small engines, or generators) in enclosed spaces.
- Most important of all, never ignore CO poisoning symptoms, especially if more than one person is feeling ill. Symptoms include headaches, dizziness, tiredness, and nausea.

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



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**FOCUS**

By Dr. Lindsey Pollock

In a world where we are bombarded with distractions – visual stimuli, technology invading our quiet moments through TV and constant cell phone chatter, neuroscientists are learning that focus is more important than ever. Many of us have grown accustomed to the idea that we are able to multi-task; in other words, to monitor and engage in more than one activity at once. In reality, however, there are very few people who are truly able to succeed at such an endeavor. Instead, researchers who study brain function have found that the brain is really task-switching, turning off one thing to focus on another. In the developing brains of children, doctors have found that environments which provide uninterrupted periods of sustained, calm opportunities to focus, support neural connections in the brain that are attributed to emotional stability and perseverance.

In Montessori education, we adhere to uninterrupted work cycles in which students are engaged in activities that are self-correcting, engrossing and sustain

focus. Additionally, a Montessori environment is calming through the use of natural materials such as wooden tables and shelves and uncluttered classroom walls. The classroom is a place of quiet concentration in which students converse with one another in low voices and practice the art of listening to others in their classroom community. Teachers are referred to as facilitators of learning and they model a calm demeanor and respect for each child. While computers are found in modern Montessori classrooms, they are used to support learning in the classroom.



Daniel Goleman, neuroscientist and author, points out that “The root of learning is keen focus; distractions kill comprehension. But the new normal for young people

continually interrupts their focus with distractions. This is particularly alarming in light of very strong research results showing that a child’s ability to resist the temptation of distraction and stay focused predicts how s/he will fare financially and health-wise in adulthood.”

To support your child’s ability to focus, work on jigsaw puzzles together, read a chapter book to your child at bedtime and discuss the reading, spend time playing board games together, and limit TV and/or video games. Dr. Goleman found that the brain continues to build this circuitry from birth through teenage year. He wrote that “The more a youngster can practice keeping his/her focus and resist distraction, the stronger and more richly connected this neural real estate becomes.”

To read more about the Dr. Goleman’s work and the importance of focus:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/11/03/books/review/focus-by-daniel-goleman.html? r=0>

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/dan-goleman/the-four-basic-moves-to-s\\_b\\_4058294.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/dan-goleman/the-four-basic-moves-to-s_b_4058294.html)

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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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**2014 GARDEN OAKS  
MONTESSORI PANCAKE  
BREAKFAST & SILENT  
AUCTION**

*By Stephanie Dubroff-Acosta*

On Saturday, February 8, 2014, volunteer dads and granddads will flip thousands of golden brown pancakes and serve Katz's coffee and juice to the community free of charge! Children and their families will enjoy the free arts and craft activities and performances by students. Additionally, there will be an exciting silent auction of amazing items donated by community members and area businesses, as well as artwork created by children at the school. All proceeds will support the Montessori magnet program and continuation of a 20-year public Montessori program that has grown to nearly 700 students! This year's event theme, "Oh, The Places We Will Go!", is a reference to the significant changes that have occurred on campus over the last three years. In that time, the school has transformed from having only 5 Montessori classes to every one of our 27 classes employing the Montessori method of learning for children in pre-kindergarten through 7th grade. Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet is an exceptional and diverse community focused on igniting and fostering children's love of learning.

The annual pancake breakfast is sponsored by the Garden Oaks Montessori Parent Teacher Organization (PTO). Proceeds from the event bridge gaps in funding for tools such as class sets of iPads, field lesson experiences such as the 4th grade trip to Austin and the 5th grade overnight science camp, and supplies and uniforms for needy children. Additionally, the funds are used to purchase materials unique to Montessori education such as the golden beads and trinomial cubes for grades 1-3.

This year, the PTO has even underwritten school-wide implementation of the Writers in the Schools (WITS) program for every grade level. This year's event will take place on **February 8, 2014 from 8:00-10:30 a.m.** at Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet, 901 Sue Barnett, Houston, Texas 77018. Join us as we gather to show our appreciation to the community and celebrate and support our children and our school.

GOMM needs your help to continue on the path of becoming a world-class Montessori school. The call

for silent auction donations and event underwriters for the 2014 event is now well under way. To underwrite a portion of the 20th Annual Pancake Breakfast and Silent Auction or to donate auction items, please contact the silent auction coordinators, Emily Moore at [emilyhmoore@gmail.com](mailto:emilyhmoore@gmail.com) and Courtney Patel at [courtpatel@gmail.com](mailto:courtpatel@gmail.com). You may also call Garden Oaks Montessori at (713) 696-2930 and ask for Ms. Acosta, Parent Engagement Representative, or Dr. Pollock, Principal.

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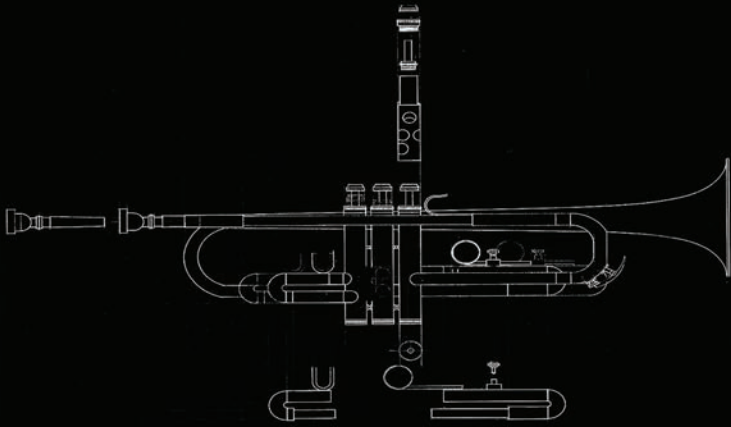
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## HEAVY TRASH PICK-UP: WHAT AND WHEN?

Source: *City of Houston's web site*

As we start a new year, it might be useful to have details on the city's heavy trash schedule. Heavy trash is routinely picked up for all of Garden Oaks on the third Thursday of every month.

Residents may dispose of their tree waste and junk waste at their curbside/streetside. Tree waste is collected during ODD numbered months and junk waste is collected during EVEN numbered months. This method of collecting large waste comes with the benefits of diverting materials that can be recycled from landfills, saving landfill space and valuable tax dollars.

Tree waste is defined as clean wood waste such as tree limbs, branches, and stumps. It does not include lumber, furniture, or treated wood. Tree waste months are January, March, May, July, September, and November, i.e. the ODD months.

Junk waste is defined as items such as furniture, appliances, and other bulky material. Junk waste may not be placed for collection during a tree waste month. Junk waste months are February, April, June, August, October, and December, i.e. the EVEN months.

Tree waste and junk waste should be placed adjacent to the street (or curb, if you have one) between the hours of 6:00 pm the Friday before and 7:00 am on the scheduled collection day.

Tree Waste will actually be collected during any month, but it will only be recycled during the odd months or if taken to a Neighborhood Depository/Recycling Center.

Residents who wish to dispose of Tree or Junk Waste before their scheduled monthly collection may use one of the Neighborhood Depository/Recycling Centers.

The closest one to Garden Oaks is:

9003 North Main  
(just north of Crosstimbers)  
Wednesday - Sunday  
9:00 am - 6:00 pm  
Phone: 713-694-8435

This facility accepts junk waste, tree waste, and recyclables free of charge.



## PHOTO OF THE MONTH



The Garden Oaks Garden Club enjoyed a field trip to Shangri La Botanical Gardens and Nature Center in Orange, Texas where they spotted this blue bottle tree.



**RESCUED PETS MOVEMENT'S  
UNIQUE APPROACH TO  
MAKING HOUSTON A  
NO-KILL CITY**

by Sue Schmidt

The New Year always brings reflection and family to mind. For so many of us in Garden Oaks, pets are a HUGE part of our lives. In fact, for many of us, they are family members. I am always amazed at the lengths residents will go to in order to reunite lost pets with their owners.

In September of 2013, a new rescue organization, Rescued Pets Movement (RPM) was born. Many of the founding members and board members are long-time supporters/members of rescue groups. What makes this organization unique is their alliance with BARC to move animals out of Houston and transport them to other states that do not share the overcrowding that is so prevalent in Houston and surrounding areas. Can you believe that there are actually states in need of adoptable animals, with foster and "forever" guardians willing and waiting to come to the rescue? Knowing some of the members as I do, I knew they would make things happen, but I think the to-date success has even taken the group by surprise. They are working out the kinks and trying to get this tremendous goal of making Houston a no-kill city a reality. RPM is growing so very fast and trying to hold onto the reins (or leashes)!

One indicator of the impact RPM is already making at BARC is the staggering increase in BARC's "live release" rate. RPM board members met with the director of BARC early in December, and he informed them that the agency's live release rate in November was 61.3%. The kicker? BARC has NEVER in its history had a live release rate over 55%! Now that is a great statistic.

Another astounding indicator of RPM's success is the number of animals the group has pulled since it formed on September 23. The initial goal was 100 dogs and cats a month, but in just 2 1/2 months, with supporters' help, the group has saved 582 pets.

As with any organization, funding is always an issue. Rescued Pets Movement is trying to stay in the black, but the expenses are astronomical considering the sheer number of pets they are pulling and transporting. Of course, the organization is in the early stages of planning fundraisers that they hope you can attend. They are also looking into grants, but because RPM is such a new organization, they are not eligible for most of them right now.

If you can help by spreading the word about RPM, please do! If you can donate, please do that too! There are two ways you can make a tax-deductible donation\*:

(1) with your credit card by clicking the "Donate" tab at [www.rescuedpetsmovement.org](http://www.rescuedpetsmovement.org), or

(2) with a check payable to "RPM Inc." and mailed to:

RPM Inc.  
3139 W. Holcombe Blvd. #135  
Houston, Texas 77025

Every cent of your donation will go towards transporting BARC pets, towards temporarily fostering a pet until he or she can be transported, or toward reasonable and necessary veterinary expenses. Any excess funds received will automatically be applied to the next transport or BARC pull.

If you can't donate, don't worry — just spread the word. That helps a lot. In fact, please like RPM on

Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Rescued-Pets-Movement/432336290208624>) and encourage your friends to do the same. You'd be amazed at how much that one act can help the cause. Stop today for just a moment and join the movement to make Houston a no-kill city.

\* Your PayPal receipt can serve as your receipt for tax-deduction purposes, and if you donate by check, receipts will be mailed on a quarterly basis.



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**MICKEY'S MINUTE**

By Mickey Morales

"And so it begins..."

Another year renews our quest to seek clean food for our families and begins our nearly second year of The Farm Stand on Wakefield Drive here in Garden Oaks. We are so very grateful for your continued support as we keep bringing the best local farm produce and artisan products available.

This past year brought us many changes for the good through our efforts with the legislature and in getting a more prominent location that's easy to find and shop, thanks mostly to the good folks at Texas Auto Group. And we will be here as promised, "rain or shine". As always, come soon, come often, and bring a friend.

**Local Farmers' Market**

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Sustainably-grown produce, eggs, goat cheese, prepared Indian dishes, jams, and jellies.

**GARDEN OAKS  
OUTREACH**

A color version of the *Gazette* is published each month on the Garden Oaks website <http://www.gardenoaks.org/involvement/gazette.html>.

Classified Ads are \$20 per run for residents, and are for personal services only (help wanted, items for sale, infant care needed, etc.).

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Half Page 7 1/2 W X 4 1/2 H	\$110.00	\$550.00	\$1065.00
Full Page 7 1/2 W x 9 1/2 H	\$180.00	\$900.00	\$1745.00
Half Page Back Cover	\$150.00	\$750.00	
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5	6	7 Civic Club Meeting 7PM @ GOM	8	9 Garden Club Meeting 7PM @ Kroger	10	11 Farmers Market (GF) 9AM-1PM 948 Wakefield
12	13	14	15 GOMO Meeting 7PM @ 4001 N. Shepherd, Suite 216	16 Heavy Trash Pick-Up (Tree Waste)	17	18 Farmers Market 9AM-1PM 948 Wakefield
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 Farmers Market (GF) 9AM-1PM 948 Wakefield
26	27	28	29	30	31	FEB 1 Farmers Market 9AM-1PM 948 Wakefield

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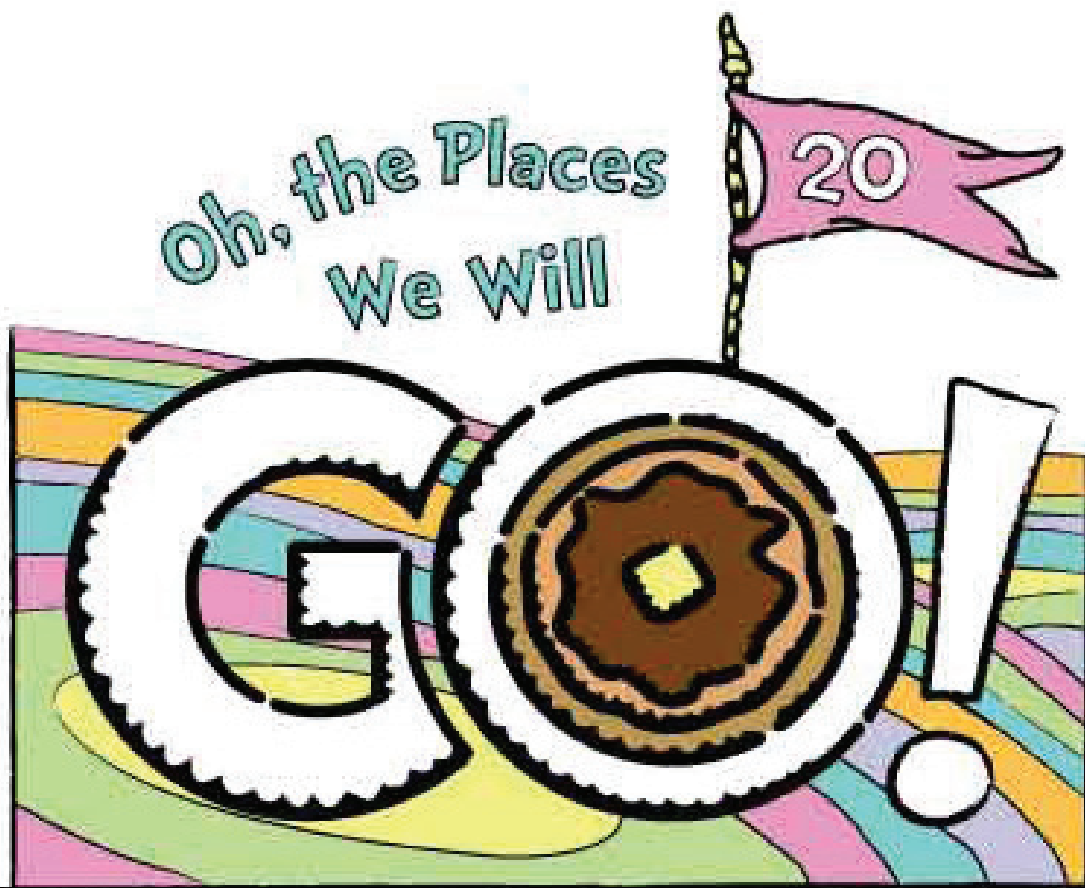
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**Garden Oaks Montessori  
20th Anniversary  
Pancake Breakfast**

**Saturday, February 8th**

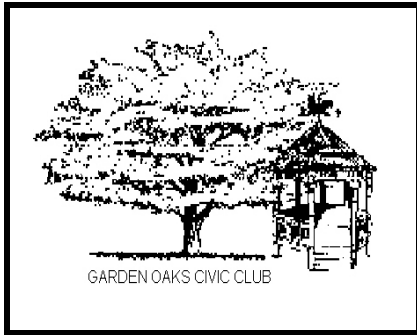
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# GARDEN OAKS CIVIC CLUB

## ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES STATEMENT

January – December 2014

Membership is open to all residents whether you own or rent. **While all memberships are voluntary, you must contribute at least at the Basic Level to be eligible to vote on civic club matters.** Membership dues are to be paid on or before **January 1<sup>st</sup>** for the calendar year.

---

### Fill in Amount:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Crepe Myrtle (Basic Level) Household Membership    **\$25** (\$5 for Seniors)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Red Oak (Patron Level) Household Membership    **\$75** (\$15 for Seniors)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Business Membership (Non-Voting Membership)    **\$50**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Contribution to Beautification (all neighborhood green spaces)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Contribution to Garden Club (maintain Friendship Park, Section 1)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **TOTAL**

Please mail this completed form along with your check payable to:

**Garden Oaks Civic Club, P.O. Box 10273, Houston, TX 77206**

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Pay online at [www.gardenoaks.org/membership](http://www.gardenoaks.org/membership); upon completion, you will receive e-mail confirmation of your dues payment.

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Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF OUR GREAT NEIGHBORHOOD!

**Garden Oaks Civic Club**  
**2014 Constable Patrol Contributor Application & Contact Information**

[ ] New Member or [ ] Renewal

<b>Property Address :</b> _____ <b>Phone at this address:</b> _____
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**Please provide contact information for program member(s) at this address**

<b>Member 1 Information</b>	<b>Member 2 Information</b>
Name: _____	Name: _____
Email: _____	Email: _____
Work Phone: _____	Work Phone: _____
Cell Phone: _____	Cell Phone: _____

**You may provide information for person(s) to contact in an emergency**

<b>Emergency Contact Information</b>	<b>Emergency Contact Information</b>
Name: _____	Name: _____
Home Phone: _____	Home Phone: _____
Work Phone: _____	Work Phone: _____
Cell Phone: _____	Cell Phone: _____

**Payment Options**

- [ ] Enclosed find my payment for 2014 of \$200. (Make checks payable to Garden Oaks Civic Club)
- [ ] I/We cannot contribute \$200 now; however, enclosed please find my/our check for \$\_\_\_\_\_.
- [ ] I/We will pay online (see below).

***Many of our neighbors live on limited, fixed incomes. Are you willing to sponsor a neighbor?***

- [ ] Yes! Please accept my additional gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for the year (enclosed).

**Mail this form to**  
**Garden Oaks Constable Program**  
**PO Box 10273**  
**Houston TX 77206**

**or pay online at**

**<http://gardenoaks.org/constable>**