

GARDEN OAKS GAZETTE

VOLUME 36

ISSUE 2

Beautification

The Beautification Committee's purpose is to plan, design, implement, and maintain all green spaces within the Garden Oaks Subdivision, which include the following:

- Rose Garden** – Lawrence at West 34th
- Gazebo Park** – Sue Barnett at West 42nd
- Triangle Park** – Alba and Azalea
- Art Park** * – Sue Barnett at West 43rd
- Friendship Park** ** – Lawrence at West 30th
- Randall Berm** – Durham at West 30th
- Esplanade** – Garden Oaks Blvd. between Shepherd and Sue Barnett

* Property of Houston Parks & Recreation; City provides mowing services.
** Maintained by Garden Oaks Garden Club.



These areas are our neighborhood's collective "backyard". All of us who live in Garden Oaks share responsibility for these spaces. As with your personal yards, it takes a lot of work and materials to keep our parks beautiful. We do not collect mandatory maintenance fees like some newer neighborhoods do for professional maintenance. Instead, Garden Oaks resident volunteers work together to care for our common areas, with only routine lawn mowing services performed by outside parties.

At this time, we need to start getting all the neighborhood parks and common areas cleaned up and ready for some seasonal planting in time for the 2014 Home and Garden Tour. It would be great to have a team of 3-5 volunteers (or more) per park to clean up, re-mulch, and install some colorful plants. Please get in touch with Beautification Committee Chair Gary Harmon at 713-818-9683 or beautification@gardenoaks.org if you're interested in helping out with this fulfilling endeavor. The Civic Club will provide all materials.

February 2014

UPCOMING EVENTS

February Civic Club Meeting
Tuesday, February 4th, 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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Mmmm Pancakes!

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

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

Home and Garden Tour April 27, 2014

Anticipation is building!
See pages 10-12 for the
latest announcements.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Sheila Briones, Civic Club President

Wouldn't you agree that we live in an amazing neighborhood that is getting better every year? The Civic Club leadership is working hard to ensure the momentum continues by planning topics of discussion and bringing in speakers on pertinent "quality of life" issues to address all aspects of our vibrant community. Here is a list of proposed topics for our civic club meetings:

March: *Gardening Month*

Preparing beds and yards for the Spring Home & Garden Tour

April: *Kids' Month*

Free and low-cost activities for Houston kids

May: *Parks & Recreation Month*

Memorial Park: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

June: *Pet-Friendly Month*

A look at animal behavior

July: *Health & Nutrition Month*

What's on Your Grocery List? Top 20 Items that should be in your fridge and pantry

August: *Senior Citizens' Month*

Services available for Senior Citizens

September: *Public Policy Month*

State of Texas Economic Outlook

October: *Good Neighbor Month*

National Night Out (no Civic Club meeting)

November: *Holiday Preparations Month*

Secrets to a Great Turkey

December: *Celebration and Looking Ahead*

Holiday Party and Election of Civic Club Officers

We hope that some of the above topics pique your interest enough to attend one or more of our monthly Civic Club meetings. If you have ideas for other topics, please send them to me at president@gardenoaks.org.

See you at the February 4th Civic Club meeting!



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 15th 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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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.

954 West 43rd 1306 Sue Barnett
825 West 30th 1340 Sue Barnett

Happy Birthday

- Tonya Knauth 2/9
- Megan Roca 2/11
- Alisha Cunningham 2/12
- Lela C. 2/12
- Delaney E. 2/14
- Brenda de Alba 2/17
- Terry Williams 2/17
- M'lissa Dilley 2/22
- Grady Salch 2/22
- Maya Rahman 2/23
- Shannon King 2/28

New Kids on the Block

- August Oliver 12/15
- Felix Van 1/13

Special Celebration

Frank Strautberg, Garden Oaks Section 1 resident since 1950 and a WWII vet, celebrated his 90th birthday on January 12.

Happy Anniversary

Will and Deanna Zugheri 2/23

Out and About

The **Theriot** family traveled to Louisiana for a family wedding.

The entire **Padon** family made their 7th annual New Year's Eve trek to Austin and took the Barton Creek Polar Plunge on New Year's Day. The weather was perfect, 60 degrees and frigid water! The **Padons** also welcomed new family member Austin, a rescued kitten from BARC.

Special thanks to Garden Oaks and Oak Forest neighbors who worked together to capture the two stray dogs at American Legion Park.



Named Jude and Big Red, the dogs are now with a rescue group working to find them a forever home together.

Recent newlywed and former Garden Oaks resident, **Halie Reichle Keeter**, headed off with husband **Brendan** to N. Carolina. They will be greatly missed by parents **Rusty** and **Linda Reichle**.

Robert DeVeau was a busy trade show exhibitor in Orlando and Las Vegas.

The **Roberts** family visited Mt. Rushmore and daughter **Emily** even played French horn for the Presidents. Included on the trip were stops in S. Dakota, Nebraska, Wyoming, Colorado, and New Mexico. A special stop was made in Electra, Texas to visit a family home built in 1921.

Seen in the crowd at the 9th annual New Year's Resolution and Regifting Party were **John** and **Cindy Bartos**, **Tina Rowe** and **Jim Dicola**, **Dian Austin**, **Sandy Altman**, **Tina Sabuco**, **Shellye Arnold**,

Joe Muscara, **Lori Kennedy**, and **Terry Jeanes**.

John and **Cindy Bartos** and their dog Buddy enjoyed a great water outing on Armand Bayou.

Caroline McLean was busy in Philadelphia becoming well-versed in Lacrosse Officiating at the U.S. Lacrosse Convention.

To highlight an event, celebration, or other tidbit, contact Terry Jeanes at terry@terryjeanes.com.

Terry Jeanes

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Each director's term expires in October of year in parentheses.

CITIZENS' PATROL PROGRAM

By Carl Waters, Jr.

Please be aware that all door-to-door sales people in the City of Houston are required by law to have a license from the city and they must carry it with them when conducting door-to-door business. If you have any concerns about an individual, please contact HPD or the Constable's Office to investigate.

December Crime Statistics (7)

Robbery (1)

3400 N. Shepherd Dr. on Monday, December 20 at 11:20 p.m. (restaurant).

Theft (6)

200 block N. Loop West on Sunday, December 8 at 9:10 p.m. (convenience store).

3100 N. Shepherd Dr. on Friday, December 20 at 12:30 p.m. (restaurant).

300 block of W. 30th St. on Friday, December 20 at 9:00 p.m. (street).

3000 block of N. Shepherd Dr. on Thursday, December 26 at 6:30 p.m. (restaurant).

Emergency Numbers

Emergency Services **911**
HPD Non-Emergency Services
 713-884-3131
Constable Dispatch
 713-755-7628
All Other City Services **311**

600 block of W. 30th St. on Sunday, December 29 at 7:00 p.m. (street).

200 block of W. 34th St. on Monday, December 30 at 10:00 a.m. (residence).

The Houston Police Department website reported 72 crimes for the neighborhood in 2013 compared to 83 crimes reported in 2012. That is a 13% reduction in crime for last year. Here's hoping the trend continues in 2014.

Inquiries about joining the Citizens' Patrol Program or about other community safety issues can be directed to me via neighborhood website GardenOaks.org or via email at GOCOP77018@AOL.com or by phone at 713-864-1992.

GOMO Review Meetings

take place at 6:30 p.m. prior to Civic Club meetings 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. Property owners in Sections 1, 2, 3 and 5 are all members of GOMO.





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GARDEN OAKS CIVIC CLUB MEETING MINUTES

By Cindy Bartos, Secretary,
and Sheila Briones, President

January 7, 2014

Location: Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet School
901 Sue Barnett

Welcome: President Sheila Briones called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. President Briones introduced herself and the other officers present: Victor Seghers, Vice President, and Cindy Bartos, Secretary. Treasurer Jerry Butler was not present.

A motion was made and carried to approve the December 2013 minutes as published in the *Gazette*.

In recognition and thanks for their service, President Briones awarded former Civic Club officers Mark Klein, Phil Ramirez, and Heather Leverett with certificates of appreciation and gift tokens from Plonk Bistro Wine Bar and Restaurant.

PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Briones announced the creation of the new Government Affairs Standing Committee and appointed Mark Klein as its Chair. As such, Mark will act as the Garden Oaks representative on Super Neighborhood Council 12 (Oak Forest/Garden Oaks) to ensure that the City Departments and City Council are being responsive to the Garden Oaks community in delivering city services and needed improvements. The Chair will develop relationships with key legislators and their staffs to channel the goals and desires of the Civic Club and its members as well as to track and report on any city/state/federal

activities that may affect the Civic Club and its membership.

Mark Klein noted a correction to his article on the Garden Oaks Drainage Project as it appeared in the January Gazette. The dollar amount should read \$17.5 million.

Councilwoman Ellen Cohen wished everyone a happy and healthy new year and mentioned pension reform, the Pay Day Ordinance, and health insurance for city workers as some of the topics to be addressed in the new session. There will be a Capital Improvement Projects meeting soon with a date and location to be announced.

Program:

Ravi Kaleyatodi, Senior Assistant Director, Engineering Branch, City of Houston and J.T. Hall, Project Manager, Capitol Improvement Project (#M-000285), i.e. the Garden Oaks Drainage Project, presented a course of action for the project in its current planning stage. Construction for the project is estimated to begin in April of 2015. The slides shown at the meeting are available at the Garden Oaks website www.gardenoaks.org

Treasurer's report:

In Jerry Butler's absence, President Briones presented the proposed 2014 Annual Budget for approval by the members. Brenda de Alba suggested two revisions: reducing the expenses for the Wine Walk from the proposed \$4500 to \$1000 and adding a line item for a donation to Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet with an expense of \$1000. The motion was made and carried to accept the proposed Budget with the revisions.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Beautification: Gary Harmon will put together teams to work on the pocket parks prior to the Garden Oaks Home Tour. He also announced that a representative from Buchanan's Native Plants will be the guest speaker at the March Civic Club meeting. The Houston Chronicle's Kathy Huber will be available at the April meeting to answer questions concerning spring planting.

Garden Oaks Citizens' Patrol: Carl Waters reported 7 crimes for the month of December. The number of reported crimes in 2013 reflects a 13% reduction from 2012.

Constable Program: Terry Jeanes gave a summary of recent crimes in the area. She suggested residents call the Constable when door-to-door solicitors are in the neighborhood.

Gazette: January 15th is the deadline to submit articles. Assistance is sought for the editor for the Gazette for the next several months. Anyone interested may contact Sheila Briones at president@gardenoaks.org.

2014 Home Tour: Brenda de Alba reported the Volunteer Coordinator position is still vacant and needs to be filled. Those interested in learning more about this committee position or volunteering in any capacity are encouraged to send an e-mail to volunteers@gardenoaks.org.

Membership: Dian Austin reported 195 paid memberships for 2014. Pam Parks was the lucky winner of the raffle drawing.

Website: Joe Muscara had no report.

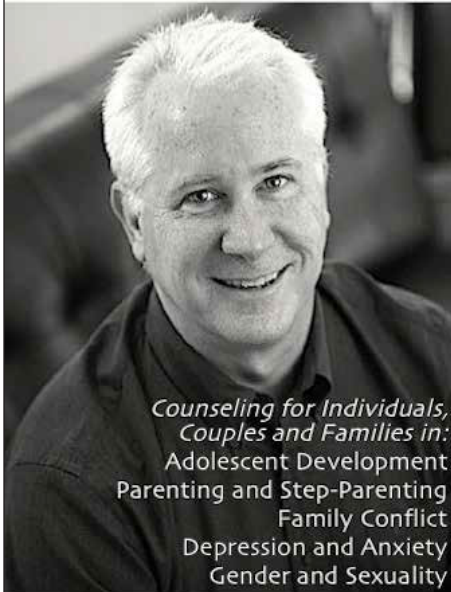
Garden Oaks Montessori:

Dr. Lindsey Pollock confirmed the official name change of the former Garden Oaks Elementary School to Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet. She encouraged attendance to and donations for the GOMM Pancake Breakfast and Silent Auction on Saturday, February 8th from 8:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

President Briones presented the idea of hiring a babysitter for the Civic Club meetings and announced that Harris County Constable Alan Rosen will be the guest speaker for the February 4th meeting.

President Briones adjourned the meeting at 8:32 p.m.

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Please remember to pay Civic Club and Constable Dues for 2014. Pay online at www.gardenoaks.org or complete the enclosed forms.

Civic Club Meeting Babysitting?

The Civic Club is considering arranging babysitting services during civic club meetings for a small charge of \$1 per child. Two babysitters from the YMCA would provide care from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Parents, please send an e-mail to Civic Club President Sheila Briones at president@gardenoaks.org to let her know what you think!

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CONSTABLE PROGRAM UPDATE

By Terry Jeanes, Constable Program Committee Chair

Constable Alan Rosen, along with all three of our dedicated officers (Deputies Corey Greer, Mike Colunga, and Shane Rigdon), will be presenting a program at the February 4th civic club meeting at 7:00 p.m. Child fingerprinting will also be available between 6:30 and 7pm.

Many thanks to those who have already paid their civic club dues and constable program contributions for the new year. Residents may contribute to the constable program online via PayPal (or debit or credit cards) at 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.

Constable Program Contribution Form:

www.gardenoaks.com/constable

Vacation Watch Form:

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.

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CONSTABLE ALAN ROSEN TO PRESENT AT FEBRUARY CIVIC CLUB MEETING

Precinct One Constable Alan Rosen will be the featured speaker at the next Garden Oaks Civic Club meeting scheduled Tuesday, February 4 at 7:00 p.m. at Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet School, 901 Sue Barnett.

Constable Rosen has worked in law enforcement for over 21 years, and the Harris County Constable's office for more than 12 of those years. He was a Major and Commander of the Special Operation Bureau for the Harris County Sheriff's Office managing criminal warrants, fugitive warrants, the child predator apprehension team, sex offender tracking team, and tactical medical team before being elected.

Constable Rosen's educational background includes a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice with Honors from the University of Houston and he has earned a master peace officer license, which is the highest license a peace officer can hold.

In addition to the Constable, the three deputies assigned to patrol Garden Oaks will be in attendance together with a member of the K9 unit and a handler.

Before the meeting from 6:30-7:00 p.m., the Constable's Office will provide fingerprinting kits for all interested families.



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Garden Oaks 2014 Home & Garden Tour

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

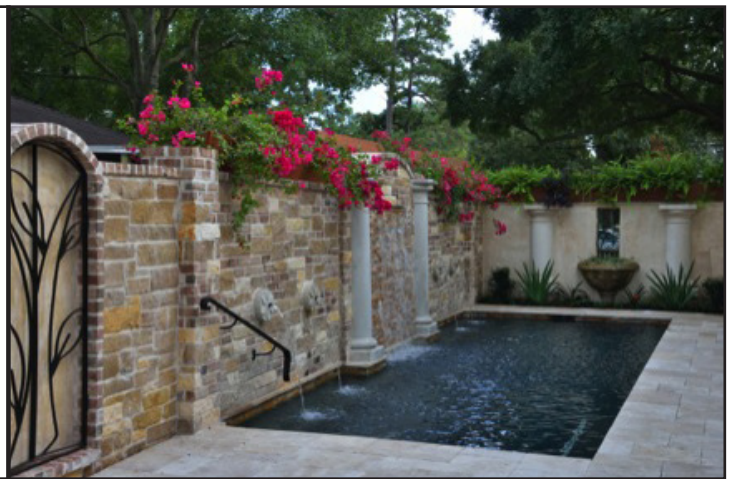


1003 Gardenia

American Arts and Craft style and details inspired this new home nestled into a lush corner lot featuring magnificent oak trees. The interior hosts wood detailing, columns, and built-in cabinetry, along with a beautiful staircase that is true to the Arts and Crafts style era. The homeowners acted as their own general contractor, and it is evident in the attention to detail that is seen throughout this home. The gardens also feature lush plantings with covered patios, walkways and arbors. It is an inspiring home to visit and experience.

404 West 34th

The grounds and the manicured plantings at 404 West 34th are stunning outdoor living spaces embellished with fountains, pools, stone walls, and sculpture features that captivate every view. Exterior living spaces are created throughout the property: the large water fountain in the front yard becomes a great gathering spot for home owner and a neighbor passing by, the side yard is host to a swing and a commanding art feature, while the stone wall lined back yard has an entertaining area featuring a cocktail-sized pool.



1530 Sue Barnett

The home and gardens located at 1530 Sue Barnett are testimony that living small and reducing one's footprint does not require any sacrifice in amenities. The renovation to this original Garden Oaks home boasts an open kitchen, dining, and living space with a screened porch. The original living room is updated and features a stone fireplace, while one of the two bedrooms serves as a home office with views to an a water fountain and a beautifully landscaped back yard planted with native plants. Nestled behind the garage is a fruit tree orchard and rain collection barrels that harvest rainwater runoff from the roof, which aid in water conservation. You are guaranteed to walk away inspired to plant an orchard of your own.

2014 Home & Garden Tour

Sponsors

as of Mid-January

We wish to thank our committed sponsors below!

Silver Level - \$2500

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

Bronze Level - \$1000

- Amish Craftsman
- Carnan Properties
- Central City Air

Nickel Level - \$500

- Terry Jeanes, RE/Max Metro

Copper Level - \$250

- Diane Morish, Merle Norman Cosmetics & Gift Boutique
- Ace Tree Specialist
- Aztec Rental
- Jennifer Klein Physical Therapy & Pilates
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STILL LOOKING FOR TOUR SPONSORS!

April 27th will be here before you know it! If you have been contemplating becoming a Home and Garden Tour sponsor we need to hear from you as soon as possible! Contact htsponsors@gardenoaks.org. If your business has benefitted from the Garden Oaks community, please consider giving back and supporting us. Whether you are a builder, remodeler, realtor, small business owner, or simply a Garden Oaks resident, we ask you to consider sponsorship.

Sponsorships provide the seed money for tour expenses like shuttle buses, signage, poster and ticket

printing costs. Being a sponsor also brings your business exposure to a much wider audience outside Garden Oaks as tour-goers come from all throughout the Houston area and beyond.

If you live in this neighborhood, the tour proceeds contribute to the quality of life you experience as a resident. The Civic Club-sponsored constable patrol contract helps keep you and your property safe, as do our GOCOP volunteer patrollers. Our nine beautiful green spaces are better maintained. We are able to offer valuable support to our area schools for special projects. None of this would be possible without the home tour proceeds.

A wide range of sponsorship levels are available this year ranging from \$250 all the way up to \$10,000. Details of sponsorship benefits can be found at www.gardenoaks.org/hometour by clicking on the "Sponsors and Sponsorship" link. We have also included a **Sponsorship Response Form** flyer insert in this month's *Gazette* for your convenience.

We hope to hear from you soon!

**HOME AND GARDEN TOUR –
SILENT AND LIVE AUCTIONS**

A ticket to the Home and Garden Tour’s Preview Party, “A Neighborhood in Bloom”, also gives you personal access and bidding rights to the wonderful array of auction items that will be available. We are currently in the process of obtaining auction items and could use your help.

This year’s auction committee is looking for any amazing item that you or your business would like to showcase through the auction. Do you have tickets to sporting or cultural events you can part with? Are you an artist? Do you frequent certain restaurants or retail shops that might donate a gift certificate? Did you get a gift certificate in your Christmas stocking you could re-gift? How about donating a bottle of wine to go towards a wine cellar? Do you build birdhouses? Do you have a special talent to offer (handyman, gardening advice, babysitting, crafts, etc.)?

We have included an **Auction Donor Response Form**, inserted as a flyer in this month’s *Gazette* for your convenience. You may also e-mail GardenOaksHomeTourAuction@gmail.com to arrange a donation.

2014 HOME & GARDEN TOUR PREVIEW PARTY:

A Neighborhood in Bloom

- When:** Saturday, April 26th
7:30-11:00 p.m.
- Where:** Knights of Columbus #2917 – Odin Hall
607 E. Whitney Street, Houston, Texas 77022
- Why:** To thank our generous sponsors and tour destination owners for their support. To meet neighbors and make new friends. To raise money for our neighborhood while having fun.
- Cost:** \$60/person or
\$600 for a reserved table of 8
- How many:** Limited to the first 300 purchased
- On Sale:** March 1st at www.gardenoaks.com/previewparty or flyer insert in *March Gazette*
- What is included?** Ticket cost includes admission to preview the homes and gardens from 5:00-7:30 p.m. before the party (\$20 value), live music, dancing, dinner, drinks, and the silent and live auctions.

CALL FOR HOME AND GARDEN TOUR VOLUNTEERS

The Home and Garden Tour would not be possible without volunteers. We require more than 150 volunteers to staff the tour and help with the execution and planning of the Preview Party and Silent Auction the night before. Currently we still need a Volunteer Chair to help with staffing.

Day-of-Tour Help: Docents, ticket takers, and greeters are needed for each home and garden. People are also needed to work the Command Center. Shifts are generally 3-4 hours.

Set-Up: We need brawny guys and gals with trucks to help transport and set up tables, chairs, pop-up tents, signage, etc. at our tour locations. The items then need to be picked up and returned to the Civic Club Aztec storage room immediately following the tour. We also need help placing the tour signs a month before the event and retrieving them afterward.

Poster Distribution: We need help distributing the posters to reach as many people as possible.



Volunteers will receive a free ticket to the tour (which can also be used to preview the tour locations from 5:00-7:30 p.m. the night before on April 26th) and a free tour t-shirt, not to mention our undying gratitude!

How do you indicate your desire to volunteer? Just e-mail your name and contact information to volunteers@gardenoaks.org. Or go to www.gardenoaks.org/hometour and click on the volunteer form available on that page. No e-mail? Contact Brenda de Alba at **713-694-5934**.

Please consider helping us make this year’s tour even bigger and better than the last!

HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

By Brenda de Alba

Master Gardeners are volunteers for Texas AgriLife Extension Service. They are trained by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension to bring relevant, research-based information in horticulture to the public.

The Texas Master Gardener program had its beginnings in 1978 in an extension horticulture training program at Texas A&M University. At that time, county agents in the Texas Agricultural Extension Service were experiencing overwhelming demands for horticulture information.

Today, Harris County Master Gardeners answer gardening questions on their free hotline. They also maintain testing and demonstration gardens at the AgriLife Extension office located in Bear Creek Park. The Master Gardeners at Precinct 2, a satellite group of Harris County Master Gardeners, maintain the Genoa Friendship Garden, a production and demonstration garden located at the Harris County Precinct 2 Road Camp located in Pasadena, Texas.

Master Gardeners hold six plant sales a year in Harris County to raise funds to assist AgriLife Extension in its educational mission. The next sale will be the Tomato & Pepper Sale on March 1. Tomato and pepper varieties will be sold, as well as other vegetables and herbs suited to our summer growing season.

The funds raised are used to support the school Cylinder Gardening program that teaches youth to raise their own vegetables, to promote the Junior Master Gardener program in Harris County, to maintain the gardens at both locations, and to provide educational workshops and informational displays to the public and a variety of other educational activities.



Visit the following links to learn more:

AgriLife Horticulture in Harris County:
<http://harris.agrilife.org/program-areas/hort/>

Aggie Horticulture:
<http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/>

Open Garden Days:
<http://hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/openGarden.aspx>

Urban Dirt Newsletter:
<http://hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/pubNewsletter.aspx>

Gardening Questions?
Harris County Master Gardeners
Hotline
281-855-5613
Monday-Friday
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Yard of the Month
Nominations

Do you drive by a beautiful yard every day or see your neighbors contently tending their garden? To nominate an exceptional landscape for recognition, please e-mail yom@gardenoaks.org.

<p>2014 GREEN THUMB LECTURES AND WORKSHOPS</p> <p>The Texas AgriLife Extension Service and the Harris County Master Gardeners are pleased to offer the Green Thumb Gardening Series of lectures. These lectures are free of charge to residents of Harris County. Space is limited, so call to register at 281-855-5600.</p> <p>Of the five lecture locations, the following are the closest to Garden Oaks:</p>	<p>Recipe for Success 4400 Yupon Houston, Texas 77006 Tuesday Evenings 6:30-8:30 p.m.</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20%;">February 18</td> <td>Spring Vegetable Gardening</td> </tr> <tr> <td>March 18</td> <td>Irrigation</td> </tr> <tr> <td>April 15</td> <td>Landscape Maintenance/Lawns</td> </tr> <tr> <td>May 27</td> <td>Insects in Your Garden</td> </tr> <tr> <td>June 17</td> <td>Herbs: Garden to Table</td> </tr> <tr> <td>July 15</td> <td>Fall Vegetable Gardening</td> </tr> <tr> <td>August 19</td> <td>WaterStar Gardens/Great Houston Plants</td> </tr> <tr> <td>September 16</td> <td>Container Gardening</td> </tr> <tr> <td>October 21</td> <td>Trees: Selection & Maintenance</td> </tr> </table>	February 18	Spring Vegetable Gardening	March 18	Irrigation	April 15	Landscape Maintenance/Lawns	May 27	Insects in Your Garden	June 17	Herbs: Garden to Table	July 15	Fall Vegetable Gardening	August 19	WaterStar Gardens/Great Houston Plants	September 16	Container Gardening	October 21	Trees: Selection & Maintenance	<p>Trini Mendenhall Sosa Community Center 1414 Wirt Road Houston, Texas 77055 Thursday Evenings 6:30-8:30 p.m.</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20%;">February 20</td> <td>Spring Vegetable Gardening</td> </tr> <tr> <td>March 20</td> <td>Irrigation</td> </tr> <tr> <td>April 17</td> <td>Landscape Maintenance/Lawns</td> </tr> <tr> <td>May 15</td> <td>Insects in Your Garden</td> </tr> </table>	February 20	Spring Vegetable Gardening	March 20	Irrigation	April 17	Landscape Maintenance/Lawns	May 15	Insects in Your Garden
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THE IMPORTANCE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

By Lindsey Pollock, Ed.D., Principal, Garden Oaks Montessori

Montessori education in HISD public schools begins at age three, which is different than most other public schools where pre-kindergarten students enroll at four years of age. This difference is based in the Montessori curriculum which was designed to maximize the natural learning cycles of children. Dr. Montessori observed patterns of learning behaviors that she divided into four planes of development, each spanning approximately 6 years: ages 0-6 years, 6-12 years, 12-18 years, and 18 years-adulthood.

Within each of these planes of development she described sensitive periods of learning consisting of three-year time frames. In our public Montessori schools here in Houston, we adhere to Montessori’s work by establishing classrooms for a three-year age span of students. In early childhood classes, this means we have 3, 4 and 5-year-olds learning together in the same classroom community. Students who begin in the classroom as a 3-year-old stay with the same teacher and assistant for three years before moving to the next level, known as Lower Elementary.

Why start at age three? Montessori found that this sensitive period of development is characterized by the acquisition of language, an interest in small objects, order in the environment, sensory refinement, and social behavior. The Montessori classroom is rich with opportunities for children to construct meaning from hands-on, self-directed learning. The Montessori classroom is a busy, interactive learning environment where children are

encouraged to move and explore the materials on the shelves under the guidance and direction of the teacher or “guide,” who is not only certified to teach by the State of Texas, but also Montessori-credentialed (upon completion of a 12-18 month course of study including internship). Additionally, peace education is emphasized in the Montessori classroom, with the curriculum including lessons on grace, courtesy, and the importance of working together to solve problems that arise. At Garden Oaks Montessori, children at all levels also receive lessons through the ubiquitous implementation of the The Leader In Me, a transformational model for elementary school-aged children adapted from Steven Covey’s The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People.

Recent research about the long-term impact of early childhood education has shown that these efforts are a good investment in the future. A child who receives a solid foundation in early childhood will continue to benefit well into adulthood. Harvard economist Raj Chetty wrote a New York Times article, “The Case for the \$320,000 Kindergarten Teacher”, in which he described his research on the long-term effects of early childhood education. Of the 12,000 adults he studied, he found that those who received effective early childhood instruction were earning an average of \$1,000 more annually at age 27, but even more importantly, they were happier and healthier. In his words, “We don’t really care about test scores. We care about adult outcomes.” Early childhood education in public schools encompasses both academic indicators as well as social and emotional well-being. Effective early childhood education has long-lasting, positive ramifications for our children and our society.

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To learn more about early childhood education and how you can support your child at home or choose the early childhood program that is right for your family, please visit these websites:

Texas Association for the Education of Young Children
www.texasaeyc.org

Collaborative for Children
www.collabforchildren.org

American Montessori Society
www.amshq.org

Texas Education Agency – Early Childhood
www.tea.state.tx.us/index2.aspx?id=2147495267

Texas Early Learning Council
www.littletexans.org



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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	
Full Page Back Cover	\$225.00	\$1125.00	
Full-page insert, single-sided	\$180.00		
Full-page insert, double-sided	\$225.00		

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.).

Please note:

1. Placement of an ad is subject to the discretion of the editor.
2. Camera-ready artwork must be submitted by the 15th of each month for publication the following month and e-mailed to: gazette@gardenoaks.org.
3. Artwork must be submitted in one of the following formats: **JPEG (.jpg), PDF (.pdf), or GIF (.gif)**.

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MICKEY'S MINUTE

By Mickey Morales

We have just passed the two-year mark and to celebrate, we're throwing a party for our loyal supporters and ourselves. Join us on Saturday, February 1st for an all-day celebration that will include baby goats, bunnies, and a B.Y.O.B. Pop-Up along with extended market hours. In addition to our regular market starting at 9:00 a.m., we will be selling gourmet burgers and sausages with chef-driven condiments and locally baked buns starting at noon. Chef Matt Keller will return to the market that Saturday to lend a helping hand and his expertise to the event. Matt is embarking on a new career as a full-time personal chef and caterer, and we wish him the best in his endeavours.

Of course, our farmers will be on hand with seasonal veggies and fruit, including lots of leafy greens, broccoli, cauliflower, some carrots, meyer lemons, and kumquats to make the rest of your week's meals happy, healthy, and full of the clean food y'all have come to expect from us. We'll also have wonderful baked goods from the women of the Farm Stand who care about what they bake and sell, such as jams and jellies from Kristy's Kitchen and great Indian food from Nisha's Quick and Easy. Hopefully, we can have both of our artisans back that week with their beautiful selections of carved wood and pottery.

As I sit here at the farm writing this post, we are on baby watch. Sunshine, one of our female goats, is due to give birth any minute. Last

year, she had twins and we're hoping for a repeat performance. Check out the Farm Stand's Facebook page (The Farm Stand at Petrol Station) and we'll post pictures after the blessed event occurs. I'm also happy to report that the egg count is showing a steady increase, so "The Great Egg Drought of 2013" may be over soon.

On behalf of all of our vendors, I extend heartfelt thanks to you for your generous support over the past two years. As always, "Come soon, come often" and bring a friend.

Local Farmers' Market

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9:00 am - 1:00 pm

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AIR CONDITIONING TIPS FOR THE WINTER

By Mitch Weigand

Preventive Maintenance Agreements: "I Just Love Paying for that Pound of Cure" ... Said No One Ever!

It's an ounce of prevention in the form of a Preventive Maintenance Agreement (PMA) that's worth every penny. PMAs are the best way to ensure that your home's A/C system and furnace operate smoothly and efficiently, and will decrease the risk of costly breakdowns.

Most homeowners don't have the necessary expertise to identify small mechanical issues before they become large, expensive problems. Would you know if the voltage or amperage draw is too low or too high on one of your A/C motors? Or if your A/C system is low on freon? Or, as discussed in last month's column, can you identify cracks in your furnace that could potentially leak deadly carbon monoxide into your home? This is where a PMA proves

its worth. While it won't completely eliminate the risk of breakdowns, the inspections can help identify minor problems and correct them before they become major, expensive catastrophes. No one wants to endure a broken-down A/C on a Fourth of July holiday weekend with a house full of sweaty, irritable in-laws.

Here's the Deal About PMAs

When you sign up for a Preventive Maintenance Agreement, you save time and money. A PMA is less expensive than a full-service call and provides the homeowner with a contract that focuses on quality preventive maintenance. With a PMA, two inspections are done each year by a service technician. The cooling system check-up is performed in the Spring while the heating system check-up is done in the Fall. In addition, there's a discount on air conditioning and heating parts, and you do not have to pay extra for emergency repairs or Saturday service calls.

Another benefit a PMA provides comes when you sell your home. Most PMAs are fully transferable to the new homeowner and that can be a big plus in your home's favor.

What about warranties?

On occasion, a customer will ask why a PMA is necessary since his or her home's A/C system and furnace are covered under the manufacturer's warranty? In this case, a PMA is still recommended because it helps keep the warranty valid.

Most manufacturers of HVAC equipment require that you keep a maintenance history on the A/C system and furnace. If you don't, the manufacturer's warranty can be voided for failure to properly maintain the equipment. The inspections conducted during the Spring and Fall create that maintenance history and ensure your home's A/C system and furnace run at peak performance. A little preventive maintenance goes a long way!

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

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Transforming Your Dreams... Into Reality!

CRITTER CORNER

By Molly Taylor

Our February GO Pet of the Month is:

Sushi



Sushi is about 7 years old and has an adorable personality. He gets along great with most other dogs including small dogs, but he's not so great with cats. He has lived at the Mutt House for about 5 years, and his fear of strangers has subsided greatly. He is ready to find his forever home.

Contact

manager@mutthouse.com if you would like more information or to arrange to meet Sushi. Nominations for the next GO Pet of the Month can be sent to gazette@mutthouse.com.

Critters 101: Help! My Pet is Lost!

It will happen to the most protective and responsible of us all. One day you will be looking for your pet. The first steps you take can make the difference in whether you see your baby again. Unfortunately, some pets are intentionally stolen or get injured or killed, but in the age of social media, more lost pets seem to be getting back home safely and quickly.

Immediate First Steps:

- Post on your personal Facebook page, HOA web pages, and lost pet pages in your area.
- Post on Craigslist. Be wary of scammers.
- Quickly gather a search party together with awesome treats, friendly dogs, and leashes.
- If your pet is micro-chipped, report the loss to the registry and make sure they have your current contact information.
- Print flyers or postcards to distribute door-to-door and at nearby veterinarians' offices and pet facilities.
- Pray for your pet's safe return.
- Have someone else walk through your home and look in case your baby is just hiding from you.

I have witnessed many instances where lost pets are reunited with their guardians thanks to information shared via social media. So, be sure to post your lost pet online as soon as possible and ask others to forward the information for you. Having a pet go missing is a stressful situation, but the above steps can help you and your four-legged child find each other again.

Molly Taylor operates Molly's Mutt House and co-owns Mutt House Relief Effort pet sitting.

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#K9FunRun

1 mile competitive run ~ 1 mile non-competitive jog/walk
Sam Houston Park, 1100 Bagby, Houston, TX 77002
HoustonHumane.org ~ 713-433-6421

FIX FELIX FOR FREE

Houston's pet overpopulation problem isn't new, and it isn't going to be "fixed" overnight. To truly win the war on pet overpopulation, it is imperative for pet owners to act, starting with spaying and neutering their pets. As an added bonus, studies show that altered pets live longer, healthier lives and have a lower risk of developing certain types of cancer. Spaying or neutering pets can also have a positive impact on their behavior. It often reduces or eliminates unwanted actions such as marking territory, roaming, and aggression.

Spaying and neutering is so important that Houston Humane Society has created an annual event called "Fix Felix for Free" to help local cat lovers have their male cats neutered for free. On Wednesday, February 19, 2014, Houston Humane Society will neuter 700 male cats

free of charge at the HHS Animal Wellness Clinic. The success of this undertaking will require the efforts of the entire HHS staff, many dedicated volunteers, and the staff of All Cats Veterinary Clinic.



Cat owners must have an appointment and may bring a maximum of five cats per household for surgery. Both domesticated and feral cats qualify; for the health and safety of everyone involved, each feline must be contained in a separate plastic crate or carrier. (Carriers will be available for purchase at the clinic for \$10.00 each.) Feral cats may be presented in official metal wire humane traps.

A current rabies vaccination is required by law. Pet owners must show proof of current rabies vaccination, or they may purchase a rabies vaccine for their cat at the event for a discounted rate of \$5.00, which includes a rabies tag and certificate. Optional services available at the time of surgery are the feline leukemia vaccine for \$20.00, FVRCP (feline viral rhinotracheitis) vaccine for \$15.00, and pain medication for \$10.00 (a 3-day oral regimen or a single injection to last 24 hours post-surgery).

Pet owners can request an appointment by email at fixfelix@houstonhumane.org or by phone at 713-433-6421. For more information about Fix Felix for Free or low-cost spaying and neutering at Houston Humane Society, please visit www.HoustonHumane.org.

 <p>Oak Forest Veterinary Clinic</p> <p>Monday - Friday: 7:00 AM - 6:00 PM By appointment only</p> <p>Saturday: 7:30 - 11:30 AM Walk-in's welcome</p> <p>2120 West 34th Street (Between T.C. Jester & Ella)</p> <p>(713) 682 - 6351</p> <p>www.oakforestvetclinic.com</p>	<p>Hallie Ray Moore, DVM Maggie Morris, DVM Susan Cardenas, DVM</p> <p>Wellness Exams & Vaccinations Convenient Drop-off Service New In-house Laboratory Pet Food & Treats Radiology Online Pharmacy Ultrasound Imaging Large Boarding Facilities 24/7 Medical Record Access Surgery & Dental Procedures</p> <p>Supporting our community since 1964</p>
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GAZEBO SANTA MEMORIES 2013

By Tina Sabuco



Santa and His Elves



Santa with Lily and Jones Bowman

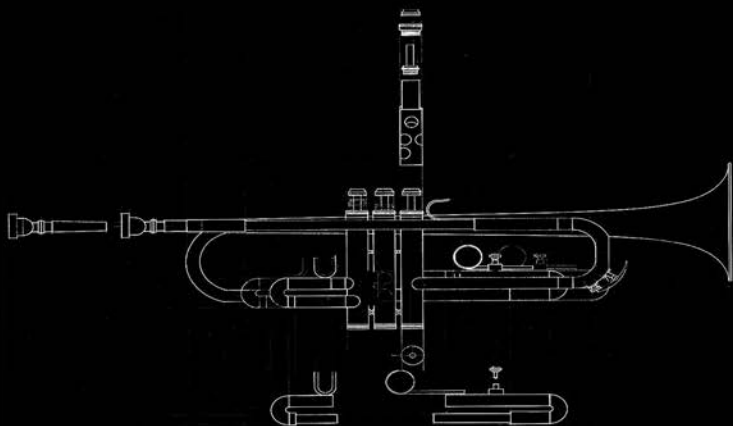
Many smiling faces were found in Garden Oaks on the 2nd week of December when Santa visited Gazebo Park. The weather was crisp, so all visitors were bundled and cozy as they awaited their visit with Santa. Even snowflakes, in the form of magical bubbles, were seen floating down the path of anxious little ones. But it wasn't just the wee ones who sat on Santa's lap; Santa and his elves entertained visitors young and old. Some visitors were even furry, with many Garden Oaks residents

bringing their pups for a sniff of Santa! As the cider flowed, cookies and candy canes were munched and everyone had a chance to visit with their neighbor friends and even meet new ones. And as Christmas music filled the air, each family made its way back to their warm homes, to continue celebrating the season.

Big thanks to the many helpers who made this year's event possible. Whether it was decorating, baking cookies, Santa-ing, elf-ing or un-

decorating, we appreciate everything that was done to create the magic. Thanks to Patrick Kelly, Terry Jeanes, Georgia and Hal Bowman, Tina Sabuco, Shellye Arnold, Peggy Smith, Brooke Murphy, Deanna Tavernier, M'Lissa Dilley, Vic Seghers, Sheree' Peoples, all of the Cookie Baking Elves, and each of you who brought a toy for the Annual Constable Toy Drive.

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FEBRUARY 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Farmers Market Anniversary Celebration! 9AM-3PM+ 948 Wakefield
2	3	4 Civic Club Meeting 7PM @ GOMM 901 Sue Barnett 	5 GOMM Night 5-8PM @ Becks Prime 115 West 19 th Street (mention GOMM with order so 15% will go to the school!)	6 Garden Club Meeting 7PM @ Kroger	7	8 GOMM Pancake Breakfast 8:00-10:30AM 901 Sue Barnett Farmers Market (GF) 9AM-1PM 948 Wakefield
9	10	11	12	13 Heavy Trash Pick-Up (Tree Waste)	14 Valentine's Day	15 Farmers Market 9AM-1PM 948 Wakefield
16	17	18 	19 GOMO Meeting 6:30PM @ 4001 N. Shepherd, Suite 216	20	21	22 Farmers Market (GF) 9AM-1PM 948 Wakefield
23	24	25	26	27	28	MARCH 1 Farmers Market 9AM-1PM 948 Wakefield

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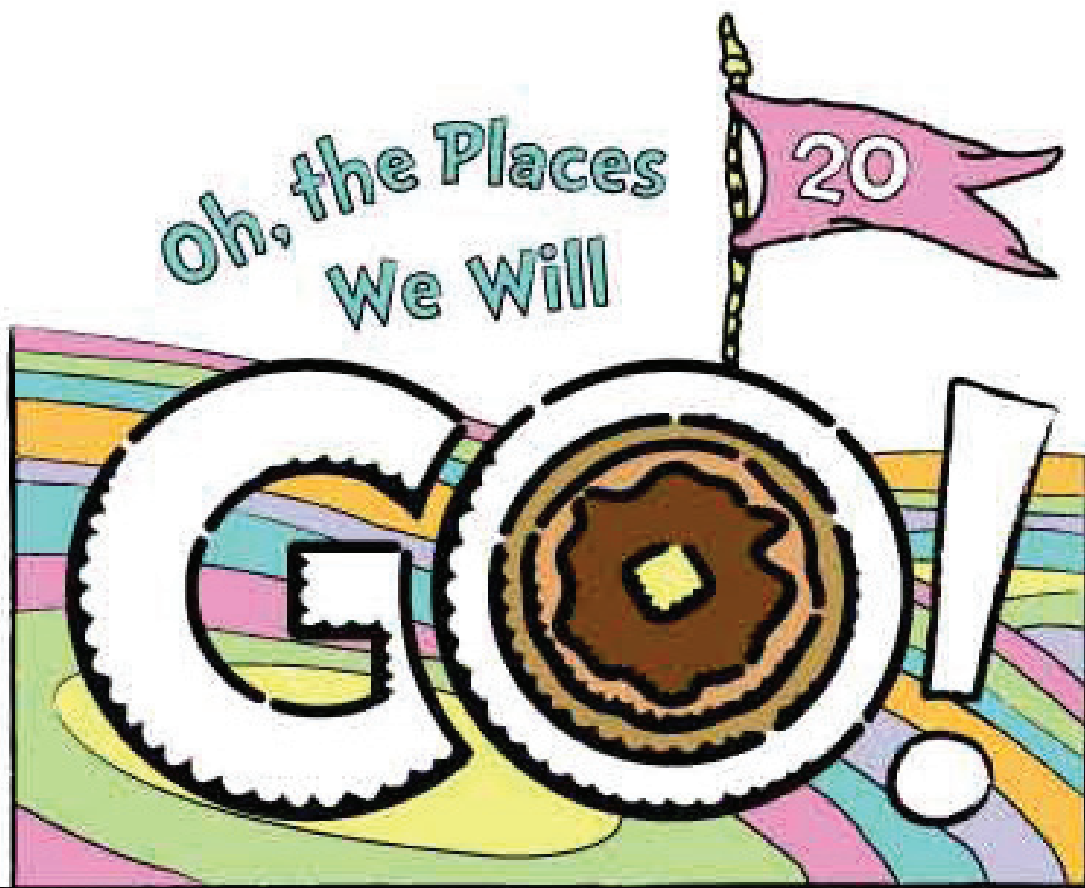
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**Garden Oaks Montessori
20th Anniversary
Pancake Breakfast**

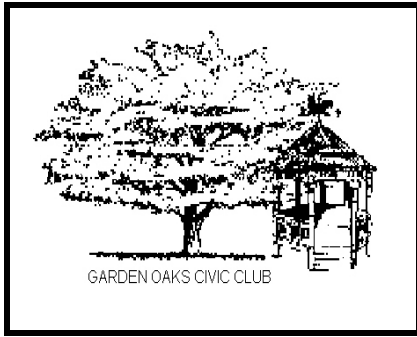
Saturday, February 8th

8:00 - 10:30 a.m.

at the

**Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet campus
901 Sue Barnett Drive**

**Join us for FREE Pancakes! Coffee! OJ!
Fun Activities! Live Entertainment! Silent Auction!**



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 1st** 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

OR

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

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

Property Address : _____ Phone at this address: _____
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Please provide contact information for program member(s) at this address

Member 1 Information	Member 2 Information
Name: _____	Name: _____
Email: _____	Email: _____
Work Phone: _____	Work Phone: _____
Cell Phone: _____	Cell Phone: _____

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

Emergency Contact Information	Emergency Contact Information
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>



Garden Oaks 2014 Home & Garden Tour

Auction Acquisition Form – Deadline March 15, 2014

Silent and Live Auctions will be held April 26, 2014, and are sponsored by the Garden Oaks Civic Club, a non-profit organization. Thank you for your support.

Please return form to htsilentauction@gardenoaks.org or
mail to Garden Oaks Civic Club , P.O. Box 10273, Houston, TX 77206

Donor or Company Name: _____ Phone: _____

Donor Contact: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____ Website: _____

Name to Appear in Listing: _____

Donor Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Item: _____ Retail Value: _____

Description of Item: _____

Restrictions and/or Expiration Date: _____

If donation is a gift certificate: _____ Gift Certificate enclosed

_____ Please prepare certificate

Item to be delivered: When: _____ Where: _____

Item to be picked up: When: _____ Where: _____

Display Items Available: _____

Donor's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Silent Auction Representative: _____

Items must be received by March 15, 2014 for recognition in printed materials.

Thank you for your generous support!

We reserve the right to group items unless we receive a specific request from donor.



Garden Oaks 2014 Home & Garden Tour

SPONSORSHIP RESPONSE FORM, complete as you intend for advertising listing.

Business Name:	
Address:	
Phone:	Contact Person:
Business website:	Email:

Yes! We look forward to partnering in the 2014 Garden Oaks Home and Garden Tour at the following level:

- Platinum \$10,000
- Diamond \$7,500
- Gold \$5,000
- Silver \$2,500
- Bronze \$1,000
- Nickel \$500
- Copper \$250

Please list your first, second, and third choice Home or Garden location for signage at the \$2500 level.

1st _____

2nd _____

3rd _____

Payment Options:

Check made payable to Garden Oaks Civic Club is enclosed, attention GOHGT Sponsorship, mail to Garden Oaks Civic Club P.O Box 10273, Houston TX 77206

Pay by Paypal at www.gardenoaks.org . Click on the 'home tour' button then go to 'sponsor and sponsorships' and scroll to the bottom of the page.

Please send us an invoice to the address above

Attention: Printing deadline February 15th, Please reply soon! You will receive email confirmation of your gift and information about next steps for advertising from Underwriting Co-Chairs. Advertising opportunities begin as soon as payment is received. Thank you for your support!