

GARDEN OAKS GAZETTE

VOLUME 36

ISSUE 3



*How lucky we are
to live in
Garden Oaks!*



2014 HOME & GARDEN TOUR SPONSORS

The list is growing! We are grateful for the committed sponsors named below:

March 2014

UPCOMING EVENTS

March Civic Club Meeting

Tuesday, March 4th

7:00 p.m.

Garden Oaks Montessori
901 Sue Barnett



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ADMIT ONE



Sunday, April 27th

Tickets will be available
for purchase online
beginning

March 15th
and at area businesses* on
April 1st.

* For list of ticket sale locations, see
www.gardenoaks.org/hometour

Silver Level - \$2500

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Sheila Briones, Civic Club President

This month I thought I would focus on some fun facts about the month of March. When you think about the month of March, what comes to mind? Remember that in March, winter ends and spring begins. What about rain, flowers blooming, fresh air, butterflies, hummingbirds, and four-leaf clovers? Do you think of spring cleaning and starting fresh? I personally think about when my order of Girl Scout cookies will arrive.

With a bit of research I found that March was first named Martius after Mars, the Roman god of war. Aquamarine and bloodstone are the March birthstones. The birth flower is the daffodil and the zodiac signs are Pisces (February 19-March 20) and Aries (March 21-April 21). March has 31 days and March used to be the first month of the year on the Roman calendar, further support for the feeling of beginning anew that strikes many of us around this time.

March is also American Red Cross Month, Fire Prevention Month, Women's History Month, National Nutrition Month, National Peanut Month, and Waffle Day is on March 25. But the only day I really care about is good old St. Patrick's Day on March 17. In my view, there's not

much better than corned beef, cabbage, parades, and green beer... but alas, St. Patty's Day falls on a Monday this year. How can anyone really celebrate St. Patrick's Day on a Monday?

Also worth noting is that daylight savings time begins on the second Sunday in March, which is the 9th of March this year. Don't forget to "spring forward" by setting your clocks ahead one hour.

I look forward to the month of March each and every year. It is a time of renewal, and about getting a fresh start. What are you planning and celebrating this month?

I will leave you with the old Irish blessing: "May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind always be at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face, and rains fall soft upon your fields. And until we meet again, may God hold you in the hollow of His hand."—Author unknown

See you at the March 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.

- 730 Sue Barnett 902 West 41st
- 1535 Sue Barnett 737 West 42nd
- 531 West 30th 746 West 42nd
- 729 West 30th 902 West 42nd
- 211 West 31st 938 West 43rd
- 523 West 34th

Happy Birthday

- Ollie H. 3/3
- Sydney N..... 3/3
- Lori Kennedy 3/5
- Stephanie Dubroff-Acosta 3/6
- Jennifer Garza 3/7
- Dodie Davis. 3/11
- Jeff Martin 3/11
- George Appling..... 3/13
- Kenneth Santos..... 3/14
- Robb Bunge 3/15
- Curtis Hall 3/15
- Marshall H..... 3/18
- Sharron Sanborn..... 3/26
- Nathan S..... 3/26
- Olivia S..... 3/29
- Will Zugheri..... 3/30

Happy Anniversary

- Jeff & Gaylynn Martin 3/21
- Mark & Susan Saranie 3/24
- Sean & Caroline McLean..... 3/27

Out and About

Hats off to Garden Oaks Montessori for its 20th Anniversary Pancake Breakfast and Silent Auction. The team of volunteers led by event co-chairs **Emily Moore** and **Courtney Patel** produced a spectacular event to benefit the school. In the crowd were founding GOPHER/Education Matters members from the group's 1992 beginnings: **Jane Ann Roberts, Joan and Gary Harmon, Denise Gowan, and Terry Jeanes**; founding members **Susan and Barry Morris** were missed. Many early members of Friends of Montessori were also present celebrating the evolution of the program.



Jessica and Eric Jarvis enjoyed an incredible Grammy awards experience in Los Angeles, followed by a wonderful time at Abundance Retreat in Wimberley with Jessica's mother, Linda. The **Hunter** family enjoyed a day trip to **Brian O'Leary** and **George Appling's** Sherwood Forest Faire in McDade, Texas. **Cat Theriot** ran in the Austin half-marathon. **Heather and Jay McKeown** traveled to Paris.

Special Thoughts

Jessica and Ryan Wheeler on the loss of their cat Callie.

The **Espeseth** family for the loss of their pup Phoebe.

Tina Rowe for speedy recovery from ankle surgery.

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

Terry Jeanes
Your Neighbor & Area Specialist

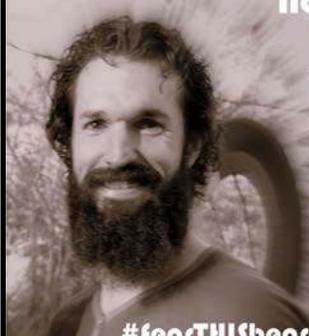


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Each director's term expires in October of year in parentheses.

CITIZENS' PATROL PROGRAM

By Carl Waters, Jr.

Harris County Precinct One Constable Alan Rosen and his Deputy Constables who patrol our area appeared at the February Civic Club meeting with two of the canines that work with the department. At the conclusion of their presentation, civic club members were allowed the opportunity to ask questions.

In response to the question of what we citizens do that drive the constables nuts, they cited leaving valuables in our cars, leaving our cars unlocked, and tall shrubbery and insufficient lighting in front of our homes where thieves can then hide. I volunteered one of my own pet peeves: house numbers that aren't visible from the street, especially at night. The next time you drive through the neighborhood, see how many house numbers you can see from the street. If you have trouble finding a home, think of how emergency personnel feel when searching for a home that was robbed or a heart attack or stroke victim who called for help. Got the picture? Please go to your favorite home improvement store as soon as possible and get some numbers to identify your home.

GOMO Review Meetings

take place at 6:30 p.m. prior to Civic Club meetings on the first Tuesday and at 7:00 p.m. 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.

Emergency Numbers

Emergency Services
911

HPD Non-Emergency Services
713-884-3131

Constable Dispatch
713-755-7628

All Other City Services
311

The Citizens' Patrol program is pleased to announce that Travis Haley has joined us. Travis completed the required training in January and is now patrolling the streets of Garden Oaks to help keep our neighborhood secure.

January Crime Statistics (6)

Assault (1)

200 block of W. 30th (This incident occurred in early January; however, details of the incident have been removed from the HPD Website as of early February.)

Theft (5)

300 block of W. 34th on Saturday, January 4 at midnight (location type unknown).

3000 block of N. Durham on Tuesday, January 14 at 4:00 p.m. (restaurant).

900 block of Gardenia on Wednesday, January 22 at 9:00 p.m. (driveway).

900 block of Gardenia on Wednesday, January 22 at midnight (residence).

900 block of W. 42nd on Tuesday, January 28 at 7:30 p.m. (driveway).

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 713-864-199



Katy Hall

713.907.4603

katy@thereynagroup.com



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GARDEN OAKS CIVIC CLUB MEETING MINUTES

By Cindy Bartos, Secretary,
and Sheila Briones, President

February 4, 2014

Location: Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet School
901 Sue Barnett

Welcome: President Sheila Briones called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. A motion was made and carried to approve the January 2014 minutes as published in the Gazette.

PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Briones has not yet received a significant response to the offer of babysitting during the monthly Civic Club meetings and will continue to survey residents on the idea.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Jerry Butler reported on the Club's current finances and had copies of the Profit and Loss statement and the Balance Sheet available at the meeting. Also available were copies of the 2014 Budget approved at the January 2014 meeting.

Program: Terry Jeanes, Constable Program Committee Chair, introduced the guest speaker: Harris County Precinct One Constable Alan Rosen. Constable Rosen introduced the deputies in attendance, including the deputies currently contracted to patrol Garden Oaks: Deputies Greer, Colunga, and Bowden. Constable Rosen presented the changes that have occurred during his term and a statistical comparison of reported crimes from 2012 to 2013. Anyone wishing to sign up for Crime Alerts in our area can do so by visiting www.pct1constable.net and selecting "Crime Alert Sign Up".

Residents can opt to receive notifications by text and/or e-mail. Constable Rosen also encouraged residents to add the phone number for Precinct 1 Constable dispatch (713-755-7628) to their home security networks and their home and cell phones. The program concluded with a presentation by Precinct One's two K-9-certified handlers, Deputies Davis and Adams, and their trained dogs, Iris and Buzz.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Government Affairs: Committee Chair Mark Klein reported on the Capital Improvement Storm Water Drainage Project. Mark reported that residents can request a variance to the project, e.g. a sidewalk along one side or both sides of Alba Road sidewalk(s), if 70% of the homeowners abutting Alba Road are in agreement. The Civic Club would then need to submit a letter of support with the variance request. Mr. Klein stated that with recent legislation and without a traffic study, it is unlikely that additional speed bumps and/or stop signs would be added, but the existing speed bumps could be replaced with rubber cushion-type bumps. To see streets designed with curb and gutter Mark suggested looking at Garden Oaks Plaza (north of 43rd between Sue Barnett and Shepherd Drive).

Beautification: Committee Chair Gary Harmon announced that a representative from Buchanan's Native Plants will be the guest speaker at the March Civic Club. He also thanked the 7th grade students from Garden Oaks Montessori for their work in maintaining the esplanade.

Garden Oaks Citizens' Patrol: Committee Chair Carl Waters reported 5 crimes for the month of

January and the addition of two new Citizens' Patrol members. Constable Program: Chair Terry Jeanes reported tentative plans for a fundraiser to help Deputy Jeff Wooten, a previous member of the Garden Oaks Constable Patrol, following his recent injuries from a car collision with a drunk driver.

Gazette: Editor Jenny Espeseth was not in attendance; however, President Briones reminded all of the 15th of the month deadline to submit articles.

2014 Home Tour: Chair Brenda de Alba reported that we are still seeking sponsors for the Home Tour. The theme of the VIP Tour, Dinner, and Auction (formerly Preview Party) is "A Neighborhood in Bloom". The VIP event will be held Saturday, April 26th and tickets will go on sale March 1st. A total of 300 tickets will be available for purchase at \$60 per individual ticket and \$600 per reserved table for 8. Ms. de Alba encouraged residents to volunteer to help with the various components of the event. Each volunteer will receive a ticket to the Home Tour and a Home Tour t-shirt.

Membership: Committee Chair Dian Austin reported 243 paid Civic Club memberships and 234 contributors to the Constable Program. The Membership committee and Club officers will be looking at possible designs for the Garden Oaks car decal. Two decals per household will be issued to residents that join the Civic Club. Joan Harmon won the door prize.

Website: Webmaster Joe Muscara had no report.

Garden Oaks Montessori: Dr. Lindsey Pollock encouraged everyone to come to the GOMMS

Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, February 8th from 8:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. She also announced April 18th and May 26th as the days designated by HISD to make up for the cancellation of school due to severe weather.

President Briones announced John Gardner from Buchanan's Native Plants as the guest speaker for the March 4th meeting.

President Briones adjourned the meeting at 8:19 p.m.

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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subscribe/Houston GO](http://groups.yahoo.com/subscribe/Houston_GO)

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

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CONSTABLE PROGRAM UPDATE

By Terry Jeanes, Constable Program Committee Chair

Many thanks to Precinct One Constable Alan Rosen for his presentation at our February Civic Club meeting. Thanks also to Deputy Chance Davis and K9 Iris and Deputy Ben Adams and K9 Buzz who appeared with Constable Rosen. Also present at the meeting were our own patrol Deputies Corey Greer, Mike Colunga, and Jeff Bowden, to whom we extend a special welcome as the latest addition to the Garden Oaks patrol.

We wish Precinct One Deputy Constable Jeff Wooten a speedy recovery from his injuries following a serious car collision with a drunk driver in January. Deputy Jeff has assisted our contract patrol deputies and has attended the annual Garden Oaks Elementary School pancake breakfast fundraiser for several years. Our prayers for healing are with him.

The constables' most pressing reminders are to keep your cars locked, park as close to your home as possible, and remove any belongings from plain sight or from the vehicle altogether.

Thanks to all of you who have promptly submitted your constable program dues for 2014. For those of you who haven't yet done so, please view this article as friendly reminder. PLEASE JOIN TODAY AND SUPPORT OUR PROGRAM via debit or credit card at www.gardenoaks.org/constable or with a check payable to Garden Oaks Civic Club. Residents have the option of paying a lump sum for the year or spreading it out into monthly payments of \$20.00 per month. However you choose to contribute, please submit a

completed Constable Program Contribution Form by mail or e-mail to constable@gardenoaks.org. We greatly appreciate your support of this program!

Constable Program Contribution Form:

www.gardenoaks.com/constable

Vacation Watch Form:

www.gardenoaks.org/resources/vacationwatch.pd

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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Garden Oaks 2014 Home & Garden Tour

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS



411 West 32nd Street

This handsome original cottage features English Tudor-inspired style, buff-colored brick, and a beautiful bay window. The recently renovated interior encompasses modern living spaces such as an open-plan kitchen and great room addition opening to an oversized porch, garden, and pool. The original kitchen was converted to a butler's pantry which doubles as an anteroom to the breakfast, formal living, and dining areas. This jewel of a home is fresh, cool, and proof that good design is a testament to living well.

827 Lamonte Lane

The gardens located at 827 Lamonte Lane are unique and fun. The front exhibits a more formal approach to gardening, while the back garden is a more eclectic cottage garden with pockets boasting statues and art objects among colorful plantings. It's a great pleasure to meander through the various areas of this stylish garden while appreciating the unique details and creativity on display.



730 West 41st Street

The symmetrical front façade of this original cottage sits proudly on the expansive and lush grounds located at 730 West 41st Street. Recently renovated, the floor plan was maximized by repurposing rooms to new functions while adding modern conveniences. The expanded footprint added an open family room comprised of dining, living, and kitchen areas opening to a spectacular pool and spa. The interior is fresh and open, while the amazing light pouring into each room creates a true sense of bringing the outside in.

HELP OUR COLLECTION OF AUCTION OFFERINGS GROW

In keeping with the VIP Party theme, "A Neighborhood In Bloom", please help "grow" our list of auction items. Are you able to share a talent, experience, or service? Can you donate a themed basket? To find out how you can help, please contact htsilentauction@gardenoaks.org or fill out the **Auction Donor Response Form** inserted as a flyer in this month's *Gazette* for your convenience.



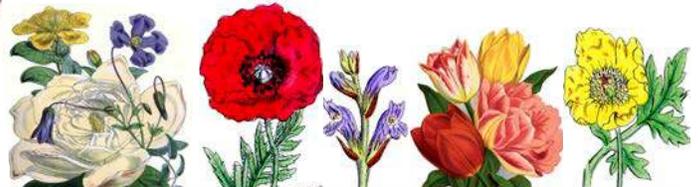
HOME & GARDEN TOUR SPONSORSHIP

To quote the White Rabbit in *Alice in Wonderland*:

**"I'm late! I'm late!
For a very
important date!"**



If you have been considering a tour sponsorship, time is of the essence. Please don't miss your opportunity to support the neighborhood and gain exposure for your business! Check out the Sponsorship flyer in this month's *Gazette* or contact htsponsorships@gardenoaks.org.



2014 HOME & GARDEN TOUR VIP TOUR, DINNER, AND AUCTION *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/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.



SEEKING HOME AND GARDEN TOUR VOLUNTEERS!

To host a successful home and garden tour we need neighbors to volunteer to help before and during the tour. Each volunteer will receive a FREE tour ticket, t-shirt, and access to the preview tour from 5:00-7:30 p.m. on April 26th.

Pre-tour volunteer opportunities include poster distribution, silent auction preparation, and VIP Party preparation. If you work on the auction or VIP party teams, you can attend the VIP party at no cost.

Tour-day opportunities include home and garden greeters, ticket takers, and docents. Shuttle bus volunteers are also needed. Shift times are 11:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. and 2:30-6:00 p.m.

Please contact volunteers@gardenoaks.org for more information and to sign up to volunteer. Please indicate your name and contact information, t-shirt size, three most-preferred volunteer activities, and preferred shift time. Your involvement will likely be a rewarding experience you'll never forget!



GARDENING EXPERT JOHN GARDNER TO PRESENT AT MARCH 4TH CIVIC CLUB MEETING

By Sheila Briones

John Gardner of Buchanan’s Native Plants will be the guest speaker at the March 4th Civic Club meeting, speaking on the topic, “Preparing your Beds for the Spring Home Tour.”

After retiring from the corporate marketing world in 2001, John managed the Houston office of Sustainable Growth Texas and then his own company, Urban Worms Organics, where he employs millions of red wigglers and African night crawlers to make worm castings.

Both companies use organic techniques to maintain thriving landscapes for their customers. John expanded his knowledge of Houston-adapted plants and plant care when he joined Buchanan’s Native Plants in February of 2011. Since then, he has become a major “go-to guy” for any questions related to gardening. He still raises worms and provides the worms and worm castings for sale at Buchanan’s.

Buchanan’s Native Plants has been serving Houston gardeners since 1986. Located in the historic Houston Heights, the garden center is dedicated to native plants and organic gardening. You will find the best selections of hardy natives as well as perennials, herbs, vegetables, trees, shrubs, and roses — all suited to the Houston climate.

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Yard of the Month Nominations

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

2014 GREEN THUMB LECTURES AND WORKSHOPS

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**.

Of the five lecture locations, the following are the closest to Garden Oaks:

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6:30-8:30 p.m.**

- 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

**Trini Mendenhall Sosa
Community Center**

1414 Wirt Road
Houston, Texas 77055

**Thursday Evenings
6:30-8:30 p.m.**

- March 20** Irrigation
- April 17** Landscape Maintenance/Lawns
- May 15** Insects in Your Garden

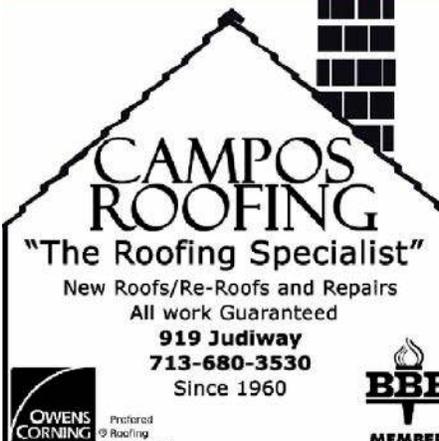
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Chris Schmidt
 Garden Oaks Resident
chris@scmtexas.com

BEAUTIFICATION UPDATE

By Gary Harmon

The Home and Garden Tour is quickly approaching and we need at least three volunteers to get each Garden Oaks park ready. Sue Walmsley Amash has volunteered for the Section 1 park, two other people are ready to take on the Rick Englert Spark Park sign area, and we have the Art Park area covered as well for beautification.

By March 15th, we plan to have all the beds sprayed for weeds and all areas fertilized, including the lawn areas. Volunteers will be planting several flats of colorful plants supplied by the Civic Club before mulching the beds. The mulch will be distributed in bags among the neighborhood parks and placed alongside the beds for volunteers to spread as needed. With three people at each park, we anticipate that all work will be completed in one day. All irrigation systems will be checked out and programmed for watering, so we ask everyone to refrain from manual operation of the system. It would be great to have all the parks show-ready by April 1st so that we can address minor touch-ups before the Home Tour on April 27th. If you are interested in helping us spruce up our neighborhood parks, please contact beautification@gardenoaks.org or you can call me at 713-817-3744.



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IT TAKES A COMMUNITY!

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

The recent 20th Annual Pancake Breakfast and Silent Auction held at Garden Oaks Montessori was a testament to the power of community! Thanks to your participation, the PTO raised nearly \$30,000 for our school! What started in 1991 as a group of parents concerned about public schools became a community-wide force dedicated to the implementation and sustainability of public Montessori education at Garden Oaks. Why does community participation matter? In a time when budget cuts are challenging public schools, the fundraising efforts of the parents and community at Garden Oaks have provided funding to implement many unique learning opportunities such as the Writers in the Schools program campus-wide. This initiative is ground-breaking and provides all students at our school the opportunity to work with published authors weekly in creative writing seminars. Not only do the children learn new writing techniques, but teachers in the classroom also benefit from viewing the writing process through another lens.

Fundraising efforts by the PTO have also ensured that students on campus have access to iPad carts

and field trips, including the 5th grade camp experience and the annual 4th grade trip to Austin. Our parent volunteers give of their time and talent for countless hours dedicated to providing the best for ALL children on campus. Friends of Montessori is another parent/community partnership that has been vital to our school since the inception of the Montessori program at Garden Oaks and continues to support our program. Not only have they mobilized parents and sponsors but they continue to support the program as collaborators in authentic Montessori education and coordinators of conferences such as the Public Montessori Educators of Texas event that will be held here March 7-8.

Additionally, community support is evident in the presence of KidsHope volunteers on campus who mentor at-risk students and other volunteers who come and listen to children read, work in the gardens, and help with special projects. We also benefit from other community partnerships we have with organizations such as the Harriet and Joe Foster YMCA which provides outstanding after-school care for our students and scholarships for families in need. We appreciate the YMCA's support in providing child care for PTO meetings and special events.

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Kathryn and Sybren van der Pol

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Business partnerships also benefit the children at Garden Oaks, such as the volunteer efforts of Kathryn van der Pol of Adolf Hoepfl Garage who leads our School of American Leadership (SOAL) as a weekly club and also volunteers her time in the summer to lead this free 2-week camp. The Garden Oaks Civic Club and neighborhood residents lend their support through monetary donations to the school and through other on-going efforts such as BoxTops for Education. So many people in many various capacities make Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet a very special place. Thank you to everyone in our community for your continued support of public schools and for your dedication to the success of EVERY child!





Garden Oaks Montessori
20th Anniversary
Pancake Breakfast



Photos courtesy of
Libertad Leal Photography
www.libertadleal.com



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Gazette Advertising Rates/Sizes/Submission Guidelines

Size	Single	Six Months	Twelve Months
2 1/4 W x 2 3/8 H	\$60.00	\$300.00	\$580.00
2 1/4 W x 4 1/4 H	\$90.00	\$450.00	\$870.00
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 ads is subject to the discretion of the editor.
2. Artwork must be e-mailed to gazette@gardenoaks.org by the 15th of each month for publication the following month.
3. Artwork may be submitted in one of the following formats: **JPEG** (.jpg), **PDF** (.pdf), **GIF** (.gif) or **TIF** (.tif).

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MICKEY'S MINUTE

By Mickey Morales

By the time this post is ready for print, we should be through February and the worst of what passes for winter in these parts, although this one has been pretty darn cold. However, we're not out of the woods yet. Farmer Cathy tells me that until you see the pecan trees tassel, another hard frost is possible. Speaking of Farmer Cathy, she was invited to speak at the 2014 TOFGA conference and, by all accounts, did us proud.

Meanwhile, down at the Sullivan Happy Heart Family Farm, our goat family has increased by two. Sunshine gave birth to twins: one girl, nearly solid black with frosted ears (a trait from her grandsire), and a beautifully painted boy. I'm currently lobbying to keep the girl to preserve that bloodline and may enlist your help, because Cathy says she doesn't need another goat to milk. I promised to buy her a milking machine when the need arises in about a year and a half.

The market continues to thrive as we enter our third year on Wakefield and our anniversary pop-up went pretty well. Chef Matt wants to do another on March 1st, but he may have to wing it by himself, as I will be entering rodeo season with three and a half weeks of nonstop, seven-days-a-week work. Either way, we will hold yet another celebration the first weekend in April, maybe a crawfish boil or a seafood festival of sorts. We may also plan another farm-to-table dinner or two, maybe three, before the hot weather and mosquitoes arrive.

So, please continue to come by each week and see what's new from our farmers and artisanal food

makers. There is still lots of time to get your green leafy vegetables, carrots, broccoli, cabbages, and the last of the citrus fruits. The spring vegetables are in the ground or in cold frames waiting for that last aforementioned frost.

As always, come soon, come often, and bring your neighbors.

Local Farmers' Market
 Every Saturday-Rain or Shine
 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
 948 Wakefield
 Sustainably-grown produce, eggs, goat cheese, prepared Indian dishes, jams, and jellies.

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AIR CONDITIONING TIPS FOR THE SPRING

By Mitch Weigand

Houston Humidity and Its Effect on Your Indoor Comfort

As you know, Houston's over-the-top humidity can make you feel pretty steamy during the summer. But did you know it can affect your comfort during the winter as well?

Too Much or Too Little Equals Discomfort

During the winter, ever notice when it's both cold and humid outside? High humidity makes it feel like the heat is being sucked right out of you. Low humidity causes its own problems too. Humidity levels can drop dramatically during the winter and make your home feel a lot chillier than it actually is.

Your home's thermostat should be set between 71 and 77 degrees for optimal comfort and cost. However, this range won't feel comfortable if humidity level falls below 50 percent. No matter how warm you keep your home, it will feel too cool to you and your family.

The best way to correct low indoor humidity during the winter is with a humidifier. This appliance can be installed as part of your HVAC system to add needed moisture to the air distributed throughout your home via the ducts. This keeps the relative humidity above 50 percent which makes the apparent temperature feel a lot warmer.

How Humidity Affects Air Conditioning

During the summer, your A/C system cools your home by removing excess heat and moisture from the air. When the humidity level is high and the equipment doesn't have sufficient cooling capacity, your home may never feel truly comfortable.

Here are some common signs of excessive indoor humidity:

- Your skin feels clammy to the touch.
- Your home's windows fog and collect moisture on the inside.
- A musty odor develops due to dampness which can eventually lead to a much more serious problem: mold.

Too Much is Too Much

People often assume that the larger and more powerful their home's A/C system is, the more effective it will be. This is not true. Since it won't need to run very long in order to lower the temperature, it won't get a chance to remove sufficient moisture from the air. The result is cold, clammy air. This is why it's essential to buy a system that's the correct size for your home, approximately one ton per 500 square feet.

Dehumidifiers

The best way to contend with indoor humidity is to have a dehumidifier installed on your HVAC system. When humidity levels are kept in check during the summer, the system is able to do its job much more effectively. You will feel cooler and more refreshed as well as notice a reduction in your energy bill. That's because your air conditioner won't have to work as hard to keep you comfortable. You can expect unpleasant conditions such as foggy windows, musty odors, and clammy air to subside as well.

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



Here's what our customers are saying about us:

“The best A/C guy in Houston!” *Patti D., Meyerland*

For years, we haven't been able to cool our house. The old A/C system would run all day and finally shut off around 11:00pm. Our summer electricity bill typically reached \$600 per month. It used to be set at 75° but would go no lower than 84° during the day. Now with the new A/C, we set it at 73° and it stays at 73° all day long. What a huge difference!

Mitch, thank you and the Air Wise team so much for your understanding and helping us with this new A/C system. You win the award for the best A/C guy in Houston!



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CRITTER CORNER

By Molly Taylor

Our March GO Pet of the Month is:

Monkey



Monkey is an eight-year-old spayed female who needs to find her forever home. She would ideally be an only pet at home, but does great in doggy daycare. She is considered a special needs dog because she is nervous around strangers, but she does warm up quickly. She loves to wear clothes and is a complete lap dog.



Critters 101: Thinking about getting a dog in March? How about an Irish Breed?

The **Soft-Coated Wheaten Terrier** (pictured below) has become a popular breed around Houston. This is an intelligent breed that does great with kids and would be fine living in a small home or apartment. It is one of the oldest Irish breeds and was once known as the "Poor Man's Dog," used for herding, protecting property, and hunting vermin. It is a medium-sized dog that weighs an average of 35 pounds and has an average life expectancy of 12-15 years.



Other Irish Breeds to Consider:

- **Irish Setter**
An active, hunting breed so needs lots of exercise
- **Irish Wolfhound**
Introverted and calm, very loyal
- **Irish Terrier** (pictured left)
Loyal, active but can relax, loves to work so needs mental stimulation

When choosing a new pet for your household, be certain to do your research and know the breed or mix of breed to ensure a good fit for your family. It is unfair to place an animal in a home where it is not allowed to exhibit its natural traits. That is the most common cause of behavioral issues and our assumption that we have a "bad" pet. Do a little reading about your current pet and you might find some new things to explore with him or her that you'll both find fulfilling.

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



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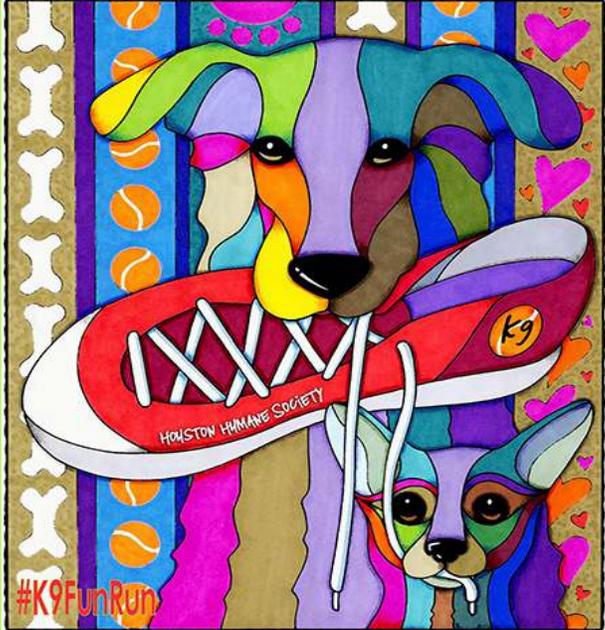
**HOUSTON HUMANE SOCIETY'S
33RD ANNUAL K-9 FUN RUN & WALK**

By Monica Schmidt, Houston Humane Society

It's time for the 33rd Annual Houston Humane Society's K-9 Fun Run & Walk. Participate in the one-mile competitive run or the relaxed one-mile non-competitive dog jog & walk. The event will take place at Sam Houston Park, located at 1100 Bagby Street in Downtown Houston, on Sunday, March 23, 2014 at 10:00 a.m.

There will be a fun-filled post-race party where participants can compete in a doggie costume contest, join the Alumni Parade if your dog was adopted from HHS, or simply enjoy refreshments, a multitude of pet-friendly vendors, and activities for the whole family. Your support and participation raise money and awareness for the many animals saved and cared for daily at the HHS shelter.

Dog participation is encouraged, but not required. Entry fee includes a limited edition April Murphy- designed race shirt, dog-danna, and race goodie bag. Visit www.HoustonHumane.org for more information or to register.



ON YOUR BARK, GET SET...
33rd Annual K-9 Fun Run & Walk
 Sunday, March 23rd @ 10:00a.m.

#K9FunRun

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



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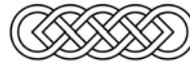
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district@houstontx.gov
www.houstontx.gov/council/c/

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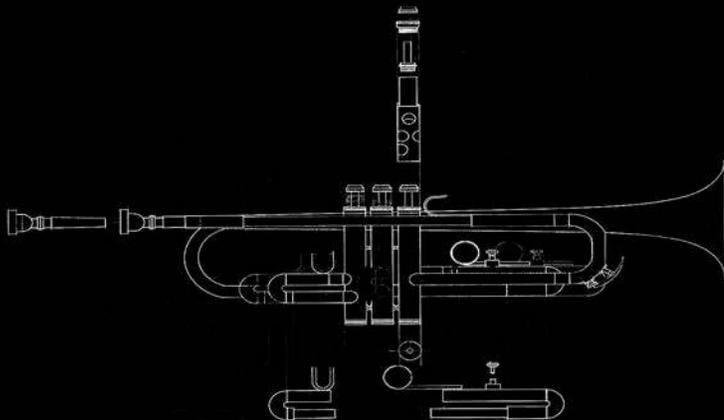


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MARCH 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Farmers Market 9AM-1PM 948 Wakefield Home Tour VIP Party Tickets on Sale (see p. 11)
2	3	4 Mardi Gras Civic Club Meeting ¹ 7PM @ GOMM 901 Sue Barnett	5 GOMM Night at Becks Prime ² 5-8PM @ Heights location 115 West 19th	6	7	8 Farmers Market (GF) 9AM-1PM 948 Wakefield
9	10	11	12	13 Garden Club Meeting 7PM @ Kroger 1352 West 43rd	14	15 Farmers Market 9AM-1PM 948 Wakefield Home & Garden Tour Tickets on Sale (see p. 11)
16	17 St. Patrick's Day Spring Break	18 (GOMM/HISD & St. Rose)	19 GOMO Meeting 7PM @ GOPB 4001 N. Shepherd, Suite 216	20 Heavy Trash Pick-Up³ (Tree Waste)	21	22 Farmers Market (GF) 9AM-1PM 948 Wakefield
23	24	25	26	27	28	29 Farmers Market 9AM-1PM 948 Wakefield
30	31	¹ Preceded by GOMO meeting beginning at 6:30 p.m. ² Mention GOMM with order and Becks will donate 15% of your purchase price to the school. Acronym Key GOMM = Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet School f/k/a Garden Oaks Elementary School GOMO = Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization GOPB = Garden Oaks Professional Building GF = Gluten-free				

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VIP PARTY

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607 E WHITNEY ST, HOUSTON, TX 77022

Saturday, the 26th of April, 2014

5:00-7:30 PM Self-Guided Home & Garden Preview Tour

7:00-11:00 PM VIP Party

... *ticket includes* ...

Garden Oaks Home & Garden Tour admission

VIP Party Admission, including Silent + Live Auction,
Dinner, 2 drink tickets, a live band, & plenty of fun!

Come enjoy a night with your neighbors, celebrating Garden Oaks!

... *to purchase tickets* ...

Visit www.gardenoaks.org/hometour, or complete the form below,
enclose a check payable to *Garden Oaks Civic Club*, and mail to:

GARDEN OAKS CIVIC CLUB
ATTN: VIP PARTY
PO BOX 10273, HOUSTON, TX 77206

_____ **\$60** Individual Seating _____ **\$600** Reserved Table of 8

Name: _____

Table Name (if applicable): _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____, payable to the Garden Oaks Civic Club.

I am unable to attend. Please accept the enclosed donation of \$ _____

Please email VIPParty@gardenoaks.org with any questions.



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

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
- Nickle \$500
- Copper \$250

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

1st _____

2nd _____

3rd _____

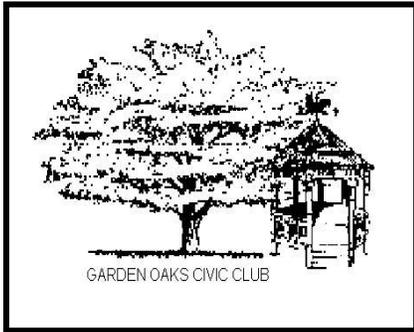
Payment Options:

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

Please send us an invoice to the address above

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!



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: _____
--

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>