

GARDEN OAKS GAZETTE

VOLUME 36

ISSUE 4

HOME & GARDEN TOUR 2014

IT'S GO TIME!

The final preparations are in full swing for this year's Home & Garden Tour, which will take place on Sunday, April 27th from 12:00 noon until 6:00 p.m.

This year's featured homes and gardens represent the great variety that Garden Oaks has to offer: original footprints creatively restored, renovations designed to meet the needs of growing families, and new construction incorporating favorite elements of the past. The six homes, three gardens, and the gardens at Garden Oaks Montessori allow visitors a glimpse of the wide diversity of homes and gardens in our area. The owners of the featured properties are themselves an eclectic mix, including a romance writer, architect, photographer, interior designer, and landscape designer.

The event promises to have something of interest for everyone. We hope to see all of our Garden Oaks neighbors come out with their friends and family to support the community's largest fundraiser that promotes neighborhood security, beautification of our green spaces, and other community improvements.

The Tour weekend will kick off with a VIP Party, Dinner, and Auction on Saturday, April 26th in honor of this year's sponsors and tour owners. The evening will begin with a self-guided tour to preview the tour locations from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m. A party with dinner, dancing, and a silent/live auction will follow at the Knights of Columbus Odin Hall at 607 E. Whitney Street. A registration form for the event can be found as an insert in this Gazette and online at www.gardenoaks.org/previewparty. The event is limited to 300 attendees, so be sure to get your tickets while they're still available!

On Sunday, April 27th, the Garden Oaks Shopping Center at 3930 N. Shepherd will serve as Tour Headquarters and the starting point for the 2014 Home and Garden Tour. Ample parking is available there; riding the shuttle bus to the various tour locations is itself an entertaining experience and will help alleviate traffic congestion on the neighborhood's narrow, winding streets.

Pre-sale tickets are available online at www.gardenoaks.org/hometour in addition to the numerous ticket pre-sale locations throughout the city. Pre-sale tickets are \$20 until Saturday, April 26th, and must be brought to the Tour Headquarters to be exchanged for a Tour Day ticket. Otherwise, Tour Day tickets may be purchased at Tour Headquarters will be \$25.

April 2014

UPCOMING EVENTS

April Civic Club Meeting

w/on-site child care available (No foolin'!)

Tuesday, April 1st

7:00 p.m.

Garden Oaks Montessori

901 Sue Barnett Drive

GO Spring Cleaning Day

Saturday, April 5th

9:00-11:00 a.m.

N. Shepherd (west side)

between W. 38th-43rd Streets

GO Kids Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 19th

3:00 p.m.

Rick Englert SPARK Park

Sue Barnett @ W. 41st Street

Garden Oaks Home & Garden VIP Tour, Auction, and Dinner

Saturday, April 26th

5:00-11:00 p.m.

Knights of Columbus Hall

607 E. Whitney Street

Garden Oaks Home & Garden Tour

Sunday, April 27th

12:00-6:00 p.m.

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Heavy Trash Plea

April's Heavy Trash pick-up day for junk waste is **Thursday, April 17th**. To help optimize the appearance of the neighborhood for the Home & Garden Tour weekend April 26-27, **PLEASE DO NOT** put trash by the street after the 17th or before the 28th.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Sheila Briones, Civic Club President

In addition to April showers, it seems we're in for a flurry of neighborhood events this month, culminating with our bi-annual **Garden Oaks Home & Garden Tour on Sunday, April 27**. In preparation for all the fun and celebration, I am asking that you add just one more entry to your calendar. Please join your neighbors and me for our inaugural **GO Spring Cleaning on Saturday, April 5**. We will focus our clean-up efforts along the west side of North Shepherd from West 38th to West 43rd, paying particular attention to the southwest and northwest corners flanking West 43rd, a major entrance to the neighborhood.

We will begin at 9:00 a.m. and plan to work until 11:00 a.m. The civic club will provide trash bags, water, coffee, and doughnuts. Volunteers are advised to wear comfortable clothing that can get dirty, sturdy, protective shoes, and gloves. The Sears parking lot between CVS and the bingo building is available for volunteers' vehicles.

This is a wonderful opportunity to show our community pride and keep our neighborhood beautiful for everyone to enjoy. It's also a chance for volunteers to get outside and meet new people while rolling up their sleeves and working together toward a worthwhile goal.

Our clean-up day is also a great way to fulfill any community service commitments you may have. Boy Scout Troop 20, led by Scoutmaster Marc Roberts and based at St. Matthews United Methodist Church, has already stepped up to help with our clean-up project to earn community service points.

I hope to see you there!




Garden Oaks Gazette

The Garden Oaks Gazette is the official publication of the Garden Oaks Civic Club and is published monthly. The submission deadline is the 15th of each month for publication the following month, unless otherwise noted.

Publication herein of any article not directly related to the Garden Oaks Civic Club does not imply endorsement by the civic club and such article is solely an expression of its author's opinion.

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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.

415 West 31st 1071 West 43rd
922 West 42nd 768 Sue Barnett

Happy Birthday

- Kiran B. 4/2
- Devin Hunter..... 4/6
- Kylie S..... 4/7
- Keith Kostecky 4/9
- Reid S..... 4/9
- Melissa Neiser 4/10
- Mansi Patel 4/12
- Daniel Sanborn 4/12
- Anna M..... 4/15
- Lily B..... 4/18
- Heather McKeown 4/21
- Leslie Waters..... 4/21
- Diane Morish 4/22
- Robert DeVeau..... 4/23
- Nicolas M. 4/26
- Jim Tucker 4/28
- Stacie Vincent..... 4/28

Belated Birthday Wishes

Susan Kostecky. 3/26

New Kid on the Block

Harrison Albert 3/5

Happy Anniversary

Tina Sabuco & Shellye Arnold. . . . 4/6

Out and About

The **McLean** clan spent Spring Break in Costa Careyes, Mexico. **Tina Sabuco** and **Shellye Arnold** enjoyed a celebratory anniversary trip to Hawaii. **Shreda Paire** was seen in San Diego. March was a fun and busy March for **George Appling** and **Brian O'Leary** at their Sherwood Forest Faire in McDade, Texas. **Becky McCullough** put in a lot of walking time in New York City with daughter **Hannah. Blake Woods** visited Atlanta for the Design Bloggers Conference. The **Espeseth** kids checked out a family friend's collection of 53 restored antique International Harvester tractors in Arcadia, Louisiana.



Dian Austin's photos are being exhibited during Fotofest at Atelier Jacquinet.

Special Thoughts

Special thoughts for **Wayne** and **Jan Forster** on the recent passing of Wayne's mother.

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

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

CITIZENS' PATROL UPDATE

By Carl Waters, Jr.

Last month I erroneously reported that an assault occurred in the 200 block of W. 30th Street. Upon subsequent research of the Houston Police Department's online database, I found that the incident is now listed as a robbery which occurred on January 2 around 10:00 a.m. on a "public street or sidewalk".

This month's review of crimes recorded on the HPD online database indicated two crimes in the neighborhood in February, which means our year-to-date total is still less than the 10 crimes reported in the month of February alone last year.

The 1836 Fest held at Cottonwood on March 8 prompted many complaints on the neighborhood online message boards. If you are impacted by excessive noise during future events at Cottonwood, please contact HPD at 713-884-3131 to register your complaint. Tell the call taker that you are calling about loud noise at 3422 N. Shepherd Drive and ask that they send an officer with a decibel meter to your home. Be prepared to answer a series of questions and be aware that loud noise is considered a low priority issue, so it may be a while before an officer is able to respond.

Emergency Numbers

Emergency Services
911

HPD Non-Emergency Services
713-884-3131

Constable Dispatch
713-755-7628

All Other City Services
311

February Crime Statistics (2)

Theft (1)

300 block of W. 32nd on Sunday, February 16 at 1:00 p.m. (residence).

Auto Theft (1)

3200 block of N. Shepherd Dr. on Tuesday, February 25 at 8:00 p.m. (auto repair center).

Inquiries about joining the Citizens' Patrol Program or about other community safety issues can be directed to me via neighborhood website GardenOaks.org, e-mail at GOCOP77018@AOL.com, or by phone at 713-569-3153.

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.



Katy Hall

713.907.4603

katy@thereynagroup.com



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GARDEN OAKS CIVIC CLUB MEETING MINUTES

By Cindy Bartos, Secretary

March 4, 2014

Location: Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet School, 901 Sue Barnett Drive

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

PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Briones announced the Board's decision to arrange for on-site childcare during civic club meetings beginning with the April meeting. Two caregivers from the YMCA will be available from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at a cost to parents of \$1.00 per child.

A volunteer appreciation event will take place on Sunday, October 26, 2014. More information will be provided as the date approaches.

In response to Mayor Annise Parker's recent Executive Order outlining her Complete Streets and Transportation Plan, a motion was made and seconded to send a letter on behalf of the civic club to the Mayor, City Council Member Ellen Cohen, and our At-Large Council Members asking that sidewalk variances be allowed in Garden Oaks. The motion passed.

Civic club member Ed de Alba moved to initiate a mail campaign with similar letters by offering a sample letter as an insert in the *Gazette*. The motion was seconded. After discussion and recommendation by Government Affairs Committee Chair Mark Klein to use the mail campaign

if needed as a follow-up to the initial letter, Mr. de Alba moved to table his original motion.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Jerry Butler reported on the civic club's current finances and had copies of the current profit and loss statement and balance sheet available for meeting attendees.

Program: John Gardner, garden advisor from Buchanan's Native Plants, presented ideas on how to prepare our lawns and gardens for the spring home tour. John explained the use of worm castings and other organic products and displayed examples of plants recommended for their use in adding instant color. John can be reached for further questions at johngardner2011@comcast.net or buchanansplants.com.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Government Affairs: Committee Chair Mark Klein announced the City's Capital Improvements Plan meeting to be held March 5 at the West Gray Metropolitan Multi-Purpose Center. Following a brief discussion of the proposed Storm Water Drainage Project on Alba Road, civic club member Lori Kennedy moved for the creation of an ad hoc committee for the purpose of evaluating the proposal's impact and forming recommendations for the civic club's response to the project. The motion was seconded and passed. Pam Parks volunteered to chair the committee, with Lori Kennedy, Chris Lindsey, and Julie Maddox volunteering to serve on the committee as well.

Civic club member John Goodman, an employee of the City of Houston Public Works and Engineering Department, reported that the

Capital Improvement Project will open for bids in November or December of 2014.

Membership: Dian Austin reported 260 paid Civic Club memberships. Denise Hansen won the door prize.

Beautification: Gary Harmon was not present.

Garden Oaks Citizens' Patrol: Carl Waters reported two crimes for the month of February.

Constable Program: Terry Jeanes was not present but sent a report that a new deputy will begin patrolling Saturday. The constables are aware of and following up on the reported pack of dogs in Section 1. Residents are asked to report any solicitors to the Constable.

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

Website: Joe Muscara had no report.

2014 Home Tour: Chair Brenda de Alba reported a record total of \$27,000 in sponsorships to date and her hopes to get more. Tickets have gone on sale for the VIP Party; only 300 tickets will be sold.

Garden Oaks Montessori: Principal Lindsey Pollock was not present at the meeting.

President Briones announced Megan Salch of Tell Your Tale, LLC as the guest speaker for the April 1st meeting, presenting "Free and Low Cost Activities for Kids".

President Briones adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Child Care Offered at Civic Club Meetings

The Garden Oaks Civic Club is pleased to announce an arrangement with the Foster YMCA to provide child care during civic club meetings beginning with the April 1st meeting.

Two YMCA child care specialists, each trained in first aid and CPR, will care for your children from 6:30-8:30 p.m. (the usual duration of civic club meetings) in an area adjacent to the meeting location for a nominal charge of \$1.00 per child. Our hope is that this service will enable more members to attend our monthly civic club meetings.

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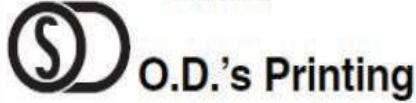
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CONSTABLE PROGRAM UPDATE

By Terry Jeanes, Constable Program Committee Chair

Many thanks to all of you who have promptly submitted your constable program dues for 2014. If you have not yet done so, 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. However you choose to contribute, please submit a completed Constable Program Contributor Form by mail or e-mail to constable@gardenoaks.org to ensure that we have your current emergency contact information on file. The form is available in this issue of the *Gazette* and online at the link to the right. We greatly appreciate your support of this program!

Our current Garden Oaks Patrol Deputies are Corey Greer (mornings), Jeff Bartee (afternoons), and Jeff Bowden (night). Watch the *Gazette* in the coming months to learn more about each of our new officers.

Be sure your alarm monitoring company has:

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as the first responder on your call list when your home's alarm is triggered. Please also program this number in your cell phone for ready access when you or a neighbor needs it.

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

2014 HOME AND GARDEN TOUR AUCTION

The 2014 Garden Oaks Home Tour Auction Committee is working hard to ensure that this year's auction is full of exciting and unique items.

While the auctions are always great fun, they are also integral to the success of the home and garden tour. During the tour VIP Party, we will have both a silent and, the ever-fun star of the show, the live auction!

The Silent auction will be held only during the VIP Party and Dinner (at the Knights of Columbus Odin Hall) on Saturday evening, April 26th. Tickets are necessary to attend, and can be purchased online at www.gardenoaks.org/previewparty or by using the ticket form in this month's *Gazette*.

The Live Auction will be held after dinner and Tina Sabuco has once again agreed to be our Auctioneer Extraordinaire!

The live auction already has some amazing items including:

- Dessert for 6 with Mayor Annise Parker, hosted by Garden Oaks resident Peggy Smith with desserts furnished by Garden Oaks' very own Angela Winston of Liberation Gluten-Free Bakery.
- A \$1000 gift certificate to be used for Crider's Cabins resort on the fabulous Frio River donated by Jill Farnsworth (www.cridersonthefrio.com).
- Grand Marshal of the Garden Oaks 4th of July parade.
- Private home use in Wimberley donated by Mel and Ken Johnson.

Some silent auction teasers include:

- Two 2014 Wine Walk tickets with a wine assortment donated by the Tour Executive Committee.
- Birthday party at Minute Maid Park (non-game day).
- Houston Texan tickets.
- Whataburgers for a year.
- Fat Cat Creamery tasting and mini-tour.
- American flag once flown over nation's capitol.
- Gardening supplies with citrus tree.

We still have room for more outstanding auction items! Auction donors get great visibility on the gardenoaks.org website, as well as on signage at the VIP Party. Depending on the level of contribution, other benefits include free home tour tickets and free advertising in the *Gazette*. We publish the names of all auction donors after the tour and encourage residents to patronize those businesses that support our neighborhood. Donating an item or service that represents your business can help us all. If you are interested in donating or finding out more information, please email htsilentauction@gardenoaks.org.



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Sales have been brisk since VIP Party tickets went on sale March 1st. Only 300 tickets will be sold, so don't miss out on the chance to come join the fun! All of the party information, including a link to purchase tickets online, can be found at www.gardenoaks.org/previewparty. You may also use the ticket form included in this month's *Gazette* to purchase tickets.



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.org/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.

BEAUTIFICATION UPDATE

By Gary Harmon, Beautification Committee Chair

Preparation has begun in getting the parks ready for the 2014 Home and Garden Tour. The lawns have been fertilized and the beds sprayed for weeds. Volunteers will be planting several flats of colorful plants in the beds followed with mulch. Three flats along with bags of mulch will be delivered to each park for volunteers to install; we would like to have all areas show-ready by Saturday, April 5th. We have volunteers signed up for Triangle Park, Gazebo Park, Rick Englert Spark Park, and Garden Oaks Boulevard, but we still need help with Friendship Park, Rose Garden, and the Randall Berm. If you can lend a helping hand for any length of time, please contact Gary Harmon at beautification@gardenoaks.org.



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!

2014 HOME & GARDEN TOUR SPONSORS

Tour sponsors have EXCEEDED our underwriting goals! At Gazette press time, sponsorships totaled \$28,000, which set a record for tour underwriting. We neighbors can thank these generous sponsors by patronizing their businesses.

Silver Level - \$2500

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 Shannon & Associates, Inc.
 Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization (GOMO)
 Blake Woods Design

Bronze - \$1000

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 Central City Air
 Facundo Artisan Builders
 Harry James Building & Design
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 Lynne T. Jones Interior Design
 Shipley Do-Nuts
 Signature Smiles

Nickel - \$500

Adolf Hoepfl Garage
 BMC Building Materials and Construction Services
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 rH Factor Landscape Design
 Terry Jeanes, RE/MAX Metro

Copper - \$250

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WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER!

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

One of the basic tenets of Montessori education is building global citizens through peace education, connection to the earth, and to one another; otherwise referred to as the "cosmic" strand of the Montessori curriculum. At Garden Oaks, this strand of Montessori education is realized in many ways including leadership development in students, parent involvement, as well as community and business partnerships.

Children at Garden Oaks Montessori benefit from the opportunity to work toward individual goals through differentiated, individualized work plans, which allows them a balance of choice in learning assignments prepared by the teacher as well as participating in individual and group lessons. Students develop a sense of community by staying with a group of children for three years in a multi-age classroom. Further, they are responsible for the school environment both in the classroom (learning materials, plants, and pets) and outside (gardens and grounds). These activities along with our campus-wide implementation of FranklinCovey's 7 Habits/The Leader In Me and the Human Rights Campaign Foundation's Welcoming Schools programs provide students with a ubiquitous practice of caring for others and themselves. They participate in community service on campus by mentoring each other in the classroom, serving as reading buddies for younger students in other classes, helping in the library, and serving on the student leadership team. Off-campus, our students participate in area clean-up days and our seventh graders have made a long-term commitment to maintain the esplanade along Garden Oaks Boulevard.

Parents and grandparents are also very involved at our school. On any given day you will find parents volunteering on campus in ways such as reading to and listening to children read aloud, helping in the library, working in the front office and assisting teachers with administrative tasks, and facilitating gardening lessons. Garden Oaks currently has over 600 parents and community members who have officially registered with the school district in the VIPS (Volunteers in Public Schools) system and cleared a background check to serve on campus to support our students.

Finally, community and business partnerships are essential to the sustainability of the program at Garden Oaks Montessori. We are fortunate to have many partners who support the unique learning environment at the school. The Garden Oaks Civic Club supports the school by featuring the campus in the Home and Garden tour, including us in the monthly civic club agenda, and donating funds to the school and to numerous Eagle Scout projects that benefit our campus. We also have neighbors who collect Box Tops for Education for our school. Kids Hope mentors from St. Rose of Lima work with our children on a weekly basis. Business partners provide underwriting and support for major events, such as the Shindig parents' night out fundraising event which was generously hosted by Haven restaurant and our annual Pancake Breakfast and Silent Auction. By donating auction items, dozens of business sponsors have made it possible for us to have the Writers in the Schools (WITS) program school-wide and to replace Montessori materials as needed. We also have

business partnerships through the Greater Heights Chamber of Commerce, including Members Trust Credit Union which provided field day t-shirts for our students, Adolf Hoepfl Garage which underwrites our annual Constitution Day activities, and the School of American Leadership (SOAL), among many others.

Volunteers are essential to our school and to our society. Building a community in which children learn to care for their environment and for one another is one way in which we will build a sustainable future for a global society. If you are interested in participating in our school community, we welcome you. Opportunities abound at Garden Oaks, from listening to children read, assisting them with homework, helping with morning drop-off or afternoon pick-up, working in the gardens, laminating materials for the classrooms, or being available for special projects. Together we are better - building a future of hope, compassion, and excellence for our children and society!

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TIPS FOR SENIORS

By Marilyn Drane

The Bathroom: The Great Escape? Or an Accident Waiting to Happen?

Your parent's bathroom may be a refuge from daily pressures ... it can also be a dangerous room for seniors. Here are some tips for keeping this room safe:

- Keep the hot water heater set at 120 degrees Fahrenheit or less.
- Ensure the room is adequately lit at night.
- Add safety fixtures such as grab bars and bath benches.
- Minimize the risk of slipping by applying adhesive grip material to the floor. (Mom's fuzzy pink throw rug on the slick tile floor may have to go!)
- Have someone within earshot and ensure outside access (disable door's locking function or keep key handy and visible) in case someone inside needs help and can't open the door.

Got Drugs?

Turn in your unused or expired medication for safe disposal
Saturday, April 26th,
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Visit www.dea.gov
or call 800-882-9539
for a collection site near you



For more information, please visit www.dea.gov

SPRING CLEANING YOUR MEDICINE CABINET? DISPOSE OF OLD MEDICINE SAFELY AT U.S. DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION TAKE-BACK DAY

Source: U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration

On April 26 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) will give the public its eighth opportunity in three years to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs. Bring your pills for disposal to drop-off locations listed at www.dea.gov. (The DEA cannot accept liquids or needles or sharps, only pills or patches.) The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked.

Last October, Americans turned in 324 tons (over 647,000 pounds) of prescription drugs at over 4,114 sites operated by the DEA and its thousands of state and local law enforcement partners. When those results are combined with what was collected in its seven previous Take Back events, DEA and its partners have taken in over 3.4 million pounds—more than 1,700 tons—of pills.

PRESCRIPTION & OTC MEDICINE TAKE-BACK DAY

SATURDAY, APRIL 26
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

AIR CONDITIONING TIPS FOR THE SPRING

By Mitch Weigand

Pre-Summer A/C Maintenance Checklist

Although temperatures are very mild and pleasant now, our humid Houston summer is just around the corner. We depend on our A/C systems to keep us comfortable in the summer, so before the demand for cool air kicks into serious overdrive, take a look at this spring A/C checklist. A little preventive maintenance now will go a long way toward keeping your system running smoothly and efficiently all summer long.

1. Schedule a spring tune-up.

This is the single most important tip of all. During the tune-up, your A/C service technician will perform numerous maintenance tasks such as checking freon levels, adjusting belts, and examining the wiring and connections. A tune-up will help catch most small problems before they become big ones so that your cooling system maintains its peak operating efficiency.

2. Examine your filter every month and replace as needed.

While your A/C system's filter is designed to protect it from dust and other airborne contaminants, a clogged filter can do more harm than good. It forces your air handler to work much harder and allows particles to build up on your system's components. This can shorten its lifespan and force you to replace it much earlier than necessary.

3. Be realistic regarding your thermostat settings.

The lower you set your thermostat, the harder your A/C system has to work. Ease the load on your system

and your wallet by setting the thermostat to the highest temperature at which you are comfortable. Use other devices such as ceiling fans and programmable thermostats to help you keep yourself cool.

4. Keep your thermostat at a normal setting.

Thinking it will cool them off more quickly, some people crank their thermostats down to the lowest possible setting when they first arrive home. This puts undue stress on the air conditioner. Instead, keep your thermostat at a normal setting whenever you turn it on.

5. Change your thermostat's batteries.

Spring is the perfect time to replace the batteries in your digital thermostat so that it functions properly throughout the year.

6. Keep the area surrounding the outside condenser free of debris.

Throughout the year, overgrown plants, shrubbery, and leaves can build up around your outside condenser. For optimal airflow, it needs approximately three to five feet of clear space surrounding it. You can use your garden hose to wash away the accumulated dirt and grime coating the condenser's fins.

7. Call your A/C technician as soon as you suspect a problem.

While these preventive measures can significantly reduce potential problems with your A/C system, there's still a chance that something can go wrong. Get a professional opinion right away so that a small problem doesn't end up being a big, expensive one.


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


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Bizzle N., Houston, TX

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3. Artwork may be submitted in one of the following formats: **JPEG** (.jpg), **PDF** (.pdf), **GIF** (.gif) or **TIF** (.tif).

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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, e.g. help wanted, items for sale, infant care needed, etc.

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**“KIDS’ ACTIVITY QUEEN” BLOGGER
FEATURED SPEAKER AT APRIL 1
CIVIC CLUB MEETING**

As the President of Tell Your Tale Marketing & Design, Megan F. Salch has 20 years of marketing and communications experience. In her free time, Megan also is a speaker about family fun in greater Houston based on her book 100+ Activities for Houston Kids and her blog “The Kids Activity Queen.” Be sure to follow Megan on Twitter under the name “TellYourTale”.

Megan is active in the local community through organizations such as the Junior League of Houston, the Greater Heights Area Chamber of Commerce, the Women’s Business Enterprise Alliance (WBEA) and St. Rose of Lima Church and School.

Megan earned degrees in journalism and politics with an emphasis on public relations from Southern Methodist University, where she graduated with honors. Megan has also taken graphic design courses at The Art Institute of Houston. A native Houstonian, Megan lives with her husband Trent, daughter Kylie and son Grady in Garden Oaks, Section 1. Her grandparents lived in Garden Oaks for decades just 6 houses down the street from her current residence, so Megan has very fond memories of this area.



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MICKEY'S MINUTE

By Mickey Morales

If April showers bring spring flowers, then surely they can bring good things for our fundraiser on April 12th for the Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet School. Liberation Gluten-Free Bakery's Angela Winston will donate a portion of her sales to the effort, along with Matt Adams of Stormware Creations. My fellow chefs and I will be doing separate pop-up lunch items to add a little extra punch to the festivities. And if the next set of baby goats are born soon enough to be safely away from their mother by then, Farmer Cathy will bring them along with perhaps a bunny or two or even some baby chicks.

While we're on the subject of the doings at the Sullivan Happy Heart Farm, the chickens have come out of their winter slump and are producing vast quantities of eggs. Farmer Cathy

has therefore happily lifted her two-dozen-per-customer limit on buying. I believe the hens recently laid 158 eggs in one day and are predicted to go as high as 185 in the near future. We have also added another vegetable vendor, Blackwood Bounty. Cathy visited their farm a few weeks back and saw that their produce is grown sustainably, as are all the others at our market. Their produce will be available in Cathy's booth every Saturday. Adding Blackwood Bounty allows us to enjoy a more diverse selection of vegetables at our market without overwhelming our small footprint.

And speaking of the footprint, you may have noticed that we have changed our layout of the market to surround the building, giving it a fuller look and making a bit more room to add another vendor or two. Fear not, all your favorite folks are still here, week after week, rain or shine. On a personal note, it's official

that I've become a neighborhood resident. I figure that "you have to dance with the ones that brung ya" and it feels good to be back home in my old stomping grounds where I grew up.

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.

CRITTER CORNER

By Molly Taylor

Our April GO Pet of the Month is:

Barkley



4-year-old spayed female Barkley is very energetic and adorable. She weighs 35 pounds and gets along well with most dogs. She is fearful of human strangers, but with more exposure she will adapt. She is available for adoption at Molly's Mutt House.

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

Critters 101: Bones – Are they safe for my dog or cat?

Cooked bones eaten by your pet can splinter and cause potentially fatal internal injuries. Raw (uncooked) bones, however, are okay for most dogs and cats and they love them! Raw bones are great for alleviating boredom, keeping teeth clean, maintaining healthy gums, and they are a good source of calcium for your pet. Here are some tips for safely (and neatly) administering these tasty treats:

- Soft centered bones are completely edible.
- Hard larger bones such as knuckles and soup bones are more for enjoying for a short time.
- For dogs, you can freeze your bones to make them less messy and they will last a little longer.
- Never leave a pet unattended with a bone.
- You might want to put your pet in a place away from your carpet and furniture such as a crate with a towel while chewing on bones.
- Many pets will get aggressive when it comes to fresh raw bones and meats, so it is always a good idea to separate your pets and give them their own space to enjoy their treat.
- Never cook the bones.
- If your pet is outside, they might be decide to bury the bone, so be ready.
- Some pets have been known to chip or break a tooth when chewing on hard bones for too long, so check your pet's teeth often.

Do your research and find good natural healthy ways to let your pet be an animal. We have to remember that we have only been feeding processed bags of dog food for about 60 years. Bring back a little natural food into your pet's diet. Have a safe and happy April!

What To Do:
It's April. Get out in the fresh spring weather for a WALK with your dog!

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

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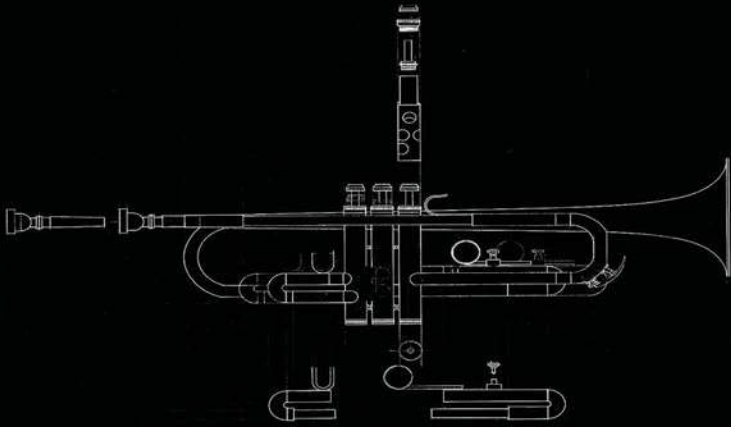
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St. Rose of Lima Catholic Community

2nd Hand Rose Sale

Save the Date!
May 10th

Help support St. Rose of Lima and clean out your closets at the same time! Second Hand Rose is a Parish-wide rummage sale benefiting the St. Rose community. Donations can be dropped off starting on April 1st in the Parish office located at 3600 Brinkman.

“YES” items:

- Toys & Baby Items
- Clothing (Infant – Adult)
- Glassware & Homegoods
- Appliances (working)
- Radios, Flat Screen Monitors (working)
- Jewelry & Cosmetics
- Novels & Children’s books
- Stuffed Animals
- Lawn Equipment & Tools

- DVDs, CDs
- Sporting Goods

Furniture (accepted 4/6 from 2-3:30pm; 4/13 from 2-3:30pm, 5/3 from 1-3pm and 5/5-5/9 by appointment only.)

“NO” items:

- Console TV’s
- Textbooks
- Damaged items

Please contact cmichels@dirtt.net with questions or to make an appointment.

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SUNDAY, MAY 4, 2014
11:00 AM TO 6:00 PM

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Find out more about St. Rose at stroselima.org or call 713-692-9123.



APRIL 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1  Civic Club Meeting¹ <i>(w/on-site child care!)</i> 7PM @ GOMM	2 GOMM Night at Becks Prime² 5-8PM @ Heights location 115 West 19th	3	4	5 GO Spring Cleaning 9-11AM N. Shepherd b/w 38th-43rd Farmers Market (GF) 9AM-1PM 948 Wakefield
6	7	8	9	10	11	12 Farmers Market 9AM-1PM 948 Wakefield
13	14	15 	16 GOMO Meeting 7PM @ GOPB	17 Heavy Trash Pick-Up (Junk Waste) GO Garden Club Meeting 7PM @ 971 Gardenia	18 Good Friday	19 Farmers Market (GF) 9AM-1PM 948 Wakefield GO Kids Easter Egg Hunt 3PM @ SPARK Park
20 <i>Easter</i>	21	22	23	24	25	26 Farmers Market 9AM-1PM 948 Wakefield Home Tour VIP Party 7:30-11PM KC Hall • 607 E. Whitney
27  HOME & GARDEN TOUR 12-6PM	28	29 	30	¹ Preceded by GOMO meeting beginning at 6:30 p.m. See p.7 for child care info. ² Mention GOMM with order and Becks Prime 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, 901 Sue Barnett GOMO = Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization GOPB = Garden Oaks Professional Building, 4001 N. Shepherd, Suite 216 GF = Gluten-free		

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7:00-11:00 PM VIP Party

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... *to purchase tickets* ...

Visit www.gardenoaks.org/hometour, or complete the form below,
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GARDEN OAKS CIVIC CLUB
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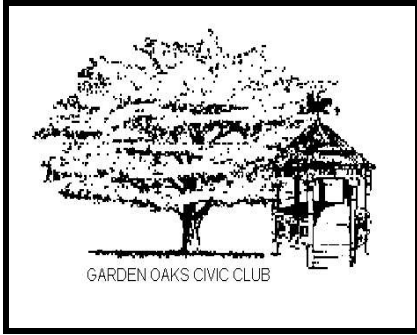
Phone: _____ Fax: _____

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 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.

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

[] New Member or [] Renewal

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Please provide contact information for program member(s) at this address

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Email: _____	Email: _____
Work Phone: _____	Work Phone: _____
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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>