

GARDEN OAKS GAZETTE

VOLUME 36

ISSUE 6



Chairs for Charlie:

A Story of Neighborly Kindness
Heard Around the World

By Dian Austin

It was a simple gesture to help a neighbor. They put a chair out in the yard near the street so their neighbor could rest on his daily walk if he became tired, as he often does lately. But that simple act became a message of kindness from the whole neighborhood as "Chairs for Charlie" took flight.

Garden Oaks residents Shellye Arnold, Tina Sabuco, and Georgia Lister had no idea how far their act of kindness would travel. Shellye noticed that their friend and neighbor Charlie George, receiving treatment for leukemia, began to tire on his twice-daily walks around Azalea and Sue Barnett with his wife Sandra, their 2 dogs and their cat. Charlie and Sandra are kind and thoughtful Garden Oaks neighbors who have done a lot for others, paying it forward over their many years of living in the neighborhood.

Shellye and Tina decided to put a chair in the yard for Charlie and – knowing that their neighbors would follow suit – emailed their Azalea Street neighbors asking them to do the same. They made signs for the chairs that said "Chairs for Charlie – and anyone else who may be in need of a rest". Georgia helped spread the word with a Facebook posting, and soon 25-30 chairs, benches and even a chair with a bowl of water for the dogs appeared along the route. One neighbor who wanted to participate but does not live on the walking route delivered a Chair for Charlie to Triangle Park.

The local ABC, CBS, and NBC TV stations soon caught wind of the story and ran it on their nightly news programs. Affiliated stations in other parts of the U.S. and Canada followed suit and numerous websites picked up the story as well. The big surprise was when CNN aired a segment about "Chairs for Charlie". and Canada did the same. The big surprise came when CNN aired a segment about "Chairs for Charlie".



Tina and Shellye were recently contacted by both Diane Sawyer's ABC World News staff and the staff of Brian Williams' NBC Nightly News. Brian's crew was scheduled just this past week to cover the story for their "Making a Difference" segment, but filming was postponed due to Charlie's recent hospitalization.

It was a simple gesture, but it represented a lot of love and respect for a friend and neighbor. It showed how anyone can make a difference, and "Chairs for Charlie" surely shows the best of Garden Oaks. Thanks, neighbors, for making a difference. We all can learn a lot from this beautiful act of kindness.

Editor's Note: At press time, we learned of Charlie's passing on Tuesday, May 27th. Along with the Garden Oaks Civic Club and our community, the Gazette team extends our deepest sympathy and wishes for healing to Sandra and all of Charlie's family and friends.



June 2014

UPCOMING EVENTS

June Civic Club Meeting

Tuesday, June 3rd
7:00 p.m.
Garden Oaks Montessori
901 Sue Barnett Drive

4th of July Bicycle Parade

Friday, July 4th
8:30 a.m. Registration
9:00 a.m. Parade
Rick Englert SPARK Park
Sue Barnett Drive @ West 41st

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PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

By Sheila Briones, Civic Club President

The phenomenal success of the 2014 Garden Oaks Home & Garden Tour is a reflection of the steadfast dedication and enthusiasm of our volunteers.

I would like to personally thank Brenda de Alba for contributing her time and effort to the Home Tour. I’m hopeful that she has fully recovered from the sleep-deprivation she endured to make this event such an outstanding success. Because of Brenda’s involvement, we set an all-time fundraising record for Garden Oaks!

Brenda couldn’t have done it without the team of 140 volunteers which included committee chairs/co-chairs, home & garden captains, docents, and homeowners, a docent script writer, graphic designers, and photographers. Each and every volunteer was well-prepared and supported, and so many of them had the experience and know-how that comes from volunteering for our previous home & garden tours. This level of preparedness and true teamwork makes a noticeable difference; countless tour-goers told me that this was the best staffed and most well-run tour they’d experienced.



Today is the day to remind all these volunteers just how much their efforts are appreciated. It is my pleasure, on behalf of the Civic Club, to formally express our gratitude to all of the 2014 Garden Oaks Home & Garden Tour volunteers. We couldn’t have done it without you! We truly appreciate your gift of time, energy, and enthusiastic support.

Sheila Briones

Garden Oaks Gazette

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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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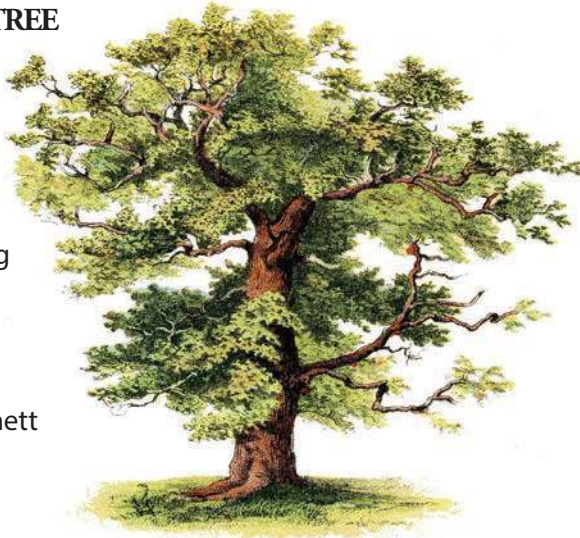
HEARD UNDER THE OAK TREE

By Terry Jeanes

Welcome, New Neighbors!

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

- 208 West 33rd 963 Althea
- 408 West 33rd 4247 Apollo
- 709 West 34th 1438 Sue Barnett
- 718 West 38th
- 903 West 41st
- 835 West 42nd
- 855 West 42nd
- 1022 West 43rd



Terry Jeanes
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- Andrew Balance 6/1
- Stephen Syzdek 6/4
- Tina Parks Rowe..... 6/5
- Rebecca Stark..... 6/5
- Elyse S. 6/9
- Landon C..... 6/18
- Shana Tatum..... 6/21
- Antonio R. 6/23
- Allison Padon 6/28

Out and About

John and Margie Hesse traveled to Germany for the marriage of their son Andrew to his bride, Jenny.

Congratulations to recent college graduate **Katie Jernigan**.



Cheers to **Lily Bowman** (back row, third from right in photo above) in her debut in *Big, the Musical* as part of TUTS Humphreys School of Musical Theatre.

The Garden Oaks Gazette Wants YOU!

Do you have layout design or desktop publishing skills or any interest in acquiring them? Perhaps you've been dreaming of becoming the next Gazette editor or assistant editor so you can get the inside scoop on GO-ings-on?

Contact the editorial team at gazette@gardenoaks.org to discuss how you can get involved!

The **Weltin** boys thoroughly enjoyed the *Books Alive!* event at the downtown Houston library.

Many neighbors stopped by to support Girl Scout Troop 21's successful bake and cookie sale at Triangle Park. Seen in the crowd were **Tina Nieto, Dian Austin, Tina Rowe, Sheila Briones, Georgia Lister, Terry Jeanes, Ed de Alba, Jaime Zamora, Emma Dyer, Mark Klein,** and many others.

Amy Shaughnessy has a story to tell about her recent bat encounter.

Garden Oaks neighbors visited the grand opening celebration of the

Hare Krishna Dham Temple on 34th Street and the celebration of India, including **Stephanie** and **Mati Acosta**, the **Klein** family, **Linda Sparks, Terry Jeanes, Dian Austin, Sandy Altman, Eric & Jessica Jarvis, Tina Rowe, Sheila Briones, Mark & Susan Saranie,** and **Shelley Kennedy**.

GARDEN OAKS CIVIC CLUB MEETING MINUTES

By Cindy Bartos, Secretary

April 1, 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 April 2014 minutes as published in the Gazette. Dian Austin noted a correction to the minutes: the number of paid memberships in the Garden Oaks Civic Club was 285 rather than the 356 reported. The motion was passed to accept the minutes as amended.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Jerry Butler reported on the Civic Club's current finances and had copies of the Profit and Loss statement and the Balance Sheet available to meeting attendees. The 2014 Home Tour data is not yet complete, but tentative figures show a net of \$40,000, a record amount.

Program: Dian Austin introduced the featured speaker, Garden Oaks resident Shellye Arnold, the Executive Director of the Memorial Park Conservancy. Ms. Arnold gave an informative presentation on the topic "Memorial Park: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow".

Announcements: Ed de Alba suggested that items such as chair racks and shelving units in the two storage units rented by the Civic Club would ease organization and access of the items stored there. Terry Jeanes moved to spend up to \$1500.00 of Civic Club funds for organizational items and/or components for the storage units. The motion passed.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership: Dian Austin reported that we have 287 paid Civic Club memberships. She is preparing to send out Garden Oaks Civic Club decals to paid members. Sandy Altman won the Civic Club meeting door prize. A resident in attendance asked what the Civic Club did for Garden Oaks. Answers from others in attendance included upkeep of pocket parks, beautification, the newsletter, July 4th parade, Wine Walk, Home Tour, partnership with area schools, and fostering a sense of community through volunteer opportunities and other activities.

Garden Oaks Citizens' Patrol: President Briones reported on behalf of Carl Waters that there were 4 crimes reported in April.

Constable Program: Terry Jeanes reported on a narcotics arrest at a home in the 200 block of West 31st Street and a home invasion on Curtin Street in neighboring Shepherd Park Plaza. There were reports of a scam involving people posing as representatives of an alarm company and going door-to-door asking to inspect residents' home alarms. Martin Parr has volunteered to help Ms. Jeanes address the issue of traffic accidents at the intersection of Alba and 43rd. Ms. Jeanes contacted the city via 311 to report tree limbs and overhead street signs blocking the view of the traffic light and to request traffic signal alert signs on 43rd to the east and west of the light. She asked that neighbors voice their concerns by calling 311 as well.

Gazette: Editor Jenny Espeseth was not in attendance.

Website: Webmaster Joe Muscara was not in attendance. President Briones reported on his behalf that webhosting is paid through October

2014 and the domains are reserved through 2016 and 2018. Mr. Muscara has uploaded issues of the Garden Oaks Gazette from 1977 and 1978 to gardenoaks.org for viewing.

Home Tour: Chair Brenda de Alba thanked all the homeowners, sponsors, volunteers, tour goers, VIP party attendees, and gave special thanks to Gary Harmon for his work with the Beautification committee to get the neighborhood ready for the tour. Approximately 900 tickets were sold and the most-toured home on the tour had 528 visitors. Ms. de Alba announced she will continue to help but will be stepping down as Chair of the Garden Oaks Home & Garden Tour.

Beautification: Chair Gary Harmon thanked all the volunteers that help in the clean-up, planting, and preparation of the Garden Oaks parks for the Home Tour and also thanked residents for the attention given to their lawns and gardens to help our neighborhood look its best for the tour.

Government Affairs Standing Committee: Chair Mark Klein reported that he and members of the Ad Hoc Drainage Project Committee will be meeting with Council Member Ellen Cohen's office on June 2nd to discuss the plans of the Garden Oaks and Shepherd Forest Drainage and Paving Sub-Project I. Mr. Klein said he would provide an update on the project at the June Civic Club meeting. Approximately 70% of Alba Road residents have signed a petition opposing sidewalks. Todd Armstrong moved that the Civic Club oppose the storm drainage project. The motion was seconded. John Bartos moved to table the vote until more information was obtained and so the opportunity to vote could be publicized to residents. The motion was seconded but did not pass.

Terry Jeanes moved for the Civic Club to send a letter to the City expressing our concern over a plan that would include the widening of Alba and installation of sidewalks, and asking for more detailed information about the project and traffic effects. The motion was seconded. After discussion, Ms. Jeanes withdrew her motion. Bryan Blades moved that the Civic Club oppose any sidewalk installation, curbing, or widening of Alba Road; however, the Civic Club's bylaws allow only Household Members in good standing to initiate resolutions or vote. Household Member Todd Armstrong then moved that the Civic Club oppose (1) any plan that would result in the widening of Alba Road, (2) any plan that would result in the curbing of Alba Road, and (3) any plan that would result in the installation of sidewalks along Alba Road. Each of the three motions was seconded and passed.

Garden Oaks Montessori:
A spokesperson for Principal Lindsey Pollock said she was out of town and had no report.

President Briones announced that Jonathan McElvy, Publisher and President of *The Leader* newspaper, would be the featured speaker at the June 3, 2014 Civic Club meeting.

President Briones adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.



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Chris Schmidt
Garden Oaks Resident
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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.

Child Care Offered at Civic Club Meetings

The Civic Club is pleased to offer members an arrangement with the Foster YMCA to provide child care during civic club meetings. 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 residents to attend our monthly civic club meetings.



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

CITIZENS' PATROL UPDATE

By Carl Waters, Jr.

A neighbor in Section 2 called me last month regarding the noise issues at Cottonwood. He advises neighbors to call Sgt. Frank Escobedo at HPD's North Command Center in addition to reporting excessive noise to HPD central dispatch. Sgt. Escobedo can be reached Monday-Friday at 281-405-5341.

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.

April Crime Statistics (4)

Sexual Assault (1)

400 block of W. 34th on Wednesday, April 23 at 9:00 a.m. (residence).

Burglary (1)

3300 block of Lawrence on Monday, April 28 at 8:45 a.m. (residence).

Theft (2)

300 block of W. 32nd on Monday, March 31 at 12:10 a.m. (street).

3400 block of N. Shepherd on Friday, April 4 at 8:30 p.m. (bar parking lot).

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




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BEAUTIFICATION UPDATE

By Gary Harmon, Beautification Committee Chair

First, I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the beautification of our parks prior to our recent home and garden tour. I apologize for not knowing the names of all those who helped, but I do know the Garden Oaks Garden Club, the GO Kids and the Garden Oaks Elementary 7th graders contributed significantly. There were also many other residents who took it upon themselves to weed, mulch, and plant flowers. Many thanks to everyone who helped to make everything look so wonderful.

We are entering the season where watering will be our primary concern. In the absence of rain, each of our neighborhood's common areas will be watered twice weekly on Monday and Thursday beginning around 8:00 a.m. Each of these areas will also be visually inspected weekly and have its irrigation system checked monthly. We ask that no one turn on or off any valves as we may be in the process of inspecting or servicing them. These systems are old and repairs complex. If anyone sees a problem with a common area, please email beautification@gardenoaks.org. We will address the issue as quickly as possible.



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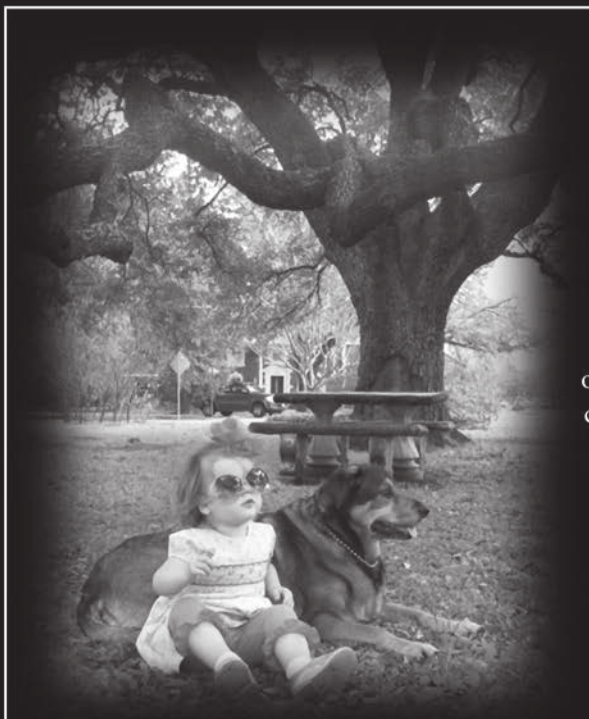
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CONSTABLE PROGRAM UPDATE

By Terry Jeanes, Constable Program Committee Chair

In response to a neighbor's report of suspicious activity possibly involving narcotics at a property in the lower 200 block of West 31st, Harris County Precinct One Constable's and Sheriff's deputies with the U.S. Department of Justice Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) Strike Force, Homeland Security Bureau began surveillance of the residence and surrounding area. In late April, traffic stops resulted in 6 arrests and secured a search warrant for the residence, which resulted in a narcotics arrest at the residence. Tactical units were involved. This outcome illustrates the importance of reporting any and all suspicious activity to Constable dispatch at 713-755-7628.

A tip of the hat to Martin Parr who has stepped up to help address the dangerous conditions at the intersection of West 43rd and Alba Road. We have requested that the City of Houston:

1. Check for and clear foliage obstructing a clear view of the traffic lights from at least 3 of the 4 directions.
2. Check and adjust the installation of the street name signs that currently hang from the traffic signal wires such that they partially obscure the signal lights from approximately 8-10 house lengths in both directions on 43rd.
3. Due to the curving of the street and limited visibility of the signal until within approximately 10 lot widths of the traffic signal traveling in either direction on 43rd, placement of yellow diamond warning signs with flashing lights to alert drivers to the traffic signal ahead.

Be sure your alarm monitoring company has:

Precinct One Constable Dispatch

713-755-7628

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 need it.

Constable Program Contribution Form:

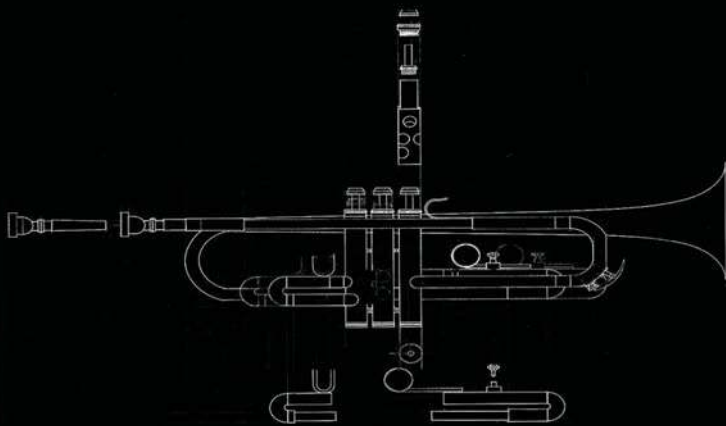
www.gardenoaks.com/constable

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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CREATING A COMMUNITY OF KINDNESS

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



Welcoming Schools
A PROJECT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN FOUNDATION

The safety and security of our children are at the core of any good school program, and that includes providing an environment where children feel emotionally safe and secure. While we ensure our children's physical safety by restricting unauthorized individuals from entering the school property, we must also work proactively to guide our children to treat one another with kindness and respect at all times. The opposite of kindness is bullying. Bullying is behavior that moves beyond everyday disagreements between children. School guidelines define bullying as "persistent misconduct, including harassment, threats, or unkind words or actions with the intent to harm others". According to an article published in the most recent issue of Psychology Today, children as young as 8 years old may begin to act purposefully with the intent to knowingly harm a peer. Research also shows that the correlation to a punitive home environment may result in children who are at risk of becoming aggressive and emotionally distant.

Intervening early is essential to equip children with the skills to cope with frustrations and provide them with leadership opportunities in both classrooms and a community setting that channel their energy and interests in a positive direction. Research of the neuroscience of emotional well-being and learning has found that children not only need to feel safe, they must feel happy and connected in order to succeed at school. At Garden Oaks, we have worked diligently to ensure that ALL children and families feel safe and connected by aligning with Welcoming Schools, a project of the Human Rights Campaign. In fact, we were

one of 10 schools nationwide to receive the 2014 Seal of Excellence for our commitment and efforts to create a safe school environment.

Welcoming Schools was initially developed to address the increasing number of children bullied in schools for having family structures that are "atypical" or for expressing interest in careers or fashions that are not generally associated with or socially accepted for their gender, e.g. boys wearing pink or girls having short hair, but the initiative has expanded to address all types of intolerance that may be encountered at an elementary school setting. Research in neuroscience by the Harvard Mind, Brain and Education program supports that the limbic systems of children who are upset and/or afraid impair their ability to focus on school work. This is especially true for children feeling afraid of being alienated by their peers through teasing or threatened with physical aggression, i.e. toxic stress. Working together, we at Garden Oaks Montessori guide children to help each other in collaborative group projects, multi-age classrooms, and in leadership roles in the classroom and on the campus. Through Montessori Peace education, Welcoming Schools and the Leader in Me, we help children develop habits of mind and emotion that are productive for them and the community.

Help the children in your life by modeling peaceful behavior, respecting and embracing the differences that make our world an interesting and exciting place to live, and listening to the ideas and concerns of our future!

A Tour to Remember



With the weather blessing us with a picture-perfect weekend, the 2014 Garden Oaks Home and Garden Tour turned out to be a roaring success. A record-setting \$40,000 was raised to support the Garden Oaks Civic Club and its neighborhood protection program, beautification, and other projects. Generous sponsor support, Saturday's VIP Party ("A Neighborhood in Bloom") with its accompanying silent and live auctions, and tour ticket sales all contributed to the record fundraising.

Hundreds of visitors toured the winding streets of Garden Oaks with free shuttle buses, cars, bicycles, and on foot to tour six distinctly different homes and four unique garden spaces (including Garden Oaks Montessori) in the starring roles for the tour. The supporting actors, however, may have stolen the show as dozens of volunteers served as neighborhood ambassadors, greeting visitors enthusiastically and catapulting the event toward success.

It took 140 people coming together – some working since last June – to make the tour one that numerous visitors continue to call the best-run home tour they'd attended. Others, such as Beautification Committee Chair Gary Harmon, coordinated efforts with neighbors to spruce up our green spaces in advance of the tour.

Those 140 volunteers selected the featured homes and gardens, got sponsors on board, designed the posters, tickets, and t-shirts, publicized the event to local media, social media such as Facebook and Big Tent, on gardenoaks.org, and right here in our own *Gazette*, put up posters all over town, organized ticket pre-sale locations, planned and executed a beautiful and fun VIP Party at the Knights of Columbus Odin Hall, collected and auctioned off a bevy of enticing items, obtained magnificent donated floral arrangements for each home, composed docent scripts, hung banners and dug in signs, hauled tables, chairs, sponsor signs, and drinking water to each tour location, enlisted two food trucks to serve up drinks and desserts, coordinated the buses, served as docents on the buses and at tour locations, and staffed the command center, keeping the whole event running smoothly. No doubt about it: the volunteers for this year's tour were a remarkably dedicated and resourceful cast of characters.

Of course, the tour would not be possible without the featured home and garden owners' willingness to open their homes and gardens – and a part of their lives – to everyone. Such a commitment is by no means an easy one; the home and garden owners spent weeks meticulously preparing their homes and gardens to be the shining stars admired by hundreds of visitors on the tour. Garden Oaks Montessori had a very busy week prior to the tour with STAAR testing and hosting their own 2014 Spring Fling.

Sponsor support was incredible this year as many area businesses reinvested support in the community they serve. Garden Oaks residents who support and champion our sponsors are ensuring future sponsor support.

A number of experimental changes were tried and implemented with this tour, all to GREAT success. The change in sponsorship acquisition netted \$29,000 in both financial and in-kind underwriting. The change to a more informal party venue doubled the attendance and increased funds raised by the auctions. The elimination of a tour theme and "branding" the tour will be reflected in future years through reuse of templates and signage.

Our next tour will be in 2016 so please consider being a part of the fun and volunteering when the call goes out. Nominate your home or garden, become a sponsor, donate an auction item, and – above all else – let's all show our appreciation to those who contributed money and hard work to make the 2014 Garden Oaks Home & Garden Tour weekend a memorable one.

Brenda de Alba

Chair, 2014 Garden Oaks Home & Garden Tour

Floral Designers The following businesses provided the floral decor at the tour locations indicated in

Darlene's Flower & Gift Shop

(807 LaMonte)
10570 NW Freeway
Houston 77092
713-680-2350
www.darlenesflowerandgift.com



Mark Anthony Florist

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G A R D E N O A K S

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS TOUR SPONSORS!

By Shana Tatum, Sponsorship Co-Chair, 2014 Garden Oaks Home & Garden Tour

As our Home Tour Chair Extraordinaire Brenda de Alba mentioned on the facing page, we had a record-setting home tour. Sponsorship Co-Chair Jane Ann Roberts and I were very fortunate to collaborate with such supportive people and companies to underwrite this year's event. Repeat and first-time supporters stepped forward to help create the memorable day. We would like to thank them all again (and again!) for such generosity. Without them, the 2014 Garden Oaks Home & Garden Tour would not have materialized. Neighbors, please be sure to thank these area businesses with your patronage whenever you are able.

<p>Silver Sponsors \$2500</p>	<p>Blake Woods Design Deanna Zugheri, Keller Williams Realty Metropolitan Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization (GOMO) Shannon & Associates, Inc.</p>	
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AUCTION RECAP

By Missy Alwais

The Garden Oaks Home & Garden Tour is a wonderful way to highlight and show off our amazing neighborhood. The tour is also a terrific way to raise money to sustain and further improve the neighborhood. The VIP Party the night before the tour was held to honor tour sponsors and featured property homeowners.

The auction team aimed to acquire unique auction items to help raise more money for the Civic Club during the Saturday night event. We would like to recognize and express our most sincere appreciation to Jennifer Osowski, Deanna and Will Zugheri, Annette Spsychalski, and Jeremy Robinson for all of their efforts leading up to and including the night of the event.

The most exciting part of the night is always the live auction, due in large part to the best auctioneer around, Tina Sabuco. This year featured an Italian dinner from Lynn Sievers and Tina Rowe which raised \$275, a constable ride-along donated by Harris County Precinct One Constable Alan Rosen raised \$250, Grand Marshal of the 4th of July Parade donated by Deanna Zugheri raised \$225, a vacation getaway at Crider's Cabins on the Frio donated by Jill Farnsworth raised \$900, a weekend in Wimberley at private home called Paradox donated by Ken & Mel Johnson raised \$700, and one of the hottest auction items of the evening was a dessert date with the Mayor & treats from Liberation Gluten-Free Bakery donated by Angela Winston and Peggy Smith; this auction item raised \$1050.

These individuals and businesses are all greatly supportive of the Garden Oaks community, and I encourage you to thank them and consider supporting the businesses with your patronage:

- Ace Tree Specialist
- Adolf Hoepfl & Son Garage
- Allison Bell's Tuscan Kitchen Cookbook
- Becks Prime
- Brenda de Alba
- Buchanan's Native Plants
- Cabana Tan
- Clean As A Whistle
- Clear Channel Media + Entertainment
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- Houston Zoo
- Jennifer & Jimmy Osowski
- Joe the Plumber
- John & Cindy Bartos
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- Mel & Ken Johnson
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- Mission Burrito
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- My Trees Houston
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- Peggy Smith
- Rainbow Lodge
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AIR CONDITIONING TIPS FOR THE SUMMER

By Mitch Weigand

Two Are Better than One: The Benefits of a Two-Stage Air Conditioning System

If your air conditioning system is on its last leg and you're planning to replace it this summer, consider a two-stage system. Two-stage systems have not one, but two compressors. Because of that, they have two levels of operation: (1) low for mild days and (2) high for hot, humid days. Since the low setting is capable of meeting your home's cooling demands about 80% of the time, a two-stage unit runs for longer periods and produces more even temperatures.

In addition, longer cooling cycles make for quieter, more efficient operation and improved humidity control. Compared to a single-stage system, a two-stage system can remove twice as much moisture from the air. This is significant because when moisture levels are high, there's a greater likelihood of overall

discomfort as well as mold, mildew, and other indoor pollutants.

The benefits of a two-stage air conditioning system include:

- A noticeable increase in energy savings. When a two-stage system is operating at its lower level, it naturally uses less energy than when running at the higher level.
- Increased lifespan of your air conditioner. Because it has longer cooling cycles, a two-stage system does not shut off and on nearly as frequently as a unit with a standard single compressor. This puts less demand on the system and helps increase its lifespan.
- Fewer temperature swings means greater overall comfort. Two-stage systems cool your home gradually instead of slamming it with a blast of cold air every time the temperature rises above a set point on the thermostat. The result is a more consistent, comfortable temperature in your home both day and evening.
- Better dehumidified air feels great too. The longer cooling cycles of a

two-stage system allow it to pull more moisture out of the air, thus making it better at eliminating high humidity in your home. This allows you to increase the overall temperature while still remaining comfortable because of the lower humidity.

For you techno-geeks out there who want the latest and greatest, there's the variable speed A/C system. "Variable speed" refers to the unit's fan motor and outside compressor, which move at differing speeds (in 1% increments) to precisely control the flow of conditioned air throughout your home. Better airflow control equates to superior balance of temperature and humidity without wasting energy.


Variable speed systems have a SEER (seasonal energy efficiency ratio) rating of 20 while most older home A/C systems today have a SEER rating of only 10. Variable speed systems are incredibly efficient and almost more computer than air conditioner.

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

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Service Technician Reuben Dudley

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MICKEY'S MINUTE

By Mickey Morales

Welcome to June and the long, slow march through another summer on the Gulf Coast of Texas. The Farmer's Almanac says that we are supposed to have cooler and wetter weather and I believe we're due. Regardless of what happens, we will be hosting the market every Saturday, rain or shine, as the chickens will continue to lay eggs, and the fruits and veggies need to be harvested daily.

The Farmstand is growing, with the addition of new vendor Heather and her doggie treats made from spent grain from home brewers. We have also added Sarah and Mike Hoiden and their wonderful breads made from organic grain. I also spoke with a couple of gents this past Saturday about offering free-range beef.

Of course we will continue to have our steady supply of produce from Farmer Cathy, Nawarra Farms, and Blackwood Bounty, along with jams and jellies from Kristy's Kitchen, tasty food from Nisha's Quick-N-Easy Indian Foods, and gluten-free treats from Angela Winston's Liberation Gluten-Free Bakery the second and fourth Saturday of each month.

Meanwhile, here at the farm, we are continuing work on our timber frame pavilion so we can host a few farm dinners this coming fall. We also added Rouen ducks to our menagerie - can you say duck eggs this fall and maybe whole ducks for the table even sooner? The momma goats have finished kidding, adding four to our flock (three girls and one boy). Because of the theft of a goat in June right before she kidded, I won my battle to keep Bella, the little black doeling from Harriet's twins. Darn their thieving hearts though, I hope

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she at least wound up with a good home and not the alternative. We have people lining up to buy the two doelings we brought to the market in May, which is good because Farmer Cathy insists she doesn't want to milk five goats twice a day or clean a milking machine. So, the circle of life continues and we will happily include y'all as you patronize our little market.

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



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THE LEADER'S JONATHAN MCELVY TO SPEAK AT JUNE CIVIC CLUB MEETING



Jonathan McElvy, publisher and president of McElvy Media LLC, which produces *The Leader* newspaper, will be the featured speaker at the June 3rd Civic Club meeting.

McElvy purchased *The Leader* in 2012 from previous publisher Terry Burge, and the newspaper serves Houston's Heights, Garden Oaks, Oak Forest and adjacent communities.

McElvy is former editorial vice president of ASP Westward's groups of community newspapers, Houston Community News, Colorado Community News and East Texas Community News, which were sold recently. He was credited with raising

the editorial and design standards of the 60-plus ASP Westward papers during his six years there, and he built the company's online and social media presence.

McElvy was born October 2, 1974, in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. He has a master's degree in Journalism and Political Science from the University of Alabama. He moved to Houston in 2006 and worked for Houston Community Newspapers as Editorial Director and General Manager. He later was VP of News and Development at ASP Westward.

McElvy and his wife, Meghan, have an eight-month-old son named Hank.

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CRITTER CORNER

By Molly Taylor

Our June GO Pet of the Month is:

Sam



One-year-old male Dachshund mix Sam was dropped off for boarding and then abandoned at the Mutt House. He is a quirky little guy who weighs eight pounds and loves to play. Contact manager@mutthouse.com if you would like more information or to arrange to meet Sam. Nominations for the next GO Pet of the Month can be sent to gazette@mutthouse.com.

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Critters 101: Games to Play With Your Dog

Here are some easy games we can play with our dogs to stimulate their minds and entertain ourselves:

• **Find It!**

For this game you will need a towel, a box or bowl, and a newspaper. Take a treat, show it to your dog, and then put the treat under the towel. Say "find it!" and see how long it takes your dog to figure out how to get the treat. Then put the treat under a box or bowl and do the same thing, and then try putting the treat in the middle of a rolled-up newspaper. After your dog figures out how to get to each treat, take your dog to another room where s/he cannot see you, and place the treat in one of the three scenarios. Let your dog out and say "find it!" and see how long it takes your dog to find the treat.

• **Hide & Seek**

This game usually works best with two people because most dogs will not stay put while you go and hide. One person holds the dog's collar while the other person goes to hide. Then the person hiding can yell "Fido, come!" and then remain silent and wait for the dog to find him or her. If the dog gets bored with the search, the non-hiding person can yell "call your dog" and then the hiding person yells again "Fido, come!" to re-engage the dog. Your dog will try and use its hearing and eyesight, but will eventually start scenting to find you. This is also a fun game to play outside in the yard at night.

Try playing these games for 5-10 minutes at a time and change them up to keep your dog from getting bored.

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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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	Half Page Back Cover	\$150.00	\$750.00	
	Full Page Back Cover	\$225.00	\$1125.00	
	Full-page insert, single-sided	\$180.00		
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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>.

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JUNE 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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8	9	10 	11	12 GO Garden Club Meeting 7PM @ 1035 Althea	13	14 Farmers Market (GF) 9AM-1PM 948 Wakefield
15	16	17	18 GOMO Meeting 7PM @ GOPB	19 Heavy Trash Pick-Up (Junk Waste) GO Kids Moms' Night Out 8PM @ TBD	20	21 Farmers Market 9AM-1PM 948 Wakefield
22	23	24 	25	26	27	28 Farmers Market (GF) 9AM-1PM 948 Wakefield Computer Wiz Pet Adoption Fair 11AM-3PM 511 Garden Oaks Blvd.

¹ Preceded by GOMO meeting beginning at 6:30 p.m.

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, 901 Sue Barnett

GOMO = Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization

GOBP = Garden Oaks Professional Building, 4001 N. Shepherd, Suite 216

GF = Gluten-free



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