

GARDEN OAKS GAZETTE

VOLUME 36

ISSUE 9



Buy Your Wine Walk

Tickets Now by Dian Austin

Tickets are now on sale for our 6th Annual Constable Patrol Program Fundraiser, the Garden

Oaks Wine Walk. The ticket form can be found on page 13 of this month's *Gazette*. Also, you can buy tickets online at <http://www.gardenoaks.org> via Paypal, debit, or credit card. You can also download the ticket form at the website as well and mail it in with your check. All ticket purchasers will receive a confirmation email or phone call.

We have 13 generous neighbor groups and supporters who are serving as table hosts for the event, each providing a sample of a different wine and foods. The theme this year is *California Dreamin'*, with a salute to California wines. This event is one of the most popular ones in our neighborhood. This year's Wine Walk will include an auction or raffle for several cases of wine; details are still being sorted out.

Ticket prices are \$65 and allow entrance to the event, along with unlimited wine and food samplings. The music playlist will be manned once again by our resident GRAMMY King, Eric Jarvis.

This is an adults-only gathering, and only 200 tickets will be sold. In previous years, we have sold out

very quickly, so if you are interested in attending, please buy your tickets soon.

What: Garden Oaks 6th Annual Wine Walk, sampling wines from California

When: Saturday, October 18th (rain date November 1st) from 4- 6:30 pm

Where: 744 West 43rd, the gorgeous backyard of Ed and Brenda de Alba

Why: To raise monies for our underfunded Constable Patrol Program, while mingling with neighbors and tasting wines!

We hope to see you on October 18th!

September Civic Club Speaker



The Honorable John Whitmire, State Senator will be the featured speaker at the September 2nd Civic Club meeting.

Senator John Whitmire represents the 15th Senatorial District comprised of north Houston and parts of Harris County.
More information on page 7

September 2014

UPCOMING EVENTS

September Civic Club Meeting

Tuesday, September 2
7:00 p.m.

Garden Oaks Montessori
901 Sue Barnett Drive

National Night Out

Tuesday, October 7
(no October Civic Club meeting)

6th Annual Garden Oaks Wine Walk

Saturday, October 18
4:00-6:30 p.m.

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CITIZENS' PATROL UPDATE

By Carl Waters, Jr.

Reminder: If you are planning a National Night Out gathering on October 7, please contact Terry Jeanes or me so we can arrange to have a member of the Precinct One Constable's Office or the Houston Police Department stop by for a brief visit.

July Crime Statistics (7)

Assault (1)

3400 block of N. Shepherd on Sunday, July 20 at 6:41 p.m. (unknown location).

Burglary (2)

3200 block of Lawrence on Sunday, July 6 at 3:24 p.m. (residence).
900 block of W. 41st on Tuesday, July 8, at 11:17 a.m. (residence).

Theft (2)

1000 block of W 41st on Tuesday, July 8 at 5:45 p.m. (unknown location).
400 block of W. 34th on Wednesday, July 9 at 4:00 a.m. (unknown location).

Auto Theft (2)

800 block of W. 34th on Sunday, July 27 at 3:07 p.m. (unknown location).
900 block of W. 42nd on Wednesday, July 30 at 7:00 p.m. (unknown location).

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 713-864-1992.

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gazette@gardenoaks.org
for more information.

**NATIONAL NIGHT OUT:
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7**

by Carl Waters, Jr.

National Night Out, "America's Night Out Against Crime", was introduced by the National Association of Town Watch in 1984. Most of the country celebrates National Night Out in August, but Texas and some of our other Southern neighbors got permission to move the annual celebration to October in hopes of cooler weather.

The program was the brainchild of Executive Director Matt A. Peskin. In an effort to heighten awareness and strengthen participation in local anticrime efforts, Peskin proposed a national program which would be coordinated by local crime prevention agencies and organizations - but that would involve entire communities at one time. The first National Night

Out was held in 1984 on the first Tuesday in August. That first year, 400 communities in 23 states participated in National Night Out, some 2.5 million Americans. The event has since grown to involve more than **37 million people in over 15,000 communities** from all 50 states, U.S. territories, Canadian cities, and military bases worldwide in 2011.

National Night Out this year will be **Tuesday, October 7**. There will be no civic club meeting that evening so that neighbors can host or attend a NNO gathering to get to know each other better and heighten awareness about crime prevention.

The National Night Out program suggests a 7:00-10:00 p.m. time period, but you may adjust the start or end times to meet the needs of your block or group. If you are interested in hosting a

gathering, please call me at 713-864-1992 (evenings) or email your name, address, and contact info to gocop77018@aol.com or constable@gardenoaks.org so we can have one of the constables stop by your event. You may want to publicize your gathering on the Garden Oaks Facebook page or Yahoo group site. For more information and a wealth of resources, visit the official National Night Out web page at www.natw.org.



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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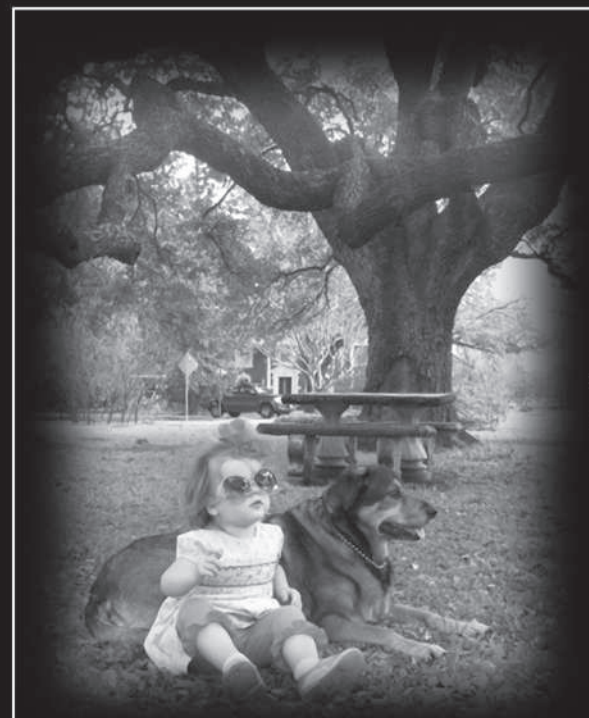
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HEARD UNDER THE OAK TREE

By Terry Jeanes

Welcome, New Neighbors!

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

- 729 West 30th
- 412 West 31st
- 805 West 31st
- 220 West 32nd
- 838 West 41st
- 938 West 41st
- 1034 West 41st
- 811 West 42nd
- 907 West 42nd
- 1038 West 43rd
- 906 Lamonte
- 931 Lamonte
- 1078 Lamonte
- 1482 Sue Barnett
- 1586 Sue Barnett

Happy Birthday

- Rita Hartman - 9/8
- Gretchen Seghers - 9/10
- Sylvia Escobedo - 9/16
- Jacopo Innocenti - 9/20
- John Beddow - 9/22
- Candice Croker - 9/25

Happy Anniversary

- Trent and Megan Salch - 9/5
- Robert DeVeau & Kenneth Santos - 9/6
- Phil Ramirez & Gina Pecoraro - 9/7
- Mike & Diane Heath - 9/7
- Rick and Tonya Knauth - 9/29

Congratulations

Amelie Bonilla won the monologue competition at the 2014 NYC IMTA event. She also came in 4th place for actor of the year. Proud parents are **Alex and Claire Bonilla**.

Out and About

Disney was a popular choice this year. It was Disneyworld for **Phil Ramirez and family**, while the **McKeown clan** visited Disneyland. Hooray for a Moms' night out in Louisiana for **Jayne Maltbie, Alisha Cunningham, and Stacy Gross**. **Sheree' Peoples** had a special visit with her daughter in Bristol, England.

The Knauths added another Texas adventure this summer at Garner State Park. For **the McLeans**, it was a month long frolic in Europe, creating a unique travel journal of Thomas the train photo opportunities. **Al Thomas and Dea**

Terry Jeanes
Your Neighbor & Area Specialist



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Larson had travel adventures in Hunt, Texas.

Special Thoughts

Condolences to **Denise Mathley** on the loss of her mother, Sylvia Flott.

Warm healing thoughts to **Tina Sabucco** who undergoes knee surgery on September 20.

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Sheila Briones, Civic Club President

In response to Mayor Annise Parker's Executive Order outlining her Complete Streets and Transportation Plan, members of the Garden Oaks Civic Club (GOCC) passed a motion at the March 4, 2014 meeting to send a letter to the mayor requesting that the City of Houston provide Garden Oaks a variance to its sidewalk rule thus crystallizing our position that sidewalks are not desired in Garden Oaks. The motion passed after lengthy discussion at the meeting.

If you are not aware of the sidewalk rule, the City of Houston Permitting Center has begun requesting either the installation of a (minimum) 5-foot wide sidewalk at the front property line of residential lots in the Garden Oaks subdivision or, alternatively, a letter from the GOCC stating that sidewalks are not desirable in Garden Oaks. The sidewalk rule only applies to new construction or major remodeling requiring a permit.

The rationale for our position includes the following reasons:

- Sidewalks are not part of the original design of Garden Oaks. Accordingly, an ad hoc patchwork of disconnected sidewalks stopping and starting at individual residences would adversely affect the quality, character, and value of the neighborhood.
- Garden Oaks has an open ditch drainage system that works well. In order to construct any proposed sidewalk, a portion of a drainage ditch would have to be covered, adversely affecting the drainage in the neighborhood.

- Installation of any sidewalks would create a safety hazard. An ad hoc patchwork of disconnected sidewalks would create serious safety concerns for the residents of Garden Oaks, particularly children. Naturally, if there is no adjacent sidewalk to connect to, there would be a drop in elevation from the sidewalk to the open ditches of the adjacent properties. Residents and children walking, biking, and playing on the sidewalk could fall and injure themselves because of such hazards.

Accordingly, the GOCC and the Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization (GOMO) are making waiver letters available to residents to use when applying for construction permits. If you see sidewalk construction forms being installed on a Garden Oaks lot, please contact me or a GOMO Director as soon as possible and we will make every effort to get in touch with the owners to prevent construction of a sidewalk on their property that they themselves do not want.



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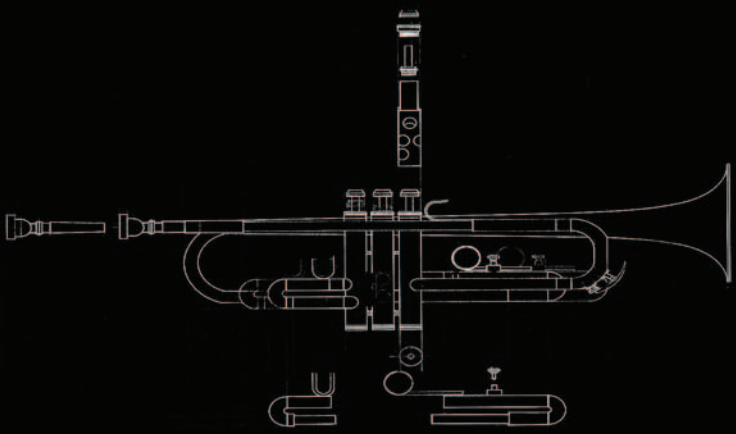
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GARDEN OAKS CIVIC CLUB MEETING MINUTES

By Brenda de Alba on behalf of Cindy Bartos, Secretary

August 5, 2014

Location: Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet School
901 Sue Barnett

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

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Jerry Butler was absent but a report of the Civic Club's current finances was distributed.

President Briones introduced Valerie Luna, a representative from Council Member Ellen Cohen's office. Ms. Luna's e-mail address is valerie.luna@houstontx.gov.

Program: Brenda de Alba introduced the evening's speakers, Marilyn Drane and Nan Blackman of CareTemps. CareTemps provides both personal assistance and care management services for adults in the Houston area.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership: Dian Austin reported that we have 318 paid members of the Civic Club and 323 Constable Program supporters as of August 1st. The names of paid Civic Club members and Constable Program participants are posted on the Garden Oaks website. Lori Kennedy won the door prize.

Garden Oaks Citizens' Patrol: Committee Chair Carl Waters, Jr. reported there were 7 crimes reported to the Houston Police Department in the prior month. There are currently 11 active patrollers and more would be very welcome.

Gazette: Editor Jenny Espeseth was not in attendance.

Garden Oaks Website: Webmaster Joe Muscara had no report.

Beautification: Gary Harmon reported that the committee's efforts are concentrated on park irrigation systems and tree trimming. A request to the City has been submitted to thin out thick shrubbery on the north side of the Art Park.

Constable Program: Committee Chair Terry Jeanes reported on the successful apprehension of one carjacking suspect by the constable on duty. She also reported that thieves were still targeting primarily GMC tires and rims. Officer Bowden will now be on the afternoon shift and a new deputy, Officer Hollins, will cover the evening shift.

Government Affairs: Mark Klein reported that he has been contacted about potentially serving as a stakeholder in reviewing the City's General Plan (a long-range planning initiative).

Ad Hoc In-Line Storm Water Detention Project Committee: Mark Klein reported that City Council Member Ellen Cohen has a meeting scheduled with Houston's Chief Operating Officer to discuss a possible re-evaluation of the project later in August.

OTHER BUSINESS

Dian Austin reported that the theme for this year's Wine Walk/Constable fundraiser is "California Dreamin'", highlighting wines of California. The duration of the event has been extended by 30 minutes and will be held from 4:00-6:30 p.m. on October 18th. Tickets will go on sale September 1st and will be limited to 200 for the event. The cost per ticket will be \$65 and they may be purchased by check or through the Garden Oaks website. Sponsorships are available for \$150, \$300, and \$500 with information on how to sponsor in the August *Gazette*.

President Briones announced that Texas State Senator John Whitmire will speak at the September meeting and adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

The Civic Club wishes to thank Brother's Pizza for providing pizza for those in attendance.

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STATE SENATOR JOHN WHITMIRE FEATURED SPEAKER AT SEPTEMBER CIVIC CLUB MEETING

The Honorable John Whitmire, State Senator, will be the featured speaker at the September 2nd Civic Club meeting. Senator John Whitmire was elected to the Texas Senate in 1982 after serving 10 years in the Texas House of Representatives. With over 30 years of service in the Texas Senate, Senator Whitmire ranks first in seniority and is the "Dean of the Texas Senate."

Senator Whitmire serves as Chair of the Senate Criminal Justice Committee and works to bring about needed changes to the adult and juvenile criminal justice systems. He is also a member of the Senate Administration Committee and the Senate Business and Commerce Committee. In addition, he serves as a member of the Senate Finance Committee where he is committed to finding appropriate solutions for funding the state's many agencies and programs.

Originally from Hillsboro, Texas, Senator Whitmire moved to Houston where he graduated from Waltrip High School. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Houston and attended the Bates College of Law. He was admitted to the Texas State Bar in 1981 and is attorney of counsel to the law firm Locke Lord LLP. Senator Whitmire has two daughters, Whitney and Sarah Whitmire.

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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713-861-8091 Home
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Wayne Forster (2016)
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Ed de Alba (2016)
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dealarson@aol.com

Kathy Silver (2016)
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ksilver@jw.com

SECTION 5

Open Position (2014)

Open Position (2015)

Teresa Coleman (2016)
1003 Gardenia
713-686-7728
teresa.coleman@pobox.com

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

GOMO UPDATE

Annual Meeting to be Held Oct.15

The Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization (GOMO) annual meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 15 at Garden Oaks Elementary. We welcome all Section 1, 2, 3, and 5 homeowners to the business meeting. Election of several Directors and voting on disbursement of surplus funds is on the agenda. If you are interested in serving as a board member please contact any of the GOMO Directors listed in the *Gazette*.

Director Positions Open

The following five Director positions will be filled by election at the annual meeting; the new term of each position will be November 1, 2014 through October 31, 2017, with one exception noted.

Section 1

The Director position currently held by Sheila Briones is up for election.

Section 2

The Director position currently held by Lori Kennedy is up for election.

Section 3

The Director position currently held by Joan Harmon is up for election.

Section 5

The Director position previously held by Jim Willburn is vacant. The replacement Director's term for this position will begin immediately and end on October 31, 2015.

The Director position currently held by Tim Weltin is vacant and up for election.

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.

Director Qualifications:

- Must be 18 years or older.
- Must own property and live within the Garden Oaks Section the Director is to represent. All property owned in Garden Oaks must be in compliance with the Garden Oaks Deed Restrictions, excluding violations that existed before the Director's ownership.
- If no Member residing in the Section stands for election, then a Member who owns property in that Section but lives in another Section may stand for election as a "Non-Section Director" whose term is one year.

Surplus Funds

GOMO traditionally uses surplus funds to support neighborhood projects that are endorsed by a majority vote of its membership. GOMO has surplus funds available for disbursement for the upcoming fiscal year.

GOMO currently supports two Constable Patrols in Garden Oaks as well as maintenance of neighborhood green spaces.

There is currently one funding proposal for disbursement of surplus funds:

Proposal 1. To provide funds for continuing coverage by one daytime and one nighttime constable patrol of Garden Oaks, 40 hours per week each, for the period January 1, 2015 until December 31, 2015. These two constable patrols are intended to supplement the current daytime patrol already funded by the Garden Oaks Civic Club and Garden Oaks residents. Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization will pay for the service and the Garden Oaks Civic Club will be in charge of scheduling. Anticipated cost for renewal of the two constable patrols is \$146,000 for the year.

The disbursement proposal and Bylaw Amendments require a majority vote for approval at the October 15 meeting. Proxy ballots are being mailed to homeowners in Sections 1, 2, 3 and 5. The mailing also includes additional information about the Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization and its activities.

An Open Invitation to our Meetings

All GOMO Members are invited to attend our meetings. Democracy works best in an open environment – and that is as true at the neighborhood level as it is at the Federal and State levels. There is no better way for the people of our community to see for themselves how we evaluate the building plans brought to us and how we reach consensus.

It is also the best way to get your questions answered. The GOMO Board is made up of 12 people and the Board doesn't have an "opinion" about a topic unless a majority of a quorum forms a consensus view. So no one Board Member is able to tell you what GOMO "thinks" about an issue or idea until we have an opportunity to deliberate and form a collective opinion. The formation of GOMO policy and opinion takes place at 7:00 p.m. every third Wednesday of the month at our business meeting held at the GOMO Office, Garden Oaks Professional Building, 4001 N. Shepherd, Suite 216. All residents are very welcome to attend, make suggestions, propose ideas, ask questions, clarify rumors, or simply observe the process.



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CONSTABLE PROGRAM UPDATE

By Terry Jeanes, Constable Program Committee Chair

Our current Garden Oaks Constable Patrol Deputies are Corey Greer (morning), Jeff Bowden (afternoon), and Kendal Hollins (night).

FUNDRAISER

The annual Constable Program Fundraiser, the Garden Oaks Wine Walk, is scheduled for October 18th. See details in this Gazette. GOMO members have voted the last several years to pay for two of the three constable contracts from GOMO surplus funds. However, the third contract is paid for only by residents, and is always underfunded. Currently, only 25% of households pay any monies toward the constable patrol. The Wine Walk fundraiser was created out of necessity to help raise monies for the third constable patrol, which will ensure a constable presence almost 24/7. Please support this annual fundraiser by becoming a cash sponsor (email cavort2@gmail.com if interested), or attending the event.

STAY ALERT

There was a **recent car jacking** at the corner of W. 41st at Golf. The driver was approached by an armed suspect who was later caught by Deputy Bowden with the support of HPD, following a car chase on N. Shepherd. The suspect fled the vehicle, leaving behind his firearm as well. The suspect had prior arrests.

As edited from a Precinct One Crime Alert : On August 14, 2014, 3:50pm the contract deputy on patrol observed two black males exiting a shed in the 900 block of West 43rd. The deputy made contact with the homeowners who advised they had just witnessed the two suspects taking their belongings from their shed. The contract deputy recognized the suspects as occupants of a vehicle he had just stopped in traffic 10 minutes prior in a 2001 Buick LeSabre with paper tags. A vehicle description was put out via radio broadcast and within a few minutes the vehicle was stopped in the area. **In**

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total, 4 suspects were arrested, all with prior arrests. A similar description of suspects and a vehicle was connected to a July 16th section one smash and grab break-in on West 33rd. Deputy Bowden has requested any additional info on similar sightings of vehicle or suspects to contact Precinct One. Also, several personal property items were obtained in the 8/14/14 arrest.

SIGNUP FOR PRECINCT ONE CRIME ALERTS:

<http://pct1constable.net/signup/crime-alerts/>

CONNECT YOUR ALARM COMPANY WITH CONSTABLE DISPATCH

Be sure your alarm monitoring company has **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 into your cell phone for ready access when you or a neighbor needs it.

CONTRIBUTE

If you haven't already done so, please consider contributing to this vital program. Payment can be made 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 to PO Box 10273, Houston, TX 77206 or e-mail to constable@gardenoaks.org so we have your current emergency contact information on file. The form is available in the Gazette and online at the link below. Your support of this program is greatly appreciated!

Constable Program Contributor Form:
www.gardenoaks.org/resources/2014constable.pdf

Vacation Watch Form:
www.gardenoaks.org/resrouces/vacationwatch.pdf

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2014 GARDEN OAKS WINE WALK TABLE HOSTS

Each year we are very fortunate to have neighbors and area businesses eager to host tables at our wine walk. Without their generous contributions of wines, foods, and their time, the event would not be possible. This year we have a full complement of 13 tables, and many of these hosts are returning from multiple years. We will list the specific wines that they will be pouring as we get closer to the event date. Thanks to these generous folks for keeping our annual constable program fundraiser going!



1. SK Designs/Susan Kostelecky
2. GO Kids
3. Tina Rowe and Jim DiCola
4. "Aged to Perfection"
Peggy Smith, Pamela Parks, Teresa Coleman, Elisa Cuellar, and Knox Wright
5. Scott Miller
6. Heidi and Stuart Arouty
7. Facundo Home Builders/
Miguel Facundo
8. Danyel T. Ramelow
Financial Advisor, Edward Jones, Garden Oaks Shopping Center
9. Karie and Alyn Goad and Daniel and Kimberly Horowitz
10. "GO Red Hot Chili Peppers"
Ron & Sheree' Peoples, Emilio and Patti Chemali, and Francisca and Jeff Webster
11. Tina Beddow and Sue Walmsley Amash
12. Jenny and Jason Espeseth and Mike and Diane Heath
13. Melanie and Randy Evans

XTREME HUMMINGBIRD XTRAVAGANZA OPEN HOUSE

Saturdays September 13 and 20, 2014
8 am until Noon

Gulf Coast Bird Observatory
103 West Highway 332
Lake Jackson, TX 77566

Autumn is hummingbird season in Texas, as thousands of these tiny creatures move through the state on their southward migration to Mexico and Central America.

Join us September 13th and 20th to see hummingbirds being banded, adopt a hummingbird, browse the Nature Store, walk the nature trails, or buy a plant to attract hummingbirds and butterflies.



2014 GARDEN OAKS WINE WALK SPONSORS TO DATE

As we go to press, many area businesses and neighbors have already pledged cash sponsorships for the upcoming Wine Walk. Sponsorships are essential to our fundraising efforts, and we are so very appreciative. Please support these businesses and thank your neighbors for their generosity. We are hopeful that we can raise \$20,000 for our underfunded constable patrol program this year.

Additional sponsorships are still available at the \$500, \$300, and \$150 levels. Each level garners different benefits, including tickets to the event, signage, and Gazette advertising. The sponsorship benefits can be found at www.gardenoaks.org or email membership@gardenoaks.org if interested.



\$500 Gold Sponsors

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- Terry Jeanes, ReMax/Metro
- The Bell Tower on 34th

\$300 Silver Sponsors

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- Council Member Ellen Cohen, District C

Hal Bowman and Georgia Lister, section 3 neighbors
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\$150 Bronze Sponsors

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- Heights Tribune
- Lauder Properties – Garden Oaks Realty
- Linda Sparks, section 4 neighbor
- Marcy Basile – Massage Therapist
- Mathew Naftis DDS
- Katy Hall, The Reyna Realty Group
- Pat Walker – Keller Williams Metropolitan
- Tonya L. Knauth, Attorney, PLLC

2014 GARDEN OAKS WINE WALK
Saturday October 18, 4 - 6:30 pm
744 W. 43rd

___ Yes! Reserve ___ tickets @ \$65 for a total of \$ ___

Name: _____

(Note: this is the name in which your tickets will be held at Will Call.)

Address: _____

Phone: _____

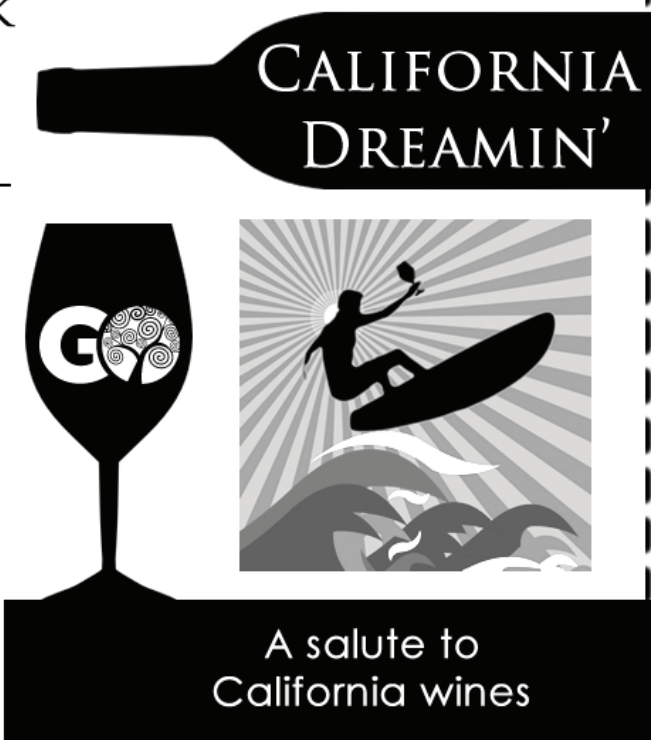
Email: _____

___ No, I cannot attend, but enclosed is a donation of \$ ___ to be applied to the Constable Program

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

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

We will acknowledge your ticket order via email or phone. Rain date is November 1. Sorry, no refunds.



Ticket sales limited to the first 200 to respond. This is an ADULTS only event (age 21 and older).

GARDEN OAKS MONTESSORI MAGNET

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

We often hear about our shrinking world and the need for greater connections and understanding among societies. In fact, Dr. Montessori's underlying philosophy in developing her method of education was to improve cultural interactions and studies to promote world peace. This August, I had an opportunity to travel to Brazil with a group of seven U.S. principals through a program offered by the United States Bureau of Cultural Affairs. During the two weeks I spent in Brazil, I interacted with teachers, students, and communities in schools in and around the capital city of Brasilia. During this time I visited over 50 schools including a private Montessori school, two environmental sciences schools, and comprehensive schools at every grade level. Additionally, I tasted foods that were new to me and enjoyed delicious Brazilian coffee! Most importantly, this experience provided a chance to exchange ideas and cultural perspectives to enrich my professional practice. I share with you my reflections in an effort to promote understanding and connections in the spirit of Maria Montessori.

From the time our group arrived at the US Embassy for our briefing, it was obvious that there were significant differences between our countries. Brazil is a country on the cusp of change. It is filled with diversity of people, flora, fauna, and energy and ideas that have the potential to transform millions of lives. In spite of this tremendous potential, Brazil is a country of enormous disparities. While some citizens live in posh gated communities with regular shopping trips to the United States and Europe, others are waiting for access to utilities and basic services. Additionally, the differences between public and private school systems contribute to a further stratification of the social structure despite reforms to improve the quality and access of the public school systems. My impression of the wealth and prosperity that exists in this nation

is that the collaborative, caring culture offsets the clash that simmers beneath the surface of this burgeoning desire to increase the living quality of the Brazilian people as evidenced with the society's struggle with high crime rates.

What will indelibly remain in my memory from this visit was the dedication of teachers and staff on every campus I visited. Additionally, their excitement to work for and advocate for children and families in schools located in the most destitute of surroundings was inspirational. Their efforts are resulting in extended day programs, social services and other innovative programs that hold the promise of leveling the playing ground for underprivileged children and families. Examples include state-subsidized early childhood initiatives and wrap-around services that offer 10 hour days with 5 meals, nursing, and showers provided. The emphasis on support for children and families is admirable; however, I wonder about the financial sustainability of these programs as the country's population increases. The impact of the demand may also ultimately impact the need for teachers to provide more hours of instruction (presently school is 4 hours/day with a morning or afternoon "shift"). A focus on educating the whole child and the presence of strong religious overtones demonstrated that the Brazilian people recognize the importance of a fully integrated curriculum and the needs of students and families. Of particular note were the specialized schools for PE, art, music, and language that were offered for children from primary school to high school during the free hours before and after the academic courses. Admirably, schools are fully equipped with recycling bins and were focused on environmental awareness and connection to the earth despite being surrounded by garbage and traffic. This stark contrast was a constant image in my mind as I worked to balance my perceptions of Brazil.

Finally, campus leadership is elected on school campuses but this application of democratic principles may unintentionally adversely impact academic student results. This makes the

position political and potentially hobbled by the individual's desire to be re-elected instead of making decisions that might be in the best interest of students but unpopular with the teachers and/or community. We have many things to learn from one another, but in the end, the question remains – is it effective?

In summary, this experience has generated in me a plethora of new ideas and self-reflection that benefit my personal and professional life. It is my hope that I will be able to continue to maintain the connections I made with educators in Brazil and to extend the impact of this experience as I share new learning with the teachers and students of Garden Oaks. Already, we have plans for a pen pal "club" and may even Skype each other this year! Ultimately, this was an amazing experience that has broadened my horizons and has demonstrated how close we are to our neighbors in Brazil!



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AIR CONDITIONING TIPS FOR THE FALL

By Mitch Weigand

The Dreaded Water Torture: Why Your Central Air Conditioner Leaks Water
As we all know, Houston air is loaded with moisture. While it's normal for your home's HVAC system to accumulate some water as it dehumidifies the indoor air, a leaky A/C can be very alarming and cause significant property damage.

Where Does the Water Come From?
Water is a normal by-product of the cooling process. All air conditioning systems have an evaporator coil. It's basically a matrix of metal tubes which contain freon. As these tubes get cold and hot, moist air is blown across them, and moisture collects just like it does on the outside of a cold can of soda. Eventually, enough water collects and then drips into the drain pan within the coil. Connected to the pan is the drain line which is made of PVC tubing that deposits the water into the plumbing or outside of your home.

If something goes wrong with the drain pan or drain line, it can lead to water overflowing into the emergency safety pan located under the coil. So what causes this leaking water and what can you do to protect your A/C system and home from damage?

The Most Common Cause of Leaking Water: A Clogged Drain Line
Over time, as water flows through the drain line, debris, algae, and other particles begin to accumulate. Eventually, enough of this gunk builds up to completely clog the drain line.

With no place to go, the water backs up and fills the evaporator coil's internal drain pan. If enough water is present, it fills the drain pan, then overflows the emergency safety pan beneath the coil and spreads into your home's attic. Eventually, the water will soak through your ceiling. Now we're talking about serious water damage.

Prevention is the Key
Here's what you can do to prevent your A/C system from leaking water:

- 1. Have an annual maintenance check-up performed.** Make sure your A/C service technician clears the drain line as part of this check-up.
- 2. Invest in an overflow shut-off device.** Installed on the drain line, this clever gadget will turn off your A/C if the drain line becomes clogged and backs up. Most of the time, it will prevent water from overflowing the drain pan. Then call your service technician to clear out the clog.
- 3. Fix it yourself.** If you feel like tackling it yourself, pour a cup of bleach down the drain line's access port every couple of months to prevent a buildup of gunk. This is necessary only during peak summer months. Have your service technician show you where the access port is located.

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

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I cannot recommend Mitch highly enough. If your A/C or heating system needs service or repair, this is your guy.



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Air Wise owner Mitch Weigand

MICKEY'S MINUTE

By Mickey Morales

September has finally arrived, and with it comes the promise of cooler temperatures and my annual migration to Bastrop, Texas to attend the Farm and Ranch Freedom Alliance Convention and Legislative Workshop. I am sure to come back with a head full of ideas on how to improve on the legislation that was passed in the last session. And that's where y'all can help. I'll be posting regularly on our Facebook page the actions we can take to form friendly bills and rid farmers and ranchers of unnecessary regulations and fees. If you are not already a fan, please go to The Farmstand @ Petrol Station on Facebook and friend us, so we can keep you informed.

Farmer Cathy and I will also be posting the announcement of our Farm Dinner for this fall. Currently it looks like we'll have it on Sunday,

October 19th, with a rain date of the following Sunday, October 26th. At the time of this posting, we haven't pinned down our chef(s); however, I'm sure they will be someone exciting and the majority of the menu items will be coming from our farmers and ranchers. Last year's event was well received, with around twenty folks enjoying the fresh country air and scenery, and we hope to double that number this year. So again stay tuned to our Facebook page to keep up with the fall schedule of events.

Meanwhile the Farmstand continues to grow and improve, with the

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

addition of a soap maker, a new baker, doggie treats, plants for your personal garden and possibly a new prepared foods vendor; however the jury is still out on that last one. Of course all your favorites are still here: jam and jellies from Kristy's Kitchen, Quick-n-Easy Indian food, and of course outstanding fresh sustainably grown produce from our farmers.

As always, come soon, come often and do your happy dance because the heat is almost over.



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FALL VEGETABLE CYLINDER GARDENING

Fall's milder temperatures bring out the best flavors in home vegetable gardens. Insects and disease are also less bothersome in the fall.

Vegetables to consider growing this fall include: tomatoes, beans, cucumbers, beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, kohlrabi, lettuce, radishes, spinach and turnips.

Plant crops where they will receive at least six hours of direct sun daily. Root crops (such as turnips) and leafy vegetables (like lettuce) tolerate some shade, but fruiting types (such as tomatoes and squash) need sun. A garden that catches the early morning sun will dry more quickly, reducing the chance that harmful fungi or bacteria will develop.

What is Cylinder Gardening?

Cylinder Gardening uses bottomless cylinders (half of a 4 or 5 gallon bucket) as small, individual gardens for growing vegetables. This works especially well in areas with poor soil that normally need extensive amendments and labor to support an actively producing garden. Besides the cylinders, you will need good potting soil mixed with a good organic fertilizer (Microlife), and a top dressing of compost.

Why is it better?

Cylinder gardening requires little land and little pre-gardening preparation or experience. Once the cylinders are filled and planted, the only labor is minor maintenance, watering and harvesting. Plants mature from seed in 30 to 90 days and from transplants in far less time. Installation and removal of the garden is quick and clean. Research shows that by growing plants, children will not only learn about science and the environment, but they will also gain a sense of pride, responsibility and determination. Children growing vegetables will also learn about where their food comes from and have better nutritional habits...because they enjoy eating what they grow!



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BEAUTIFICATION UPDATE

By Gary Harmon, Beautification Committee Chair

In August, we concentrated on irrigation of the parks, spraying weeds with Roundup®, and selectively trimming trees. Andrew Mireles of [MyTreesHouston](http://MyTreesHouston.com) has helped identify the trees that need trimming and advised us of the importance of trimming to maintain their health. On Saturday, September 20 at 10:00 a.m., we will be meeting in Friendship Park to discuss the trimming of those trees; anyone interested in attending is welcome. I have contacted the city several times by calling 311 to trim the shrubs in their right of way at the corners where West 41st and West 42nd intersect with North Shepherd. It is getting harder and harder to see oncoming traffic before turning onto North Shepherd from 41st or 42nd.

If more people call 311 or submit a request online, the city may address the problem more quickly.

2014 GREEN THUMB LECTURES AND WORKSHOPS

Don't miss out on the last two gardening lectures of 2014 made available through the Harris County Master Gardeners. These Lectures are free to residents of Harris County.

Third Tuesdays September & October 6:30 - 8:30 pm
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September 16 - Container Gardening

October 21 - Trees, Selection & Maintenance



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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.

Please support our advertisers who in turn support our neighborhood.

Tell them you saw their ad in the Gazette!

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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		

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).

**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>

SEPTEMBER 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Labor Day	2 Civic Club Meeting* 7PM @ GOMM <small>*Preceded by GOMO meeting beginning at 6:30PM</small>	3 	4	5	6 Farmers Market 9AM-1PM 948 Wakefield
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 Farmers Market (GF) 9AM-1PM 948 Wakefield
14	15	16 	17 GOMO Meeting 7PM @ GOPB	18 Heavy Trash Pick-Up (Tree Waste)	19	20 Farmers Market 9AM-1PM 948 Wakefield
21	22	23	24	25	26	27 Farmers Market (GF) 9AM-1PM 948 Wakefield
28	29	30 	Acronym Key GOMM = Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet 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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