

GARDEN OAKS GAZETTE

VOLUME 36

ISSUE 10

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF THE GARDEN OAKS CIVIC CLUB TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14

A special meeting of the Garden Oaks Civic Club has been scheduled **Tuesday, October 14 at 7:00 p.m.** at Garden Oaks Montessori School Cafeteria, 901 Sue Barnett, to discuss the **Garden Oaks-Shepherd Forest Storm Water Drainage Project for both Alba and Golf roads.**

You spoke and the City of Houston listened. This special meeting will present design options now being offered by the City in response to objections made to proposed sidewalks and street widening.

Items to be discussed:

- Report on the September 16 meeting with the City of Houston on the Alba Road Storm Water Drainage Project
- Presentation of a survey going out to every homeowner on the Alba Road In-Line Storm Water Detention Project (the City of Houston is asking all Garden Oaks homeowners for their input on both Alba and Golf drainage project designs)
- Vote on survey mailing expenses
- Possible vote on rescission, amendment or other motion related to the Alba Road project

Hope that you can attend this special meeting.

October 2014

UPCOMING EVENTS

National Night Out

Tuesday, October 7
(in place of regular October Civic Club meeting)

Special October Civic Club Meeting

Tuesday, October 14
7:00 p.m.
Garden Oaks Montessori
901 Sue Barnett Drive

GOMO Annual Meeting

Wednesday, October 15
7:00 p.m.
Garden Oaks Montessori, Library

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.

A final reminder: if you are planning a National Night Out party 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.

August Crime Statistics (5)

Burglary (3)

1300 Sue Barnett on Friday, August 8 at 8:00 p.m. (residence).
 1100 Sue Barnett on Friday, August 8 at 9:21 p.m. (residence).
 1000 W. 41st on Thursday, August 28 at 3:00 p.m. (residence).

Theft (2)

1400 Sue Barnett on Wednesday,

August 13 at 1:00 p.m. (unknown location).
 200 W. 34th on Saturday, August 23 at 11:00 a.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 or to the COP email account at GOCOP77018@AOL.com or by phone at 713-569-3153.



Terry Jeanes
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HELP WANTED

Seeking Gazette Editor and Assistant Editor for 2015.

Please contact gazette@gardenoaks.org for more information.

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.

Gazette Contacts

Jenny Espeseth Editor
 1039 Gardenia 713-385-4829
gazette@gardenoaks.org

Brenda de Alba Advertising Director
 744 West 43rd 713-705-0886
gazetteads@gardenoaks.org

Lori Kennedy Delivery Coordinator
 750 Sue Barnett 713-691-6833
gazettedelivery@gardenoaks.org

Garden Oaks Civic Club Officers

- | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|
| Sheila Briones
412 West 34th | President
281-685-8133 | president@gardenoaks.org |
| Victor Seghers
733 West 41st | Vice President
713-677-0055 | vicepresident@gardenoaks.org |
| Jerry Butler
871 West 41st | Treasurer
713-822-3175 | treasurer@gardenoaks.org |
| Cindy Bartos
831 Azalea | Secretary
713-694-6697 | secretary@gardenoaks.org |

Standing Committee Chairs

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| Gary Harmon
827 Lamonte | Beautification
713-817-3744 | beautification@gardenoaks.org |
| Carl Waters, Jr.
821 West 31st | Citizens' Patrol
713-569-3153 | gocop@gardenoaks.org |
| Terry Jeanes
922 West 41st | Constable Program
713-812-9154 | constable@gardenoaks.org |
| Joe Muscara
750 Sue Barnett | GardenOaks.org
713-691-6833 | webmaster@gardenoaks.org |
| Mark Klein
846 Azalea | Government Affairs
281-536-6063 | mklein1503@gmail.com |
| Dian Austin
733 West 42nd | Membership
713-691-6505 | membership@gardenoaks.org |



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.

427 West 30th
 431 W. 31st
 954 Althea
 958 Gardenia
 950 Lamonte
 1314 Sue Barnett

Happy Birthday

Dian Austin – 10/1
 Sue Schmidt – 10/3
 Julian S. – 10/5
 Lisa Rentschler – 10/7
 Tina Sabuco – 10/9
 Michael Padon – 10/12
 Rita Donaldson – 10/15
 Pene Carter – 10/25
 Fritz I. – 10/25
 Linda Reichle – 10/25
 Mark Saranie – 10/25
 Layne H. – 10/27
 Jack Runge – 10/2

Happy Anniversary

Debbie & Tony Padon – 10/6
 Elizabeth & Mark Klein - 10/7
 Betsy & Gig Runge - 10/9
 Sally & Jim McDaniel – 10/12
 Holly & Matt Veech – 10/14
 Tina & John Beddow – 10/21
 Jayne & Mike Maltbie – 10/28

Congratulations

To **Tina Sabuco** on the 20th Anniversary of her company, ARTS ALIVE!, in September.
 An October celebration is in order for the 19th anniversary of **Susan Kostelecky's** company, SK Designs.

Animal Success Stories

A special shout out to the **de Albas** who rescued and reunited a lost blind kitty with his owner; the kitty had been missing for over a month. Also, GO Girl, the white pitt mix rescued in Garden Oaks by **Terry Jeanes** and fellow Oak Forest Animal Advocates Member **Annette Donovan**, was adopted to a furever home with help from the Austin Humane Society.

Out and About

The **Feits** were seen at a recent game at Lambeau Field. The **Odinets** were at LSU's Tiger Stadium as were the **Therriots**, where Mae even lost her tooth during the game. Geaux Toothfairy! The **Greenlates** vacationed in Colorado and Red Rocks Park. **Craig and M'lissa Dilley** spent time in San Pedro Ambergris Caye, Belize.

Condolences

To the family of **Ike Eickenhorst**, our long time neighbor and regular civic club meeting attendee who passed away August 15.

Special thoughts for **Marlene Caldwell** following the loss of her beloved dog, Chip.

To highlight an event, celebration, or other tidbit, contact Terry Jeanes at 713-812-9154 or terry@terryjeanes.com.

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CHARLIE'S CHAIR

By Dian Austin

On Wednesday, September 10, approximately 60 friends, neighbors, and family members gathered in Triangle Park to dedicate a permanent chair in memory of Charlie George, who lost his battle with leukemia on May 27, 2014. The gathering was also a celebration of the kind and caring neighbors who rallied around Charlie and his wife, Sandra, during Charlie's illness.

"Charlie's Chair" in Triangle Park is a visible testament to the thoughtfulness of all the neighbors who set chairs out in their own front yards so that Charlie could rest comfortably on his daily walks with his dogs.

The red metal chair, plaque, and the artwork on the chair were all provided by Azalea neighbors. Gary Harmon coordinated the chair's physical installation in the park with the civic club's overwhelming stamp of approval. The accompanying plaque reads: "Charlie's Chair - For anyone in need of a rest - In honor of Charlie George and neighbors who care for each other - May 2014".

Charlie's wife, Sandra Medina George, provided hamburgers and hot dogs for attendees, while others brought side dishes and desserts.

Charlie would have been pleased.



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GARDEN OAKS CIVIC CLUB MEETING MINUTES

By Cindy Bartos, Secretary

September 2, 2014

Location: Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet School
901 Sue Barnett

Welcome: In the absence of President Sheila Briones, Vice President Victor Seghers called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed attendees. A motion was made and seconded to approve the August 2014 minutes as published in the *Gazette*. The motion passed.

Program: Cindy Bartos introduced Senator John Whitmire of Texas Senate District 15 who spoke on issues of concern to Garden Oaks residents and followed with a question and answer period.

Announcements: Mr. Seghers

announced the formation of a Nominating Committee for the 2015 GOCC officers as outlined in the Civic Club's bylaws. The Committee members are Victor Seghers, Terry Jeanes, Brenda de Alba, Tonya Knauth, and Tina Parks.

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 at the meeting. Mr. Butler acknowledged the contribution from the Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization (GOMO) of \$20,000 to reimburse the Civic Club for its 2013 lawn and park maintenance expenditures. Mr. Butler also had copies of the Civic Club's 2013 tax return available. The tax return will be posted on the Civic Club's website. The Civic Club currently has funds for approximately 7 more monthly constable patrol payments. Consequently, additional

constable patrol contributions are needed along with a successful Wine Walk.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership: Committee Chair Dian Austin reported that we have 323 Civic Club members and 326 Constable Program supporters. The names of paid Civic Club members and Constable Program supporters are posted on the Garden Oaks Facebook page and GardenOaks.org. Dian also reported that the Wine Walk tickets went up for sale yesterday and sold out today. Winners of the raffle drawing were Steve and Gen Ivey, new residents of Section 2 and first-time Civic Club meeting attendees.

Garden Oaks Citizens' Patrol: Committee Chair Carl Waters, Jr. was not in attendance.

Gazette: Editor Jenny Espeseth was not in attendance.

Garden Oaks Website: Webmaster Joe Muscara was not in attendance.

Beautification: Committee Chair Gary Harmon was not in attendance.

Constable Program: Program Chair Terry Jeanes highlighted the importance of the Wine Walk with its contribution of profits to the Constable Program. She reminded all of National Night Out (NNO) on October 7th and encouraged those hosting a NNO event to contact her at constable@gardenoaks.org or Carl Waters at gocop@gardenoaks.org so they can arrange brief visits by constable's deputies and police officers. Ms. Jeanes also suggested the NNO hosts make Civic Club and Constable Program membership forms available at their NNO event. Six constable's deputies were in attendance at the meeting, including the three under contract with the Garden Oaks Civic Club: Deputies Greer, Bowden, and Hollins. Deputy Bowden reported on recent crimes in the neighborhood which included several burglaries, a criminal mischief report, and several burglaries of motor vehicles. Ms. Jeanes and Deputy Bowden encouraged residents to program the Constable Dispatch number (713-755-7628) into their cell phones and

to call whenever they see anything suspicious.

Ad Hoc In-Line Storm Water

Detention Project Committee: Mark Klein reported on the meeting he and fellow Committee members Pam Parks, Bryan Blades, Randy Odinet, and Dave Shamblen attended today with Councilwoman Ellen Cohen; her Chief of Staff, Brooke Boyett; her Deputy Chief of Staff, Traci Elsner; the City of Houston Deputy Director of Public Works, Daniel Menendez; and the City of Houston Chief Operating Officer, Harry Hayes. If approved, the project would widen Alba to 27 feet and include curbs and gutters. If two 5-foot wide sidewalks are included, the total width would increase to 41 feet. The Committee made several proposals, including consideration of a narrower design, consideration of alternative areas for detention and pipe drainage, using the existing swale system in conjunction with new pipe under Alba but leaving it as-is, and the status quo. They also expressed concern about losing green space, historical neighborhood character and streetscape design, plus Triangle Park, which stands to lose a considerable amount of land and perhaps cease to exist at all. Also proposed were ideas such as adding small roundabouts with trees in a partnership with the Civic Club to keep some green space and slow down traffic. The representatives from the City will consider the proposals and call another meeting in about 2 weeks. During the follow-up discussion to Mr. Klein's presentation, Terry Jeanes expressed concern that movement on the project would be taking place before the Civic Club's next meeting in November, but Ms. Elsner provided

assurance that there would be plenty of time for discussion and input.

OTHER BUSINESS

Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization (GOMO): GOMO Vice President Mark Saranie announced that the annual GOMO meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 15, 2014 in the GOMMS library. Several Board positions are open and all are invited to attend.

Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet (GOMM): Principal Pollock reported being well into week two of the new school year and acknowledged the importance of the strong community involvement with the school. There will be an initial construction meeting with the Campus Committee and school district representatives to learn about the construction plans and project time line. Public meetings will be held in the future.

Vice President Seghers announced there would not be an October Civic Club meeting and encouraged neighbors to host or attend a National Night Out event on October 7th. The next Civic Club meeting will be November 4 with Mickey Morales of the Farmer's Market on Wakefield as the featured speaker.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Editor's Note: Contrary to previous announcements of there being no Civic Club meeting in October due to National Night Out, a special meeting of the Civic Club has since been scheduled for Tuesday, October 14 at 7:00 p.m. at Garden Oaks Montessori to discuss the Alba Road In-Line Storm Water Detention Project.

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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GOMO Board of Directors

SECTION 1

Sheila Briones (2014)
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713-861-8091 Home
281-685-8133 Cell
sbriones@hotmail.com

Mark Saranie, Vice President (2015)
235 West 33rd
713-861-7994 Home
713-724-1271 Cell
msaranie@comcast.net

Wayne Forster (2016)
527 West 34th
713-880-4367
wayneforster@mac.com

SECTION 2

Lori Kennedy (2014)
750 Sue Barnett
713-691-6833 Home
lorikgomo@blue-funk.com

Gale Gorman (2015)
742 Sue Barnett
gale_gorman@mac.com

Ed de Alba (2016)
744 West 43rd
713-694-5934 Home
ferrocem@yahoo.com

SECTION 3

Joan Harmon (2014)
827 Lamonte
713-818-9682
joanharmon827@yahoo.com

Dea Larson (2015)
823 Lamonte
713-695-3634
dealarson@aol.com

Kathy Silver (2016)
826 Lamonte
832-647-4052
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 formerly held by Tim Weltin is 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.

BEAUTIFICATION UPDATE

By Gary Harmon, Beautification Committee Chair

We have been spending time monitoring and repairing the irrigation systems in September. We have also been concentrating on trimming trees in all our parks. Ace Tree Specialist and My Trees Houston, each owned by Garden Oaks residents, have been of great help.

October is a good time to plant fall/winter color in our parks. Anyone who would like to volunteer can request a planting date and the plants of their choice (preferably perennials). The Beautification Committee will have the plants delivered when you are ready.

The permanent Chair for Charlie has been installed in Triangle Park on Azalea and Alba. Garden Oaks' maintenance contractor, Knolton

Wooten (281-630-0084), donated his services to ensure the park looked nice for the dedication.

All residents are encouraged to contact the City of Houston to request clean-up of the city right-of-way along North Shepherd. The current state of this area of North Shepherd reflects poorly on our neighborhood. Residents may submit such requests by dialing 311, emailing 311@houston.tx.gov, submitting a web request at <http://hfdapp.houston.tx.gov/311/index.php> or via the City of Houston 311 mobile application.



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GO KIDS UPDATE

By Jenny Odinet, GO Kids Coordinator

Members are invited to join us for a spooky fun time at the 2nd annual GO Kids Halloween Bash on October 25th from 4:30-7:00 p.m. in the 1000 block of Gardenia. Pizza and Cane's chicken tenders, Edible Arrangement's delicious fruit, drinks, and treats will be provided for the children. There are a lot of activities planned such as face-painting, bouncy houses, a photo booth, and various other kid-friendly activities. Please RSVP on the Big Tent Event Invitation if you plan to join in on the fun.

Leadership Team

We are starting our planning discussions for next year. At the November Mom's Night Out, we will provide brief introductions and information about the Leadership Team's 2015-2016 term. There are several positions open for next

year, including but not limited to Coordinator, Communications, Fundraising, and Treasurer. If you are interested in learning more or volunteering, please contact Jenny Odinet (jenny.odinet@yahoo.com). The official "kick-off" meeting and elections of officers will take place in January 2015.

GO Kids Membership

If you'd like to become a member of GO Kids, please follow these simple instructions:

1. Go to www.gardenoakskids.com.
2. Click on "email us for an invitation".
3. Provide the following information: your full name, information about your family, and your address.

Communication

Our website gardenoakskids.com continues to grow and now offers a login portal to BigTent, information on contributing to our annual

bouncy house fund, and the option to purchase your Garden Oaks Cookbook. We have migrated to a new Facebook page to support the group. If you have not already become a member of the new Facebook page, please contact Lisa Rentschler (gypsy9601@yahoo.com).

GO Kids 2014 Remaining Activities

Check out our calendar of events and additional event details at www.bigtent.com.

- Fall Movie Night – October 4th
- Halloween Bash – October 25th
- Neighborhood Fun Run - November 15th
- Christmas with Santa – December 6th

Please keep an eye on Big Tent for an additional "Big Kid" event we are planning for November.

To help make these activities and

events special and to allow us to host additional events for our GO Kids families, we have asked each of our members to donate \$25 per family per term year. If you have not already made your donation, please go to www.paypal.com, select "send money to family or friends" and specify gokids01@hotmail.com as the recipient.

If you have any membership questions or would like to make a donation another way, please contact the GO Kids Membership Coordinator, Carrie Shamblen (carriep51@hotmail.com) or the GO Kids Treasurer, Angelica Sullivan (angelicapuerto@hotmail.com).

Mom's Night Out

Who doesn't need a night out?! This is a great way to meet other moms (even those eagerly awaiting motherhood are welcome) and neighbors. We have a Mom's Night Out in the 3rd week of each month, usually alternating between Tuesday and Thursday nights. See Big Tent for details of upcoming events.

GO Kids Dinner Drops

We are happy to provide several meals to new parents during those stressful few weeks. Signing up for a dinner drop is very convenient via the "Lotsa Helping Hands" app or online at www.lotsahelpinghands.com.

Pay it Forward... volunteering for a dinner drop is a great way to say *Thank you* if you have benefited from this program in the past. For more information contact Julie Maddox (juliemaddox1@gmail.com). If you're unable to deliver dinner, restaurant gift cards are also a wonderful option and a great way to reciprocate for all of those dinners you received when you have your baby(ies)!

If you have questions or would like more information about the GO Kids group, please contact the GO Kids Coordinator, Jenny Odinet at jenny.odinet@yahoo.com or any member of the leadership team.



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).

PRECINCT ONE CRIME ALERTS:
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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**.

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.

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

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

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THE WINE WALK LOW DOWN

Who: 200 lucky friends and neighbors who procured tickets before they sold out in a record two days! **Adults only; no one under 21 years of age will be admitted.** No pets. If you have purchased tickets, you should have received a confirmation email. If you did not receive an email and you think you've bought tickets, please email cavort2@gmail.com or call 713-691-6505.

What: California Dreamin' Garden Oaks 6th Annual Wine Walk, showcasing wines from California.

When: Saturday, October 18th (rain date November 1st) 4:00-6:30 p.m. (Please arrive no earlier than 4:00 p.m.)

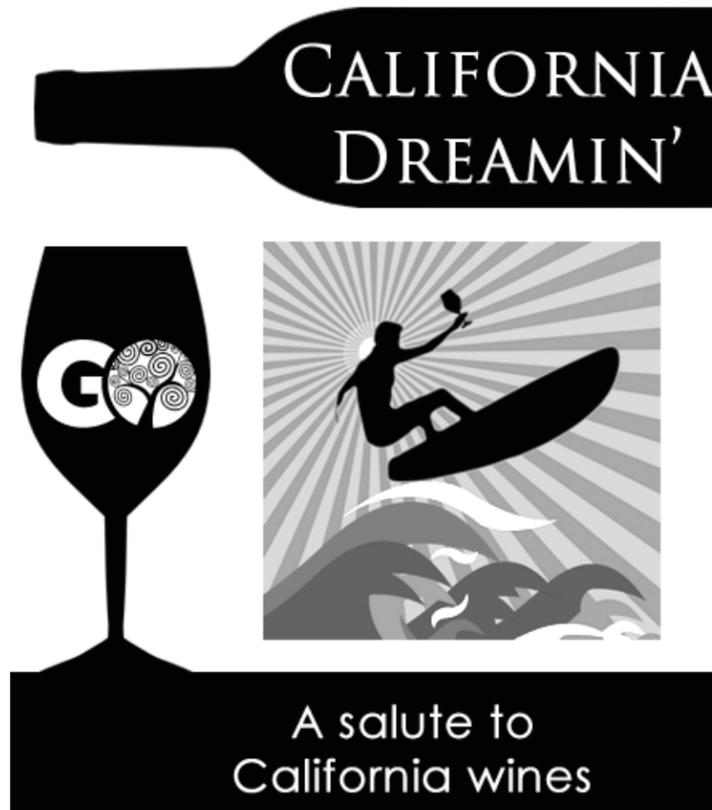
Where: 744 West 43rd, the backyard of Ed and Brenda de Alba

Why: To mingle with your neighbors, have some fun, and most importantly... to support our constable patrol program!

How: There will be very limited parking on W. 43rd, so consider "walking the walk" and travel by foot or bike to the event. If you park on neighboring streets, please be respectful of driveways, property, etc. as you always are.

Upon arrival at the check-in table at the entrance, your name will be checked off the list of ticket holders and you will be given a wine glass. You are then free to meander about the beautifully landscaped backyard and koi pond, and visit the various tables to sample the wines and light bites offered by hosts.

Many thanks to everyone for your continued support of our constable Patrol program!



September Civic Cub Meeting with guest speaker Senator John Whitmire



2014 GARDEN OAKS WINE WALK SPONSORS

We are very grateful for the numerous area businesses and neighbors who offered to be cash sponsors for our upcoming Wine Walk. Please support these businesses and thank your neighbors for their generosity. Many of them have supported our neighborhood and constable patrol program time and time again.

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- Oak Forest Veterinary Hospital

\$150 Bronze Sponsors

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**GARDEN OAKS
MONTESSORI SHINDIG**

*By Devin Hunter and Julia Kramp,
Shindig Co-Chairs*

Garden Oaks Montessori is a preK-8th grade Montessori magnet school with an emphasis on Environmental Science. We are a very unique campus nestled right in the middle of Garden Oaks, and draw students from throughout Houston to our program. We thank you for being a partner in our community. We have some exciting things planned for the 2014-2015 school year. We are starting things off in September with our second-annual adult-only fundraising event, the **Shindig**, to be held **October 19, 2014** at 5226 Elm. We are expecting 200 attendees.

What's a Shindig, you say? It is a casual, fun night out with great food, good drinks, and fun music. A chance for adults to talk amongst themselves! The Shindig helps us raise funds to support authentic Montessori education at our school by funding items such as Montessori materials and ancillary programs. For more information, visit www.gopto.org. We will continue to hold our traditional community **Pancake Breakfast** in **February 2015**.

You can help us by making a **tax-deductible donation to the Shindig**. We are looking for the following items:

- Event sponsors (see attached)
- Gift cards in all denominations - people LOVE these!
- A bottle of wine ranging in value from \$50-\$120, or a cash sponsor for our wine pull.
- Silent auction items valued at \$500 or more – event tickets, vacation spots, airline tickets, iPads, etc. (This event will have a small auction. Items with values lower than \$500 may be grouped or held for our community Pancake Breakfast silent auction).

We will recognize your generous donation on our event website, as well as among our student body and community. See attached for sponsor levels. Cash sponsors will have the opportunity to have their business name printed on the back of the official 2014 Shindig t-shirts, which are approved school uniforms. Deadline for T-Shirt donors is October 17, 2014.

Our deadline for receiving auction items is October 10, 2014; donations after that time will be graciously accepted, but may be used to benefit another PTO event or purpose. All donations are tax deductible, and directly benefit our school. For additional information, or to schedule a donation pick-up, please call Cindy Torchia at 713-459-3361 or cindysw@sbcglobal.net. Thank you for your support of our community, our school, and our kids!

READ, READ, READ!

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

This year, HISD has placed a heavy emphasis on ensuring that EVERY child is reading on grade level by third grade. Of course, we have always focused on the basics of reading and math but we know that there is research that shows that students who are not reading on grade level by third grade are at a much higher risk of dropping out of school and/or developing stress, anxiety and low self-esteem associated with poor school performance. In fact, social policy makers and planners review test scores of third graders to determine projected trends in prison populations! In order to protect our children and the future of our society, one of the best strategies we have at our fingertips is reading. At Garden Oaks, we are busier than ever supporting students' acquisition of literacy tools and strategies as we implement exciting resources to supplement our Montessori curriculum. In addition to the rich Montessori materials such as the movable alphabet, sound boxes, sentence/picture cards, grammar boxes, and sentence diagramming (to name just a few), we are incorporating new selections of authentic literature for guided reading and literature circles, Junior Great Books strategies, and our monthly read-alouds (our selection for October is *Rules* by Cynthia Lord).

You can support the children in your life by ensuring that they have time to read at least 30 minutes every day. Those 30 minutes may be spent reading independently to themselves or reading together with you.

continued on page 18

AIR CONDITIONING TIPS FOR THE FALL

By Mitch Weigand

Can you believe it's already fall? Although here in Houston we don't depend on our furnaces as much as our A/C systems, there's never a good time for them to break down. By getting your furnace inspected and tuned up now, you can rest assured that it's working properly and will keep you comfortable during the chilly days ahead.

The Benefits of a Furnace Tune-Up

In addition to knowing that your furnace will function in the best way possible, a furnace tune-up also ensures:

- Increased efficiency which can translate to energy savings,
- A warmer, more comfortable home,
- Longer operating life for your furnace, and
- Most importantly, lessening the risk of deadly carbon

monoxide poisoning by locating and replacing cracked heat exchangers.

Also, it will be much easier to schedule a tune-up now before the temperature drops and the busy season begins.

What's That Smell?

Strange smells should not be taken lightly when it comes to your furnace. Their causes can range from something completely harmless to potentially life-threatening. Here are the most common reasons for furnace odors and what you should do when you encounter them.

- 1. Dust burning off** - By far the most common source of odor, it is fortunately quite normal. After months of inactivity, dust accumulates on the heat exchanger in a gas furnace. With an electric furnace, it accumulates on the heating coils. When you turn your furnace on

for the first time and it heats up, the dust burns off. The resulting burnt smell should last only a short time.

- 2. Furnace overheating** - There are a number of different reasons why your furnace might overheat. In particular, the blower motor could be faulty and emit a metallic burning smell. If you become aware of this odor, especially if it occurs after the first couple days of use, contact your A/C service technician so the problem can be diagnosed and fixed.
- 3. Gas leak** - Because natural gas is odorless, utility companies add a chemical called *mercaptan*. Mercaptan gives natural gas a rotten egg smell to alert you to gas leaking from your furnace. If you ever notice this smell, turn your furnace off and call your A/C service technician right away.

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

What our customers are saying about us:

Here's an actual posting from the Oak Forest Facebook page:



AIR WISE - Mitch Weigand - Garden Oaks resident and has worked on my A/C for years.

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MICKEY'S MINUTE

By Mickey Morales

I'm sitting in the piney woods just outside of Bastrop, Texas waiting to attend the Farm and Ranch Freedom Alliance Leadership Conference, on the first of what I hope are cool and pleasant days to come. Just yesterday at the Farmstand, I mentioned to someone that fall had arrived because the redwing blackbirds had returned, and there is no better indicator of the change of seasons than birds, because they can't afford to make mistakes. We have indeed survived another brutal Gulf Coast summer and have come out on the other side, ready to plant the fall and winter crops and nurse the summer ones through as long as they'll hold.

And after September comes the Halloween season. I have already seen pumpkins at the stores and want to remind everyone that when you're done with those pumpkins,

you are welcome to bring them by the market for recycling; the chickens and goats at the farm will be most grateful. Things are going quite nicely at both the farm and our little neighborhood market. It seems that a lot of our family patrons have settled into the new school year and we have managed to hold on to most of our stalwart vendors. A few of our prepared food vendors have chosen seemingly greener pastures and we wish them luck. In the meantime, I have decided to up my game and expand my offerings to include handmade bulk sausages made from Harrison Hog Farms pastured pork and other additions such as pesto made with Farmer Cathy's basil, and perhaps even chicken salad made from Bryan Farms chicken, along with a gumbo base and other hearty soups.

Our new French Mallard ducks are doing splendidly and if you haven't picked up any of the eggs at the

market, you may want to do so. By the time this is posted we will more than likely be offering dressed ducks and guinea fowl for your holiday table. We don't know how long the duck eggs will last, seeing how this is our first year raising them. They are a heritage breed, not the hybrids that most people choose, and we will start incubating some of the eggs to improve and expand our flock.

We'd like to thank all of you for making our market a success. We may not be the biggest guys and gals on the block but we would like to think that we offer the best selection. I will be speaking at the Garden Oaks Civic Club meeting on Tuesday, November 4th and look forward to meeting all of y'all.

As always come soon, come often, and bring your appetite and imagination.




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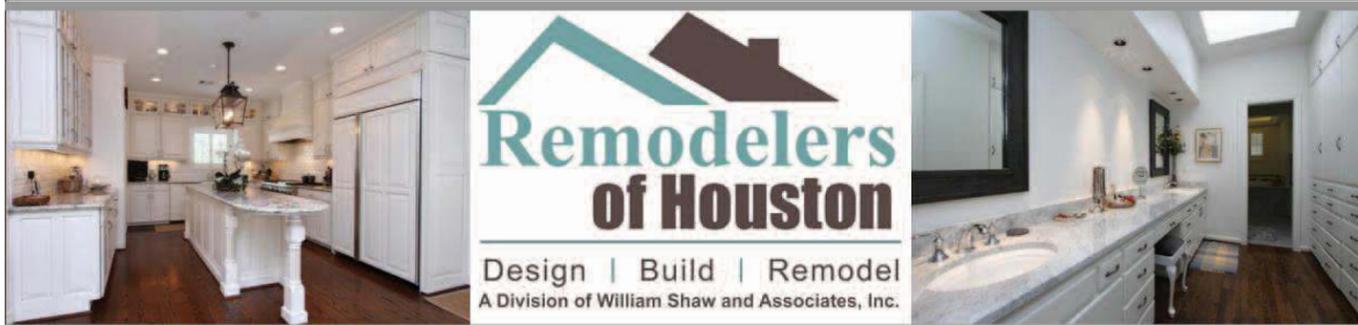
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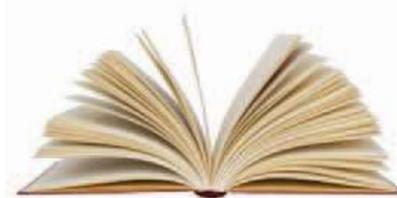


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READ, READ, READ!



continued from page 14

Here are some strategies to engage your children in reading:

- After reading a story together, ask them to retell the story in their own words.
- Find a word in the story that is new and discover the definition together in the dictionary. Even if you know the meaning, model the use of the dictionary.
- Choose a word and see who can create the longest list of synonyms for the word.
- Each person choose a character to read – use different voices for

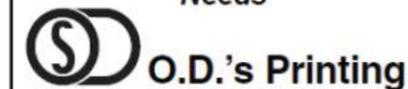
the characters.

- Ask who was the child's favorite character and why.
- With teenagers, READ what they are reading and talk about it! Many teen novels have explicit adult themes – share time together to read and discuss.
- Have a book study with other parents around a common book or author.
- Exchange books with your friends – have a book co-op!
- Visit the Houston Public Library online – they have many FREE resources and downloadable books. This is one of my favorites – it has books that are read aloud: http://asp.tumblebooks.com/library/asp/home_tumblebooks.asp
- Visit the Florida Center for Reading online at www.FCRR.org and find many FREE resources to support reading.

If you're interested in volunteering to read to students or can spend time on campus listening to children read, we'd love to hear from you! Contact me at lpollock@houstonisd.org or our Volunteer Coordinator, Stephanie Dubroff-Acosta, at sdubroff@houstonisd.org. Happy reading!



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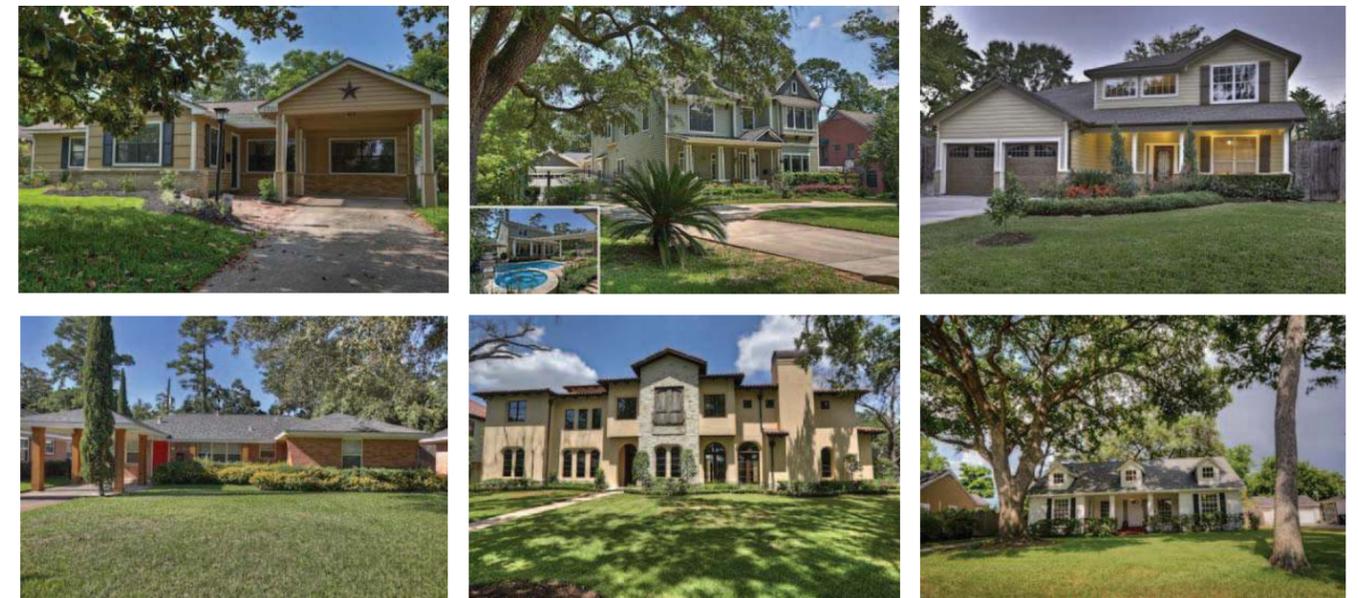
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Classified Ads are \$20 per run for residents, and are for personal services only, e.g. help wanted, items for sale, infant care needed, etc.

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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	
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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 MONTESSORI 2015-2016 APPLICATION PROCESS

By Stephanie Dubroff-Acosta, Garden Oaks Montessori Parent Engagement Representative

Are you zoned to Garden Oaks Montessori? Are you interested in having your child attend our wonderful Montessori School nestled in the trees right here in our neighborhood? If so, please read on!

Kindergarten – 5th Grade: Both zoned and non-zoned students need to submit applications to attend our school. We receive hundreds of applications from all over the city and need to know how many spaces to reserve for zoned students. If you are zoned to GOMMS, your child will NOT be subject to the lottery to enter kindergarten through fifth grade because your child is guaranteed a spot at his/her zoned school. The caveat is that we need you to submit an application for your child so that we know to reserve a spot for him or her rather than offering it to one of the hundreds of non-zoned applicants hoping to attend our school.

Pre-Kindergarten: Pre-kindergarten students, however, are ALL subject to a lottery regardless of zoned/non-zoned status. If you want your three- or four-year-old to attend GOMMS, you must submit an application. The maximum number of pre-K students we can accommodate will be picked randomly from the pool of applications received by the deadline. The remaining applicants will then each be randomly assigned a position on a wait list.

To illustrate the importance of timely submitting your child's application, for

the 2014-2015 school year, we received 191 applications for entering PK3 students. 117 of the 191 applications were received by the deadline, and as of the first day of school, 83 applicants remained on the waitlist. The PK4 application process unfolded similarly.

The lottery for available spots in each grade level is executed by the school district's computer system. The system randomly picks eligible applicants to fill the available spots in each grade level. The remaining applicants are then randomly assigned positions on the wait list for their respective grade levels. If and when an accepted applicant declines an offer of enrollment, it is then extended to the highest-priority applicant on the wait list for that grade level.

It is imperative that all parents submit their online applications before the deadline of December 19, 2014. Applications submitted after the deadline will be NOT be included in the lottery. Late applications will be considered only in the event that all of the on-time applicants on the wait list have been offered the opportunity to enroll. Wait lists and applications for prior years are no longer valid.

The online application can be found at www.houstonisd.org.

KEY DATES FOR THE 2015-2016 APPLICATION PERIOD

November 1, 2014: School Choice Open House at Northwest Mall 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Visit with representatives from the various magnet schools of the Houston Independent School District (HISD) to explore which schools may be best suited for your student.

November 3, 2014: First day that magnet applications will be accepted.

November 3-7, 2014: Magnet Awareness Week. Contact individual schools for their specific tour times. Garden Oaks Montessori will host daily tours at 9:30 a.m. during this week. (As a courtesy to parents, GOMMS will

host tours every Thursday at 9:30 a.m. beginning October 2 and ending on April 9, with the exceptions of school holidays. Please call 713-696-2930 to schedule a tour.)

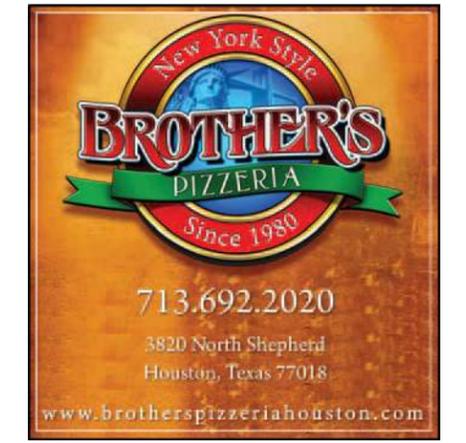
December 19, 2014: Magnet application deadline.

January 29, 2015: Mandatory parent orientation **6:00 p.m.** The first of two available sessions; parents of applicants who cannot attend this orientation session must attend the session on February 7 at 8:30 a.m. Attendance is optional for parents of applicants with at least one sibling currently enrolled at our school.

February 7, 2015: Mandatory parent orientation **8:30 a.m.** during our annual free community-wide Pancake Breakfast. The second of two available sessions; parents of applicants who cannot attend this orientation session must attend the session on January 29, 2015. Attendance is optional for parents of applicants with at least one sibling currently enrolled at our school.

March 27, 2015: Notification letters postmarked to parents.

April 10, 2015: Parent deadline to notify school of intent to enroll. As a courtesy to the school staff and waitlisted applicants, if you accept a spot at a school, please decline enrollment and withdraw applications from any other schools to which you've applied. This can be accomplished via HISD's online application system.



OCTOBER 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Acronym Key GOCC = Garden Oaks Civic Club 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			1	2	3	4 Farmers Market 9AM-1PM 948 Wakefield St. Ambrose Catholic School Gala 6-11PM @ JW Marriott 5150 Westheimer
5	6	 National Night Out	8	9	10	11 Farmers Market (GF) 9AM-1PM 948 Wakefield
12	13	 SPECIAL MEETING OF THE GARDEN OAKS CIVIC CLUB 7PM @ GOMM	15 GOMO Annual Meeting 7PM @ GOMM Library	16 Heavy Trash Pick-Up (Junk Waste)	17	18 Farmers Market 9AM-1PM 948 Wakefield Garden Oaks Wine Walk 4:00-6:30PM
19 Garden Oaks Montessori  6-10PM @ 5226 Elm St	20	21	22	23	24	25 Farmers Market (GF) 9AM-1PM 948 Wakefield GO Kids Halloween Bash 4:30-7:00PM 1000 block of Gardenia
26	27		29	30	31 Halloween 	NOV 8 Arts Alive! 20th Anniversary Celebration 2-4PM @ St. Paul's UMC Fondren Hall 2003 W. 43rd



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