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 GCOCOP77018@AOL.com or by phone at 713-569-3153.

HELP WANTED
Seeking Gazette Editor and Assistant Editor for 2015.
Please contact gazette@gardenoaks.org for more information.

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Garden Oaks Gazette
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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GARDEN OAKS

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.

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 L. – 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

Conradations
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 pit 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 Feils were seen at a recent game at Lambeau Field. The Odinet were at LSU’s Tiger Stadium as were the Theriots, where Mae even lost her tooth during the game.


Condolences
To the family of Ike Eickenhorst, our long time neighbor and 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.

ACE TREE SPECIALIST
As your neighbor in the Garden Oaks Community we want to help you keep your trees in top shape to preserve the beauty and unique forest garden atmosphere we love! We are a full service tree care company, family owned and operated for over 30 years!

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Gazette
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.
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 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 Civic Club 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.

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 Elsen; the City of Houston Deputy Director of Public Works, Daniel Menendez; and the City of Houston Chief Operating Officer, Harry Hyef. If approved, the project would widen Alba to 27 feet and include curbs and gutters. If two 5-feet 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. Elsen provided assurance that there would be plenty of time for discussion and input.

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.

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 those 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 Civic Club Dispatch number (713-755-7628) into their cell phones and to call whenever they see anything suspicious.

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 GOMMO 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.

Child Care Offered at Civic Club Meetings

The Civic Club is pleased to offer members a program 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.
GARDEN OAKS

GOMO Board of Directors

SECTION 1
Shella Briones (2014) 412 West 23rd 713-861-4091 Home 281-685-8133 Cell sbbriones@hotmail.com
Mark Sarania, Vice President (2015) 235 West 33rd 713-861-7994 Home 713-724-1271 Cell msarania@concast.net
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SECTION 5
Open Position (2014)
Open Position (2015)
Teresa Coleman (2016) 1003 Gardena 713-686-7728 teresa.coilege@hotmail.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 will be 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, 2015, with one exception noted.

Section 1
The Director position currently held by Shella 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.

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 Patrons 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 disbursal 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.

GARDEN OAKS

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 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@houstontx.gov, submitting a web request at http://hfdapp.houstontx.gov or via the City of Houston 311 mobile application.

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Gazette
G A R D E N  O A K S

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, bouncey 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 election 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:
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 BigTent for 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 in 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.

CONSTANCE PROGRAM UPDATE
By Terry Jeanes, Constable Program Coordinator Chair

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

PREVENT ONE CRIME ALERTS:
http://pctconstable.net/signup/

CONNECT YOUR ALARM COMPANY WITH CONSTATE 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 the website 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/resources/vacationwatch.pdf

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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.

$500 Gold Sponsors

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Christina Gobe, Envoy Mortgage
Constable Alan Rosen, Harris County Precinct One
Council Member Ellen Cohen, District C
HABITATS
Hal Bowman and Georgia Lister, Section 3 neighbors
John R. Bartos, Attorney at Law
My Trees Houston
Oak Forest Veterinary Hospital

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Deanna Zugheri, Keller Williams Metropolitan
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Natran Green Pest Control
SCM Construction Services/Chris Schmidt

$150 Bronze Sponsors

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Katy Hall, The Reyna Realty Group
Lauder Properties/Garden Oaks Realty
Linda Sparks, Section 4 neighbor
Marcy Basile, Massage Therapist
Mathew Naftis, DDS
Merle Norman Cosmetics & Diane's Unique Gifts
Mi Sombrero Mexican Restaurant
Pat Walker, Keller Williams Metropolitan
Tonya L. Knauth, Attorney, PLLC

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.


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

With extensive background in Architectural Design, Cheryl brings a valuable perspective to her clients. Whether you are selling, purchasing or renovating your home, she would enjoy collaborating with you.

cheryl.luck@garygreene.com
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 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 of authentic literature for guided reading and literature circles, Junior Great Books strategies, and our monthly read-alouds (our selection

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.gqpto.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 cindymsws@brcglobal.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.

VERY honest. Can leave a key for him to work in my house when I’m away! 24/7 on call. Never overcharges!
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READ, READ, READ!

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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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GARDEN OAKS OUTREACH
A color version of the Gazette is published each month on the Garden Oaks website: http://www.gardenoaks.org/involvement/gazette.html.
Classified Ads are $20 per run for residents, and are for personal services only, e.g. help wanted, items for sale, infant care needed, etc.

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 each year. 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.

GARDEN OAKS
Montessori Magnet
with Environmental Science
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