

# GARDEN OAKS GAZETTE

VOLUME 36

ISSUE 11

## 6TH ANNUAL WINE WALK A SUPER SUCCESS

*By Dian Austin*

The weather gods smiled on us again as 265 fun loving friends and neighbors gathered for an afternoon of sipping, tasting, and mingling at the 6th Annual Wine Walk, our constable program fundraiser.

With the combined support from cash sponsors, many generous neighbors and area businesses who donated all the wines and foods, and all those who purchased tickets to the event, we netted in excess of \$22,000 for the constable program, an all-time record. A big thanks to all involved!

Precinct One Constable Alan Rosen and some of our regular patrol deputies were in attendance, as was District C Council Member Ellen Cohen. DJ Eric Jarvis kept the music rolling, and everyone had a great time trying new wines and sampling the foods.

HUGE thanks go to Ed and Brenda de Alba who provided their yard again for the event; it is absolutely the perfect venue for us. Both Ed and Brenda spend a lot of time and energy each year preparing for our fundraiser and we really appreciate their efforts.

*continued on page 12*



## November 2014

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### November Civic Club Meeting

Tuesday, November 4

7:00 p.m.

Garden Oaks Montessori

901 Sue Barnett Drive

#### Santa at Gazebo Park

December 6 -7, 6- 7:30p.m.

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*Photos of the 6th Annual Wine Walk can be found on pages 10 - 14*

**CITIZENS' PATROL UPDATE**

*By Carl Waters, Jr., Committee Chair*

Thanks to all the area homeowners who opened up their yards and driveways for National Night Out on October 7. Gatherings I knew about were hosted by the Mercers, Susan Debien and Peri Mashburn, Julie Maddox, Kim Ellis, the Kramers, the Baileys, the Shaughnessys, the Wooches, and the Borundas.

**HELP WANTED**

**Seeking Gazette Editor and Assistant Editor for 2015.**

**Please contact [gazette@gardenoaks.org](mailto:gazette@gardenoaks.org) for more information.**

**September Crime Statistics (6)**

**Robbery (1)**

3400 block of N. Shepherd on Wednesday, September 10 at 8:00 p.m. (restaurant).

**Burglary (2)**

700 block of W. 31st on Friday, September 5 at 3:30 p.m. (residence).

3000 block of N. Durham on Wednesday, September 10 at 8:00 p.m. (restaurant).

**Theft (2)**

200 block of North Loop West on Saturday, September 13 at 10:50 a.m. (unknown).

200 block of North Loop West on Wednesday, September 17 at 8:42 a.m. (unknown).

**Auto Theft (1)**

200 block of W. 33rd on Sunday, September 21 at 4:00 p.m. (driveway).

**Terry Jeanes**  
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Inquiries about joining the Citizens' Patrol Program or about other community safety issues can be directed to me via neighborhood website [GardenOaks.org](http://GardenOaks.org), email at [GOCOP77018@AOL.com](mailto:GOCOP77018@AOL.com), or by phone at 713-864-1992.

**Garden Oaks Gazette**

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

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

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**HEARD UNDER THE OAK TREE**

*By Terry Jeanes*

**Welcome, New Neighbors!**  
Congratulations on joining us. We hope to see you at a civic club meeting soon.

939 Althea  
983 Althea  
1002 Althea  
805½ West 30th  
934 West 43rd

**Happy Birthday**

- Frank C. .... 11/1
- Adelaide Leonard ..... 11/1
- Stacy Gross ..... 11/2
- Gina Pecoraro ..... 11/4
- Deborah Seghers ..... 11/4
- Holly Veech ..... 11/8
- Anthony Neiser ..... 11/10
- Caroline Padon ..... 11/12
- Sheila Briones ..... 11/14
- Dianne Murata ..... 11/18
- Maggie V. .... 11/18
- Carl Rentschler ..... 11/19
- Susan Saranie ..... 11/19
- Hannah M. .... 11/20
- Kit Schoenfield ..... 11/23
- Lucy M. .... 11/25
- Cheryl Cohorn ..... 11/28
- Megan Salch ..... 11/29

**Happy Anniversary**

- Bob & Debbie Driver ..... 11/4
- Hal Bowman & Georgia Lister .... 11/11
- Keith & Susan Kostelecky ..... 11/13
- Mel & Ken Johnson ..... 11/20

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**Congratulations**

Cheers to **Robert De Veau** for completing the Chicago Marathon.

**Out and About**

October was a great month for Garden Oaks Gals getaways. While **Sandy Altman, Dian Austin, Brenda de Alba, Terry Jeanes, Blanche Ragsdale, Shelley Rogers, and Tina Rowe** were busy enjoying the Whistle Stop Inn, **Terry's** second home in Smithville. **Stephanie Acosta, Shannon Hugetz, Elizabeth Klein, Tonya Knauth, Heidi Lozano, Jessica Modad, Dianne Murata, Gina Pecoraro, Diane Pittman, and Shana Tatum** were having a grand time at Abundance Retreat in Wimberley, the second home of **Tina Sabuco** and **Shellye Arnold**.

Many residents took advantage of the stellar live music events in town last month: the **Therlots** and the **Salches** were seen in the crowd at the Erasure concert, **Tina & John Beddow** caught the Eagles' Houston show, and the **Espeseths** saw Jenny Lewis and Beck perform at the Bayou Music Center.



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**Sheree' and Ron Peoples** made a recent trip to NYC where their daughter flew in from overseas for a surprise visit. The **Sarmiento** girls got to go to Disney World with their mom and dad.

**Healing Wishes**

Continued wishes for recovery to **Tina Sabuco** after her recent knee surgery. It's great to hear that **Josh McLean** got the all-clear on his broken foot, and to see **Trent Salch** out and about.

**Special Thoughts**

Condolences to the **Klein** family with the recent loss of **Mark's** father, Richard Klein.

Special thoughts for the **Espeseth** family following the loss of their 16-year-old dog, Josie.

To highlight an event, celebration, or other tidbit, contact Terry Jeanes at [terry@terryjeanes.com](mailto:terry@terryjeanes.com).

**GARDEN OAKS CIVIC CLUB  
MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING  
REGARDING REBUILD HOUSTON STORM WATER PROJECT/  
STREETScape DESIGN FOR ALBA ROAD AND GOLF DRIVE**

*By Cindy Bartos, Secretary,  
Garden Oaks Civic Club*

**October 14, 2014**

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

President Sheila Briones called the Special Meeting of the Garden Oaks Civic Club to order at 7:04 p.m. Copies of the agenda, survey instructions, and survey forms were distributed. President Briones introduced herself, Valerie Luna from Council Member Ellen Cohen's office, Government Affairs Standing Committee Chair Mark Klein, and Ad Hoc In-Line Storm Water Detention Project Committee Chair Pam Parks.

Mark Klein summarized the Rebuild Houston Storm Water Project and specifically the streetscape

design for Alba Road and Golf Drive (the "Project"). He reviewed the preceding timeline of events, including the presentations by the City of Houston to the Civic Club in January, the formation of the Ad Hoc In-Line Storm Water Detention Project Committee (the "Committee"), the petition drive by Julie Maddox and other Alba Road homeowners opposing the Project, and the resolutions passed at the May Civic Club meeting opposing the widening, curbing, and addition of sidewalks to Alba Road. Several meetings with Council Member Cohen's office and other City officials ensued and resulted in the City's offer of a variety of alternative street designs and a request to survey the residents to determine the desires of the neighborhood.

Street design options as they appear on the survey were explained and the floor was opened for questions and comments. Unless otherwise noted, the questions were answered mostly by Mark Klein with additional comments by Pam Parks and other Committee members as well as other residents in attendance at the meeting.

The following summarizes the questions, answers, and comments presented:

- Q. The original plan presented the possibility of streets intersecting with Alba to also be subject to the same standards – is this still part of the plan?**
  - A. No. The City has indicated the change to cross streets would be minimal. The design would include a smooth transition into Alba only at the intersection.

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**Q. What about parking on the street?**

- A. The width of the street could allow for parallel parking.

**Comment:**  
There is concern about an increase in crime with the street being closer to homes.

**Q. Will the street be lowered?**

- A. Yes, no matter what option is chosen, the street will be lowered.

**Q. Will the swales still exist?**

- A. No, the swales will be replaced by the underground pipe.

**Q. Did the resolutions passed at the May Civic Club meeting include Sue Barnett?**

- A. No, the motions applied only to Alba Road.

**Comment:**  
Thank you to Mark and Pam and the Committee for bringing the concerns of the neighborhood to the City.

**Comment (Mark Klein):**  
Originally the City thought the neighborhood just didn't want sidewalks, but through meetings with Houston City Council Member Cohen; the Deputy Director of Public Works, Daniel Menendez; Chief Operating Officer, Harry Hayes; and representatives from the Mayor's office, the Committee was able to voice its concerns. The Committee felt the City listened and gave appropriate attention to the issues raised.

**Q. Why aren't we considering the plan for Sue Barnett; don't you think this survey will set a precedent for future street design?**

- A. Having the grade school on Sue Barnett makes it a different situation. There are plans to rebuild and possibly redesign the school in the near future, but those plans are still in the early stage of development. Without

more detailed information, it would be very difficult to make decisions regarding redesign of the streetscape. For example, there is the possibility that the school district could allow more of its property to be used in the street and sidewalk design. The school has a distinct set of needs to accommodate the school's traffic, both pedestrian and vehicular.

**Comment (Stephanie Acosta, Parent Engagement Coordinator, Garden Oaks Montessori):**

The school's enrollment is predicted to increase from approximately 700 to 1500 with the change in the design of the school.

**Comment (Vic Seghers, Vice President, Garden Oaks Civic Club):**

The Board discussed this issue and decided there wasn't enough information available about the future of the school to make any decisions concerning street design on Sue Barnett.

**Q. Can we pick a side of the street to put a sidewalk?**

- A. The City will make that decision and could possibly shift the balance of the amount of right-of-way taken on one side to adjust for the side that has the sidewalk.

**Q. If the streets are lowered regardless of the plan chosen, won't that mean that the streets will become rivers when it rains?**

- A. The 10' x 14' pipe placed under the street will carry away the water in most circumstances. In a heavier, more concentrated rain, the excess will flow down the street.

**Q. If curbs and gutters aren't part of the design, what will keep the soil from eroding in the lawns during a heavy rain?**

- A. The design without curbs and gutters will have inlets at the

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ends for drainage. The question about soil erosion is one that can be addressed, if necessary, at a future technical meeting with the City.

**Q. Will the driveways be rebuilt?**

- A. Yes.

**Q. Will they widen the driveways?**

- A: No, they will be rebuilt to their original condition. Perhaps some individual negotiations could take place once the project is under way.

**Comment:**  
Look at the streets in Garden Oaks Plaza (Azaleadell Drive and Sleepyvale Lane) to see an example of 27' wide streets with curbs and gutters – no sidewalks.

**Q. When will the project start and how long will it take? What will be the strategy of the project?**

- A. The City was ready to start the project in early 2015 with the original plan, but until they hear back from us the project is on hold. The project is estimated to take about a year. The timeline is pending finalization of the plan.

**Comment (Resident):**  
There are studies of increases in traffic related to the width of the street.

*continued on page 5*

**SPECIAL CIVIC CLUB MEETING**

*continued from page 5*

**Comment (Mark Klein):**

The City maintains there is no correlation.

**Comment:**

60+ cars pass the area in 30 minutes during rush hour.

**Q. Can we get more speed bumps added?**

A. The existing speed bumps will be replaced. There is a procedure in place with the City to request speed bumps for a given street. This would require a different and separate action.

**Comment (Julie Maddox):**

I will be working on adding more stop signs to Alba. Contact me if you would like to help with the process.

**Q. How will the project affect the Pocket Parks?**

A. Depending on the width of the street design, Triangle Park could be severely impacted. Other parks could be affected with future projects.

**Comment:**

Once a sidewalk is in place, the law will not allow a car to park in a manner that would block the sidewalk.

**Q. Is the survey complete or can changes be made?**

A. The survey is complete and getting ready to be mailed.

**Q. Are there any visual representations of streets with various widths available online?**

A. Not that we are aware.

**Q. What will happen if the survey is not sent?**

A. The City would make the decision on the street design.

**Q. Are there any parking restrictions on the street once the street is finished?**

A. That hasn't been discussed, but could be addressed if necessary.

**Q. Will the decision made be applied to the entire length of Alba, both north and south of 43rd?**

A. Yes.

**Comment:**

Resident stated she would like to have Alba separated into north and south of 43rd and will indicate so on the survey.

**Comment:**

Homeowners will be responsible for maintenance of sidewalks put in place.

**Comment:**

Soil erosion has occurred on the area of sidewalk without a retaining wall near 43rd and Alba.

Comment period ended.

Lori Kennedy made a motion to allot up to \$2750 to cover the cost of preparation and mailing of the Alba/Golf Streetscape Design Survey. Terry Jeanes seconded. Motion passed by members of the Civic Club present at the meeting.

It was determined there was no need to rescind or amend any previous motions.

President Briones adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

**NOMINATIONS ANNOUNCED FOR 2015 GOCC BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The nominating committee is pleased to announce the slate of candidates for the 2015 Garden Oaks Civic Club (GOCC) Board of Directors:

- President** – Sheila Briones
- Vice President** – Chris Lindsay
- Treasurer** – Jerry Butler
- Secretary** – Cindy Bartos

The term of each position (President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary) will begin January 1, 2015 for a duration of one year.

GOCC members in good standing who have paid their 2014 dues are eligible to vote for the new Board of Directors at the December 2, 2014 civic club meeting. The GOCC bylaws also provide for nominations from the floor at that meeting.

Thanks to the following residents who agreed to serve on the five-person nominating committee: Victor Seghers, Terry Jeanes, Brenda de Alba, Tina Rowe, and Tonya Knauth.

**Child Care Offered at Civic Club Meetings**

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

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



**NATIONAL NIGHT OUT**

On Tuesday, October 7th, neighbors throughout Garden Oaks gathered for National Night Out. "America's Night Out Against Crime" was introduced by the National Association of Town Watch in 1984. The Civic Club suspends the October Civic Club meeting each year so that neighbors can host or attend a NNO gathering to get to know each other better and heighten awareness about crime prevention. The 2015 NNO date will be Tuesday, October 6th.



**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.

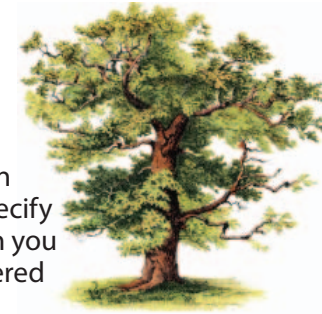
Additional information about the **Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization (GOMO)** is available online at [GardenOaks.org](http://GardenOaks.org). Property owners in Sections 1, 2, 3 and 5 are all members of GOMO.



**BEAUTIFICATION UPDATE**

By Gary Harmon, Beautification Committee Chair

This is the perfect time for fall and winter planting of color in our pocket parks. Anyone interested in volunteering is encouraged to send an email to [beautification@gardenoaks.org](mailto:beautification@gardenoaks.org). Please specify the type(s) of plants you'd like to request and when you would like to install them. We will have them delivered along with bags of mulch.



We have been trying to get the City of Houston and TXDOT to clean up Shepherd and 610. We urge residents to augment our voices by calling Alan Moreau with TXDOT at (281)319-6450 and citing Case # 00050914. TXDOT is responsible for North Shepherd and 610 frontage. The more calls they receive from residents, the better our chance of having these areas cleaned up and looking a lot better.





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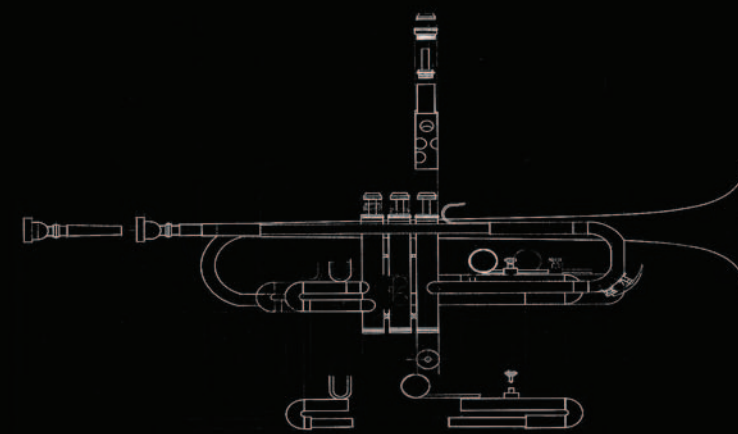


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**CONSTABLE PROGRAM UPDATE**

By Terry Jeanes, Constable Program Committee Chair

**PRECINCT ONE CRIME ALERTS:**

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

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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](http://www.gardenoaks.org/constable) or with a check payable to **Garden Oaks Civic Club**.

**Constable Program Contributor Form:**

<http://www.gardenoaks.org/Resources/2014Constable.pdf>

**Vacation Watch Form:**

<http://www.gardenoaks.org/Resources/VacationWatch.pdf>



**Emergency Numbers**

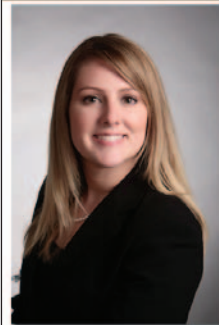
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Above and to the left: 2014 Garden Oaks Wine Walk held on Saturday, October 18th benefitting the neighborhood Constable Patrol Program. Photos courtesy of Debbie Bass.

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# 6TH ANNUAL GARDEN OAKS WINE WALK RECAP

## WINE WALK SUCCESS

*Continued from page 1*

All of our generous cash sponsors and table hosts are listed separately in this issue of the Gazette. We are so grateful to all of them. Some of our sponsors chose to donate their sponsorship tickets and we'd like to recognize Heights Tribune and GO Realty who generously donated their two tickets to neighborhood seniors.

Also, kudos to Kroger on West 43rd for providing all our bottled water, ice, and other supplies.

Thanks also to the Wine Walk Committee, who worked hard behind the scenes: Shelley Rogers, Dea Larson, Tina Rowe, Brenda de Alba, Sheila Briones, Dian Austin, Sandy Altman, Eric and Jessica Jarvis, Terry Jeanes, and Jerry Butler.

Plans are already under way for next year's October Constable Program fundraiser. We expect tickets to sell out again in the blink of an eye, so be sure to act quickly when they go on sale. Thanks to everyone for supporting the Constable Program!

## THANKS TO THE 2014 WINE WALK TABLE HOSTS

Our annual Constable Program fundraiser would never be possible without our generous table hosts. Each of them freely provides the wine(s), the foods, the fun, and his/her time to ensure our fundraiser is successful and that each attendee has a great afternoon of sipping and strolling.

Most of the table hosts come back year after year. We are very fortunate to live in a neighborhood of fun, supportive, and involved residents and area businesses.

Please be sure to tip your hat to these neighbors and businesses who served as this year's table hosts:

- Aged To Perfection – Pam Parks, Teresa Coleman, Peggy Smith, Elisa Cuellar, and Knox Wright
- Danyel T. Ramelow, Financial Advisor, Edward Jones (GO Shopping Center)

- Facundo Home Builders/Miguel Facundo
- GO Kids
- GO Red Hot Chili Peppers – Ron & Sheree' Peoples, Emilio & Patti Chemali, Jeff & Francisca Webster, Dru & Margie Newkirk, and Joe & Beth Megeed
- Heidi & Stuart Arouty
- Jenny & Jason Espeseth and Mike & Diane Heath
- Jim DiCola & Tina Rowe
- Karie & Alyn Goad
- Melanie & Randy Evans
- Scott Miller
- SK Designs/Susan Kostelecky
- Tina Beddow & Sue Walmsley Amash

*Wine Walk photos courtesy of Debbie Bass*



## 2014 GARDEN OAKS WINE WALK SPONSORS

The generous cash contributions from area businesses and neighbors ensured that our 6th Annual Garden Oaks Wine Walk was a huge success. Please support these businesses and thank your neighbors for their generosity. Most of these people have supported us time and time again. Our Constable Patrol Program is very grateful to the following:

### Gold Sponsors

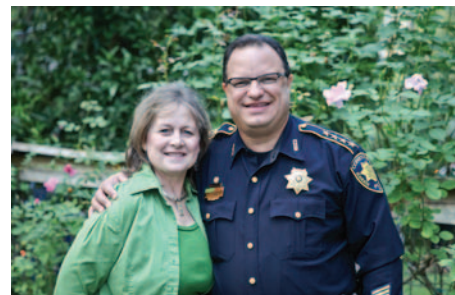
- BPR Beverly Public Relations
- Central City Air
- Chase Baker, DDS
- Computer-Wiz
- Deanna Zugheri, Keller Williams Metropolitan
- Harry James Building + Design
- Irma's Restaurant / Irma Galvan
- Natran Green Pest Control
- SCM Construction Services / Chris Schmidt
- Terry Jeanes, ReMax/Metro
- The Bell Tower on 34th

### Silver Sponsors

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

### Bronze Sponsors

- Ace Tree Specialist
- Blake Woods Design
- Heights Tribune
- 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
- Pat Walker, Keller Williams Metropolitan
- Tonya L. Knauth, Attorney, PLLC



**HERE COMES SANTA CLAUS...  
SAVE THE DATE!**  
By Tina Sabuco

Those jingling bells are just around the corner – and here is your first reminder to save the date for “Gazebo Santa.”


**Tuesday, December 9th  
and  
Wednesday, December 10th  
6:00 to 7:30 p.m.**



Elves Georgia Lister, Terry Jeanes, and Tina Sabuco will be on hand once again this year to assist Santa in spreading Christmas cheer. These 3 little elves will also be decorating Gazebo park on **Sunday, November 30th** from noon to 2 p.m. for all Garden Oaksians and nearby neighbors to enjoy.

If you would like to become an elf and help with decorating and/or on either event night, please contact Elf Tina at [goddess@abundanceretreat.com](mailto:goddess@abundanceretreat.com) or 713-819-9339.

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Wine Walk photos courtesy of Debbie Bass



**Please remember to pay your  
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**AIR CONDITIONING TIPS FOR THE FALL**

*By Mitch Weigand*

**Troubleshooting Tips for Gas Furnaces**

Last month, we discussed the necessity of having your furnace inspected and tuned up. Now we're going to focus on gas furnaces, the most common type of furnace found in Houston homes. While you may not be an HVAC expert, here are some things you can do on your own.

- (1) Inspect and replace the air filter. Clogged filters cause problems and cost money. If your furnace seems to be running inefficiently or shutting down prematurely, remove the filter and inspect it for excess dust and debris. Always, always, always replace filters on a regular basis.
- (2) Check the furnace's circuit breaker. Sometimes when your furnace won't run, it's not the fault of the furnace but rather that of a tripped circuit breaker. If it's tripped, no power can be sent to the furnace. Go to your home's circuit box, locate the furnace's circuit breaker, and make sure it's switched to the "on" position.
- (3) Check the settings on the thermostat. If your furnace doesn't seem to be running, check to make sure your thermostat is turned on, set to heat mode, and set at a higher temperature than the ambient temperature within your home.

(4) Examine all registers and return air vents. Diminished air flow occurring in your home's ceiling registers and return air vents can also affect your furnace's performance. Make sure they are open and not obstructed by furniture, plants, and other objects.

**When it's time to call an A/C service technician**

- (1) The furnace is short cycling. Short cycling is when your furnace runs for only a short time (typically two to three minutes) and then shuts off. This cycle is repeated over and over again. Usually short cycling is caused when the thermostat is out of adjustment or the heat exchanger overheats, causing the burner shut off to prevent damage.
- (2) The flame is irregular. Within the furnace, properly functioning burners have fairly even rows of flames. If the flames are uneven, it could be a sign of dirty burners or a cracked heat exchanger.
- (3) You hear odd noises or rumbling. While rumbling and popping aren't cause for concern in a hot water or steam heating system, they shouldn't occur with a gas furnace.

SNEAK PREVIEW: Next month, I will discuss the release of one of the biggest technological breakthroughs in the HVAC industry in the last 10 years. Stay tuned!

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

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*Offer expires December 31, 2014*

**PEACE THROUGH EDUCATION**

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

*Averting war is the work of politicians; establishing peace is the work of education.*  
- Maria Montessori



Dr. Montessori was a trailblazer in recognizing children as the redeeming factor in the development of a peaceful world. She lived through both of the World Wars and was deeply moved by the suffering and death of those times. In fact, she was nominated three times for the Nobel Peace Prize for her efforts to inspire a more peaceful humanity.

In order to bring about a world of peace and tolerance where war is an absurdity, it is important to focus on and teach peace early. Having a peace curriculum in your Montessori classroom is a sure way to prepare your children to be peace-seekers. Dr. Montessori said "...we must gather together all the elements of the world and organize them into a science of peace."

The essentials for peace education are inherent in every level of the Montessori curriculum.

**Ages 3-6:** Continent and Peoples of the World studies provide a global view of life and humanity's part in it.

**Ages 6-12:** This is the age of reasoning, abstract thinking, and an imaginative state of mind. Students continue their study of Peoples of the World, learning about the Fundamental Needs of Humans. They learn that the

fulfillment of these needs varies by not only historical time periods but also by geographic location. With emphasis placed on the family of humankind and the interrelationship of all life, Montessori students begin to realize that they are not separate from the rest of the world, but are an integral part of creating a harmonious world.

Montessori believed education was the most powerful and universal way through which to reconstruct society; a way to transition from war to peace. Therefore, it is necessary to think of education as peace, not education for peace. While the curriculum teaches about peace, it cannot by itself result in peace. As Montessori teachers, we realize that it is not enough to simply talk about peace. We must create an environment that will promote the development of peaceful individuals. We cannot create this peaceful environment if we ourselves are interacting negatively or competitively with others.

Children easily pick up on hypocrisy around them. The old adage "do as I say, not as I do" is no longer acceptable. It is necessary for Montessori teachers to look inward and take note of their own beliefs and values. If we teach peace in our classroom, we must strive for peace in our lives, in our home, and in our workplace. We are the models of peace. We are teaching and nourishing the peacekeepers of the future.

As the Montessori teacher sets the framework for the understanding that all living creatures are important and interconnected, the next step is to encourage in each child the skill and ability to become the peacemaker. The North American Montessori Center (NAMC)'s Cosmic Education and Peace curriculum provides helpful lessons to guide the educator through this ongoing endeavor.

**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 Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet (GOMM), 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 GOMM, 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.hisdchoice.com](http://www.hisdchoice.com).

**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 1, 2014:** First day that magnet applications will be available and 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,



GOMM 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.

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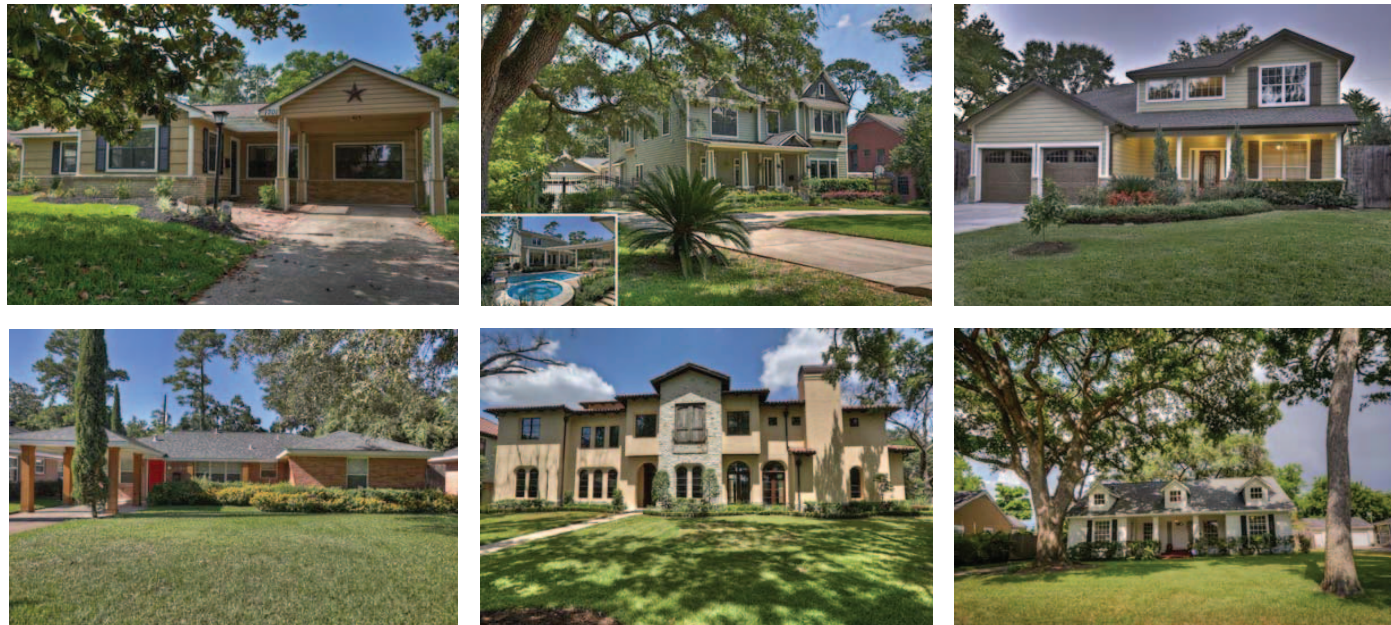
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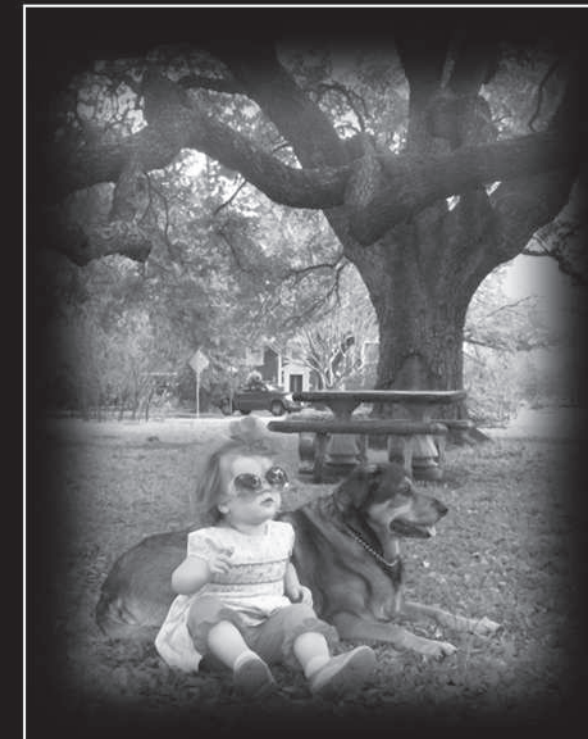
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A color version of the Gazette is published each month on the Garden Oaks website <http://www.gardenoaks.org/involvement/gazette.html>.

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.

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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](mailto: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).

# NOVEMBER 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b> <b>Farmers Market</b> 9AM-1PM 948 Wakefield
2	3	<b>4</b> <b>Civic Club Meeting<sup>1</sup></b> 7PM @ GOMM	<b>5</b> <b>GOMM Night at Becks Prime<sup>2</sup></b> 5-10PM @ Heights location 115 West 19th	6	7	<b>8</b> <b>Farmers Market (GF)</b> 9AM-1PM • 948 Wakefield <b>Arts Alive!</b> 20th Anniv. Celebration 2-4PM @ St. Paul's UMC 2003 W. 43rd
9	10		12	13	14	<b>15</b> <b>Farmers Market</b> 9AM-1PM 948 Wakefield
16	17	18	<b>19</b> <b>GOMO Meeting</b> 7PM @ GOPB	<b>20</b> <b>Heavy Trash Pick-Up (Tree Waste)</b>	21	<b>22</b> <b>Farmers Market (GF)</b> 9AM-1PM 948 Wakefield
23	24		26	<b>27</b> <b>Thanksgiving Day</b> 	28	<b>29</b> <b>Farmers Market</b> 9AM-1PM 948 Wakefield
30	<sup>1</sup> Preceded by GOMO meeting beginning at 6:30PM. <sup>2</sup> Mention GOMM with order and Becks Prime will donate 15% of your purchase price to the school. <b>Acronym Key</b> 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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