



Garden Oaks Gazette

A publication of the Garden Oaks Civic Club



FEBRUARY 2015

ROBERT ECKELS TO SPEAK ON HIGH-SPEED RAIL AT FEBRUARY MEETING

At our February 3rd Civic Club meeting, Robert Eckels (bio next page) will discuss his company's proposed high-speed rail route along the current BNSF freight line. The Houston-Dallas high-speed rail project would construct an elevated track 40-50 feet tall cutting through Garden Oaks, Oak Forest, Independence Heights, and Lindale. Residents will be allowed to ask questions, learn more about the project, and find out how to communicate their positions by submitting comments to the Federal Railway Administration and the dallashoustonhsr.com website.



An elevated high-speed rail is proposed above the BNSF railroad tracks along 34th Street, running right through Garden Oaks and other long-established neighborhoods.

UPCOMING EVENTS

February Civic Club Meeting

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

GOMM Pancake Breakfast

Saturday, February 7
8:00-10:30 a.m.
Garden Oaks Montessori
901 Sue Barnett Drive



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Garden Oaks Montessori

Pancake Breakfast

Sat FEB 7 at 8am



21st Annual Garden Oaks Montessori
Pancake Breakfast & Silent Auction

FEBRUARY CIVIC CLUB SPEAKER: ROBERT ECKELS, PRESIDENT, TEXAS CENTRAL RAILWAY

Judge Eckels served as County Judge for Harris County, Texas from 1995 until 2007, a role in which he oversaw executive, legislative, and judicial functions of a county that is home to nearly four million residents. He had previously been elected to the Texas Legislature while in his 20s, where he served six terms as a State Representative.

As County Judge, Eckels chaired both the Houston-Galveston Area Council Transportation Planning Council and the Harris County Toll Road Authority, a 500-lane-mile toll road system that is the only county-owned toll road system in the nation, and a pioneer in inter-agency partnerships and applying technology for efficient operations.

In the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, Eckels successfully transformed the Astrodome—in less than one day—into a combined emergency field hospital, mental health screening center, short-term shelter, and processing hub for over 27,000 desperate evacuees. His leadership during the crisis won international acclaim, with *Esquire* magazine describing it as “an island of competence in the face of catastrophe, a demonstration of how government ought to work.”

In addition to serving on numerous state transportation finance and planning commissions and committees, from 2002 to 2010 Eckels was the founding chairman of the Texas High-Speed Rail and Transportation Corporation, a coalition of local governments, educational institutions, and the private sector working to bring high-speed rail to Texas.

After leaving public office, Eckels joined the international law firm of Fulbright & Jaworski, LLP as a Partner focused on Transportation and Infrastructure, Public Finance, Homeland Security and Disaster Law, Government Relations, and Public Law. Judge Eckels has operated his own independent legal practice and is today a Member of the Texas-based law firm, Gray Reed & McGraw, P.C.



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
1047 West 41st
1011 West 42nd
733 West 43rd
947 West 43rd
975 West 43rd

Happy Birthday

Tonya Knauth 2/9
Alisha Cunningham 2/12
Lela C. 2/12
Delaney E. 2/14
Brenda de Alba 2/17
Terry Williams 2/17
M'lissa Dilley 2/22
Grady S. 2/22
Maya Rahman 2/23
Shannon King 2/28
Eddie Battenfield

Happy Anniversary

Will and Deanna Zugheri 2/23

Belated 35th anniversary wishes to John and Margie Hesse. 12/29

Out and About

Chris and Sue Schmidt had a nice vacation in Buenos Aires.

Kudos to all the Garden Oaks runners in the Houston marathon. Also, thumbs-up to **Morgan S.**, along with **Victor Seghers** and son, who ran in the 5K Jingle Bell run.

Nancy Polasek, how was the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame?

Al Thomas and Dea Larson have been very busy renovating the family getaway in Hunt, Texas and it's looking great!

Many Garden Oaks neighbors attended my (Terry's) 10th annual (and final) regifting and resolution party.

Ed and Brenda de Alba hit the road to Tennessee to visit family.

Cameron and Robert Carlin, along with the St. Pius X band, performed for Texas Governor Rick Perry. The **Bernal** family spent Christmas on a seven-day Caribbean cruise.

Miguel Facundo announced that the Liberty Kitchen folks will be opening a restaurant at his Alba Road site, just steps away from Garden Oaks. Looking forward to a “casual and comfortable neighborhood establishment”. Stay tuned for more info.

Healing Wishes to the many Garden Oaks friends and neighbors who have been fighting flu, bronchitis, and other respiratory woes going around.

To feature or highlight an event, send information to terry@terryjeanes.com.

Terry Jeanes
Your Neighbor & Area Specialist



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GARDEN OAKS CIVIC CLUB MEETING MINUTES

By Cindy Bartos, Secretary

January 6, 2015

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

Welcome: President Sheila Briones called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. and introduced the officers present: Chris Lindsay, Vice President, Jerry Butler, Treasurer, and Cindy Bartos, Secretary.

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.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the December 2014 minutes as published in the *Gazette*. The motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership: Dian Austin had no report and held the raffle drawing at the close of the meeting.

Garden Oaks Citizens' Patrol: Committee Chair Carl Waters, Jr. reported on recent crimes in and around the neighborhood. He encouraged participation in the Garden Oaks Citizens' Patrol Program to help keep the neighborhood safe.

Gazette: Editor Jenny Espeseth was not in attendance.

Garden Oaks Website: Webmaster Joe Muscara had no report.

President Briones announced that comment forms and copies of submitted comments pertaining to Texas Central Railway's Dallas to Houston High-Speed Rail Project, as well as our community's elected

officials' contact information, would be available on the Garden Oaks website, GardenOaks.org.

Resident Tony Padon summarized Texas Central Railway's presentation about the project at the Super Neighborhood #12 meeting on January 5, 2015. He encouraged residents to write comment letters to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA).

Speaker: President Briones introduced speaker Vince Ryan, Harris County Attorney. Mr. Ryan detailed the workings of the office of County Attorney and provided examples of some of the cases he handles.

COMMITTEE REPORTS (continued)

Beautification: Committee Chair Gary Harmon announced the placement of an ornamental plant next to Charlie's Chair in Triangle Park. President Briones acknowledged Mr. Harmon's and wife Joan's diligence in restoring the original sponsor bricks and plaque in Gazebo Park. Mr. Harmon is currently preparing the irrigation systems for the predicted cold weather, but will be looking for workers/volunteers when the weather warms.

Constable Program: Program Chair Terry Jeanes reported on recent wheel/rim theft in the neighborhood and suggested that neighbors take precautions such as using wheel locks, parking closer to the house, or parking in the garage, if possible.

Ms. Jeanes also thanked everyone for the many donations of toys to the Constable's Holiday Toy Drive.

Asked about the house in disrepair on the corner of 42nd and Shepherd, Ms. Jeanes said she will look further into the possible problem of title ownership and check the current payment status of property taxes.

Ad Hoc In-Line Storm Water Detention Project Committee: Committee members Pam Parks and Mark Klein reported turning in the neighborhood survey results in the middle of November to the City of Houston with no response to date.

Government Affairs Standing Committee: Mark Klein reported on the Super Neighborhood #12 meeting on January 5, 2015 where Robert Eckels, President of Texas Central Railway, appeared and responded to questions pertaining to his company's Dallas to Houston High-Speed Rail project. An estimated 400 people attended, asking questions and voicing their concerns about the project and proposed route that would follow the BNSF (Burlington Northern Santa Fe) rail line along 34th Street. Mr. Klein stressed the importance of residents sending their comments to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), with copies to our elected officials. Public comments will be accepted throughout the Environmental Impact Study process and those received by January 9, 2015 will be included in the scoping report to be published in the Federal Register. Comments received after January 9 will be considered as part of and included in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, also to be published in the Federal Register. More information about the project status can be found at dallashoustonhsr.com.

Terry Jeanes moved for a letter to be sent to the FRA and elected officials on behalf of the residents of Garden Oaks expressing our opposition to the use of the BNSF route extending into the dense urban core of the city, with concern over the impact the railway would have on the quality of life for our community, schools, churches, and parks. The motion was seconded.

OTHER BUSINESS

Pam Parks was the lucky winner of the raffle drawing.

President Briones announced the next regular meeting scheduled Tuesday, February 3, 2015 with Robert Eckels, President of Texas Central Railway, as the featured speaker.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

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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.

Miguel Facundo III and family as well as Facundo Home Builder would like to thank the Garden Oaks community for their support over the last 12 years. We are thankful for each customer and each project! We recently sold our personal home to a lovely couple who is proud to call Garden Oaks their home. Now we are busy planning our new home construction.

We have some exciting projects in the works for 2015.

- We are building out a beautiful and vibrant restaurant space across from the American Legion. The restaurant is set to open in summer 2015.
- The Claire in Garden Oaks includes 5 luxury patio homes on Alba Road. We will be starting this project in the spring of 2015.
- The Maple in Garden Oaks includes 14 town homes on Judlway street. We will be starting this project in the fall of 2015.

These projects, in addition to custom homes and remodels, are the reason why we are so excited about and dedicated to this wonderful neighborhood! We always strive to do projects that improve and enhance Garden Oaks and the surrounding areas.

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

CONSTABLE PROGRAM UPDATE

By Terry Jeanes, Program Chair

Be Alert

Your attentive eyes and ears make a difference. Please notify Precinct Dispatch when solicitors are in the area. Deputies will check them out for the right credentials. Recent complaints of somewhat aggressive door knockers have resulted in detained individuals

New Year, Renewed Support

PLEASE JOIN TODAY AND SUPPORT OUR PROGRAM via the form in the *Gazette* or the link below. Even if you pay via paypal, please complete the form. You should have received your 2015 Constable Program Supporter Form in the mail by now. Thanks to all who have already sent in their dues for 2015.

Constable Program Contributions and Vacation Watch Forms are available at:

www.gardenoaks.org/constable

Sign up for Precinct One Crime Alerts:

pct1constable.net/signup/crime-alerts

CONNECT YOUR ALARM COMPANY WITH CONSTABLE DISPATCH:

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713-884-3131

Constable Dispatch
713-755-7628

All Other City Services
311

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.

CITIZENS' PATROL PROGRAM UPDATE

By Carl Waters, Jr., Committee Chair

On January 6, the Constable's Office sent out an alert regarding tires stolen off an SUV in the neighborhood. The vehicle had 20-inch rims on it. This size tire/rim remains popular with thieves; if your vehicle has them, I recommend parking in the garage or as close to your home as possible. Investing in some locking lug nuts would also be a good idea.

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December Crime Statistics (10)

Burglary (1)

400 block of W. 34th on Monday, December 29 at 4:30 a.m. (residence).

Theft (9)

800 block of W. 42nd on Saturday, December 6 at 5:26 a.m. (driveway).

700 block of N. Loop West on Sunday, December 7 at 3:37 p.m. (restaurant).

800 block of W. 42nd on Friday, December 12 at 2:00 a.m. (driveway).

800 block of W. 42nd on Friday, December 12 at 10:53 a.m. (vehicle).

3400 block of N. Shepherd on Saturday, December 13 at 2:30 p.m. (restaurant).

3400 block of N. Shepherd on Saturday, December 13 at 3:51 p.m. (restaurant).

500 block of W. 33rd on Tuesday, December 16 at 2:00 a.m. (residence).

500 block of W. 33rd on Tuesday, December 16 at 3:30 a.m. (residence).

200 block of W. 33rd on Monday, December 29 at 1:00 p.m. (street).

The Houston Police Department website lists a total of 66 crimes in the neighborhood in 2014 and 72 in 2013, which indicates an 8% reduction from 2013 to 2014.

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 713-864-1992.

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CREATING A CAMPUS CULTURE OF KINDNESS

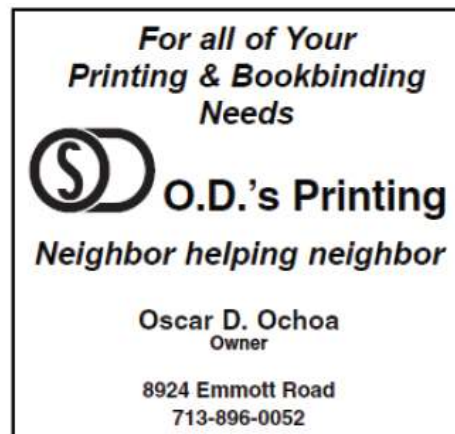
By Lindsey Pollock, Ed.D.,
Principal, Garden Oaks Montessori

Educators all over the country are working diligently to ensure that students are supported in engaging classroom environments. Public demand for accountability has turned our collective attention to results on standardized assessments in the core academic subjects of reading, writing, math, social studies and science. With all this attention on academics, why does the concept of kindness matter?

Researchers around the world are recognizing the vital connection between kindness and a nurturing environment on the learning outcomes in children. It is now accepted that children who feel safe and secure are more motivated to attend school, interact with others in social settings, and attempt more difficult assignments in school. Additionally, they are more resilient and learn from their "mistakes" instead of perceiving them as failures.

Recently, I heard the founder of Ben's Bells speak about kindness at the School Reform Initiative conference in Tucson, Arizona. She started her organization after the unexpected death of her two-year-old son. Ben's Bells is a non-profit organization wherein people across the city of Tucson collaborate to create wind chimes that are hung all over the city and given away free to people who "find" them. This collective effort has been embraced by schools, support groups, and everyday people who want to give back to the community in a positive way. Through her work on the importance of kindness in recovery, her organization's research has found that genuine kindness is more than the traditional perception of warm and fuzzy interactions, and that genuine, purposeful kindness can create structural changes in the brain's chemistry leading to increased mental and physical health. She proposed that kindness is a skill that can be taught through intentional lessons with children and through the everyday interactions we model to our children. Awareness of the importance is essential as she explained our brains have a negativity "bias" based on our biological need for safety. Our reptilian brain (basic instincts such as our need for food and water) interprets negativity as a threat to our safety and security. Therefore, although we might have had the most amazing day, one negative encounter sticks with us and can overshadow the day. Likewise, the idea of "one bad apple" threatens the safety and security of an entire organization.

In order to help our children build resilience to those negative "threats" they encounter, we can help them build a mindset both mentally and physically wherein their focus is on the positive. Intentional and repeated kindness helps shape the physical structure of the brain to enhance mental function past the reptilian and mammalian portions of the brain and move into functioning at the neo-cortex level where reasoning



occurs. By expressing and modeling kindness to our children through firm and consistent interactions, daily acts of thoughtfulness (opening a door for someone carrying a box, picking up dropped keys, throwing a neighbor's paper onto their steps, etc.), volunteering, or simply listening and supporting a person who is having a difficult time, we are modeling healthy, kind interactions for our children. As you extend your purposeful habits of kindness, these reflective questions may help:

- Is my home a place of kindness?
- How do we support one another in our family if someone is struggling with an issue?
- To whom do I turn for support and how do I show them kindness?
- In what ways do I embed kindness in my everyday routines?

If you are interested in learning more about kindness and the structure of the brain, I suggest these books:

- *The Energy Bus* by Jon Gordon
- *Train Your Mind, Change Your Brain* by Sharon Begley
- *Emotional Intelligence: Why It Can Matter More Than IQ* by Daniel Goleman
- *Authentic Happiness* by Martin Seligman

21ST ANNUAL GARDEN OAKS MONTESSORI PANCAKE BREAKFAST & SILENT AUCTION FEBRUARY 7

On Saturday, February 7, 2015, volunteer dads and granddads will flip thousands of free pancakes, serve up Katz's hot coffee, and auction off donated merchandise worth thousands of dollars. The Garden Oaks Montessori Annual Pancake Breakfast and Silent Auction (PBSA), is now a 21-year tradition. Having the community come together each year to celebrate with free pancakes, fun activities and fellowship has helped set Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet School (GOMM) apart as an exceptional and diverse learning community.

This year's event theme is based on Eric Carle's beloved children's book *A Very Hungry Caterpillar*. The connection to transformation is a nod toward significant changes on campus resulting from a \$3M grant from the U.S. Department of Education in 2011. The grant paved the way for Garden Oaks Elementary to transition to an all-Montessori Magnet with an emphasis on Environmental Sciences. The student body has increased from 550 students in 2011 to a current enrollment of 710 students ranging from pre-kindergarten to 8th grade.

Orchestrated by the GOMM Parent Teacher Organization (GO PTO) and underwritten by several sponsors (see right), the event helps cover funding gaps now that the grant has expired. Key among the school community's needs are scholarships for the tuition-based pre-kindergarten program, Montessori teacher training, field trips, and student art and enrichment programs.

"The Pancake Breakfast and Silent Auction (PBSA) is an event that demonstrates what a community we truly are. We have volunteers that gleefully run the entire event. There are the dads making and serving breakfast, teachers donating time for service auction items, students preparing classroom projects for the auction, and our GO community businesses giving in-kind donations and sponsoring the school wholeheartedly. The event strikes a great balance between a family-style breakfast and a fundraising event that can position us for a future rich in opportunities for our students. For the event to be a true success we need pancake suppliers, pancake flippers, and pancake eaters," said Barbie Atkinson, PTO president.

Last year's Pancake Breakfast and Silent Auction raised more than \$29,817. This year's event will take place on **Saturday February 7th**, from **8:00-10:30 a.m.** at Garden Oaks Montessori School, 901 Sue Barnett, Houston, Texas 77018.

Garden Oaks Montessori Pancake Breakfast Sponsors

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Willson Family • Bujnock Family • Odinet Family
Sharensen Family • Sgastegui-Whelan Family
Pittman Family • McKeown Family • Edge Family

An orientation session for parents and community members who are interested in Montessori education will be held at 8:30 a.m. Golden-brown pancakes, warm syrup, sausage, Katz's coffee, and juice will be served free of charge to the community. Bidding for the silent auction closes at 10:00 a.m.

To underwrite a portion of the annual breakfast or to donate auction items, please visit the website at houstonisd.ejoinme.org/pancake2015 or contact the silent auction coordinators:

Michelle Ray
michelle@michellerayproperties.com

Amabelle Cowan
amabelle.cowan@yahoo.com

For more information about Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet School, call (713) 696-2930 or visit www.houstonisd.org/gardenoaks.

MICKEY'S MINUTE

By Mickey Morales

As I write this post in mid-January, I am tempted to say that we have had all the winter we can stand. What I really want to say is we have had all the wet, dreary winter we can stand. I for one normally prefer cold weather over hot any day; however, life on the farm is challenging enough. Several weeks of constant rain have left the ground so saturated that even a quarter-inch of mist just adds to the last bit of water that hasn't had a chance to soak in. Thank God for whoever invented Wellington boots ("wellies"), because without them life for us would be even more miserable. I'm guessing that if you asked Gus Nawara and company, they would second the notion about having too much water. Folks ask us all the time, "don't farmers pray for rain"? The answer is, "yes, we do, but in smaller doses". You see, we have water wells

that enable us put the water right where we need it even in drought conditions.

But we must press on as there are hundreds of chickens, nine goats (at the time of this posting), forty or so ducks, two dogs, two kittens, and a piglet all counting on us. That's right, folks: Farmer Cathy bought me a pig for Christmas. What else would you buy a farm boy, one who has had every animal I thought I wanted to raise so far?

Enough of my bellyaching about farming and ranching. Let's talk about the market. By the time you read this, Sarah and Mike Hoiden should have returned to the market with their all-organic breads, rolls, and other sundries, rounding out our line-up that now includes new addition Matthew Malonson's Hacienda Real Coffee Company. Matthew's family owns a coffee plantation in Costa

Rica and imports to the U.S. through the Port of Houston. Of course we have retained all of your other favorites, giving us what I believe to be the most complete shopping experience around, albeit in a small package. I would like to find a beef and lamb rancher or at least one to front us some product. Or perhaps Farmer Cathy and I could try our hands at that next.

So, as always, "Come soon, come often, and tell your neighbors".

Local Farmers' Market
Every Saturday Rain or Shine

9:00 am - 1:00 pm
948 Wakefield

Sustainably-grown produce, eggs, goat cheese, prepared Indian dishes, jams, and jellies

AIR CONDITIONING TIPS FOR THE WINTER

By Mitch Weigand

What Goes Around Comes Around: Coming Full Circle with Air Wise

"It's amazing how everything comes full circle back to the way it was always meant to be."

OK, I didn't write this quote. My lovely wife who happens to be my ghostwriter insisted that the article begin with it. Kind of sappy, but in it stays. Happy wife, happy life, know what I mean? This column is about coming full circle, and beginning this year, I have returned to my roots as a business owner.

In 1990, when I moved from Kansas to Texas, I worked for Mr. Air, an HVAC company based in Alief. Thanks to owner Dave Aitken, I learned the A/C business from top to bottom, inside and out. But more importantly, I developed my true purpose - that the highest value in business is serving others. I work every day to earn and maintain customer loyalty.

In 1994 with one truck purchased with my wife's help, I founded Weigand Enterprises which provided air conditioning, electrical and plumbing service throughout Houston. By 2002, I narrowed my focus to air conditioning, and in November 2008, I acquired Air Wise. It was founded in 1950 and known for its devoted customers. I still call on a customer in River Oaks that has been with Air Wise for over 50 years.

During the last 20 years, I did what every good business owner does - expand and grow his business. While Air Wise grew to a staff of 14 with a fleet of seven trucks and generated very nice seven-figure revenue, I felt something was missing. The bigger my company got, the more distant I felt from my customers. I didn't like it and neither did they. Despite having competent staff to run calls, what they really wanted to see was me at the front door, not some stranger in an Air Wise uniform.

My goal was and always will be providing outstanding, personal customer service. So now, I have truly come full circle. It's

back to just me, one office manager and a superb contract install crew. I may love calling on customers but I leave those long hours in hot attics to the crew!

HEY GARDEN OAKS HOMEOWNERS! Air Wise is extending the January offer of \$500 off the installation of a full A/C system through this month. The offer expires February 28, 2015. Call now so you'll be ready to chill during our hot Houston summers!

Mitch Weigand is the owner of Air Wise™.

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Here's what our customers are saying about us:


"I have 100% confidence in Mitch at Air Wise."

George L., Garden Oaks

When a tree fell and ripped out our home's electrical lines, I didn't fret. I have 100% confidence in Mitch Weigand at Air Wise.

Once CenterPoint hooked us up, we discovered serious damage to our A/C system. Within an hour of my call, Mitch assessed the damage. Knowing how cold it was going to be, he rearranged a job so his crew could complete our repairs before Christmas Eve. They arrived in the morning and had everything repaired by noon.

I can't say how cared for we feel by having people like Mitch and his crew on our side.



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FIRE TRUCK SANTA VISITS AZALEA STREET

By Cindy Bartos

Garden Oaks resident Emma Dyer hosted a party at her home on Azalea on Christmas Eve for neighbors and family that included a surprise visit from Santa on a fire truck! The kids piled on the truck and, with sirens squealing and horn blasting, went for a fun ride around the neighborhood.



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GO KIDS UPDATE

By Jenny Odinet, Coordinator

GO Kids wrapped up 2014 with an amazing "Evening with Santa" hosted by SK Designs and Sue and Chris Schmidt. We thank our event sponsors for their wonderful generosity.

GO Kids held its 2015 Kick-Off Meeting on January 11 at the Odinet residence where there was a great turnout. We are excited and proud to announce this year's GO Kids Leadership Team:

- Coordinator** – Lindsey Gabriel
- Treasurer** – Angelica Sullivan
- Fundraising** – Katherine Taylor/Monique Bennett
- Membership** – Diana Latta
- Communications** – Jaime Cain-Mireles/Angelica Sullivan
- Moms' Night Out** – Deborah Seghers/Amy Jochum
- Events** – Mandee Lee
- GO Babies** – Andrea Cox
- GO Buddies** – Alison Tucker/Liz Tharpe
- Dinner Drops** – Julie Maddox
- Bouncy House** – Brooke Murphy
- Welcoming Committee** – Courtney Cervantes

Special thanks to these ladies for stepping up to lead our group!

With over 300 families, GO Kids offers an invaluable means of communication and endless resources via BigTent, age-based playgroups, Moms' Nights Out, new parent dinner drops, and many other scheduled activities and events. The ages of kids in the group range from newborns to school-aged; all Garden Oaks families are welcome. Expectant parents are even welcome!

We have a special neighborhood and want to provide ample opportunities for parents to meet each other and for our children to grow up in a close-knit community. We are focused on bringing more events and activities to our neighborhood this year.

The next GO Kids (open forum) meeting will be held on February 2 at 8:00 p.m. Please refer to BigTent for event location and details and to RSVP. The new leadership team will begin to discuss their ideas for 2015 and all are welcome to join in, provide input, and identify opportunities to get more involved in the upcoming year.

GO Kids Membership

- (1) Go to www.gardenoakskids.com
- (2) Select "email us for an invitation"
- (3) Include some identifying information about yourself, e.g. your full name, information about your family, and your address (which is mandatory but will be kept confidential).

GO Kids Dinner Drops

Are you or someone you know an overwhelmed, sleep-deprived new parent? Don't worry because help is on the way! We are happy to provide several meals to new families during those stressful few weeks. Please consider volunteering for this program. Refer to www.gardenoakskids.com for directions on signing up.

A Personal Note

GO Kids has been such a big part of my life over the last five years. I've served as Treasurer and Coordinator and have worn many hats over the years but have decided to step out of a leadership role; however, I will remain involved with the group. GO Kids has been a blessing to me and my family and it's been very fulfilling to see the group grow into what it is today. There's no doubt that there's been hard work involved, but the friendships, "therapeutic" MNOs and LT meetings, wonderful memories, and growing community outreach are something I will always cherish and have made it all more than worth it.

Thank you all for the opportunity to help support and foster the bonds in our wonderful neighborhood. I have truly enjoyed working with this amazing group. I'm really excited about the 2015 leadership team; they are amazing women and will help GO Kids flourish!

Warm regards,
Jenny Odinet



GO Kids was started by a group of parents who wanted to build a family-friendly neighborhood where children and parents know each other and grow together. All Garden Oaks families are welcome. If you have questions or would like more information about the GO Kids group, please contact Lindsey Gabriel at lindsey.gabriel5@gmail.com. As always, you can find more information about GO Kids, including bouncy house reservations, dinner drops, dues, etc. at www.gardenoakskids.com.

Please understand that our organization is moderated entirely by volunteers who are also parents with hectic schedules. While we hope to answer your questions and help you through the membership process as soon as possible, we cannot guarantee an immediate response. We really appreciate your patience and understanding and look forward to seeing you around the neighborhood!


Garden Oaks Resident and Area Specialist




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Who we are:

We are an *in-home healthcare company* that provides comprehensive healthcare services primarily to senior citizens. *To all the children, guardians, and caregivers who love mothers or any family member with an illness, we understand the pressures that you deal with on a daily basis, e.g. a hectic work schedule, your own family issues, and various other obligations. All of these situations can restrict you from managing your parents' or your patients' health needs properly and in a timely manner. You need help and we are here for you.* We at Pishon Holdings, L.L.C. understand the limitations and challenges that many seniors face on a daily basis. Our goal is to assist senior citizens, their caregivers, and patients' children in managing their health. We are one company with two subsidiaries (*a pharmacy and transportation service*) designed to provide comprehensive, convenient services to people who are limited physically due to their age or illness. If your mother or any family member needs help, you can contact us at 832.786.4671. *Do it for your mother; she will appreciate it.*

Services that we provide:

- ✦ Medication Management for Memory Care, Dementia, Alzheimer's Care, and Group Homes
- ✦ Automatic Refills, Online Refills
- ✦ Non-Emergency Medical Transportation
- ✦ Over-the-Counter Items: *Tell Us What You Need and We Will Deliver It to You*
- ✦ Compounding (Hormone Replacement Therapy, Weight Loss, Pain Management, Veterinary, etc.)
- ✦ Hospice Care Services
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- ✦ And Much More...



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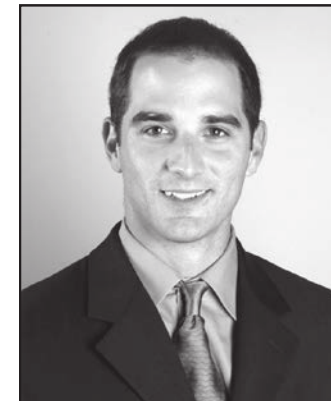


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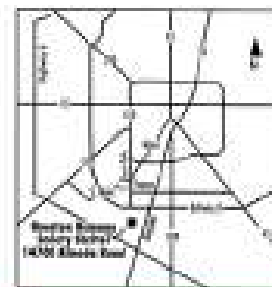
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The surgery and office visit for Fix Felix is free. Limit of 5 cats per household. A current rabies vaccination is required by law. You must show proof of a valid rabies certificate, or you will be required to purchase the vaccine at the time of surgery. HH5 is offering a special discounted rabies vaccine rate of \$5 for the Fix Felix event (includes rabies tag & certificate). Additional "optional" services offered at the time of surgery include: Feline Leukemia vaccine - \$20; FVRCP - \$15; pain medication (3 day oral regimen - \$8 or injection at the time of surgery (lasts 24 hours) - \$10. For the health and safety of all cats, as well as our staff, each feline must be in a plastic crate/carrier. Due to the large volume of clients, we cannot accept patients in any other type of carrier or confinement. Please plan ahead. If you do not have a plastic carrier you may purchase one at the door for \$10. No towels or blankets in carriers. Feral cats may be brought in an official humane cat trap.

GARDEN OAKS GARDEN CLUB

The Garden Oaks Garden Club typically meets on the second Thursday of each month. We also, or alternatively, host other events such as work days, plant swaps, or group excursions.

We invite interested neighbors to attend our next meeting, to be held on Thursday, February 12 at 7:00 p.m. We'll meet in the recently remodeled conference room facilities that have been generously provided by our local Kroger store. The large conference room is upstairs over the cashier stations - just walk up either of the staircases that are located right by the exit/entrance doorways and head towards the middle - you can't miss it.

Our February speaker will share his professional expertise on winter tree trimming practices.

Contact Cathy at catalinaw2@yahoo.com with any questions.



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THE CITY OF HOUSTON NOW ACCEPTING
POLYSTYRENE FOAM (STYROFOAM)
AT THE WESTPARK RECYCLING CENTER &
THE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE CENTER (ESC) SOUTH
Source: City of Houston Solid Waste Management Department

The Solid Waste Management Department accepts polystyrene foam at the **Westpark Recycling Center, 5900 Westpark, Houston, TX 77057** and the **Environmental Service Center South (ESC), 11500 South Post Oak Road, Houston, TX 77035**. The material is condensed at a 40-to-1 ratio which allows for maximized shipping to facilities where further processing may take place. Here are some common questions we anticipate regarding this new service. If you do not find your answer here, please contact 3-1-1 or visit the City of Houston Solid Waste Management website at www.houstonsolidwaste.org.



It is a common misconception that styrofoam belongs in our curbside recycling bins.

What is polystyrene foam?

Polystyrene foam is used in thousands of homes by individuals and businesses around Houston and provides superior performance in packaging and food applications. Also commonly known as Styrofoam, it is widely used to keep electronics and other fragile items safe for transportation.

Will the polystyrene foam be collected curbside?

No. Polystyrene foam will not be collected curbside due to bulkiness.

What kind of polystyrene foam is collected and recycled?

Clean, white block type and polystyrene foam packaging is accepted. Polystyrene foam cups, plates and clamshell containers are also accepted but they must be free of all food residue.

Is polystyrene foam with food waste accepted?

No. Only clean packaging that is free of food contaminants, debris and foreign objects such as tape or plastics is accepted.

Where should I take the polystyrene foam?

The Westpark Recycling Center and the ESC South both accept polystyrene packaging.

What happens to the material after it's processed at Westpark?

Once the polystyrene foam packaging is compacted and densified at the Westpark Recycling Center, a recycling vendor collects the material and brokers it to end market users.

Are businesses able to drop-off polystyrene foam?

No. The Westpark Recycling Center and the ESC will not accept polystyrene foam packaging from businesses.

Am I able to drop off "packing peanuts"?

No. Polystyrene packing peanuts are not accepted at either facility.

[Editor's Note: Many retail shipping stores will accept packing peanuts for reuse.]

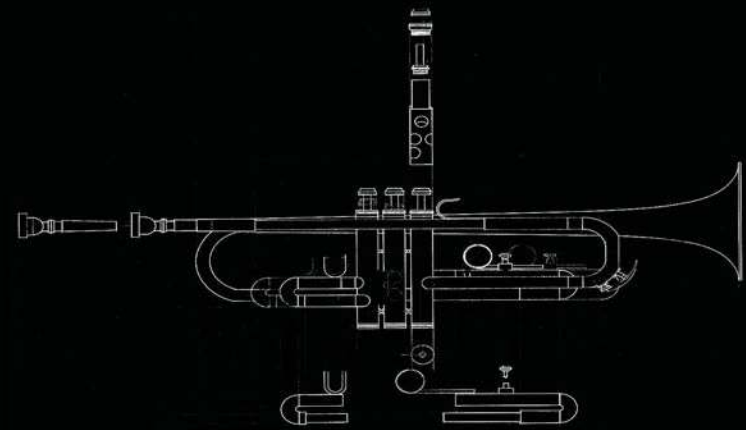
What kinds of polystyrene foam cannot be recycled?

Polystyrene packaging that has food or chemical particulates on it or has plastic or metal attached to it cannot be used in the recycling process.

What is the market for recycled polystyrene foam?

Almost half of the polystyrene foam packaging recycled is remanufactured into new packaging. Other applications for recycled polystyrene foam packaging include building applications such as siding and deck board, ceiling texture, molding, electronic products, auto products, agricultural products, office supplies, egg cartons, and beanbag filler. Markets for non-foam polystyrene include coat hangers, picture frames, waste baskets, videocassettes, flowerpots, and nursery trays.

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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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Size	Single	Six Months	Twelve Months
2 1/4 W x 2 3/8 H	\$60.00	\$300.00	\$580.00
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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	
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Full-page insert, single-sided	\$180.00		
Full-page insert, double-sided	\$225.00		

Please note:

1. Placement of ads is subject to the discretion of the editor.
2. Artwork must be e-mailed to gazette@gardenoaks.org by the 15th of each month for publication the following month.
3. Artwork may be submitted in one of the following formats: **JPEG** (.jpg), **PDF** (.pdf), **GIF** (.gif) or **TIF** (.tif).



ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES STATEMENT

January – December 2015

Membership is open to all residents whether you own or rent. While all memberships are voluntary, you must contribute at least at the Basic Level to be eligible to vote on civic club matters. Membership dues are to be paid on or before January 1st for the calendar year.

Fill in Amount

- \$ _____ Crepe Myrtle (Basic Level) Household Membership \$25 (\$5 for Seniors)
- \$ _____ Red Oak (Patron Level) Household Membership \$75 (\$15 for Seniors)
- \$ _____ Business Membership (Non-Voting Membership) \$50
- \$ _____ Contribution to Beautification (all neighborhood green spaces)
- \$ _____ Contribution to Garden Club (maintain Friendship Park, Section 1)
- \$ _____ **TOTAL**

Please mail this completed form along with your check payable to:
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FEBRUARY 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3  Civic Club Meeting ¹ 7PM @ GOMM	4 GOMM Night at Becks Prime ² 5-10PM @ Heights location 115 West 19th	5	6	7  GOMM Pancake Breakfast 8:00-10:30AM Farmers Market 9AM-1PM 948 Wakefield
8	9	10	11	12 Garden Club Meeting 7PM @ Kroger	13	14 Farmers Market (GF) 9AM-1PM 948 Wakefield  Valentine's Day
15	16	17  Mardi Gras 	18 GOMO Meeting 7PM @ GOPB	19 Heavy Trash Pick-Up (Junk Waste)	20	21 Farmers Market 9AM-1PM 948 Wakefield
22	23	24	25	26	27	28 Farmers Market (GF) 9AM-1PM 948 Wakefield

¹ Preceded by GOMO meeting beginning at 6:30PM.

² Mention GOMM with order and Becks Prime will donate 15% of your purchase price to the school.

Acronym Key

GOMM = Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet School, 901 Sue Barnett

GOMO = Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization

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

GF = Gluten-free



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