



# Garden Oaks Gazette

A publication of the Garden Oaks Civic Club



MARCH 2015

## NO HIGH-SPEED RAIL THROUGH GARDEN OAKS

In case you haven't heard by now, it was announced on February 17 by several news sources (e.g. The Leader newspaper and the Dallas Morning News) that the high-speed train will not cut through the middle of Garden Oaks, Independence Heights, Lindale Park, or Oak Forest. Texas Central Railway (TCR) is recommending an alternative route to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) that runs along Washington Avenue and Hempstead Highway, following the Union Pacific rail line rather than the BNSF rail that runs through our neighborhood.

Here is the full release from TCR:

*Texas Central High-Speed Railway (TCR) today informed the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) that it recommends narrowing the consideration of potential high-speed rail corridors between Houston and Dallas to a single preferred corridor known generally as the Utility Corridor. TCR has concluded the Utility Corridor is best suited to satisfy the goals of the project to provide reliable, safe and economically viable high-speed rail service between Dallas and Houston using the N700-I Bullet System technology.*

*TCR has spent several years identifying potential corridors for high-speed rail service between Dallas and Houston. To that end, TCR expended significant effort looking for solutions to engineering, construction and economic challenges associated with building high-speed rail in or along the existing Freight Corridor, and believes the Utility Corridor to be the superior alternative. Additionally, as TCR examines the various alternative alignments, one of the company's goals is to reduce the project's impact on communities and landowners to the extent practicable by using existing rights of way. TCR will recommend inclusion of an alternative involving the I-10 corridor as a potential approach to downtown Houston and looks forward to working with the City of Houston to evaluate this option.*

*TCR will now focus on potential alternatives keyed to the Utility Corridor that meet the business, environmental and connectivity priorities of the project and will submit additional information to the FRA for further detailed analysis during subsequent phases of the environmental review process.*

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### March Civic Club Meeting

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

#### GO Garden Club Work Day

Saturday, March 14  
9:00-11:00 a.m.  
Friendship Park  
Lawrence @ West 30th Street

#### St. Patrick's Day Tuesday, March 17



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# Garden Oaks



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Trees

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Former Garden Oaks resident **Pat Phillips** came across this ad on the back cover of the 1941 Greater Houston City Directory during one of her volunteer shifts at the Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research located at 5300 Caroline Street. She explained that the office building pictured was located at the current site of the Garden Oaks Professional Building on the northwest corner of Garden Oaks Boulevard at North Shepherd Drive.

## 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 our community. We hope to see you at a civic club meeting soon.

1482 Sue Barnett  
515 West 30th  
930 West 42nd  
947 West 43rd

### Happy Birthday

Ollie H. ....	3/3
Sydney Grace N. ....	3/3
Lori Kennedy. ....	3/5
Stephanie Dubroff-Acosta. ....	3/6
Jennifer Garza. ....	3/7
Dodie Davis. ....	3/11
Jeff Martin. ....	3/11
George Appling. ....	3/13
Kenneth Santos. ....	3/14
Robb Bunge. ....	3/15
Curtis Hall. ....	3/15
Marshall H. ....	3/18
Susan Kostelecky. ....	3/26
Sharron Sanborn. ....	3/26
Nathan S. ....	3/26
Olivia S. ....	3/29
Will Zugheri. ....	3/30

### Happy Anniversary

John & Nhika Murphy. ....	3/15
Jeff & Gaylynn Martin. ....	3/21
Mark & Susan Saranie. ....	3/24
Sean & Caroline McLean. ....	3/27

### Congratulations

**Wade M.** won two Pinewood Derby awards: first place for most creative and third place for fastest! **Michael P.** placed third in his first karate tournament.

### Out and About

Lots of Valentine's Weekend activities: The **Feit** family enjoyed a trip to Wimberley. **Caroline McLean** and son **Josh** finished the Rhythm and Blues 5K together. **Rusty** and **Linda Reichle** kicked up their heels at the Swiss Alp Valentine's weekend. It was the Salt Lick Barbecue in Dripping Springs for **Tina** and **John Beddow**, and a Chambers County canoe paddle for **John** and **Cindy Bartos**. The **Acosta** clan enjoyed some Bellville time, while the **Salch** family celebrated Mardi Gras in Galveston. **Deb Seghers** went hiking on the Blue Ridge Parkway. **Patrick Kelley** and I had a delightful visit with the **Appling-O'Leary** clan at their Sherwood Forest Faire in McDade, Texas.


**Healing Wishes** to both **Linda Sparks** and **Tina Sabuco**, each recuperating from their second knee replacement surgery.

**Condolences** to the family of **Dorothy Adams** who passed away in December, not long after celebrating her 100th birthday at her Garden Oaks home.

Condolences as well to the family of **Bea Ochoa**, beloved widow of **Oscar Ochoa** of OD's Printing, longtime printer of the Garden Oaks Gazette. Bea passed away in February approximately 8 weeks after her late husband.

To highlight an event, celebration or other tidbit, contact Terry Jeanes at 713-812-9154 or [terry@terryjeanes.com](mailto:terry@terryjeanes.com).

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**GARDEN OAKS CIVIC CLUB  
MEETING MINUTES**

*By Cindy Bartos, Secretary*

**February 3, 2015**

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

**Welcome:** President Sheila Briones called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed those present. A motion was made and seconded to approve the January 2015 minutes as published in the *Gazette*. The motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Jerry Butler had copies of the Profit and Loss statement and the Balance Sheet available at the meeting.

President Briones welcomed Houston City Council Member Stephen Costello and representatives from Council Member Cohen's office and the office of Congressman Al Green. On behalf of Council Member Cohen, President Briones announced that the next Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) meeting will take place Wednesday, March 5 at the Metropolitan Multi-Service Center (Gymnasium), 1475 W. Gray.



**Speaker:** President Briones introduced Robert Eckels, President Texas Central Railway. Mr. Eckels' PowerPoint presentation outlined reasons for having a high-speed rail system between Houston and Dallas, showed representations of trains currently in operation in Japan, and displayed maps of the various route options being considered. Mr. Eckels' presentation was followed by a question and answer period. Questions were submitted to GOCC Vice President Chris Lindsay and Government Affairs Committee Chair Mark Klein to screen and present to Mr. Eckels. Some of the questions asked pertained to the physical size of the completed railway (minimum width of 38 feet, height unknown until plan is complete),

compensation to homeowners for loss of property value, alternative route options, and concerns over safety factors (in response, Mr. Eckels cited the perfect safety record of the Tokyo trains currently in operation). Mr. Eckels remained after the close of the meeting to address individual's questions. Mr. Eckels' PowerPoint presentation is available for viewing on the Garden Oaks website, [www.gardenoaks.org](http://www.gardenoaks.org).

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Attendance: Approximately 170

**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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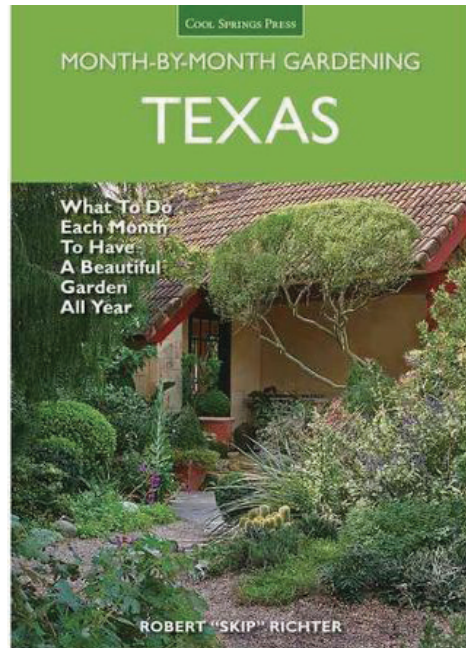
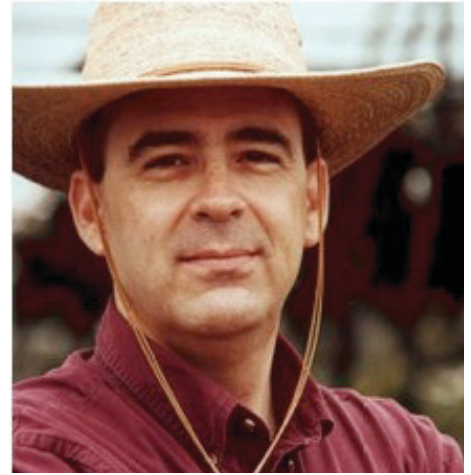


**MARCH CIVIC CLUB PROGRAM:  
GETTING YOUR GARDEN/LANDSCAPE READY FOR SPRING & SUMMER  
PRESENTED BY ROBERT "SKIP" RICHTER,  
HARRIS COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT-HORTICULTURE**

Skip received his master's degree in Horticulture from Texas A&M University, "the source of all earthly knowledge." He has been with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service for 24 years in Montgomery, Travis, and Harris County, where he currently serves as the County Extension Agent in Horticulture. Skip has gardened in the brush country of south Texas, the rocky hills of the Missouri Ozarks, the acid sands of the East Texas piney woods, the semi-arid climate and high-pH soils of central Texas, and the humid, hot climate and black clays of southeast Texas.

He is an enthusiastic student and teacher of natural gardening techniques. He helped develop the Extension's "Don't Bag It" yard waste recycling programs, the "Composting for Kids" educational web page, and the "Grow Green" environmental education program that teaches Austin residents landscaping practices that protect water quality. He has written a bi-weekly internet column for the National Gardening Association and numerous newspaper and magazine articles on gardening. His "Gardening with Skip" YouTube channel features over 120 brief gardening videos. Skip has served as the National Gardening Association's regional horticulturist for the southeastern U.S. and is a contributing editor for *Texas Gardener* magazine.

Skip's new book, *TEXAS Month-by-Month Gardening* is a wonderful guide for what to do each month to have a beautiful garden all year. Books will be available at the March Civic Club meeting for purchase and autographing, and some lucky person will win one as a door prize.



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**TEXAS AGRILIFE EXTENSION SERVICE: WHAT IS IT?**

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is a unique education agency with a statewide network of professional educators, trained volunteers, and county offices. It reaches into every Texas county to address local priority needs.

County Extension Agents, like our Civic Club's March speaker Skip Richter, are educators who extend the reach of the university out into the local community by providing researched based services and assistance to local residents. They conduct educational programs and events, in addition to creating educational publications and online information on a variety of topics including home lawn, landscape and garden care.

Master Gardeners are volunteers for Texas AgriLife Extension Service. They are trained by AgriLife Extension to assist in reaching its mission to bring relevant, research-based information in horticulture to the public.

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## PARK MAINTENANCE VOLUNTEERS WELCOME!

By Cathy Wahren, President, Garden Oaks Garden Club

The Garden Oak Garden Club has been helping to maintain one of Garden Oaks' cherished green spaces, Friendship Park, since the mid 1970s. In March, in lieu of our standard monthly meeting and speaker, Garden Club members will head out to Friendship Park for a couple of hours on **Saturday, March 14** from **9:00-11:00 a.m.** to weed, trim, and evaluate the beds and trees. This "work day" outing is open to anyone interested in a little neighborhood volunteer work. Feel free to email me at [catalinaw2@yahoo.com](mailto:catalinaw2@yahoo.com) for more information, or - easier still - just show up, with tools, if you happen to have any available. Friendship Park is located at West 30th and Lawrence, on the east side of Shepherd and just north of the 610 Loop.



The Garden Oaks Garden Club is open to all residents and friends of Garden Oaks. Our regular meetings are held the second Thursday of each month from 7:00-8:30 p.m. at Kroger, except for months when we schedule weekend activities for the following Saturday, such as the March work day at Friendship Park. Annual membership dues are \$25, but there is no obligation to join.

Upcoming events this year include our annual PLANT SWAP from 6:30-8:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 9 in the Gazebo Park gazebo located at West 42nd and Sue Barnett. We are also looking forward to a FIELD TRIP on Saturday, May 16 to visit some of the recently completed amenities in Hermann Park.

We are seeking garden-topic speakers for our meetings in June, July, and August so we can stay indoors during the heat of the summer. Please email me with any suggestions at the address above.

Andrew Mireles was our February speaker, with a presentation on tree pruning. He is the owner of My Trees Houston and a Garden Oaks resident.



GO  
Garden  
Club

He initially explained the primary reasons for pruning: health and safety, aesthetics, and, in the case of fruit and nut trees, production. For health and safety reasons, pruning typically involves removing dead, damaged, and diseased wood (the 3 Ds) and some extra thinning as needed to help minimize the potential for wind damage. He explained that in addition to issues noted during an initial "ground-up" inspection, "top-down" problems such as cracked branches that are not visible from below may be noted once up in the tree. Issues related to root zone fertilization, optimal growth and production, timing, construction effects, other stressors, wound compartmentalization, and age effects were also covered.

## GREEN THUMB LECTURES AND WORKSHOPS

The Texas AgriLife Extension Service and the Harris County Master Gardeners are pleased to offer the Green Thumb Gardening Series of lectures. These lectures are **free of charge** to residents of Harris County. Space is limited, so call to register at **281-855-5600**.

### Third Tuesdays

**6:30-8:30 p.m.**

Spring Branch Memorial Library  
930 Corbindale  
Houston, Texas 77024



HARRIS COUNTY  
MASTER GARDENERS

<b>March 17</b>	Documenting Your Garden
<b>April 21</b>	Basic Irrigation & Rainwater Harvesting
<b>May 19</b>	Basic Pest Control for Gardeners
<b>June 16</b>	Growing and Using Herbs
<b>July 21</b>	Fall Vegetable Gardening
<b>August 18</b>	Low Maintenance Landscaping
<b>September 15</b>	Indoor Gardening- Pest Control & Animal Safety
<b>October 20</b>	Propagation & Seed Saving





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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.

### Support the Program

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. 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](http://www.gardenoaks.org/constable)

### Sign up for Precinct One Crime Alerts:

[pct1constable.net/signup/crime-alerts](http://pct1constable.net/signup/crime-alerts)

### CONNECT YOUR ALARM COMPANY WITH CONSTABLE DISPATCH:

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## 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.



**CITIZENS' PATROL PROGRAM UPDATE**

*By Carl Waters, Jr., Program Chair*

The Precinct One Constable's Office reported two more incidents in early February where neighbors discovered the wheels of their vehicles were removed overnight. In one case, the thieves were so well-prepared that they removed the gate across the driveway to get access to the vehicle. Not quite as invasive, but still unsettling, was my discovery that someone went through my car shortly after midnight on February 1. My neighbor's security camera picked up the interior lights of my car along with the penlight the thief used to look through the console. Nothing was taken, but this brazen thief got into 3 other cars on my street including my neighbor's vehicle which was parked behind a gate and inside the garage with its overhead door open. When the thief noticed the cameras at my neighbor's home, he pulled his hoodie over his head to obscure his face.

**January Crime Statistics (8)**

**Burglary (1)**

400 block of W. 31st on Tuesday, January 27 at 1:00 a.m. (residence).

**Theft (7)**

200 block of North Loop West on Sunday, January 4 at 3:45 p.m. (gas station).

200 block of W. 31st on Tuesday, January 6 at 1:37 a.m. (residence).

300 block of W. 30th on Friday, January 9 at 10:00 a.m. (church).

700 block of W. 41st on Wednesday, January 14 at 6:36 a.m. (street).

3400 block of N. Shepherd on Thursday, January 15 at 1:30 p.m. (bar; two incidents within a few minutes of each other).

500 block of W. 32nd on Saturday, January 24 at 10:30 a.m. (driveway).

**Emergency Numbers**



Emergency Services

**911**

HPD Non-Emergency Services

**713-884-3131**

Constable Dispatch

**713-755-7628**

All Other City Services

**311**

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), the COP email account at [GOCOP77018@AOL.com](mailto:GOCOP77018@AOL.com) or by phone at 713-864-1992.

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**SPRING INTO SAFETY!**

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

Spring Break is a time for fun and family! As we spend more time together both indoors and outdoors, this is a perfect time to review some basic safety systems and routines to keep your family safe!

At home, check your smoke detectors – are the batteries fresh? Be sure that your children know what to do if the alarm sounds. Have you reviewed your evacuation plan? Practice crawling out and staying low in case of fire and have a place to meet. Do you have a fire extinguisher in the kitchen and have you checked to be sure it is ready for use?

Technology is a wonderful tool when used with caution! Be sure to talk to your children about stranger danger on the internet – never give out personal information including address, phone numbers or photographs to someone you don't know. Remind your children that if people are telling them to keep conversations "secret" that this is a danger sign! Review the browser history on your family's computers and set the parameters for parental controls in order to restrict access to adult sites.

Be sure your children know to walk in groups even in your neighborhood. If they are walking home from a friend's house, a call home to let you know they are on the way is a great strategy.

Have a safety word that your family knows is a signal. This can be used to communicate to you that a child is uncomfortable. For example, when my daughter was a teenager, she could call me on the phone with friends within earshot and let me know there were "alligators in Texas". This was our signal that I should come and pick her up!

Bicycles are great fun! Be sure that your child knows the rules of the road. They should ride with traffic and signal their turns. Helmets are essential and required by city ordinance. While bicyclists may have the right of way, defensive riding is the best safety tip of all! WATCH for cars – they may not see you!

Pools are always a favorite gathering place. Be sure that you know who is monitoring the activity in the pool and that your child knows to NEVER go into a pool alone or without an adult supervising.

Children MUST know how to contact a parent/guardian in case of emergency. Practice phone numbers and addresses with your children so they can contact you! Review 9-1-1 procedures to be sure your child knows what to do if you are not available.

Being prepared is the best strategy to keeping your family safe! Enjoy spring break and your time together!

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## 21<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL GARDEN OAKS MONTESSORI PANCAKE BREAKFAST & SILENT AUCTION RECAP

What do the numbers 2, 33, 75, 300, 1000, and 22,000 all have in common? Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet's successful 21st Annual Pancake Breakfast & Silent Auction (PBSA) is what! Why was it so successful, you ask? The PBSA was successful because of our 75 volunteers, families, Garden Oaks community and 33 generous sponsors. The 2 co-chairs for this historic and beloved event were **Amabelle Cowan** and **Michelle Ray** who poured in all they had to make sure this 21st edition was a fruitful one.

Saturday, February 7th was a beautifully sunny and crisp morning at our campus with our 75 friendly and welcoming volunteers raring to go! The vividly colorful t-shirt was designed by our own **Angie Coussirat**. We based our "GROW WITH US" theme on Eric Carle's *A Very Hungry Caterpillar* to illustrate change and growth as GOMM grows and celebrates its first year as an all-Montessori pre-K through 8th grade campus! We decided to go mobile this year with our inaugural and innovative online bidding system by Greater Giving. It was all the buzz as bidders were checked in and then set loose to traipse throughout the campus to look through all of the wonderful items for auction.

In the background, the Waltrip High School Jazz Band, directed by **Mr. Jesse Espinosa** (a Garden Oaks alum), provided smooth music while energetic Waltrip cheerleaders directed by **Ms. Gayla Kelemen** added to the positive atmosphere of the affair. The flurry of fun and bidding was felt by all around. Over 300 donated items including teacher experiences, classroom projects, creative entertainment, sports packages, handmade creations, photography, and great gatherings were included in the silent auction. Even **Dr. Lindsey Pollock**, our leader and principal, joined in the bidding fun, carrying her cell phone and exclaiming that she was going to have some explaining to do when she got home! Over 1000 pancakes were served to our families and visitors by over 28 of our own school dads and granddads that morning, headed by **Mark Sarmiento**, **Breaux Peters**, and **Randy Evans**. Folks started lining up at the gate well before the 8:00 a.m. start for the free and flippin' delicious breakfast!

A special thank you to the volunteers who donated their efforts, equipment, and enthusiasm to make the breakfast such a comfortable and enjoyable event: **Joe Zuniga** with **Impressive Events** provided heaters to keep us warm, campus-wide sound systems for us to hear the great music and flat-screen monitors everywhere to keep us abreast of the bidding with advanced technology. **Cheryl McCosh** and **Heidi Lozano** of **Friends of Montessori** staged a "Glass Classroom" for visitors to observe a



functional Montessori classroom in action. **Jayne Maltbie** and **Kari Noser** of **Lot Five Studios** donated a photo booth and provided fun props for a lively photo shoot. **Wendy Haardt** coordinated the children's craft area and gifted photographer **Libby Leal** snapped pictures of the event for us.

Thank you to our community members who attended the event, especially **HISD School Board Member Anna Eastman**, **Council Member Ellen Cohen**, **Precinct One Constable Alan Rosen** and the Humvee, **David Lorms of KBREEZE 106.1** (who interviewed Michelle Ray on the air prior to the event), **Terry Jeanes**, **Ed** and **Brenda de Alba**, and **Friends of Montessori**.

Sponsorship is a big part of the success of our events and we would like to thank the following sponsors: **www.MommaStrong.com**, **ARC Products Inc.**, **Major Equipment & Remediation**, **Michelle Ray Properties**, **U.S. Capital Advisors**, **Friends of Montessori**, **Southern Son Consulting** and **Harry James Building + Design**.

Lastly, a big thank you to the teachers, faculty, students, and parents who made this day possible.

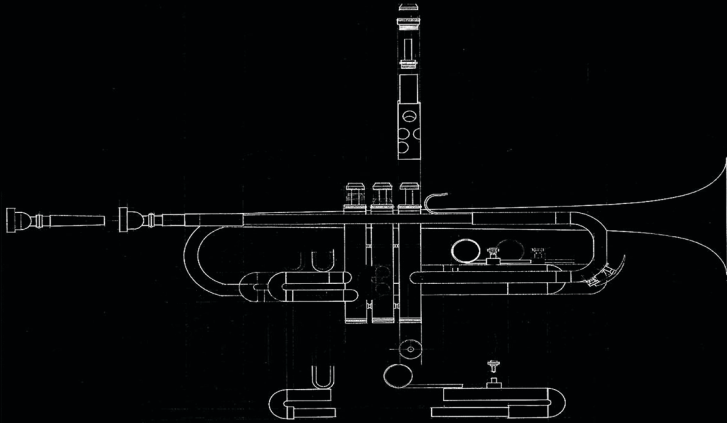
We raised over \$22,000 this year and donations are still coming in! These donations help cover funding gaps and help ensure that:

1. We adhere to our Montessori ideology in the classroom through supporting teacher professional development;
2. Scholarships are available for our 3-year-old PreKindergarten students;
3. GOMM can host robust and educational field trips; and
4. Student art and enrichment programs are continually supported at GOMM.

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you! It was an event enjoyed by all, and we feel great pride in hosting this event to bring our collective and collaborative community together for breakfast.

Thank you for Growing With Us this year! We hope to see you next year at the 22nd Annual Garden Oaks Montessori Pancake Breakfast and Silent Auction!

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**AIR CONDITIONING TIPS FOR THE SPRING**

*By Mitch Weigand*

**Pay Up Now or Pay Big Later: Why Spring Checks Can Save You Money**

I'm starting early to encourage everyone to have a spring check performed on their home's air conditioning system. Why is this so important? Well, I'm glad you asked.

One of the most important ways a homeowner can contribute to extending the life of his or her A/C system is to have a yearly inspection done prior to summer. This will help ensure that the unit is prepped to work properly and at maximum efficiency.

Spring inspections can reveal problems while they're still small, enabling your A/C service technician to fix them. This prevents them from becoming bigger, more expensive problems down the road. Did you know if your system is short just one pound of freon (that's about

10% overall), your electrical bill can increase nearly \$50 per month? A well-maintained A/C unit uses less energy to cool your house, and lower energy usage can mean big savings on your monthly utility bill.

Replacing the missing freon and repairing the leak that caused it will cost around \$200-\$350. That's a lot cheaper than buying a new compressor to replace the old one which burned out because of low freon levels. A new compressor can cost 10 times that, around \$3,000 or more. BIG difference.

What else is done during the spring check? Beyond examining freon levels, your A/C technician should also:

**OUTSIDE**

- Check start capacitor and potential relay
- Check compressor contactor
- Check all wiring and connections
- Check condensing coils


**INSIDE**

- Check voltage and amperage to all motors with meters
- Check air temperature drop across the evaporator coil
- Check secondary drain pan
- Lubricate all moving parts
- Check and adjust thermostat
- Check filters

Finally, if your A/C check up takes place in the spring, you'll beat the long waits and higher prices which always come with peak-season summer inspections.

**SAVES YOU MONEY!** Well, no, I'm not Mattress Mack, but let me save you \$20.00 on your spring check. It's normally \$75.00 but now through May 31, 2015, it's only \$55.00! To schedule a spring check, call 713/231-2222. This is a limited time offer for Garden Oaks residents only.

*Mitch Weigand is the owner of Air Wise™.*



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*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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**GO KIDS UPDATE**

By Jaime Cain-Mireles,  
Communications Co-Chair



A new year is revving up for GO Kids, and we cannot wait to get started!

With over 300 families, GO Kids offers an invaluable means of communication and endless resources via BigTent and the GO Kids website. Highlights include playgroups, Mom's Night Out, new parent dinner drops, several organized events each year, and a discussion forum. We have a special neighborhood and want to provide additional opportunities for children, moms, and dads to connect with one another. All Garden Oaks families are welcome, even expecting parents!

GO Kids held its second meeting of the new year on February 2 at the Murphy residence where the 2014 and 2015 Leadership Teams came together to begin planning an exciting year! Along with our annually organized events listed below, we hope to include social opportunities and playdates for newborns to school-aged children this year. Check BigTent for details and updates!

We are excited to announce the following events scheduled for 2015:

- Easter Egg Hunt** – April 4, 2015 at the GOMM Spark Park
- Crawfish Boil** – May 2015
- Spring Movie Night** – May 2015
- Back to School Bash** – August 2015
- Halloween Bash** – October 2015
- Fall Movie Night** – October/November 2015
- Turkey Trot** – November 2015
- Santa Night** – December 2015

The next GO Kids open forum meeting is TBD. Please refer to BigTent for event details and to RSVP. The Leadership Team will discuss planned events and finalize dates. ALL are welcome to join, provide input and share ideas, and identify opportunities to get more involved in the upcoming year.

**GO Kids Sponsorship**

GO Kids events are free to all who attend and would not happen without the support and sponsorship of many local businesses. Thus we are kicking off our sponsorship campaign for 2015! If you are interested in sponsoring GO Kids, please visit our website at [www.gardenoakskids.com](http://www.gardenoakskids.com) for details.



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## GO Kids Membership

- 1) Go to: [www.gardenoakskids.com](http://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 will be kept confidential).

## Website/Communication – [www.gardenoakskids.com](http://www.gardenoakskids.com)

Our website is updated to reflect recent changes in leadership and includes bouncy house information. You'll also find a login portal to BigTent which provides a discussion board, classifieds, and a calendar for events and bouncy house reservations. You can also find us on Facebook!

## 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 first few weeks. Please consider volunteering for this program. Refer to [www.gardenoakskids.com](http://www.gardenoakskids.com) for directions on signing up.

## A Note from the 2015 Leadership Team

The 2015 Leadership Team would like to thank the 2014 leaders for putting together an amazing year for GO

Kids! The events were wonderful and some of the most successful yet!

We would like to recognize 2014 Coordinator Jenny Odinet for her commitment to our families and children for the past 5 years as a member of the Leadership Team. Her passion for fostering an active parent and kids group for our neighborhood was always at the forefront of her leadership. The new Leadership Team is committed to continuing her vision of providing amazing events and experiences for GO Kids. Her leadership will be truly missed; however, we know she is not far away! Thank you again, Jenny! We look forward to the Odinet's' tasty crawfish this spring!

*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](mailto:lindsey.gabriel5@gmail.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 get you through the membership process as soon as possible, we cannot guarantee an immediate response. We really appreciate your patience and understanding. We look forward to seeing you around the neighborhood!*

## Garden Oaks Resident and Area Specialist



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January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Dear Director Rudick,

As the Houston City Council Member representing District C, which includes the Garden Oaks neighborhood, I am pleased to submit this letter of support recommending that the results of a recent community survey be utilized in the design of the Garden Oaks and Shepherd Forest Area Drainage and Paving Capital Improvement Project (M-000285).

The Garden Oaks Civic Club performed a survey of its residents in October 2014 to establish the community's preferences regarding the street width and potential inclusion of sidewalks along Alba St. and Golf Dr, which are the main targets of this project. The results were as follows:

- 81% of respondents were in favor of a 23' street width
  - Of respondents that own property directly adjacent to Alba Rd and Golf Dr, 90% were in favor of a 23' street width
- 64% of respondents were opposed to the inclusion of sidewalks

Based on the Garden Oaks Civic Club's formal endorsement for these specifications, I would like to request that, within the project design scope, the street be built no wider than 23' and that sidewalks not be included on this project.

I would also like to thank you and your departmental staff for your ongoing assistance and flexibility with this project. My constituents and I greatly appreciate your openness to hearing and utilizing community input and we look forward to continuing a strong working relationship as this project moves forward.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (832) 393-3004 or via email at [DistrictC@houstontx.gov](mailto:DistrictC@houstontx.gov).

Sincerely,

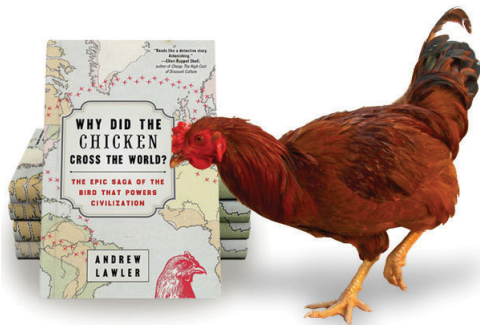
Ellen R. Cohen

Houston City Council Member, District C

**MICKEY'S MINUTE**

By Mickey Morales

I am currently finishing the final chapters of a book given to Farmer Cathy called *Why Did the Chicken Cross the World: The Epic Saga of the Bird That Powers Civilization* by Andrew Lawler. At first glance, I thought it would be a glib piece of literature full of jokes and other such nonsense. However, after the first paragraph or so, I found it to be a serious study of how the most secretive and shy bird in the animal kingdom (the red jungle fowl of Burma) became the utilitarian creature we know today as the plainest and most common of barnyard animals, the chicken. Given our strong relationship with chickens at the farm for both eggs and meat, I was most interested in how this came to be. In a nutshell, we humans over millennia have taken this bird through selective breeding from its original ancestors and turned it into perhaps the most useful provider of food on the planet today. This progression has resulted in changes both good and bad that have further reaching consequences than we could possibly imagine. Don't get me wrong, I'm grateful to have them around and they serve us well, but the quest to put cheap food on the table has caused and will continue to have repercussions far into the future.



Effects such as these are a primary reason why we, your loyal, local, small-scale farmers and ranchers, have opted out of the mainstream factory-style system and chosen to raise descendents of the originals and give them the life nature intended. Sometimes, though, you have to work with what's available; in some cases, as they say, the train has left the station there is no going back. Nonetheless, by keeping all of our animals, not just the chickens, on pasture 24/7, we are able to bring you the cleanest and best tasting food possible while enabling the animals to improve the land as well. Your continued support of all our vendors will further this mission of making our little piece of the world a better place than we found it, while caring for the ones most dear to us, our friends, family, and, of course, the animals.

**Local Farmers' Market**  
 Every Saturday Rain or Shine

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

On another note, by the time y'all read this, the legislative session in Austin will be well under way and we could really use your help. The legislature will be considering some very important bills that concern your choice of the food you eat and feed to your children. Please visit the FARFA website to learn more about the issues and become a member or, at the very least, sign up for their email alerts. Even if you don't support all of our positions, I encourage you to call or write your elected officials to let them know that "we, the people" want the freedom to make our own decisions when it comes to our food choices.

As always, "Come soon, come often, bring your neighbors" ... and call your legislators.







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## GARDEN OAKS OUTREACH

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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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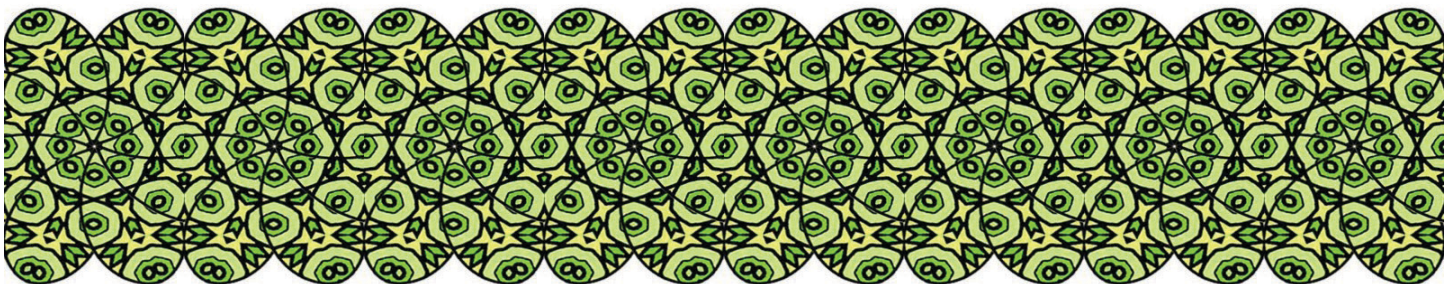
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2. Artwork must be e-mailed to [gazette@gardenoaks.org](mailto:gazette@gardenoaks.org) by the 15th of each month for publication the following month.
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January 2, 2015

Dear Single Stream Recycling Program Resident,

I hope you are taking advantage of the convenience of the Single Stream Recycling Program and doing your part to conserve valuable landfill air space by recycling using your 96 gallon recycling cart.

Many of your fellow Houston residents have been asking when they too can be a part of the Single Stream Recycling Program and we are happy to say that we will be adding an additional 103,000 homes to the program in March 2015.

In order to accommodate these additional homes we have had to make a few changes to our collections operations and this resulted in service week changes for some neighborhoods. Your neighborhood will experience a change of service from Tuesday A to **TUESDAY "B"**. Your collection day will still occur on Tuesday but will be "B" week instead of "A" week.

- **Your last collection for your current "A" week service will be on February 17, 2015**
- **Your first collection for your new "B" week service will begin on March 10, 2015**

To view the recycling calendar, visit: [http://www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/2015\\_Recycle\\_Cal.pdf](http://www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/2015_Recycle_Cal.pdf).

Thank you for partnering with us as we continue to expand curbside recycling opportunities to other Houstonians and thus further our overall diversion rate. Should you have any questions please call the City of Houston's 311 Service Help Line or go to [www.houstonsolidwaste.org](http://www.houstonsolidwaste.org).

Sincerely,

Harry J. Hayes, Director

HJH:GR:SJ





**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 1<sup>st</sup>** 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:

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

OR

Pay online at [www.gardenoaks.org/membership](http://www.gardenoaks.org/membership); upon completion, you will receive e-mail confirmation of your dues payment.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_




Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF OUR GREAT NEIGHBORHOOD!

# MARCH 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 Civic Club Meeting <sup>1</sup> 7PM @ GOMM	4 GOMM Night at Becks Prime <sup>2</sup> 5-10PM @ Heights location 115 West 19th	5	6	7 Farmers Market 9AM-1PM 948 Wakefield
8	9	10  Garden Oaks begins City of Houston Recycling Pick-Up Schedule "B" (see preceding page)	11	12	13	14 GO Garden Club Work Day 9-11AM @ Friendship Park Lawrence @ W. 30th Farmers Market (GF) 9AM-1PM 948 Wakefield
15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day  Spring Break (GOMM/HISD & St. Rose)	18 GOMO Meeting 7PM @ GOPB	19 Heavy Trash Pick-Up (Tree Waste)	20	21 Farmers Market 9AM-1PM 948 Wakefield
22	23	24 	25	26	27	28 Farmers Market (GF) 9AM-1PM 948 Wakefield
29	30	31	<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			

**DEANNA**  
ZUGHERI  
GARDENOAKSHOMES.COM



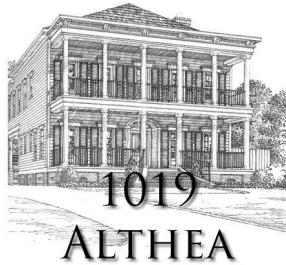
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**2015 Constable Patrol Contributor Application & Contact Information**

[ ] New Member or [ ] Renewal

<b>Property Address :</b> _____ <b>Phone at this address:</b> _____
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**Please provide contact information for program member(s) at this address:**

Member 1 Information	Member 2 Information
Name: _____	Name: _____
Email: _____	Email: _____
Work Phone: _____	Work Phone: _____
Cell Phone: _____	Cell Phone: _____

**You may provide information for person(s) to contact in an emergency:**

Emergency Contact Information	Emergency Contact Information
Name: _____	Name: _____
Home Phone: _____	Home Phone: _____
Work Phone: _____	Work Phone: _____
Cell Phone: _____	Cell Phone: _____

**Payment Options**

- [ ] Enclosed find my payment for 2015 of \$200. (Make checks payable to Garden Oaks Civic Club)
- [ ] I/We cannot contribute \$200 now; however, enclosed please find my/our check for \$\_\_\_\_\_.
- [ ] I/We will pay online (see below).

***Many of our neighbors live on limited, fixed incomes. Are you willing to sponsor a neighbor?***

- [ ] Yes! Please accept my additional gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for the year (enclosed).

**Mail this form to**  
**Garden Oaks Constable Program**  
**PO Box 10273**  
**Houston TX 77206**

or pay online at

[www.gardenoaks.org/constable](http://www.gardenoaks.org/constable)