



Garden Oaks Gazette

A publication of the Garden Oaks Civic Club

2016 HOME & GARDEN TOUR: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

By Sheila Briones, Civic Club President



Planning and executing a successful fundraiser like the 2016 Garden Oaks Home and Garden Tour is very much like piecing together a jigsaw puzzle, where all of the puzzle pieces eventually come together to create a beautiful product. The puzzle pieces for our 2016 event comprise homes, gardens, committees, numerous volunteers, florists, photographers, and certainly generous sponsors. While we have a great start with commitments from several committee chairs (listed below), we are still in need of an overall tour chairperson and a small number of additional committee chairs.

Tour Chair or Co-Chairs:	Still Needed
Selection Committee Chair:	Blake Woods
Underwriting/Sponsorships:	Brenda de Alba
Marketing/Publicity/Social Media Chair:	Mark Klein
Graphics/Printing Chair:	Jessica Jarvis
VIP Party Co-Chairs:	Tina Rowe & Gretchen Dreher
Silent/Live Auction Co-Chairs:	Still Needed
Transportation Chair:	Mark Saranie
Set-Up Chair:	Ed de Alba
Finance Chair:	Dian Austin
Pre-sale Tickets/Poster Distribution Chair:	Still Needed
Concessions Chair:	Jerry Butler
Florist Chair:	Debbie Padon
Command Center Chair:	Elizabeth Klein
Volunteer/Staffing Chair:	Katy Hall Wyly

What/who are we missing? We are missing chairs for the Tour, Silent/Live Auction, and Pre-sale Tickets/Poster Distribution. Descriptions of these three positions are as follows:

2016 Tour Chair: Coordinates activities between the various committees and makes sure deadlines are met.

Silent/Live Auction Committee Chair: Procures auction items for the silent and live auctions held in conjunction with the VIP Party. Plans the auction process, creates auction item descriptions, and handles auction payments.

Pre-sale Tickets/Poster Distribution Committee Chair: Procures pre-sale ticket locations for tour and gets tour posters distributed to local and area businesses.

Continued on page 2

JUNE 2015

UPCOMING EVENTS

June Civic Club Meeting

Tuesday, June 2
7:00 p.m.
Garden Oaks Montessori
901 Sue Barnett Drive

GO Fourth of July Bicycle Parade

Saturday, July 4
8:30 a.m. Registration
9:00 a.m. Parade Begins
Rick Englert SPARK Park
Sue Barnett Drive @ 41st Street



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2016 HOME & GARDEN TOUR
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Volunteers are a vital element; they serve as neighborhood ambassadors for the tour. Tour locations need ticket takers, greeters, and docents. We need volunteers to distribute and blanket local businesses with publicity posters. We need creative volunteers to help set up and staff the VIP party and procure silent auction items. We need volunteers to help secure tour sponsors. We need volunteers to ride the buses and make sure tour attendees get VIP treatment. We need strong-backed volunteers to help install the tour signs several weeks prior to the tour and then deliver tables, chairs, pop-up tents, etc. to the tour locations. In short, WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!!!

It isn't too early to sign up as a volunteer; just send your name, contact information, and preferred volunteer role in an email to volunteers@gardenoaks.org.

Congratulations
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Garden Oaks Resident Seth Taylor, National Merit Scholar and Co-Valedictorian, Carnegie Vanguard High School Class of 2015

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.

- | | |
|--------------|------------------|
| 1051 Althea | 1079 Lamonte |
| 907 Lamonte | 1559 Sue Barnett |
| 1035 Lamonte | 742 West 42nd |
| 1038 Lamonte | |

Happy Birthday

- | | |
|----------------------|------|
| Stephen S. | 6/4 |
| Tina Parks Rowe..... | 6/5 |
| Rebecca Stark..... | 6/5 |
| Elyse S. | 6/9 |
| Landon C. | 6/18 |
| Shana Tatum..... | 6/21 |
| Antonio R. | 6/23 |
| Allison Padon..... | 6/28 |

Congratulations

Seth Taylor (pictured above left), a National Merit Scholar, is Co-Valedictorian of Carnegie Vanguard High School. Proud parents are **Jim and Lou Ann Taylor**. Seth will attend UT-Austin, pursuing dual degrees in mechanical engineering and computer science. He attended Garden Oaks Montessori and T.H. Rogers before Carnegie, where he has been active in the Robotics Club and the Carnegie Engineering and Technology Association.

Emily Roberts, Rodney Scarbrough, Phillip Stengler, Chris Railsback, and the rest of the Waltrip Ram Band for receiving an invitation to play in the National Independence Day Parade in Washington, D.C. Nominated for the invitation by U.S. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee and recognized as the state's sole representative performer in the event by proclamation signed by Governor Greg Abbott, the Waltrip Ram Band has been working hard to raise the funds necessary to travel to the event next month. (See flyer insert for information about how to contribute.)



Out and About

John & Nhilka Murphy traveled to Meridian, Mississippi to attend John's 50th High School Reunion. Of the 500-plus graduates in the Meridian High School Class of 1965, 150 were there to celebrate along with their spouses. A special moment of silence was held honoring classmates who died in Vietnam.

Sarah Klein (pictured right) received overwhelming support and admiration from Garden Oaks neighbors for her Broadway debut in the touring show of *The Music Man* at the Hobby Center for the Performing Arts.

Tina Sabuco, Shellye Arnold, Robert Deveau, Kenneth Santos, and **Terry Jeanes** were just a few of the Garden Oaks faces in the crowd enjoying Bette Midler's Houston show.

Alisha Cunningham and Bonnie Hernandez had a great escape for the day in Galveston.

Lori Kennedy and Joe Muscara enjoyed Smithville's Katy House B & B, a jam session at the historic schoolhouse, and, of course, Murphy's in Winchester.

Special Thoughts

For **Sally McDaniel** and family in the recent loss of Sally's mother, **Patricia Semands**, who had resided with the family since 2008.

Also for **Marlene Caldwell** and the loss of her mother.

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

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Sarah with her mom, Elizabeth, cousin, and some Garden Oaks neighbors after the show.

GARDEN OAKS CIVIC CLUB MEETING MINUTES
By Cindy Bartos, Secretary

May 5, 2015

Location: Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet School
901 Sue Barnett

Welcome: President Sheila Briones called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance.

Speaker: Mark Klein introduced District C City Council Member, Ellen Cohen. Council Member Cohen described the composition of the Council and their responsibilities. As Chair of the Quality of Life Committee, Council Member Cohen detailed various achievements attained by the committee and issues still at hand. Council Member Cohen also thanked Mark Klein, Pam Parks, Sheila Briones, and all of Garden Oaks for their professional handling of the city's Streetscape Design for the Storm Water project on Alba and Golf. She often uses the neighborhood's approach to reaching consensus with the city as a model to other neighborhoods.

Seargent Moncrief of Harris County Constable Precinct 1 addressed a question concerning the increased amount of "cut-through" traffic in the neighborhood, attributing it to the current highway construction.

Announcements: Seargent Moncrief delivered a report of recent crimes occurring in and around the neighborhood. He introduced our new patrol constable, Deputy Toni Mascione. Deputy Bowden was also in attendance.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the April 2015 minutes as they appeared 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.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership: Dian Austin reported the current Civic Club membership at 298 members. Lori Kennedy was the winner of the meeting raffle prize, a \$25 gift certificate for Miller's Café.

Constable Program: Terry Jeanes had no additional report to the one given by Seargent Moncrief.

GO Citizens' Patrol: Carl Waters encouraged interested neighbors to see him about becoming a patroller for the neighborhood.

GO Gazette: Editor Jenny Espeseth had no report.

GO Website: Webmaster Joe Muscara had no report.

Beautification: Reporting on behalf of committee chair Gary Harmon, President Briones advised of tree trimming and addition of mulch to the Rose Garden. There is a clean-up being planned for the Randall Street Berm area.

Government Affairs Standing Committee: Mark Klein reported on the reconstruction of Booker T. Washington High School and the consequent displacement of approximately 80 homes. The Houston Housing Authority's plan is to construct affordable housing to replace the homes removed from the area. There is discussion of building a complex that would include a grocery store, fitness center, and gardens. Mr. Klein also reminded us to be vigilant on the matter of the High-Speed Rail since no route decision has been announced. He expects a report to be presented in or around October.

Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet School: Principal Lindsey Pollock announced that this week is Teacher Appreciation Week and also IOWA testing for the students. There will be a Spaghetti Dinner and Talent Show at the school on June 27th to raise money for student representatives to attend the Montessori Model United Nations Conference next year. Summer school will take place during the month of June. Discussions are under way with the Project Advisory Team regarding design ideas for the re-building of the school, with the hope that groundbreaking will take place in June of 2016.

New Business: President Briones introduced Emily Roberts, a junior at S.P. Waltrip High School and a member of the Waltrip Ram Band. Ms. Roberts explained that the Waltrip Ram Band is the only marching band in Texas invited to play in the 2015 National Independence Day Parade in Washington, D.C., and so she and her bandmates are working hard to raise funds for their travel expenses. The cost is \$1080 per student and 180 students are participating in the parade. \$150,000 is still needed for the band to make the trip. Emily had forms available at the meeting for personal donations. Mark Klein made a motion for the Civic Club to make a donation toward the event. Motion seconded. Treasurer Jerry Butler made a motion to table the motion on the floor until the Civic Club Board can meet and discuss the requested donation. The Board will report back to the members at the June meeting. Motion passed and carried with a 12 to 8 vote.

Terry Jeanes will sponsor a flyer insert in the June issue of the *Gazette* soliciting funds for the band trip, and suggested social media such as Facebook as a means to publicize the event and fundraising efforts. More information on the Waltrip Band can be found at www.waltripramband.org and those wishing to donate to the trip can do so directly with a check or online at www.gofundme.com/waltripramband2015.

President Briones announced Keith Koski of the City of Houston's Reuse Warehouse as next month's speaker. [Editor's note: Mr. Koski has been re-scheduled to speak at the July meeting. In his place at the June meeting, members of the Project Advisory Team for the GOMM Reconstruction Project will present an update on the redesign and construction plans. See page 19 for more information.]



Houston City Council Member Ellen Cohen speaking at the May Civic Club meeting, with Seargent Moncrief, Deputy Mascione, and Deputy Bowden of Harris County Constable Precinct One at left.

Pizza provided by Brother's Pizzeria located at 3820 North Shepherd.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Child Care Offered at Civic Club Meetings

The Civic Club is pleased to offer members an arrangement with the Foster Family 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.

CONSTABLE PROGRAM UPDATE

By Terry Jeanes, Program Chair

Welcome New Deputy

A special welcome to Deputy Toni Mascione, who recently joined our patrol program for the late-night shift. Deputy Toni was formerly a Field Training Officer (FTO) with Fort Bend County for over 7 years.

Door-to-Door Solicitors

Please alert Precinct One dispatch of door-to-door solicitors so they are aware of their presence and may verify their credentials.

Recent Arrests

Per reports of our deputies working in conjunction with area Houston Police officers, there have been several arrests relating to burglary in our area.

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 and submit the information form.

Constable Program Contribution 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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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., Program Chair

The Houston Police Department website reported two crimes in the neighborhood in April. Both were burglaries. In addition to these reported crimes in Garden Oaks, the Precinct One Constable's Office sent out alerts regarding 4 crimes in surrounding areas in the same month.

I recently spoke with one of our deputy constables who said that things have quiet in the neighborhood, but he cautioned everyone to remain vigilant and to report all suspicious activity, including anyone going door-to-door. Many of these individuals have criminal pasts and some even have been found to have active warrants for their arrests.

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April Crime Statistics (2)

Burglary (2)

200 block North Loop West on Thursday, April 9 at 11:15 p.m. (convenience store).

1000 block W. 42nd Street on Thursday, April 23 at 9:00 p.m. (residence).

Inquiries about joining the Citizens' Patrol Program or other community safety issues can be directed to me via the neighborhood website GardenOaks.org, the Citizens' Patrol email GOCOP77018@aol.com, or by phone at 713-864-1992.

REMEMBER to submit your Vacation Watch form before leaving for your summer vacation.

Emergency Numbers
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All Other City Services
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AIR CONDITIONING TIPS FOR THE SUMMER

By Mitch Weigand

Getting Ready for Hurricane Season

Hurricane season officially begins on June 1. Preparing for hurricanes means stocking up on supplies such as batteries, canned goods, and gasoline, and securing your home by boarding up windows with plywood and removing outdoor items such as patio furniture.

Along with these usual precautions, don't forget to protect one of your home's most valuable assets, your central air conditioning system. Here are some easy steps to follow in order to protect it from hurricanes and other extremes in weather:

- Turn the A/C system off. This sounds simple enough, but make sure it's completely off during the storm, both at the thermostat and the circuit breaker in your electric panel. In the event of flooding, power to the A/C system can create a fire hazard or electrical shock.
- Anchor your A/C system's condenser (that's the outside unit). Powerful hurricane gusts can move unsecured equipment and cause significant damage. Make sure the condenser is completely attached to its base or your home by using hurricane straps, bolts or strong rope. All of these can be purchased at your local home improvement store.
- Remove loose items near the condenser. Just as important as removing patio furniture, eliminate any other items that can potentially become airborne and cause damage. This includes flower pots, toys, and bicycles.

- Once the hurricane is over and electrical power has been properly restored, be sure to clear away all trash, leaves, and limbs that have accumulated around the condenser and use a garden hose to wash debris from its fins.

How to Handle a Flooded A/C System

If flooding occurs in any part of the A/C system inside or outside of your home, call your A/C service technician to perform a thorough inspection. Never restore power or turn on the thermostat until you are absolutely sure it's safe to do so.

Finally, hurricane or no hurricane, be sure to schedule regular maintenance for your A/C system to make sure it's running at peak efficiency.

Tropical Storm and Hurricane Definitions

A **Tropical Wave** is a region of low pressure and cloudiness that moves from east to west in the tropics. These are a usual part of tropical weather

just as weather forecasters talk about highs and lows moving across the United States.

A **Tropical Disturbance** is when thunderstorms develop and last for more than a day within a tropical wave. If the tropical disturbance shows circulation with the thunderstorms becoming organized, it is called a **Tropical Depression** and given a number for tracking purposes.

If winds in a tropical depression exceed 38 miles per hour, it becomes a **Tropical Storm** and is given a name from a pre-determined list. The winds in a tropical storm may range from 39 to 73 mph.

When winds in a tropical storm increase to 74 mph or greater, it then becomes a **Hurricane**. A **Major Hurricane** has winds over 110 mph, classified as Category 3 or higher.

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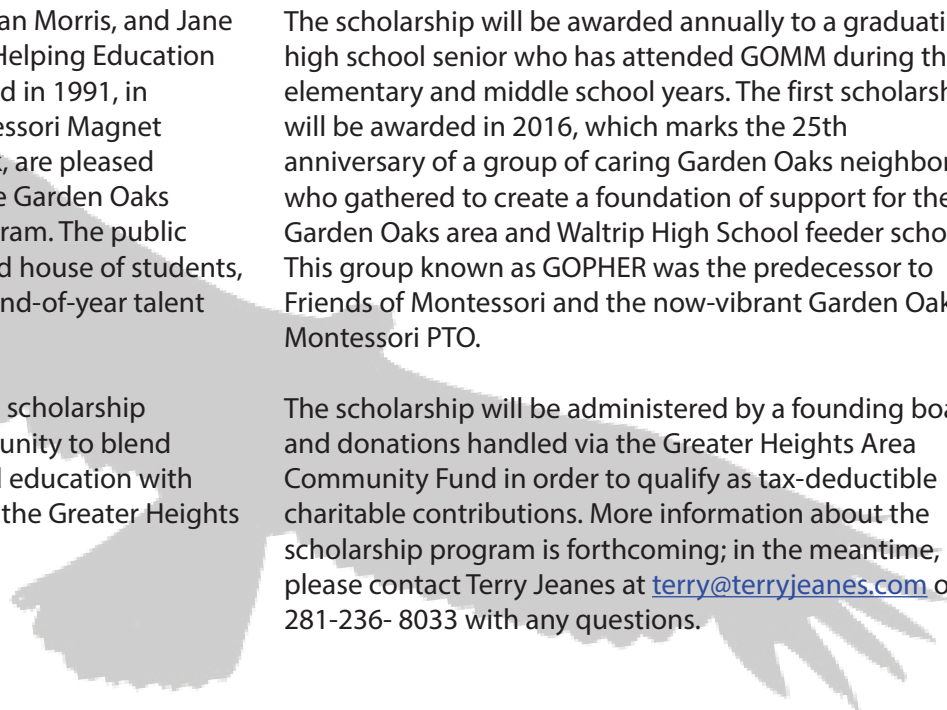
JEANES, MORRIS, & ROBERTS ANNOUNCE GARDEN OAKS "SOAR LIKE AN EAGLE" SCHOLARSHIP

Founding members Terry Jeanes, Susan Morris, and Jane Ann Roberts of Garden Oaks People Helping Education Reform (GOPHER), a group established in 1991, in conjunction with Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet (GOMM) Principal, Dr. Lindsey Pollock, are pleased to announce the establishment of the Garden Oaks "Soar Like an Eagle Scholarship" program. The public announcement was made to a packed house of students, teachers, and parents at the GOMM end-of-year talent show and spaghetti supper.

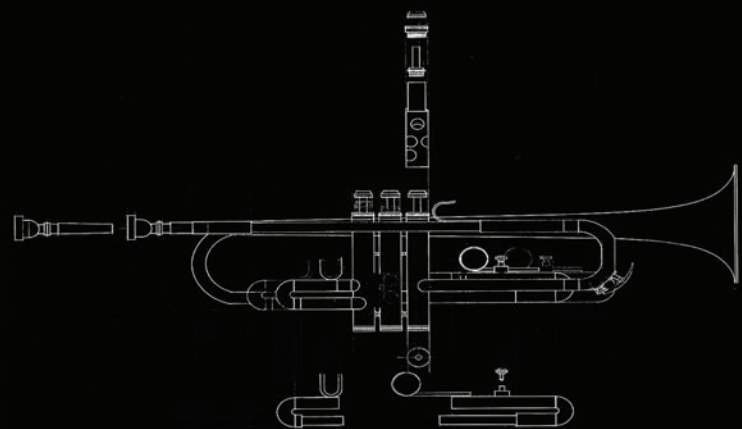
A vision of Jeanes for many years, the scholarship program provides the perfect opportunity to blend GOPHER's support of community and education with Jeanes's and GOMM's involvement in the Greater Heights Area Chamber of Commerce.

The scholarship will be awarded annually to a graduating high school senior who has attended GOMM during their elementary and middle school years. The first scholarship will be awarded in 2016, which marks the 25th anniversary of a group of caring Garden Oaks neighbors who gathered to create a foundation of support for the Garden Oaks area and Waltrip High School feeder schools. This group known as GOPHER was the predecessor to Friends of Montessori and the now-vibrant Garden Oaks Montessori PTO.

The scholarship will be administered by a founding board and donations handled via the Greater Heights Area Community Fund in order to qualify as tax-deductible charitable contributions. More information about the scholarship program is forthcoming; in the meantime, please contact Terry Jeanes at terry@terryjeanes.com or 281-236- 8033 with any questions.



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GO KIDS UPDATE

By Lindsey Gabriel, Coordinator



We welcome summer and school being out!

We kicked off the month of May with the GO Kids Annual Crawfish Boil on May 2nd. The crawfish derby was a hit with the kids and adults too! Thank you to the families who attended the event and those who volunteered their time to make it a success. A special thanks to Monique Bennett and family for cooking, Raising Cane's for providing chicken, and all of our generous event sponsors!

On May 17th, Girl Scout Troop 21 held a bake sale. St. Rose Daisy Troop 122017 set up a lemonade stand to help raise money as well and invited GO Kids to assist. Participating in the bake sale provided an opportunity to serve our community while supporting a wonderful group of ladies!

If you would like to have GO Kids volunteer at your event, please contact Coordinator Lindsey Gabriel at lindsey.gabriel5@gmail.com.

Membership Renewal

GO Kids members should have renewed their membership on Big Tent by May 15th. If you are interested in contributing the voluntary annual dues (\$25 per family) we are requesting, there is still time! You may submit your dues via PayPal or drop off a check with our treasurer, Angelica Sullivan. Please contact Diana Latta at latta_diana@sbcglobal.net if you have any questions or need assistance with renewal.

Bouncy House Program

Our bouncy house program membership term is May 2015-April 2016 and you may pay at any time. The cost to participate in bouncy house use is \$40 payable now or prior to making your reservations. Please refer to our website, www.gardenoakskids.com, for additional information.



GO Kids Membership

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

Website/Communication - www.gardenoakskids.com

Our website is updated regularly and includes bouncy house information. We offer a login portal to BigTent where you'll find a discussion board, classifieds, and a calendar for events and bouncy house reservations. You can also connect with us on Facebook!

GO Kids Dinner Drops

Have you or someone you know welcomed home a new baby recently and would love help with meals? GO Kids will coordinate and provide several meals to families. Please contact our Dinner Drop coordinator Julie Maddox at juliemaddox1@gmail.com to participate. We are always in need of volunteers for this program; if you are interested please refer to www.gardenoakskids.com for directions on signing up.

GO Kids is committed to being a group where families connect and grow together while welcoming ALL families and parents, even expectant ones! We offer endless resources to members including the GO Kids website, a bouncy house, a forum on BigTent, playgroups for babies to big kids, Moms' Night Out, new parent dinner drops, and annual organized events all are welcome to attend!

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 to join and attend GO Kids events. If you have questions or would like more information about GO Kids, please contact Lindsey Gabriel at lindsey.gabriel5@gmail.com.

Our organization is moderated entirely by parent volunteers. We hope to answer your questions and process membership requests as soon as possible; however, we cannot guarantee an immediate response. We really appreciate your patience and understanding and look forward to seeing you around the neighborhood!

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BEAUTIFICATION UPDATE

*By Gary Harmon, Beautification
Committee Chair*

The Beautification Committee is working on the various neighborhood parks so they will be ready for the 2016 Home and Garden Tour. Along Garden Oaks Boulevard, old beds are being cleaned out, trees have been trimmed, and flowering shrubs will be added. In all the parks, volunteers are encouraged to help us with planting new perennials; we will supply the plants. Just email beautification@gardenoaks.org if you are interested in helping to beautify our neighborhood.

The watering systems are automated, so please don't turn any systems on or off.

Thank you, Joanie Harmon, for all your hard work!



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MICKEY'S MINUTE

By Mickey Morales

Rain, rain, go away; come again some other day... this rhyme keeps repeating in my head as I write this post. If it quit raining right this minute and we didn't get another drop, it would possibly be dry enough to plant the summer crops by the time you read this. It's funny how many folks ask, "Don't farmers pray for rain all the time"? Well, we do hope for rain because no amount of watering does what a good rain accomplishes, and the lightning fixes nitrogen for the plants to take in more readily. An inch or so every week is really all that's required, and besides, we have water wells for when it's not raining enough. All that being said, we shall persevere and carry on because this is the life we chose, and rainfall is really just a small part of the challenge of farming and ranching.

In the meantime, we continue to truck along at the market. We have rejoined with our two wood workers and Karen has become our full-time baker as Angela of Liberation Gluten-Free Bakery is taking the summer off to spend time with her kids. The attendance at our little endeavor keeps growing week by week with new folks discovering this spot a stone's throw away where they can buy local, sustainably-raised produce and clean proteins. Speaking of which, Farmer Cathy and I just took delivery of two Old Black females that we will breed with Arnold my Christmas Pig and will be offering pig shares in the coming New Year. And hopefully by the time y'all read this, the legislature will have passed some pretty nifty bills that will improve all of our lives.

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

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Third Tuesdays
6:30-8:30 p.m.
Spring Branch Memorial Library
930 Corbindale
Houston, Texas 77024



- June 16** Growing and Using Herbs
- July 21** Fall Vegetable Gardening
- August 18** Low Maintenance Landscaping
- September 15** Indoor Gardening-
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- October 20** Propagation & Seed Saving

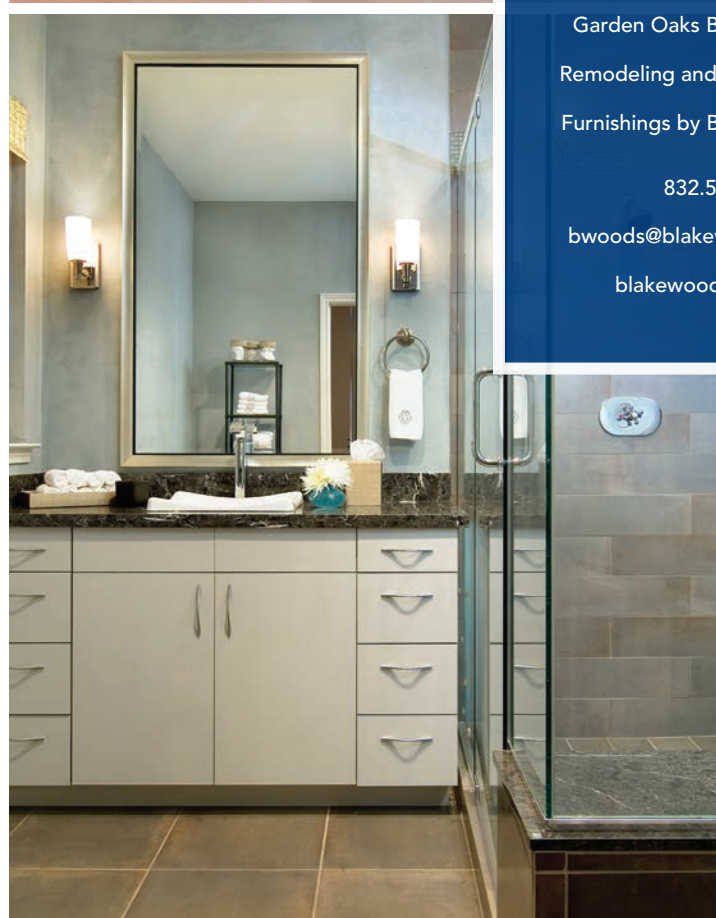


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5 EASY WAYS TO SAVE TIME AND YOUR SANITY THIS SUMMER

By Jessica Modad

Who loves summer?

Warmer weather, longer days and a slower pace...ahhh.

Whoa! Hold the presses!

My summers are not slower; in fact, many times I am moving lightning-fast and have more demands put on my time. The end of May marks the end of stable, reliable childcare that is school.

June, July, and August can be filled with play-dates, visiting family, carpooling from one summer day camp to another, more activity in the house, and an increased workload because coworkers are taking a much-needed vacation.

But this summer could be different.

Investing 10-15 minutes on a Sunday afternoon could save you hours each week.

Behold: an easy five-step plan to TAKE BACK SUMMER!

- 1. Identify Your Roles.** You may be a parent, spouse, business owner, community leader, or all of the above. You may not play every role every day, but whatever you are, list it.
- 2. Make a "To Be" List.** Think about the feeling you want to bring to and get from each role. Make a list of things "to be". When thinking about my role as a mother, I would like to be unconditionally loving, supportive, encouraging, and firm.
- 3. Determine the ONE Most Important Thing You Can Do in a Given Role.** Some roles will have one most-important activity for the day, others one most-important activity for the week. Only ONE thing is MOST important.
- 4. Plan Time to Do Your ONE Thing.** Put it on your schedule, and prioritize it above all else.
- 5. Protect Blank Space in your schedule.** Life will inevitably throw us a few minor emergencies. The blank space is there so we can breathe and handle them with grace.

Repeat as many times as needed.

Jessica's roles include wife, mother, Girl Scout leader, GOMM Lighthouse leader, Franklin Covey trainer, productivity coach/consultant, and Garden Oaks resident of 17 years.



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MONTESSORI AND VALUING DIVERSITY

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

Dr. Montessori realized that children need to be shown and taught respect for others. As a survivor of both World Wars, Montessori created her educational philosophy with a focus on peace education. Today, we see the importance of recognizing each person's unique traits and backgrounds. According to Po Bronson and Ashley Merryman, authors of the book *NurtureShock*, it's important to talk to children about race as early as age three. Talking about race with children can encourage them to embrace diversity.

Montessori education doesn't ignore race. During the preschool years, children are exposed to the continents and peoples of the world. Moving on to the elementary years, the peoples of the world are studied from a historical perspective. We have much to learn from each other, from people who live far away and from those who lived long ago.

Children must learn that other people have feelings and hopes. As adults, we are the model for our children and impact our collective future with our thoughts, words, and deeds. According to the NDT Research Center at Iowa State University, there are many things we can do to help our children learn to be peaceful adults who value and embrace diversity.

1. Set a good example by acting respectfully toward others. Always make it clear that prejudice is wrong and that we are all equals, no matter our color, gender, or background.
2. Show an interest in learning about and from others, from neighbors and relatives, and from books about our own and other civilizations. Tell your child about interesting things you have learned.
3. Encourage your child to learn about many different lands and people, to learn more than one language, and to read stories about children from all over the world. Show your child how you try to see things from the point of view of others.
4. Listen attentively when your child wants to tell you about interesting things discovered about history, geography, religions, art, and ways of life.

We can help our children understand that there are often things to learn from those who lived in the past and from those whose lives are different from our own. We can teach our children to behave respectfully toward people and not pre-judge them. Sometimes, however, we must make it clear that some individuals behave in ways that are harmful, and such behavior should not be tolerated.

Grace and Courtesy, Montessori Style

1. Show your children the manners you expect at home first. The next time you eat dinner together, have the children pretend they are eating in a restaurant. How should they talk to each other? What should they say when the waiter brings their food? Or have the children pretend they are riding the bus. What should they do if the bus stops suddenly and they bump into someone? How should they carry a large package on the bus?
2. The next time your children mention something nice another person did for them, suggest they write a thank you note. It doesn't have to have a lot of words. It can have pictures as well.
3. You, too, can write short notes to your child to indicate your appreciation for something done right.

Children need to learn that little signs of appreciation can be very important to other people. And manners are a part of respecting and caring for the feelings of others. If we turn the chore of learning manners into a game, children will get the practice they need without embarrassing us or themselves.

Maria Montessori was a strong proponent of peace education for children. She said: "Averting war is the work of politicians; establishing peace is the work of education."

www.nde-ed.org/TeachingResources/ClassroomTips/Diversity.htm

www.pbs.org/kcts/preciouschildren/diversity/read_activities.html

EXCHANGE STUDENT HOST FAMILIES NEEDED FOR 2015-16 SCHOOL YEAR

By Trish Mehrkam

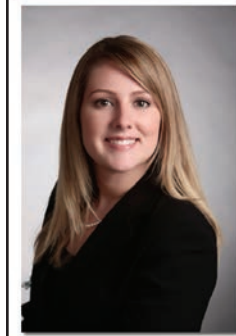


Educational Merit Foundation (EMF) is a Texas-based, non-profit, foreign exchange student program looking for caring host families in our community. The high school students are mostly from Europe and eager to experience life in America. Host families can be with or without children and need to provide food, a bed and a loving home for a five-month (one semester) or ten-month stay (the entire school year). The students go to the high school zoned to your home and EMF makes all contacts and arrangements with the school. You will have to take the student to register, but the school will already be advised of the exchange student and you will have a signed school acceptance form to present. These well-screened, English-speaking students have their own medical insurance and spending money for their personal expenses.

For more information, please contact Trish Mehrkam, Program Coordinator for Houston & Surrounding Areas at standrewsepiscopal@hotmail.com or 832-693-4301. A list of available students will be provided and all your questions answered. Host families will ideally make their decision in June or early July to allow students enough time to get their visas in place.

Trish Merkhkam has lived in Garden Oaks for 27 years with her husband, Tom, a native Garden Oaksian.

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Garden Oaks Montessori K-8 School



Key Facts

Budget: \$26,678,000
 Project Type: New addition and renovations
 District: District I, Anna Eastman
 Location: 901 Sue Barnett Drive

Description

Garden Oaks Montessori is located in Houston's Garden Oaks neighborhoods, north of 610. The school features a Montessori magnet with environmental science toward the goal of empowering students with 21st century learning tools. The original school was built in 1979 with an addition built in 1981. The school was last renovated in 2005. Currently, the campus relies on eight temporary buildings, as well as a temporary restroom.

Scope of Work

New addition and general renovations of the existing facilities to accommodate 750-900 students.

Project Status

Planning underway.

GOMM RENOVATION UPDATE

By Tonya Knauth, Project Advisory Team Member

At the June 2, 2015 Garden Oaks Civic Club meeting, architects from Hill Swart Chu and representatives from HISD Construction and Facilities Services will share the current stage of plans for the renovation of the Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet campus.

The presentation will include conceptual drawings and layouts as well as information about the construction process. The community will have the opportunity to share feedback and ask questions.

This community meeting is the first of three, and follows nine months of planning and a design workshop with the school's HISD staff, the architects, and the school's Project Advisory Team (PAT), made up of teachers, parents, and community members.

This collaboration has included much discussion about the vision for the school, which is slated for a new addition and renovations to accommodate 750 to 900 students. The PAT has assisted in choosing the architect for the project, as well as developing the educational specifications to help determine how spaces are used. In addition, the group came up with a set of Guiding Principles to guide its decision-making, and visited

Montessori and traditional schools to get ideas and learn what has worked well for those campuses.

In true Garden Oaks tradition, the proposed design is slated to maintain a strong emphasis on the outdoors, while creating modern, flexible spaces that facilitate the Montessori curriculum and philosophy. Early conceptual drawings show that some existing buildings will be renovated, and others will be added. The renovated campus will include the space at Sue Barnett and Wakefield currently used as a separate HISD maintenance facility. Additional parking, dedicated bus lanes, and a multipurpose room/middle school regulation basketball gym are also proposed. There are no plans to make any changes to the SPARK Park.

Detailed plans have yet to be finalized, and the PAT members will continue to work with the architects and HISD. Throughout the process, PAT members have advocated strongly for fidelity to authentic Montessori principles in classroom design, ready access to the outdoors for all students, and preservation of the natural environment of the campus, including the oak trees, existing pond, and Eagle Scout projects.

More information including the project timeline, current status, Guiding Principles, and PAT meeting minutes can be found at www.houstonisd.org/Page/71885.



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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)
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- \$ _____ 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; upon completion, you will receive e-mail confirmation of your dues payment.

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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 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).

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GARDEN OAKS OUTREACH


A color version of the *Gazette* is published each month on the Garden Oaks website 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.

**Please remember to pay
Civic Club and Constable Program
Dues for 2015.**

**Pay online at
gardenoaks.org
or complete the enclosed forms.**

JUNE 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2  Civic Club Meeting¹ 7PM @ GOMM	3	4	5	6 Farmers Market 9AM-1PM 948 Wakefield
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 Farmers Market 9AM-1PM 948 Wakefield
14 <i>Flag Day</i> 	15	16 	17 GOMO Meeting 7PM @ GOPB	18 Heavy Trash Pick-Up (Junk Waste)	19	20 Farmers Market 9AM-1PM 948 Wakefield
21	22	23	24	25	26	27 Farmers Market 9AM-1PM 948 Wakefield
28	29	30 	¹ Preceded by GOMO meeting beginning at 6:30PM. 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			



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Emergency Contact Information	Emergency Contact Information
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- [] 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).

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