



Garden Oaks Gazette

A publication of the Garden Oaks Civic Club



JULY 2015

July 4th is a day that many of us enjoy friends, family, and fireworks. Here is some Independence Day trivia to share at your holiday gathering (see answers at bottom of this page):

1. What day did most signers of the Declaration of Independence actually sign the document?
2. What is the meaning behind the red, white, and blue colors of the American flag?
3. Which three Presidents died on July 4th?
4. When did Congress declare the 4th of July a federal holiday?
5. What was the estimated population of the colonies on July 4, 1776?
6. What is the estimated population of the U.S.A. today?
7. How many people signed the Declaration of Independence on July Fourth?

UPCOMING EVENTS

July Civic Club Meeting

Tuesday, July 7
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

SAVE THE DATE

Wine Walk

Annual Constable Program Fundraiser
Saturday, October 17
4:00-6:30 p.m.



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SAVE THE DATE: *Mayoral Candidate Forum*

Tuesday, September 1, 2015

Grace Church Garden Oaks
3754 N. Shepherd
6:30 p.m. Registration/Meet & Greet Reception
7:00 p.m. Forum begins

Forum sponsored by the
Garden Oaks Civic Club, The Leader Newspaper, and
Central Northwest Super Neighborhood Council #12.

1. Aug. 2, 1776
2. Red stands for hardiness and valor. White symbolizes purity and innocence. Blue represents vigilance, perseverance, and justice.
3. John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and James Monroe. Adams, the second president, and Jefferson, the third president, both died on the same day in 1826.
4. June 28, 1870
5. 2.5 million
6. 316.2 million, according to the U.S. Census.
7. Two

**JULY CIVIC CLUB SPEAKER:
KEITH KOSKI OF THE
CITY OF HOUSTON
REUSE WAREHOUSE**



Throughout a career in construction and architecture, Mr. Koski developed a passion to help reduce the vast amount of reusable building materials going into landfills. For the past five years, he has managed the City of Houston Building Materials Reuse Warehouse. The Reuse Warehouse accepts building material from any individual or company, keeps the material out of landfills, and gives all of the material to non-profit organizations for free. The warehouse is located approximately one mile from the Garden Oaks neighborhood.



Girl Scout Troop 21 with Daisy Troop 122017 at their 2nd Annual May Bake Sale. Troop 21 is the only special-needs Girl Scout troop in the U.S. and is unable to fundraise through traditional mechanisms. The sale brought in over \$1400. Article and additional pictures on page 12.

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.

- | | |
|------------------|----------------|
| 4247 Apollo | 729 West 30th |
| 3206 Lawrence | 215 West 33rd |
| 757 Sue Barnett | 1011 West 41st |
| 1543 Sue Barnett | 738 West 43rd |
| 1559 Sue Barnett | |



Terry Jeanes

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Happy Birthday

- | | |
|-------------------------|------|
| Caroline McLean | 7/1 |
| Claire B. | 7/2 |
| Matthew K. | 7/2 |
| Alexander Zugheri | 7/2 |
| Jane E..... | 7/3 |
| Mike Heath | 7/5 |
| Jessica Jarvis..... | 7/7 |
| Alison Tucker | 7/10 |
| Kaplan Martinez | 7/12 |
| Jenny Espeseth | 7/17 |
| Deanna Zugheri | 7/23 |
| Akira B. | 7/27 |
| Jason Cunningham | 7/27 |
| Sally McDaniel | 7/27 |

Special Thoughts

Healing wishes for **Dian Austin** as she recovers from shoulder surgery.

Special thoughts for our neighbors who suffered flooding in their homes during the Memorial Day storm.

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

Happy Anniversary

- | | |
|------------------------------|------|
| Jenny & Jason Espeseth | 7/7 |
| Sarah & Corey Heath | 7/26 |

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Ron Peoples and his daughter D'yon met former Sue Barnett neighbors Joe Megeed and Beth Acosta, currently stationed in London, for some good food and laughs across the pond.

GARDEN OAKS CIVIC CLUB MEETING MINUTES

By Cindy Bartos, Secretary

June 2, 2015

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

Welcome: President Sheila Briones called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance. She then introduced Principal Lindsey Pollock of Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet School (GOMM) who gave a brief background and update on the progress of the planned renovation of the school campus. Dr. Pollock thanked the Project Advisory Team, consisting of teachers, parents and community members, for their ongoing work. Project Manager Claude Yoas of Rice & Gardner Consultants, Inc. introduced Sam Swart of Hill Swart Chu Architects LLC, who gave a presentation of the current status of the project. The presentation included goals considered when designing the project as well as conceptual drawings and layouts of the current plan. Construction is estimated to begin in summer 2016. A ten-minute break was taken to allow attendees to view the drawing boards and ask questions of Mssrs. Yoas and Swart.

The civic club meeting resumed at 7:38 p.m.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the May 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. A copy of the 2014 tax return will be posted on the Garden Oaks website at www.gardenoaks.org/involvement/civicclub.html.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership: Brenda de Alba, sitting in for Committee Chair Dian Austin, had no report.

Citizens' Patrol: Program Chair Carl Waters reported on 5 crimes reported to HPD in the month of May. He encouraged anyone interested in becoming a patroller for the neighborhood to contact him.

Constable Program: Sergeant Moncrief reported on various arrests in the last month, including an increase in the theft of lawn furniture. Program Chair Terry Jeanes reminded neighbors taking a trip this summer to use the Vacation Watch form available at www.gardenoaks.org/constable.

Gazette: No report from Editor Jenny Espeseth. A change in printing companies for the *Gazette* has resulted in more timely delivery to residents in the past few months.

Website: No report from Webmaster Joe Muscara.

Beautification: Committee Chair Gary Harmon reported on clean-ups along Garden Oaks Boulevard, the Randall Street berm, and the northwest corner of the 610 feeder road at Shepherd Drive. The Rose Garden Park and the Triangle Park were cleaned and mulch was added. Mr. Harmon has contacted TXDOT numerous times about the vegetation and litter along Shepherd from 610 to 43rd Street, but has not had any response. Resident and meeting attendee Stephanie Dubroff-Acosta suggested he contact Adolf Hoepfl Garage to join in their efforts to maintain the area.

Ad Hoc In-Line Storm Water Detention Project Committee: No report.

Government Affairs Standing Committee: With respect to the issue of the High-Speed Rail, Mark Klein reported on Senate Bill 1812, sent to the Governor for his signature, that relates to transparency in the reporting and public availability of information regarding eminent domain authority. Houston High-Speed Rail Watch, a coalition of central Houston neighborhoods, including Super Neighborhood 12, continues to meet and monitor the situation. The SN 12 Council meets the fourth Wednesday of every other month, typically at the Candlelight Community Center, 1620 Candlelight Lane. The public is welcome at these meetings.

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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.

OLD BUSINESS

Terry Jeanes made a motion to remove from the table the motion from last month's meeting made by Mark Klein concerning the request from Emily Roberts for funding the Waltrip Ram Band's trip to Washington D.C. to perform in the Independence Day Parade. Mr. Klein's motion was for "the Civic Club to make a donation toward the event". Motion to remove from the table seconded and passed. Mark Klein amended his original motion to read "Motion for the Garden Oaks Civic Club to make a \$1000 donation toward funding the Waltrip Ram Band's participation in the National Independence Day Parade". Motion seconded. During discussion, President Briones reported the GOCC Board had discussed the donation and is recommending against making a donation since the GOCC 2015 Budget has already surpassed the amount allotted toward miscellaneous donations. Following further discussion the motion passed 18 to 3. Lori Kennedy made a motion

to for an additional donation of \$1500 toward funding the Waltrip Ram Band's trip to Washington D.C. Motion seconded. Following discussion, the motion passed 17 to 1.

NEW BUSINESS

President Briones introduced Lane Lewis, candidate for Houston City Council At-Large Position 1. Terry Jeanes announced the establishment of the Soar Like an Eagle Scholarship Program for graduating high school seniors who attended GOMM during their elementary and middle school years. The first scholarship will be awarded in 2016. Contact Ms. Jeanes at terry@terryjeanes.com with any questions.

The Garden Oaks July 4th Bicycle Parade will take place at the SPARK Park on Saturday, July 4th, at 9:00 a.m., with registration at 8:30 a.m.



Resident and meeting attendee Reed Mattingly voiced his concern about the lack of drainage on 34th Street, and was advised to share the case reference number assigned to the matter with neighbors so they can report the matter to 311 as well.

President Briones announced plans for a Mayoral Candidate Forum sponsored by the Garden Oaks Civic Club, to be held on September 1st.

Keith Koski of the City of Houston's Reuse Warehouse will be next month's speaker.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m.



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

CONSTABLE PROGRAM UPDATE

By Terry Jeanes, Program Chair

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.

GARDEN OAKS

CITIZENS' PATROL PROGRAM UPDATE

By Carl Waters, Jr., Program Chair

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

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

May Crime Statistics (8)

Assault (1)

500 block of North Loop West on Friday, May 8 at 12:40 p.m. (street).

Burglary (6)

200 block of W. 31st on Sunday, May 24 at 9:26 a.m. (residence).

2900 block of N. Shepherd on Tuesday, May 5 at 8:43 a.m. (restaurant).

3300 block of Lawrence on Thursday, May 7 at 9:50 a.m. (residence).

2900 block of N. Shepherd on Thursday, May 14 at 8:28 a.m. (restaurant).

300 block of W. 31st on Saturday, May 16 at 12:58 p.m. (vehicle sales/leasing office).

800 block of W. 42nd on Friday, May 29 at 3:13 p.m. (street).

Auto Theft (1)

900 block of W. 43rd on Saturday, May 9 at 9:00 p.m.

Emergency Numbers



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911

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Constable Dispatch
713-755-7628

All Other City Services
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MICKEY'S MINUTE

By Mickey Morales

Goodness gracious, it's July already and it's plenty hot. Egg production has likely tapered off so Farmer Cathy may impose a limit on purchases to be fair to everyone. Life on the farm continues to plod along. It's just dried off enough to where we farmers can work the ground and put in some crops and move the animals to new areas that were flooded before. The key to raising healthy and happy stock is giving them access to ground they haven't been to recently. It offers better nutrition and reduces their exposure to bugs we don't want them to consume (read parasites).

The girl pigs are growing just fine, though a bit too wild for my tastes. Arnold, on the other hand, has grown into a 200-pound pet that loves attention, much like a dog or cat. I had a talk with the girls and told them unless they want to go off to freezer camp or the spa to be massaged and tanned they had better calm down and get with the program. Our most recent crop of baby ducks are growing fast and will be going out to join their parents at the pond out back today when I get to the farm. I'm sure it will make their day and lighten the load on the feeding chores; we will most likely start another round of duck eggs in the incubator this week, while production is still high. The goats are still in good milk and Farmer Cathy made feta for the first time last week. I have to say, it was the best thing I've tasted in the past month. The no-longer-baby-goats are growing into some fine looking adults, some of which will join the rest of the herd, while others are already spoken for.

The market continues to thrive and has become the destination place that we hoped for. We see new faces every week and of course regular visits from those of you who have supported us from the beginning. My pint-size café continues to grow in popularity unabated, and with Mathew of Hacienda Real moved next to me, I'm thankfully able to concentrate more on just the food side of the equation.

One last note: belated congratulations to Joyce Marie of Nawarra Farm on her high school graduation and best wishes as she begins her next adventure as she heads off to college on the long road to becoming a doctor someday. We have no doubt that she will do well.

As always, "Come soon, come often, and think cool thoughts as we head into the dog days of summer".

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HARRIS COUNTY
MASTER GARDENERS

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| July 21 | Fall Vegetable Gardening |
| August 18 | Low Maintenance Landscaping |
| September 15 | Indoor Gardening-
Pest Control & Animal Safety |
| October 20 | Propagation & Seed Saving |

TROOP 21 COOKS UP \$1400 IN BAKE SALE THANKS TO GARDEN OAKS NEIGHBORS!

By Tina Sabuco and Shellye Arnold

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU for your generosity in supporting Girl Scout Troop 21 with our 2nd Annual May Bake Sale. Troop 21 is the only special-needs Girl Scout troop in the U.S. and is unable to fundraise through traditional mechanisms. The sale brought in over \$1400, 40% more than last year, thanks to YOU! These funds will help fund an entire year of special outings and activities, art supplies, snacks, prizes, uniform vests and badges.

We would like to give some “shout-outs” to our neighbors and friends who helped spread the word via social media, volunteered, donated, lent us tables, helped us set up – and so much more!

Thank you to:

- Hugs and Donuts for donating MANY boxes of delicious donuts. The scouts at the donut table loved “peddling” them to the visitors. If you haven’t visited their shop yet, make your way to 1901 North Shepherd at 19th Street to experience their unique goodness for yourself.
- Kenneth Santos a/k/a The Humble Baker for donating his amazing KJ’s Artisanal Breads. To sign up for his weekly announcements of the breads he is offering, contact him at kjsps@sbcglobal.net or 832-659-7798.
- Anna Smithwick, the pastry chef at Mélange Catering and Events, for baking a plethora of yummy treats AND providing the perfect bags for our visitors to take away all of their baked goods.
- Susan Kostelecky for her donating her world-famous cinnamon rolls, which are always a popular item.
- Emryss and Jeff Winkler for the donations of drinks and bags.



- Megan Noser (one of our Junior Leaders for our troop) and her dad, Kip, for helping set up, staff our event, and clean up afterward... in the pouring rain!
- THREE generations of wonderful women, friends, and neighbors: our goddaughter Lily Bowman, her mom, Georgia Lister, and Georgia’s mom, Nancy Abercrombie, for helping in baking, setting up, selling and for making sure that the scouts were well taken care of during the event. (Nancy is one of our co-leaders and Lily is one of our Junior Leaders.)
- Thank you to Rebecca Weiner for baking tons of goodies!
- Thank you to Yasmin Parr and Emma Dyer for lending us tables.

GARDEN OAKS

- Thank you to Lindsey Gabriel and all of the GO Kids families who helped by baking and buying.
- And a SPECIAL thank you to Daisy Troop 122017 for setting up the EXTREMELY CUTE lemonade stand, complete with lemonade cookies in support of our troop. Thank you also to Jenny and Randy Odinet and the many other Daisy parents, for their support in setting up, breaking down, and staffing our event.
- Special thank you to our two other co-leaders: Carol Wiggs, who single-handedly staffed the bake sale check-out, and Rita McMahon, who provided a tent, chairs, goodies, and more. Each of these hardworking leaders dedicate so much time and will do anything for our special scouts!

We are so happy and grateful for such a successful event with so many donations; if we have failed to mention anyone here, please accept our apologies.

Finally, thank you ALL for the moral support and encouragement. It was truly heartwarming and inspiring to see our Garden Oaks community come together again this year to support Troop 21.



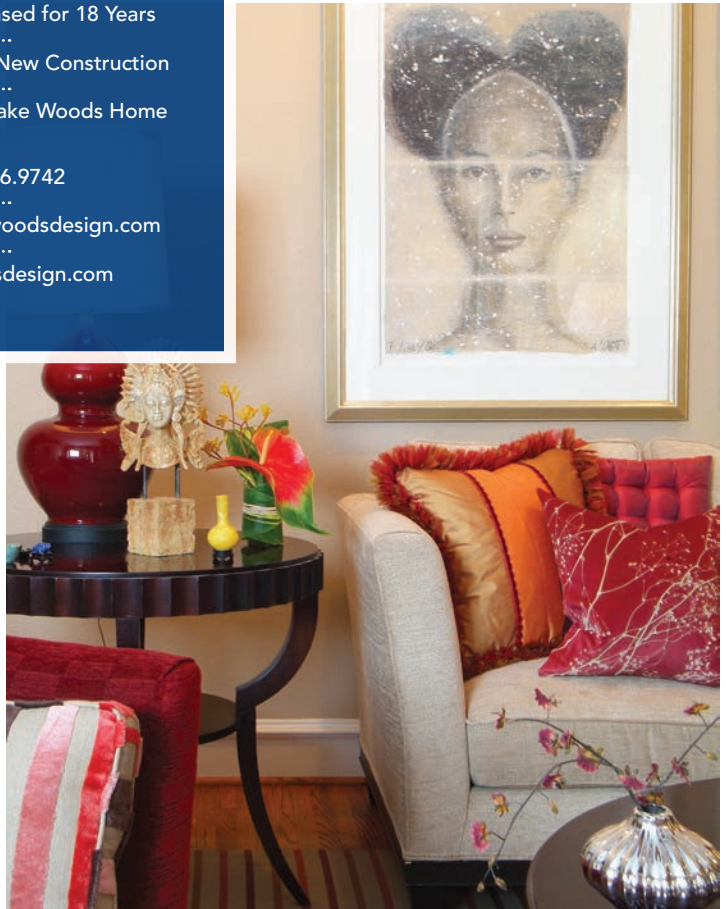
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SAM HOUSTON BOAT TOURS

Looking for something to occupy those summer days? The Port of Houston Authority offers free leisurely 90-minute round-trip cruises along the Houston Ship Channel. Embarking from the port's Sam Houston Pavilion, visiting sightseers can enjoy passing views of international cargo vessels, and operations at the port's Turning Basin Terminal. Measuring 95 feet in length and 24 feet in width, the boat carries a maximum capacity of 100 passengers with air-conditioned lounge seating and additional standing room on the boat's rear deck.



The M/V Sam Houston has been operating as the Port Authority's public tour vessel since its inaugural voyage on July. 30, 1958. By 1979, a total of 1 million passengers had taken the tour.

The tour is free, and reservations are required in advance. Enhanced port security measures require photo identification for passengers ages 18 and older. Register online anytime, or call 713-670-2416, Monday through Thursday between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Tours take place Tuesday through Sunday. There are no tours in September, as the boat is closed for maintenance.

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DON'T WORRY, BE HAPPY

By Lindsey Pollock, Ed.D.,

Principal, Garden Oaks Montessori

Don't Worry, Be Happy! Many of us can hum the tune of this song by Bobby McFerrin and the recently popular *Happy* by Pharrell Williams. What is it about the lyrics to these tunes that can almost instantly raise our spirits and bring a smile to our face? Does happiness matter and why?

According to the authors of the 2015 World Happiness Report (<http://worldhappiness.report>), the best predictor of whether a child will become a satisfied adult is not their academic achievement but their emotional health in childhood." This report calls for more school and family support for children's social-emotional development: "Every parent wants their child to be happy at school and to learn how to become a happy adult. Yet many schools do not see this as a primary objective of their institution. There is no conflict between these objectives. In fact, the evidence is clear—if children are happier, that is also good for their intellectual development."

Happiness is also the subject of many recent studies and publications including *The Happiness Advantage* by Shawn Achor (2010). In his research, Achor found that happiness and optimism were greater predictors of success and provided the greatest fuel for outstanding performance and achievement. His study followed college students including Ivy League schools which showed that nearly half of the students who focused on the stress and pressure of school instead of the opportunity of the educational challenge, were depressed at least once in the year to the point of debilitating, and jeopardized their own academic progress through their mindset. Additionally, he found that whatever students focused their time and energy on did indeed become the reality—half full or half empty! He wrote that students who visualized positive images prior to taking a math test far outperformed their peers. Our brains are hardwired to perform best when we are feeling happy!

The power of happiness and optimism has even found to impact physical health. In one research study, participants were given a cold virus. A week later, the people who were happier at the beginning of the study had fewer symptoms of illness as measured by their doctor (less sneezing, coughing, inflammation, and congestion).

Here are some ways to infuse happiness into your daily routine and promote happiness with your family:

1. Meditate on positive thoughts. This may also be expressed through prayer and a connection to a higher power. Take time to rest your mind and allow your prefrontal cortex to develop positively!
2. Commit to acts of kindness – hold open the door at a store, offer to help carry packages, wave to a neighbor, or smile at a stranger.
3. Infuse positivity into your environment. Turn off the TV and electronics. Sit outside. Read a book with a child. Enjoy the sound of birds.
4. Exercise. Walk – use the app on your smart phone or get a fitness tracker to monitor your activity. Exercise has shown to be as effective as antidepressants for some people! Your body releases powerful endorphins and you are healthier too!
5. Spend money on experiences and people that fill your prosocial factor. People who spent more money on "things" than others had a lower happiness quotient.
6. Find your talent and enjoy it! Go to www.viasurvey.org to take a free survey and discover your top 5 strengths.

Start today and find your happiness. You have the capacity to enhance your mental and physical well-being through the thoughts you generate! In Montessori, we work to support students' ability to choose the work on which they are focused and to maximize their individual potential. Montessorians call that finding your "cosmic task". In other words, what is your path in the world and how can we as adults facilitate the potential that each child has to contribute to our society? By embracing happiness and sharing it with others, we can make the world a better place today and for generations to come!

Try singing the words of Pharrell's catchy song and see how it makes you feel:

*Because I'm happy
Clap along if you feel like a room without a roof
Because I'm happy
Clap along if you feel like happiness is the truth
Because I'm happy
Clap along if you know what happiness is to you
Because I'm happy
Clap along if you feel like that's what you wanna do*

GO KIDS UPDATE*By Lindsey Gabriel, Coordinator*

With approximately 250 active families, GO Kids offers awesome group events for all ages, age-based playgroups, new parent dinner drops, and a monthly Mom's Night Out. We have a special neighborhood and want to provide opportunities for the families to meet one another and for our children to grow up in a close community. We are focused on bringing more events and activities to our neighborhood this year.

To help make these activities and events special and to allow us to host additional events for our GO Kids families, we are asking each of our members to donate \$25 per family if you have not already done so. Please go to www.paypal.com and enter go_kids01@hotmail.com in the "To" field to make your donation (send money to friend/family). If you have any membership questions or would like to make a donation another way, please contact the GO Kids Membership Coordinator, **Diana Latta** at latta_diana@sbcglobal.net or the GO Kids Treasurer, **Angelica Sullivan** at angelicapuerto@hotmail.com.

GO Kids Membership

As a new security measure and to help clean up the Big Tent member listing, we have just completed our annual Big Tent membership renewal process. If you did not renew in time or are new to the group, please follow these simple instructions:

1. Go to: www.gardenoakskids.com
2. Select "email us for an invitation"
3. Include your information: your full name, information about your family, and address (GO section)

GO Kids 2015 Remaining Activities

Check out our calendar of events and obtain additional event details at www.bigtent.com

- **Back to School Old-Fashioned Picnic** - August 22nd 5:00-8:00 p.m. at GOMM Spark Park
- **Fall Movie Night** – November 13th
- **Halloween Bash** – October 24th
- **Neighborhood Fun Run** - November 7th
- **Santa Night** (hosted by SK Designs) – December 1st

Save the date for our Back to School Old Fashion Picnic, our BIGGEST event of the year! There will be entertainment for the whole family, including face painters, a magician, a glitter tattoo booth, bouncy houses, photo booth, water balloons to help keep the kiddos cool, Raisin' Cane's chicken fingers, ice cream, and much more! If you are interested in helping out, or have questions, please contact **Lindsey Gabriel** at lindsey.gabriel5@gmail.com.

Our Annual Crawfish Boil was held at Spark Park on May 2nd. What a great event for all ages! THANK YOU to Monique Bennett, her family, committee members, and other volunteers for putting on a wonderful event for neighborhood families!

GO Babies, GO Big Kids, and MNO

Please join us at the next play date, park outing, or special activity for all ages. We will continue to post these opportunities for families on BigTent and our Facebook group page. Thank you to the committee chairs, Andrea Cox, Liz Tharp, and Deb Seghers, who help coordinate and host these opportunities for the kiddos to get together. We also have a Mom's Night Out once a month, always the 3rd week of the month and usually alternate between Tuesday and Thursday nights.

GO Kids Dinner Drops

Have you or someone you know welcomed home a new baby recently? GO Kids will coordinate and provide several meals to families. Pay it Forward... volunteering for a dinner drop is a great way to say *Thank you* if you have benefited from this program in the past. For more information contact **Julie Maddox** at juliemaddox1@gmail.com or visit our website. If you're unable to deliver dinner, restaurant gift cards are also a wonderful option and a great way to reciprocate for all of those dinners you received when you have your baby(ies)!

Community Involvement

Our 2015-2016 Corporate Sponsors are listed on our website as well as our Big Tent home page. Please consider supporting these local businesses and let them know you're a member of GO Kids and appreciate their support! If you would like more information about how to participate and support the families of GO, please contact GO Kids Fundraising Chair **Katherine Taylor** at kat.p.taylor@gmail.com.

As always, we would like to thank the families that have volunteered their time to promote this group and make the neighborhood a wonderful place for our children to live and grow! We invite all families to attend the leadership team meetings, whether you just want to hear about what's going on or whether you want to get more involved. See Big Tent for upcoming meeting details.

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. We look forward to seeing you around the neighborhood!

If you have questions or would like more information about the GO Kids group, please contact the GO Kids Coordinator, Lindsey Gabriel at lindsey.gabriel5@gmail.com or any member of the leadership team.

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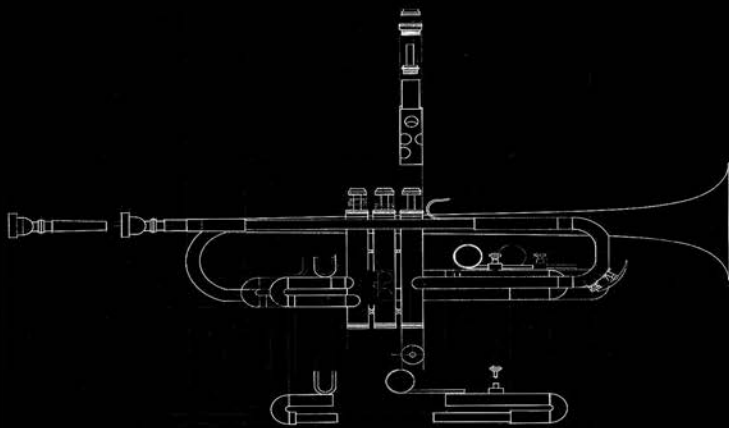
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AIR CONDITIONING TIPS FOR THE SUMMER

By Mitch Weigand

Keep Off the Grass: Maintaining Your A/C System's Condenser

Here in Texas, we have definitely had our fair share of rain this year. Did you know that May was designated the wettest month in Texas history since they've been keeping records over 100 years ago? The aftermath of all this water includes a very lush lawn. While it looks great, your lawn needs to be cut frequently, and as a result, your A/C system's condenser (the outside unit) can suffer.

That Sweet Smell of Summer

Along with backyard barbecue, one of the definitive smells of summer is the aroma of freshly cut grass. No doubt, it's a wonderful smell. However, these blades of green confetti can be detrimental to your condenser.

Along with dust, pollen, and leaves, grass clippings can seriously impede the flow of air that's essential to your home's proper cooling. Let's compare it to the scenario of jogging on a hot Houston day. In 90-plus-degree weather, the longer you run, the more air you will need to supply oxygen to your muscles and expel heat to keep your body cool. What would happen if you tried to run with a heavy woolen scarf covering your mouth and nose? Collapse could be imminent.

This same thing can happen to your A/C system. Grass clippings act like the scarf, constricting air flow into the condenser that is needed to cool your home. The result is that your A/C system works harder and harder and eventually fails. This means hot, sweaty nights for you during the peak of summer while you wait for your A/C service technician to make it to your home. With a \$3,500 repair bill to replace the condenser, there goes the family summer vacation fund.

Preventive Maintenance is the Key

Avoid blowing grass clippings toward the condenser when mowing your lawn. After mowing, use your garden hose to clear off the condenser's fins by spraying them from about six inches away.

Each time you change your air filter inside your home, spend some time outside to rinse the accumulated grass clippings, dust and debris from your condenser with a garden hose. These simple measures can save you money and headaches in the future.

Just a friendly reminder now that we are in thunderstorm and hurricane season: during a thunderstorm, turn off your air conditioner at the thermostat. During a hurricane, make sure it's completely off, 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.

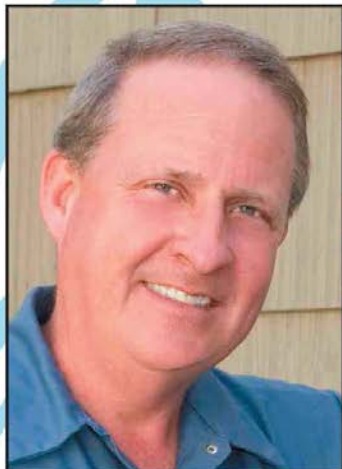
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A LOVELY GARDEN GROWS IN NORTHWEST HOUSTON

By August Galiano

There is a vegetable garden in Northwest Houston on Alba Street between Sue Barnett and Chamboard. The garden is a joint project of Garden Oaks and Shepherd Park Plaza and was started by former Garden Oaks resident Jan Koenig. Now delivering a "bumper crop" of tomatoes to local Food Pantries for the poor.

When Jan Koenig moved from the area, Beth Galiano, Harris County Master Gardener, took over the duties of managing the garden, with the help of Bob Gabrych. Galiano has managed the garden for more than twenty years and is assisted by: Jeanette and Chuck Blesener, Vicki and Terry Brandt, Annette Dober, Debbie and Tim Elliott, Kim Ellis, Rodney Merriwether, Caroline Stender and John Tellier.

The garden supplies organically grown fresh vegetables to needy families, free of charge, through local food pantries. Ed and Brenda De Alba (Garden Oaks), and Beth Galiano (Shepherd Park Plaza) donate operating expenses for the garden. Koenig started the garden with the help of Dr. Bob Randall of Urban Harvest in the late 1980s. The property, owned by the City of Houston, was once part of a local water district. Spring crops are: corn, tomatoes, beans, squash, and melons. Winter crops are: lettuce, greens, peas, carrots, cauliflower, cabbage and broccoli.



Left to right: Rodney Meriwether, Kim Ellis (holding sign), Annette Dober, Beth Galiano (holding sign), John Tellier, Tim & Debbie Elliott. Seated: Jeanette Blesener and Vicki Brandt.



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:

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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2 1/4 W x 2 3/8 H	\$60.00	\$300.00	\$580.00
2 1/4 W x 4 1/4 H	\$90.00	\$450.00	\$870.00
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.**

JULY 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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			1	2	3	4 GO Bicycle Parade 9AM @ SPARK Park (Registration 8:30AM) Independence Day
5	6	7 Civic Club Meeting¹ 7PM @ GOMM	8	9	10	11 Farmers Market 9AM-1PM 948 Wakefield
12	13	14 	15 GOMO Meeting 7PM @ GOPB	16 Heavy Trash Pick-Up (Tree Waste)	17	18 Farmers Market 9AM-1PM 948 Wakefield
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 Farmers Market 9AM-1PM 948 Wakefield
26	27	28 	29	30	31	



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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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