



Garden Oaks Gazette

A publication of the Garden Oaks Civic Club

WINE WALK TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

By Dian Austin, Wine Walk Chair

If you want to join us for Garden Oaks' most fun event, the Wine Walk, act fast! Tickets are now on sale, and only 200 tickets will be sold. We sell out quickly every year.

The Wine Walk, an annual fundraiser for our Constable Patrol Program, is a winetasting held in the gorgeous backyard of Ed and Brenda de Alba. The theme of this year's event is "Old World Vines", a celebration of European wines. Thirteen generous neighborhood and area business groups will be hosting tables, each pouring a different wine and offering foods as well. It doesn't get much better than having a fun afternoon, sipping wines, visiting with friends and neighbors, strolling through the lush landscaping, and raising money for our Constable program. We all benefit!

Tickets are \$85 each (adults only), and include admission to the event, and a raffle ticket. Additional raffle tickets may be purchased separately for \$10 each. You do not have to attend the Wine Walk to purchase a raffle ticket, but you have to be at least 21 years of age. You do not need to be present to win!



This is the first year for the raffle, and we are putting together some nice wine-related prizes, including several really nice wines ranging from \$30 to \$150 in value, a "Taste of the Wine Walk" sampler basket with some of the wines featured this year, a gift certificate for two to a holiday cooking class and dinner with wine(s) from Harold's in the Heights, and gift certificates for wine and food pairings from Rainbow Lodge and Plonk!, and for wine and painting at Painting with a Twist, among others. We are adding more unique items each week.

As this is a Constable Program Fundraiser, we will also be having a silent auction for a 4-hour Ride-Along with one of our constable patrols, courtesy of Constable Alan Rosen, Precinct One.

The Wine Walk Ticket Order form can be found in this month's *Gazette* and you can mail it in along with your check or you can buy tickets online at www.gardenoaks.org. Each attendee will get one raffle ticket free with their \$85 paid admission ticket, and additional raffle tickets can be purchased with the order form or online for \$10 each. All proceeds go to support the Constable Patrol Program!

SEPTEMBER 2015

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mayoral Candidate Forum

(in lieu of September Civic Club Meeting)
Tuesday, September 1
6:45 p.m.

Grace Church Garden Oaks
3754 N. Shepherd

National Night Out

Tuesday, October 6
(in lieu of October Civic Club Meeting; see page 7)

Wine Walk

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

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GARDEN OAKS

IT'S BACK TO SCHOOL TIME, SO WATCH OUT!

By Stephanie Dubroff-Acosta,
Parent Engagement Representative,
Garden Oaks Montessori

The new school year has begun and our Garden Oaks Eagles are flocking to school as early as 7:15 a.m. and leaving school during regular dismissal as late as 3:30 p.m. Their safety is our utmost concern!

Please remember to be a safe driver in the school zones. Keep your eyes on the road; children are everywhere, walking to school, riding their bikes and scooters, and riding in cars and buses.

Using a cell phone in a school zone during school zone hours is prohibited by law!

Please summon your patience as all the new parents with small children who are experiencing school for the first time get the hang of the school drop-off routine. They may need a little extra time to get their tiny scholars in and out of cars.

If you do not need to drive to or by the school, please consider alternate routes during school zone hours. You will be happier and our students will be safer!



Above: Tina Sabuco and Shellye Arnold's Merry and Marry Bear helping to alert drivers of little ones on their way to school.

Remember that our streets are narrow and most do not have sidewalks. Driving around cars to get ahead in traffic is very dangerous around schools. The car you're passing could very well be stopped for a student crossing the street.

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.

- 963 Althea 308 West 32nd
- 986 Gardenia 403 West 32nd
- 847 Lamonte 419 West 34th
- 951 Lamont 519 West 34th
- 1325 Sue Barnett 748 West 42nd
- 412 West 30th 1035 West 42nd
- 235 West 32nd 1015 West 43rd



Happy Birthday

- Rita Hartman9/8
- Gretchen S. 9/10
- Sylvia Escobedo..... 9/16
- Jacopo I..... 9/20
- John Beddow 9/22
- Candice Croker 9/25

Happy Anniversary

- Trent & Megan Salch 9/5
- Mike & Diane Heath 9/7
- Phil Ramirez & Gina Pecoraro 9/7
- Rick & Tonya Knauth 9/29

Welcome Back to the **Langdon/Crownover** family, returning to Garden Oaks after several years of job assignments abroad.

Out and About

The **Odinets** headed to Alabama to enjoy some beach time with their extended family.

The **Therlots** also headed to the beach with extended family. (There must be something about an LSU common bond, extended family, and the beach.)

The **Salches** enjoyed Canyon of the Eagles, while Kylie enjoyed Camp Longhorn.

The **McLeans** hopped the pond to Achiltibuie, UK.

What's this about **Amanda Carlin** beating the big boys in poker?

Terry Jeanes

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The **Espeseths** traveled north, stopping to explore Buffalo National River in the Ozarks and St. Louis before meeting up with relatives and Dad/Grampy **Mike Heath** in his hometown of Hillsboro, Illinois for its annual Old Settlers festival and parade.

Blake Woods ventured to Buenos Aires.

The **Greenslates** loved their time in Aruba.

The **Seghers** clan enjoyed Garden of the Gods in Colorado.

Edwin & Tonya Rodriguez and family enjoyed Germany, as did fellow neighbors **John & Margie Hesse**.

The **Polaseks** enjoyed a vacay in Hawaii.

Ken, Mel, and Elizabeth Johnson ventured to Paris... France, not Texas.

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

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GARDEN OAKS CIVIC CLUB MEETING MINUTES

By Brenda de Alba

August 4, 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.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the July 2015 minutes as they appeared in the *Gazette*. Copies of the minutes were available at the meeting. The motion passed.

Announcements: Ms. Briones announced that a mayoral forum, with all seven Houston mayoral candidates attending, will be held at Grace Church Garden Oaks (3754 N. Shepherd) in lieu of a September Civic Club meeting on September 1, 2015. GOCC will be one of the forum's sponsors, along with The Leader newspaper and Super Neighborhood 12. The event will begin at 6:15 p.m. with a candidate meet & greet and the forum will begin at 6:45 p.m.

National Night Out is Tuesday, October 6, 2015. There will be no civic club meeting that evening; instead, neighbors are encouraged to hold block gatherings and socialize with one another. Ms. Briones stressed the importance of neighbors watching out for each other. There will be a registration form to fill out on the GOCC website for those who intend to host block parties to inform Constables and HPD who may stop by.

The 2015 Wine Walk Constable Fundraiser will be held October 17th from 4:00-6:30 p.m. with tickets going on sale September 1st.

Mikayla Canales was in attendance representing Council Member Ellen Cohen's office.



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

Speaker: Joe Muscara introduced Salise Shuttlesworth, J.D., Executive Director of Friends for Life, No-Kill Animal Adoption & Rescue Center. Information about Friends for Life will be posted on the GOCC website.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership: Committee Chair Dian Austin had no report. The winner of the raffle drawing was Tina Nieto, who won a Lowes gift certificate.

Citizens' Patrol: Committee Chair Carl Waters, Jr. reported on recent crimes in and around the neighborhood. Mr. Waters also encouraged neighbor participation for National Night Out on October 6th and asked neighbors to contact Terry Jeanes or himself if they are planning to host a block party.

Gazette: Editor Jenny Espeseth was not in attendance.

Website: Webmaster Joe Muscara reported that the gardenoaks.org website had recently been cleaned up and reorganized.

Beautification: Committee Chair Joan Harmon reported recent activities centered around keeping the parks watered and making repairs to damaged sprinkler heads. A mowing contract has been added to maintain the property between the Randall Berm and Loop 610 on the west side of Durham.

Constable Program: Program Chair Terry Jeanes was not in attendance.

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Ad Hoc In-Line Storm Water Detention Project Committee: Committee Chair Pam Parks had no report.

Government Affairs Standing Committee: Committee Chair Mark Klein was not in attendance.

Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet School: Principal Lindsey Pollock announced announced teachers would be returning to work August 10th and the first day of school is August 24th. She announced that GOMM had reached their student capacity based on the State of Texas classroom size of 22 students per teacher. Overflow students, zoned to GOMM but who were not registered in time, will be sent to Durham Elementary. Dr. Pollock also announced the installation of the shade structure in the Rick Englert Spark Park and thanked GOCC for its contribution to the cost of the shade structure.

OTHER BUSINESS

President Briones reported that, while the GOCC carries liability insurance, GOCC does not currently carry Errors & Omissions (E&O) insurance which would provide liability coverage for GOCC officers and committee chairs. She has received a bid of \$800 from State Farm for \$1,000,000 in E&O insurance. Suzanne Debien made a motion for the GOCC to purchase the E&O insurance from State Farm. Sandy Altman seconded the motion. A vote was taken from attending members and the motion was approved.

Student representatives and leaders from the Waltrip High School Ram Band thanked the GOCC for helping

achieve the monetary goal making it possible for them to represent Houston in the July 4th Parade in Washington, D.C. The students spoke about their experiences and how much the trip meant to the band. A picture montage poster was presented to President Briones.

President Briones circulated a volunteer sign-up sheet for the September 1st mayoral forum.

Pizza was generously provided by Brother's Pizza located at 3820 N. Shepherd in the Garden Oaks Shopping Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.



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Child Care Offered at Civic Club Meetings

The Civic Club is pleased to offer members an arrangement with the Joe and Harriet 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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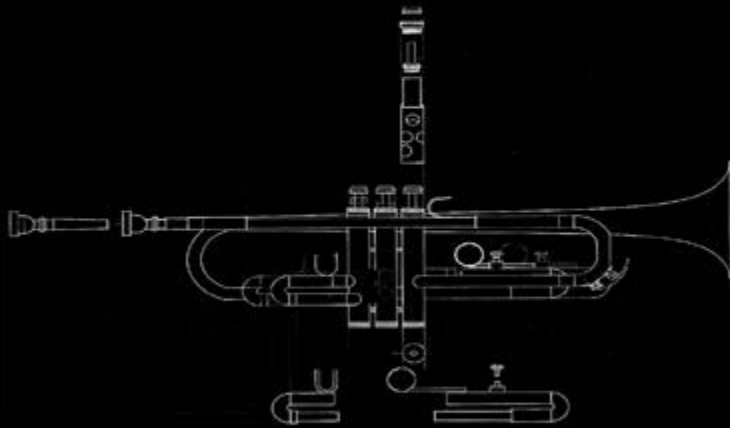
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CITIZENS' PATROL PROGRAM UPDATE

By Carl Waters, Jr., Program Chair

You, yes you, are cordially invited to join your Garden Oaks neighbors in celebration of the **32nd annual National Night Out** on **Tuesday, October 6, 2015**. Any time or location in the neighborhood is appropriate, although the suggested time is in the 7:00-10:00 p.m. range and most people generally meet outside, somewhere on their block.

How to participate? Volunteer your front yard or driveway as a place for your neighbors to gather. Lock your door and turn on your porch light as you get together outside to catch up with old friends and meet new ones. **Exchange contact information** (home, work, and cell phone numbers along with email addresses) so you can contact each other if you see something suspicious.

National Night Out is sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch. It was started in 1981 in a Philadelphia suburb when neighbors became tired of increasing criminal activity. The goal of the program is to promote police/community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie. Nationally 38 million neighbors participate in the program in over 16,000 communities.

The Civic Club will be offering some incentives to residents hosting parties (no, it won't be cash) so sign up early. **If you are planning to host a party, please contact either Terry Jeanes or me with the information so we can get you on the list.** Our contact information can be found below and on page 2 of the Gazette.



POLICE • COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Tuesday, October 6

July Crime Statistics (8)

Robbery (1)

3200 block of Lawrence on Monday, July 27 at 9:23 a.m. (residence).

Burglary (2)

4200 block of Alba on Thursday, July 9 at 10:00 a.m. (residence).

700 block of W. 30th on Friday, July 10 at 3:36 a.m. (residence).

Theft (5)

1400 block of Sue Barnett on Wednesday, July 8 at 3:03 p.m. (residence).

700 block of W. 43rd on Wednesday, July 15 at 11:10 a.m. (residence).

900 block of W. 43rd on Monday, July 20 at 1:00 p.m. (driveway).

500 block of W. 32nd on Saturday, July 25 at 7:38 a.m. (garage).

3000 block of N. Durham on Tuesday, July 28 at 12:30 a.m. (construction site).

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.

Emergency Numbers



Emergency Services

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HPD Non-Emergency Services

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Constable Dispatch

713-755-7628

All Other City Services

311

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WHY WE NEED THE WINE WALK, A CONSTABLE PROGRAM FUNDRAISER

By Terry Jeanes, Constable Program Chair,
and Dian Austin, Wine Walk Chair

For seven years now, we have had the Wine Walk to raise monies for the Constable Program. And here's why...

Garden Oaks is fortunate to have three (3) separate Constable Patrol contracts. These Constable patrols give us almost 24/7 coverage, and include all 5 sections of the neighborhood. Constant Constable coverage comes at a cost of about \$77,000 per contract annually.

For a number of years, the Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization (GOMO) has paid for two of the three patrol contracts from their surplus funds. Annually, GOMO members vote on proposed spending of those funds and have voted to fund two of the contracts.



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The third Constable contract is paid for by the residents of Garden Oaks. Unfortunately, **fewer than 25% of our residents** choose to contribute to the Constable supporter program of \$200 annually, so this third resident-supported contract is woefully short of funds. This lack of resident participation is why we have the annual Wine Walk fundraiser to raise money for our Constable program. So there you have it!

You can support the Constable program in several ways. First, become a Constable Program Supporter. The form is in the *Gazette* each and every month. Secondly, buy a ticket to the Wine Walk. Encourage your friends and neighbors to do so as well.



CONSTABLE PROGRAM UPDATE

By Terry Jeanes, Program Chair

National Night Out on Tuesday, October 6 is approaching. Put your plans together now and let us know of gatherings so the deputies may visit.

PLEASE JOIN TODAY AND SUPPORT OUR PROGRAM via the form in the *Gazette* or at 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:

Be sure your alarm monitoring company has Constable Dispatch (713-755-7628) as the first responder on your call list when your home's alarm is triggered. Please also program this number in your cell phone for ready access when you or a neighbor needs it.

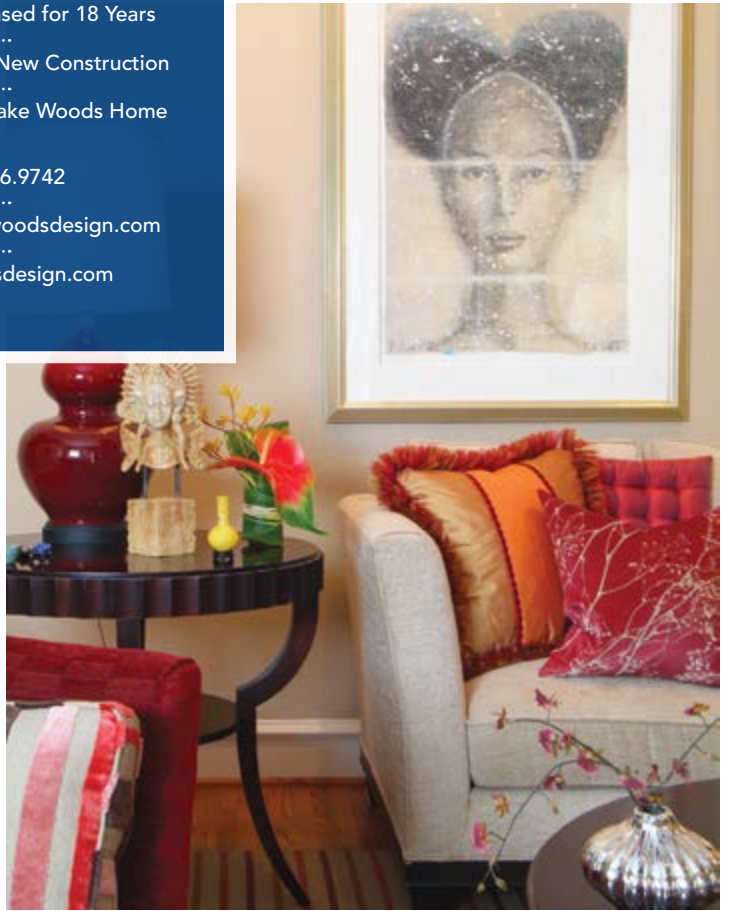
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Each director's term expires in October of year in parentheses.

GOMO UPDATE & ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD OCTOBER 21

The annual meeting of the Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization (GOMO) will be held at **7:00 p.m.** on **Wednesday, October 21**, at **Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet School** located at **901 Sue Barnett Drive**. All Section 1, 2, 3, and 5 homeowners ("Members") are welcome to attend the business meeting. Election of several Directors and voting on disbursement of surplus funds are on the agenda. If you are interested in serving as a Director, please contact any of the current GOMO Directors listed here in the *Gazette* or on the GOMO web page: GardenOaks.org/gomo.

Director Positions Open

The following Director positions will be filled at the annual meeting; the current term of each will end October 31 and the new term of each will end in October of 2018:

Section 1

Mark Saranie is standing for re-election to the position he currently holds.

Section 2

The position currently held by Gale Gorman is open for election.

Section 3

Dea Larson is standing for re-election to the position she currently holds.

Section 5

The position currently held by David Garver is open for election.

To serve as a Director, a Member must satisfy the following requirements:

- Must be 18 years or older.
- Must own property and live within the Garden Oaks Section corresponding to the position for which the Member is standing for election.
- If no Member residing in the Section stands for election, then a Member who owns property in that Section but lives in another Section may stand for election as a "Non-Section Director" whose term is one year.

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.

Surplus Funds

GOMO traditionally uses surplus funds to support neighborhood projects that are endorsed by a majority vote of its membership. GOMO has surplus funds available for disbursement for the upcoming fiscal year.

GOMO currently supports two Constable Patrols in Garden Oaks as well as maintenance of neighborhood green spaces.

There is a single funding proposal for disbursal of surplus funds:

Proposal 1. To provide funds for continuing coverage by two constable patrols of Garden Oaks, 40 hours per week each, for the period January 1, 2016 until February 28, 2017. These two constable patrols are meant to supplement the current patrol already provided by the Garden Oaks Civic Club and Garden Oaks residents. Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization will pay for the service and the Garden Oaks Civic Club will be in charge of scheduling. Anticipated cost for renewal of the two constable patrols is \$160,000 for the year.

The disbursal proposal and Bylaw Amendments require a majority vote for approval at the October 21 meeting. Proxy ballots are being mailed to homeowners in Sections 1, 2, 3, and 5. The mailing also includes additional information about the Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization and its activities.

Legal Changes Prompt Adoption of New Policies

During its 2011, 2013, and 2015 sessions, the Texas Legislature made a number of changes to Homeowners Association (HOA) law. These changes have prompted the adoption of four new GOMO policies: Payment Plan (for unpaid Transfer Fees), Document Retention, Document Production & Copying, and Rainwater Recovery Systems.

An Open Invitation to Our Meetings

All GOMO Members are invited to attend our meetings. Democracy works best in an open environment – and that is as true at the neighborhood level as it is at the federal and state levels. There is no better way for the people of our community to see for themselves how we evaluate the building plans brought to us and how we reach consensus. GOMO is currently working to add more information to our website and building capability for email communication with members.

Attending a GOMO meeting is also the best way to get your questions answered. The GOMO Board is made up of 12 people and the Board doesn't have an "opinion" about a topic unless a majority of a quorum forms a consensus view. So, no one Board Member is able to tell you what GOMO "thinks" about an issue or idea until we have an opportunity to deliberate and form a collective opinion. The formation of GOMO policy and opinion takes place at 7:00 p.m. every third Wednesday of the month at our business meeting held at the GOMO Office located in the Garden Oaks Professional Building at 4001 N. Shepherd, Suite 216. You are very welcome to attend, make suggestions, propose ideas, ask questions, clarify rumors, or simply observe the process.

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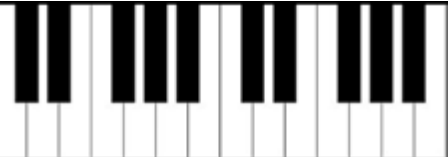
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AIR CONDITIONING TIPS FOR THE FALL

By Mitch Weigand

From AFUE to Ton: Understanding Basic Air Conditioning Terminology

When it comes to purchasing an HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) system, cost is one of the biggest concerns. Finding the right A/C system can be a bit intimidating with the industry jargon, acronyms and numerous rating systems. Fortunately, knowing what it all means will help you get the most for your money. For most rating systems, keep in mind that the higher the number, the higher the energy efficiency and the higher the lifespan of the system.

AFUE (Annual Fuel Utilization Efficiency) - AFUE is a measure of a gas furnace's efficiency in converting fuel to energy. The higher the AFUE, the greater is the furnace's energy efficiency. If your system is more than 15 years old, an AFUE rating may not be available. You can obtain it by

finding the furnace's serial number and contacting the manufacturer.

BTU (British Thermal Unit) - BTU represents the amount of heat that is required to raise or lower the temperature of one pound of water by one degree Fahrenheit. Most air conditioners are measured using BTUs. For example, 12,000 BTUs equals one ton, 24,000 BTUs equal two tons, etc.

SEER (Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio) - SEER is calculated by dividing the amount of cooling supplied by an A/C system with the electricity consumed by the system under specific seasonal conditions.

SEER ratings are determined in a laboratory where specific indoor and outdoor conditions are determined by the U.S. Department of Energy. Because A/C systems are evaluated using the identical conditions, they can be compared to each other using the SEER rating. The higher the number, the better the efficiency. According to American Standard, one


of the leading A/C manufacturers in the U.S., 14 SEER is the lowest rating while 20 SEER is the highest rating.

Higher SEER ratings are usually achieved by manufacturers using the latest technology in their equipment. That, in turn, can influence the cost of the equipment. You may pay more for the latest and greatest, but you'll get increased efficiency and therefore lowered electricity bills in return.

Most A/C systems installed prior to 2006 have a 10 SEER rating or less. Installing a new 14 SEER system with its superior technology can save you 28% on your electricity bill, a 15 SEER can save you 38% and a 16 SEER can save you 47%. Finally, a 20 SEER system can save you a whopping 68%!

Ton - A unit of measurement used for determining cooling capacity. One ton is the equivalent of 12,000 BTUs per hour. A 2,000 square-foot house typically requires a five-ton system.

Mitch Weigand is the owner of Air Wise™.





Here's what our customers are saying about us:

“I have never met such a sincere group of people.” *Corrie T., Lakewood Village*

Outstanding service! I have never met such a sincere group of people as Mitch and his Air Wise crew. They are honest, and they get the job done.

With summer here, Air Wise is my recommendation for all your A/C needs.





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Air Wise owner Mitch Weigand

2015 WINE WALK SPONSORS

Sponsorships provide the bulk of the monies we raise at the Wine Walk each year. Thanks to our many neighbors and business supporters, we have continued to increase the total monies generated each year for the Constable Program.

As we go to press, the 2015 Wine Walk Sponsors to date include:

Gold Sponsors (\$500)

Aitu Taube, State Farm
 Blake Woods Design
 Heights Dermatology – Dr. Alpesh Desai
 Oak Forest Veterinary Hospital
 Terry Jeanes, ReMax/Metro

Silver Sponsors (\$300)

Ace Tree Specialist
 Merle Norman Cosmetics & Gift Boutique
 Peggy Smith – Realtor, Berkshire Hathaway
 Tonya L. Knauth, Attorney, PLLC

We could definitely use more sponsors, so please jump aboard and support the Constable Program. Sponsorship levels and benefits are outlined at www.gardenoaks.org. Online payments can be made there as well.

One thing to remember: even if we sell out, sponsors are guaranteed tickets!

If there are any questions about sponsorships, email Wine Walk Chair Dian at cavort2@gmail.com or call 713-691-6505.

2015 WINE WALK TABLE HOSTS

Each year we have generous neighbors and area business people who volunteer to serve as table hosts for the Wine Walk. Each of the hosts provides the wine(s) that are poured as well as the foods for tasting, all at his/her own expense. We are so very grateful for all these folks as the Wine Walk could not happen without them.

This year, 12 of our 13 table hosts are returning from previous years. Some have participated since the very first Wine Walk in 2009.

Our 2015 Table Hosts:

- Aged to Perfection – Pamela Parks, Teresa Coleman, Elisa Cuellar, Knox Wright, and Paul & Vicki Singer
- Danyel T. Ramelow – Financial Advisor, Edward Jones, Garden Oaks Shopping Center
- Facundo Artisan Builders, Inc. – Miguel Facundo
- Garden Oaks Vineyard – John & Lorie Reno
- GO Kids
- GO Red Hot Chili Peppers – Ron & Sheree' Peoples, Emilio & Patti Chemali, and Francisca & Jeff Webster
- Harry James Building + Design (Harry, Alexander, & Diana James, and Mercedes Sklenar)
- Heidi & Stuart Arouty
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SCHOOL BUDGETS 101

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

Most of us pay our property taxes knowing that a portion of our money goes to support our local school district. But few people know that the amount of money a school receives is based on the attendance of the children who are registered at each campus. Let's take a look at how school budgets work and the impact on our neighborhood school, Garden Oaks Montessori.

School budgets run from July 1st to June 30th each year. Principals start planning with their staff and community based on a projection of the number of students they will have enroll on their campus. This projection is based on the capacity of the school and the trends over time that the principal has identified for enrollment, such as the number of people moving into a neighborhood and/or the number of magnet applications for the school. These projections are developed with HISD budgeting each spring to determine how many teachers to hire and to plan for materials needed the next school year. In the case of magnet schools, principals must project the number of spaces to reserve for incoming zoned students based on the number of children enrolled in past years.

When reviewing a school budget, there are three budget revenue sources. The first is local property taxes which comprise 72.6% of the budget. Schools don't receive any funding from sales taxes – homeowners and business owners pay property taxes to support our schools. Secondly, the Texas Education Agency oversees the distribution of tax dollars that are distributed to schools or about 23.4% of HISD's overall budget. Finally,

grants and donations to the district make up the final 4% of the total school budget.

How is the money distributed to the school? In Houston ISD, budgets are decentralized, meaning the principal and the members of the school community decide the spending priorities for each campus. At Garden Oaks Montessori, our emphasis is placed on ensuring that our program is delivering an authentic public Montessori education which includes a part-time teaching assistant in every classroom along with materials and professional development specific to the program design. Additionally, our focus on Environmental Sciences drives our spending as we consider educational experiences and curricula to support our learning goals.

In Houston ISD, the overall 2015-16 budget per student is broken down into six categories – 1. Debt service (\$1,326), 2. District operations (\$1,932), 3. Central Administration (\$174), 4. Instructional Support (\$1,076), 5. Instruction (\$5,088), and 6. Other Functions (\$615) for a total of \$10,211 annually.

Why is this projected budget process important? Because school budgets are based on the number of children enrolled at a school and the percentage of days that students attend school. Principals are responsible for managing approximately \$4,000 per student at the campus level. The exact amount is based on the student attendance for the school from the year before. In the case of Garden Oaks, we are entering the 2015-16 school year with a loss of \$65,000 based on last year's student attendance. Each day a child attends school, it is a credit to the school of about \$25. When a child misses school, that money is deducted from the budget for the next school year. Of course no one

expects a child with a fever to come to school, but when there is a choice of whether or not to attend school, the obvious choice is to COME TO SCHOOL!

There are many levels to school funding. The overview provided here covers an explanation of the basic allotment that is provided to the school which varies slightly year-to-year. Remember that property taxes are the driver for revenues collected each year. This basic allotment is fully allocated starting at the kindergarten level, while only half of the basic allotment is allocated for 4 year old pre-kindergarten students and no allotment is provided for 3 year olds. This is a major consideration for public Montessori campuses where the formal curriculum begins at 3 years old in Children's House classes! In order to fund this program, some tuition is charged for students who don't qualify for the subsidized PK program. The tuition is based on the rate of the basic allotment from the state which is \$4,770 this year – not the full cost of educating each student as outlined in the budget breakdown.

Where does that lead us when planning for our school operations? Number one, we must focus on ensuring that all children who are healthy attend school every day! Of course, the emphasis here is that children who miss school, even a part of the day, are missing valuable instruction and the opportunity to benefit from the Montessori environment that is unique to Garden Oaks. Additionally, attendance supports our school operations as we plan for educational opportunities and staffing on the campus. Secondly, our parent-teacher organization or PTO is actively pursuing fundraising through grants and donations to ensure that our schoolchildren

HISD MAGNET APPLICATION INFORMATION FOR 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR

*By Stephanie Dubroff-Acosta,
Parent Engagement Representative,
Garden Oaks Montessori*

Magnet information for the 2016-2017 school year has become available.

Magnet applications will go live online October 1 and are due no later than December 18. This extends the application time by 4 weeks or more!

If you do not get your application in by the deadline, your application will NOT be in the lottery.

Magnet School Tours will be every Thursday, October 8-December 10 (Garden Oaks Montessori extends this end-date to the first Thursday of April.)

Tours will be conducted at 9:00 a.m. for elementary and K-8 schools and at 1:00 p.m. for secondary schools. There will be 3 additional 1:00 p.m.

sessions for elementary (excluding Garden Oaks (and perhaps Wilson) since the Montessori work period is usually ended and children are in other rooms for ancillary activities, etc.)

Magnet applications status notifications will be sent to parents March 24.

Parents will need to accept or decline their spots by April 8.

****Garden Oaks Montessori encourages parents of zoned K-5 grade students who wish to enroll for the 2016-2017 school year to complete the online application. This will give us an idea of how many spots we have for our lottery for each grade level.**

All Pre-K students are entered into the lottery.

All 6th-8th grade students are entered into the lottery and must have current Montessori experience.



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Continued from preceding page

continue to benefit from educational extensions and enrichment activities, such as resident artists who provide our children opportunities, Writers in the Schools, Houston Boys' Choir and other performing and visual artists who facilitate clubs on campus during the school day. This fundraising serves to fill any funding gap that may arise and helps to ensure that authentic public Montessori education flourishes in our neighborhood! This is a unique opportunity for our children as there are only about 400 public Montessori schools in the United States. The majority of Montessori schools are private with an average annual tuition rate of \$14,000/student. You can see why the exceptional quality of

our program has resulted in nearly 1,000 applications this year for only 70 spaces!

Go to HISD's budget page to learn more; the site includes an informative video:

www.houstonisd.org/budget

For a copy of HISD's Budget Basics brochure, visit:

www.houstonisd.org/cms/lib2/TX01001591/Centricity/Domain/22921/Budget_BasicsRd2_rev022113b.pdf





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HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS FALL SALE AND SYMPOSIA

September 26, 2015

8:00 a.m.–9:00 a.m. Plant Sale Preview

9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. Plant Sale

**Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
3033 Bear Creek Drive, Houston, Texas 77084**

Harris County Master Gardener volunteers organize plants sales annually as joint educational and fund-raising events. All sales feature plants chosen to do well in our part of Texas. Landscape plant and perennial varieties hand-selected to grow in our region will be available, as well as a limited number of fall vegetables.

A limited number of wagons will be available so shoppers are encouraged to bring their own.

Harris County Master Gardeners is a program of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service.



OPEN GARDEN DAYS

Not sure what to plant in your yard or have questions about your existing plants? Open Garden Days give you the perfect opportunity to talk with friendly and knowledgeable Master Gardeners and see planting solutions in person. Visitors can also learn about research trials, composting, cylinder/container gardening, rainwater harvesting, and greenhouse projects.

The Bear Creek demonstration gardens include raised vegetable beds, an herb garden, a butterfly garden, a fruit orchard, a meditation garden, and bog garden. Flower and perennial beds include Texas Superstars, All American Selections, border plants, roses, shade plants, daylilies, drought-tolerant varieties and more. All are selected to show area residents which plants perform well in our area.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
3033 Bear Creek Drive
Houston, Texas 77084
281-855-5600
<http://harris.agrilife.org/hort>

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

September 15 Indoor Gardening-
Pest Control & Animal Safety

October 20 Propagation & Seed Saving

Free Monthly Workshop & Educational Activity Topics
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4th Tuesday of each month (January through November)
from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

9:00 a.m.–10:00 a.m.	Self-guided tour of the gardens*
10:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m.	Free adult workshop / Children's educational activity**
11:00 a.m.–11:30 a.m.	Self-guided tour of the gardens

September 22	Indoor Gardening
October 27	Propagation & Seed Saving
November 24	Holiday Plant Care

*Guided tours are available for groups of 10 or more with one week notice. Call Will at 832-264-3466 for more information or email ogd.harrishort@gmail.com.

**Educational activities are for children age 7 and older. Children under 7 may complete activity with a parent (no more than two children under 7 per adult, please).

MICKEY'S MINUTE

By Mickey Morales

Well it may not quite feel like it, but fall is closing in on us. We've survived the worst of the summer heat by now and are on the down slope. September is still a little challenging but is full of hope for the coming planting season. With a little luck we will have received some rain in the last part of August. Our collection of farm workers (the animals) will also appreciate a more moderate temperature as well and will return in kind with increased production. By the way, it seems I miscalculated when we will have piglets born and thus for sale as pig shares. It appears they'll be ready around Easter.

Life at the Farmstand should have returned to normalcy with all the kids back to their studies and families home from summer vacation. We are very grateful for the business we had through the summer; it seems that no matter how hot it gets or how torrential the occasional rain storm is, you folks just keep on coming on Saturday mornings. Our vendor list has fluctuated a bit, especially with the wood carving crowd. Also, we will have hosted Sean of Mindfull Honey for a special guest appearance, and he should return again this month if he's not sold



GO KIDS UPDATE

By Lindsey Gabriel, Coordinator

School is back in full swing now! GO Kids celebrated the start of school with the annual Back to School Bash on August 22nd at the Spark Park where lunch bags were collected to donate to families in need at GOMM. We hope all those who attended enjoyed the fun activities! A special thanks to Angelica Sullivan, all the volunteers, and our sponsors for making this amazing event possible!

In October, some of the parents of GO Kids are hosting a table at the 2015 Garden Oaks Wine Walk to support our wonderful neighborhood constable program. The Wine Walk is always a fun event and for a good cause, so we look forward to seeing all those who attend.

With approximately 250 active families, GO Kids offers awesome group events for all ages, age-based playgroups, new parent dinner drops, and a monthly Moms' 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.



GO Kids 2015 Remaining Activities

Halloween Bash
October 24th

Neighborhood Fun Run
November 7th

Fall Movie Night
November 13th

Santa Night
December 1st

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

Interested in becoming a member?

Please contact **Diana Latta** at latta_diana@sbcglobal.net.

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 GO Kids Coordinator Lindsey Gabriel at lindsey.gabriel5@gmail.com or any member of the leadership team.

Local Farmers' Market

Every Saturday Rain or Shine

9:00 am - 1:00 pm

948 Wakefield

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

out already. Also by now Joyce Marie of Nawarra Farm is off to Seguin in her first year of a long string of college semesters towards becoming a doctor someday.

Perhaps when it cools off a bit more we may schedule another pop-up dinner after the market, and try to drag in one of our local craft brewers, have ourselves a little fun, and celebrate having successfully made it past another summer. In the meantime, thank y'all for your continued support, and tell your friends and neighbors about us.

As always, "Come soon, come often, and pray for cooler weather".



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FIND FOCUS...FAST!

By Jessica Modad

Pop quiz!

What is the ONE thing that everyone on the planet struggles with from time to time?

Answer: Focus

It will never cease to amaze me that despite my best intentions, there were (and sometimes still are) moments, days, even weeks when I simply cannot get or stay focused.

In these moments I remember my loyal, old friend, The Pomodoro Technique®, a time management strategy developed by Francesco Cirillo that relies on a short burst of hyper-focus on a single activity.

Getting started is easy. All you need is a timer and a task or a series of tasks that you've been putting off. Next remove all distractions and give your SIT (super-important task) the attention it deserves. Turn off all ringers, dingers, and buzzers. Go to the bathroom and get a sip of water. Once the timer starts its time to get to work.

Set your timer for 25 minutes and go! That's right, sit with your SIT. You can do this. It's only 25 minutes.

After the timer dings, stop working, put a check mark next to your completed task and throw a tiny celebration during your well-deserved, five-minute break. You have successfully finished your first Pomodoro®.

Still have more SITs to do? Set the timer and start again. After a series of 4 Pomodoros®, indulge in a longer thirty-minute break.

The Pomodoro Technique® is a fantastic way to train your brain and increase your attention span. Check out

Here's to getting stuff done!

Parenting Tip: This method works wonders for toddlers, kids, tweens, and teens! When implementing this strategy with younger kiddos you may want to start with 5 or 10 minutes and work up to 25.

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.

Gazette Advertising Rates/Sizes/Submission Guidelines

Size	Single	Six Months	Twelve Months
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.**

GARDEN OAKS



ROLLOUT! HOUSTON FREE MOBILE APP

Having trouble remembering when to roll out the recycling and trash bins? There is now an app for that.



Rollout! Houston was created from the City of Houston's third hackathon event, where coders, designers, storytellers, marketers, writers, artists, kids, and beginners create solutions to city problems or tools for residents.

The free app can be found on the iTunes app store by searching "Rollout! Houston".

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6	7	8 	9	10	11	12 Farmers Market 9AM-1PM 948 Wakefield
13	14	15	16 GOMO Meeting 7PM @ GOPB 4001 N. Shepherd Suite 216	17 Heavy Trash Pick-Up (Tree Waste)	18	19 Farmers Market 9AM-1PM 948 Wakefield
20	21	22 	23	24	25	26 Farmers Market 9AM-1PM 948 Wakefield
27	28	29	30			



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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.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF OUR GREAT NEIGHBORHOOD!



2015 Constable Patrol Contributor Application & Contact Information

[] New Member or [] Renewal

Property Address : _____ Phone at this address: _____
--

Please provide contact information for program member(s) at this address:

Member 1 Information	Member 2 Information
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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



September 1, 2015

Dear Neighbors,

We at Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet (GOMM) believe that great schools and great neighborhoods go hand in hand. In the 75 years since our founding, we have worked to be an integral part of the Garden Oaks community and to develop outstanding high school and college-ready students. To help achieve this goal we started a Montessori school-within-a-school in 1994 that has grown steadily until, today, it is one of only two all-Montessori public elementary schools in HISD. Your support has been essential to our success.

GOMM delivers private school-quality education in a public school setting through adherence to an authentic Montessori educational system. Our school enables students to learn in a hands-on environment that emphasizes learning by doing rather than by rote memorization; a method that is effective in helping students of all learning styles achieve their potential. Additionally, GOMM offers its students a variety of important ancillary and after-school programs. The end result is a well-rounded student who is prepared for the challenges of high school and college.

The benefits of an authentic Montessori education are many and our school's rankings, growth, and popularity are evidence of our success - but that success has an associated cost. Although the administrators do well at keeping our operating costs near the lowest in the district, to run GOMM at the level our students deserve results in a \$400,000 gap between the local, state and federal funding received and the expenditures necessary to run the school. This gap comes from such things as Montessori training for our teachers, quality afterschool programs, educational fieldtrips, ancillary in-school programs such as Model UN, Urban Harvest or Writers in the Schools, or due to funding lost through HISD's student absence policy.

The Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet Parent Teacher Organization, a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization, assists the school by raising funds through our annual **Stuff the Bus** campaign that help offset the gap between our funding and our expenditures. Our goal for this year's campaign is \$25,000, and if we reach our objective, a benefactor has generously offered to match the donations up to this level. Please help us meet our goal by using the attached donation form and the included pre-paid envelope to make a tax-deductible contribution to our campaign, or go online to <https://gopto.org/donate-2/> to donate via PayPal or credit card. Your donations will help ensure that the school can continue its mission of developing well-rounded students in an authentic Montessori environment who are ready for the challenges of both high school and college.

Every donation, no matter its size, is a step toward our goal and a key to providing a quality education to our students.

Thank you for your support,

Kip Noser
Fundraising Chair
Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet PTO



Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet

WITH ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

By the Numbers

\$400,000 The annual funding gap between resources provided by local, state, and federal agencies and the actual cost to run Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet, an authentic Montessori public school program.

\$10,000 The annual cost per child for the Pre-Kindergarten Age 3 (Pre-K3) educational program at Garden Oaks, none of which is covered by local, state, or federal funding. Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet covers tuition costs for approximately 25 students each year who cannot afford it as well as a dozen more in Pre-K4.

\$8,000 The average cost for a teacher to earn a Montessori Certification (in addition to their Texas public school certification). Our school provides a few grants to cover this cost each year, but it is typically borne by the teachers themselves.

900 Families applied for 70 open enrollment slots in 2015, an indication of the high demand for authentic Montessori instruction in our public schools, and the success of this program.

100 Percent of our teachers are TEA and Gifted and Talented certified. Nearly all of them are Montessori certified or in the process of obtaining their certification. Seventy-five

percent of our teachers are certified as English as a Second Language (ESL) educators. Four of our teachers have their Masters degree, and two have earned Doctorate degrees.

53 Percent of our students are classified as low-income for the purpose of child nutrition assistance.

8th Grade classes were added in 2014 making our school one of only two Pre-K – 8 Montessori programs in HISD, and one of only four in HISD to offer Pre-K3 and Pre-K4 classes.

5 Of the most prestigious high schools in Houston (HSPVA, Carnegie Vanguard, East Early College High School, and the DeBakey High School for Health Professions) have enrolled our graduates.

4 New classrooms were added in 2015 to accommodate students already in the school (not new students) at a cost of \$23,000 each.

1 Person can make a difference. Your tax-deductible donation to Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet ensures that more children from all learning and socio-economic backgrounds will have the opportunity to benefit from a world-class learning environment right here in our neighborhood.



Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet PTO 2015-2016 Donation Form

Suggested Donation Levels

\$100- One GOMM supporter window decal and name listed on the supporter page of the GOMM website

\$250- Window decal, name on supporter page and free GOMM t-shirt

GOMM PTO accepts cash or checks, or you can donate online via credit card or PayPal at <https://gopto.org/donate-2/>

I am pleased to support the Garden Oaks Montessori Stuff the Bus Campaign for the 2015-2016 School Year

___ \$10,000 ___ \$5,000 ___ \$1,000 ___ \$500 ___ \$250 ___ \$100 ___ \$50 \$_____ (Other)

Your generous donation is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Donor Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

T-shirt Size _____



GARDEN OAKS WINE WALK 2015

Old World Vines

CELEBRATING EUROPEAN WINES AND
SUPPORTING THE GARDEN OAKS CONSTABLE PROGRAM

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17 @ 4:00-6:30 PM

744 WEST 43RD STREET

Event and raffle tickets available for purchase online at GardenOaks.org
or by mail with this completed form and a check payable to:

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

- YES! I would like to reserve _____ tickets @ \$85 each for a total of \$_____. Each event ticket includes a free raffle ticket.
- I would like to purchase _____ raffle tickets @ \$10 each for a total of \$_____. Raffle ticket holders need not be present at the event to win.
- NO, I cannot attend, but enclosed is a donation for \$_____ to be applied to the Garden Oaks Constable Program.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

We will acknowledge your ticket order by phone or e-mail.
Ticket sales limited to first 200 orders with payment received;
orders received by mail after tickets have sold out will be returned to sender.

Rain date will be Saturday, November 7. No refunds.

This is an adults-only event for those age 21 and older.

2015 HOUSTON ELECTION



HOSTS
GARDEN OAKS CIVIC CLUB



SUPER NEIGHBORHOOD 12

THE LEADER.

CREATED BY THE GARDEN OAKS CIVIC CLUB AND THE PUBLISHERS OF THE LEADER

SEPT 1, 2015 AT 6:15 PM
GRACE CHURCH GARDEN OAKS • 3754 N. SHEPHERD DR.

*A public conversation with the
seven mayoral candidates,
focusing on their vision for the
City of Houston.*

*Moderated by Jonathan McElvy,
publisher of The Leader newspaper.*

6:15 - 6:45 pm Meet & Greet Reception

6:45 - 8:30 pm Forum

Open to the public, free of charge.

Register online at theleadernews.com or call 713-686-8494.

Childcare provided by the YMCA for attendees' children
at least three years of age and potty-trained.
