



Garden Oaks Gazette

A publication of the Garden Oaks Civic Club

WINE WALK SETS A NEW RECORD!

By Dian Austin, Wine Walk Chair

Thanks to all the people who purchased tickets, the generous cash sponsors, and all the table hosts who provided the wines and foods, this year's Wine Walk netted some **\$29,000 for the Constable Program**, a new record!

Saturday, October 17th was a perfect day for the event; somehow the humidity was a bit lower than normal, and the sun was shining gloriously. About 250 people enjoyed sampling the wines and mingling with other guests.

And, of course, we are so lucky to have the perfect venue for this fundraiser year after year: the gorgeous grounds of Ed and Brenda de Alba's home. The de Albas spend a lot of time, money, and effort getting their yard to be the showplace that it is, and we really appreciate their generosity in sharing it with us.

Kudos also to the Wine Walk committee, who worked hard to pull all this together: Shelley Rogers, Terry Jeanes, Brenda de Alba, Lynn Sievers, Dea Larson, Jessica Jarvis, Sherrey Rogers, Sheila Briones, Tina Rowe, Sandy Altman, and myself.

This Constable Program fundraiser is an annual event, so stay tuned for the 8th Annual Wine Walk to be held in October 2016.

NOVEMBER 2015

UPCOMING EVENTS

November Civic Club Meeting

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

Election Day

Tuesday, November 3

★ *PLEASE NOTE: Residents who normally vote at Garden Oaks Montessori have a **new polling location** this election. (See page 26 for more information.)*

Thanksgiving Day

Thursday, November 26

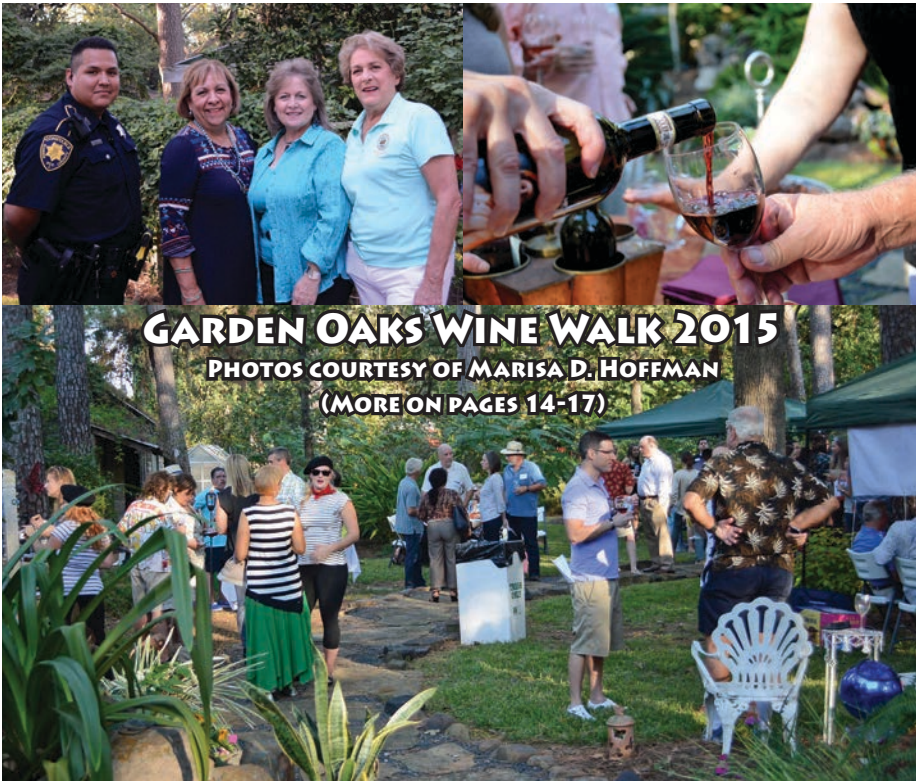
December Civic Club Meeting & Holiday Potluck Party

Tuesday, December 1
7:00 p.m.
St. Andrews Episcopal Church
1819 Heights Blvd.



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GARDEN OAKS WINE WALK 2015

PHOTOS COURTESY OF MARISA D. HOFFMAN

(MORE ON PAGES 14-17)



Dear Neighbors,

The Garden Oaks *Gazette* needs your help! We are seeking a new editor and/or assistant editor, or help in any capacity.

Please contact **Sheila Briones** or me at our phone numbers or e-mail addresses listed below to discuss how you can get involved. No experience is necessary, just a willingness to spend some time helping to produce our monthly neighborhood newsletter.

Many Thanks!

HERE COMES SANTA CLAUS!

Winter Wonderland awaits you and your family where you will be welcomed by Santa, Mrs. Claus, and their merry elves!

Tuesday, December 8th and Wednesday, December 9th

6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

in Gazebo Park

(at the intersection of Sue Barnett, West 42nd, and Lamonte)



Elves Georgia Lister, Terry Jeanes, and Tina Sabuco will be on hand once again to assist Santa in spreading Christmas cheer. Bring your whole family, including your fur family members, for enjoyment of the Winter Wonderland, visiting with the Clauses, and capturing many photo ops.

Interested in lending an elving hand? We have 2 opportunities for you to help! If you are a Handy Elf, we need helpers to decorate Gazebo Park for all Garden Oaksians and passersby to enjoy. We will be decorating on Sunday, November 29th (that's Thanksgiving weekend) from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Alternatively, if you are a Baker Elf, we would appreciate any homemade goodies that you can bring to either event night.

For questions about the event or to volunteer, please contact Elf Tina at tina@artaliveinc.com.

Also, Santa would love it if you could bring an unwrapped new toy for the Precinct One Constable toy drive. These toys will be donated to disadvantaged area children to help brighten their holidays.

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 **10th 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 look forward to seeing you at a civic club meeting soon.

- 982 Gardenia
- 802 West 41st
- 923 West 41st
- 951 West 41st
- 918 West 42nd
- 954 West 42nd
- 1026 West 42nd
- 1007 West 43rd
- 1050 West 43rd



Out and About

John and Nhilka Murphy visited Santa Fe, New Mexico and attended the International Balloon Fiesta in Albuquerque, the largest hot air balloon festival in the world according to Wikipedia.

Brian O’Leary and George Appling visited Cancún.

Joe Muscara and Lori Kennedy celebrated their anniversary in Smithville.

Terry Jeanes, along with her sister and mother, took a cruise in celebration of her mother’s 75th birthday.

Jan and Wayne Forster visited Hawaii.

Pat Buron and Shelley Rogers took a trip to Michigan.

Eric and Jessica Jarvis celebrated their tenth anniversary with a trip along with the newest addition to their family, Baby **Jude**.

Dian Austin and Sandy Altman spent a week viewing the fall foliage in Stowe, Vermont.

Special Thoughts

Heartfelt sympathy for the family of **James Doyle**, long-time Garden Oaks resident who passed in October. Mr. Doyle served his country, his church, and our community as a member of the Garden Oaks Board of Trustees.

Special thoughts for the **McDaniel** family in the loss of their beloved boxer, Daisy Mae, and for **Wayne and Jan Forster** following the recent loss of their beloved dog, Buster.

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

Happy Birthday

- Adelaide Leonard 11/1
- Stacy Gross 11/2
- Gina Pecoraro 11/4
- Deborah Seghers 11/4
- Frank C. 11/7
- Angela Winston 11/7
- Holly Veech 11/8
- Anthony Neiser 11/10
- Caroline P. 11/12
- Julia Kramp 11/13
- Sheila Briones..... 11/14
- Dianne Murata..... 11/18
- Maggie V..... 11/18
- Carl Rentschler..... 11/19
- Susan Saranie..... 11/19
- Hannah M..... 11/20
- Jay McKeown 11/21
- Kit Schoenfeld..... 11/23
- Lucy M..... 11/25
- Cheryl Cohorn 11/28
- Megan Salch..... 11/29

Happy Anniversary

- Bob & Debbie Driver 11/4
- Hal Bowman & Georgia Lister... 11/11
- Keith & Susan Kostelecky 11/13
- Mel & Ken Johnson..... 11/20

Terry Jeanes
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**NOVEMBER CIVIC CLUB SPEAKER:
DR. HANSA MEDLEY, ISKCON DIRECTOR OF OUTREACH**

Dr. Hansa Medley, Director of Outreach for the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON), will speak at the next meeting of the Garden Oaks Civic Club on November 3. ISKCON is commonly known as the Hare Krishna Movement.

Dr. Medley is originally from the Fiji Islands and has served with the Decade of Non-Violence, Institute of Interfaith Dialog, Interfaith Ministries of Greater Houston, and the Texas Yoga Association. In addition, she serves the underprivileged through Food for Life and Kids' Meals. She maintains an active internal medicine practice and is a member of the Harris County Medical Society and Texas Medical Association.

She will cover a brief history of ISKCON and services offered such as classes, an upcoming restaurant, community service projects, their community garden, catering services, Sunday open houses, and temple hours.

In addition, Goswami Academy School Principal Subra Lind will present information on their school designed to serve children in pre-kindergarten through Grade 4 (ages 3-9).

The presentation will begin with a performance by a traditional Indian dancer.

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NOMINATIONS FOR 2016 GOCC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

A three-person nominating committee is accepting nominations for the 2016 Garden Oaks Civic Club (GOCC) Board of Directors, which consists of a President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. The term of each position is one year beginning January 1, 2016. GOCC members will vote for the board candidates at the December 1, 2015 meeting.

You can submit a nomination to nominations@gardenoaks.org. Teresa Coleman, Brenda de Alba, and Terry Jeanes have been designated to serve on the nominating committee.

Per the GOCC bylaws, nominations will also be accepted from the floor of the November and December GOCC meetings.

Thus far, the following candidates have been nominated for 2016:

- President** – Sheila Briones
- Vice President** – Chris Lindsay
- Treasurer** – Jerry Butler
- Secretary** – Luke Sustr

GOCC members who have paid their 2015 dues and are in good standing are eligible to vote for the board slate.

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GARDEN OAKS CIVIC CLUB, INC.			
PROPOSED BUDGET			
2016			
	<u>REVENUES</u>	<u>EXPENSES</u>	<u>NET</u>
Civic Club Membership	\$10,000	\$1,500	\$8,500
Gazette	21,000	21,600	(600)
Wine Walk	16,000	1,000	15,000
Constable	85,200	85,200	-
Home Tour	38,000	18,000	20,000
Beautification, Improvements & Maintenance	20,000	30,000	(10,000)
Garden Club	500	500	-
Interest Income	35	-	35
Citizen Patrol		600	(600)
Civic Club Meeting Expense		2,000	(2,000)
Community Events		2,000	(2,000)
Friends of Montessori-Pancake Breakfast		1,000	(1,000)
Grants		9,000	(9,000)
Insurance		1,400	(1,400)
Mailouts		1,500	(1,500)
Membership Expense		2,000	(2,000)
Miscellaneous		1,975	(1,975)
Professional Fees		400	(400)
Rent-Aztec Rental		1,560	(1,560)
Santa at Gazebo Park		500	(500)
Utilities		4,000	(4,000)
Website Redesign & Other		5,000	(5,000)
TOTALS	\$190,735	\$190,735	\$0

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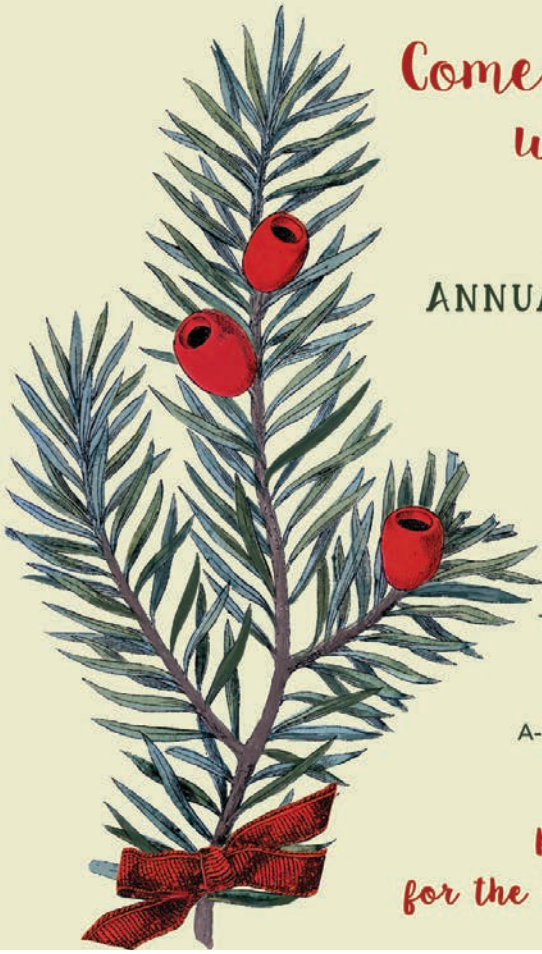
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*Come celebrate the holidays
with your neighbors*

at the

GARDEN OAKS CIVIC CLUB
ANNUAL MEETING & HOLIDAY POTLUCK

Tuesday, December 1, 2015
7:00 p.m.

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
1819 Heights Blvd.

Honorees: Houston Mayor Annise Parker and
Council Member Ellen Cohen, District C

The civic club will provide the main dish and drinks.
Feel free to bring a bottle of wine to share.

If your last name begins with
A-H, bring a side dish; I-Q, a dessert; R-Z, an appetizer.

Holiday music provided by the Waltrip Ram Band.

*Please bring an unwrapped toy
for the Precinct 1 Constable toy drive as well!*

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GARDEN OAKS

CIVIC CLUB HOLIDAY POTLUCK MOVED TO ST. ANDREWS EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE HEIGHTS

Garden Oaks Civic Club's Annual Holiday Potluck, Party and Constable Toy Drive scheduled for **Tuesday, December 1** beginning at **7:00 p.m.** will be held in the Parish Hall (2nd floor) of **St. Andrew's Episcopal Church** located at **1819 Heights Blvd.** Please note that this is a change from our normal meeting place of the Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet School and previous holiday party locations.

Join your friends and neighbors for a brief civic club meeting where we will elect our 2016 officers and approve the proposed 2016 budget (see page 5), followed by a potluck supper and festivities.

This year's guests of honor will be Houston Mayor Annise Parker and Houston City Council Member Ellen Cohen. Each will be presented with a special "thank you" gift for their service and support of our community.

Entertainment will be provided by the nationally distinguished Waltrip Ram Band with band director Jesse Espinosa. They offer an incredible repertoire of holiday music certain to nicely complement our celebration.

The Civic Club will provide the main dish, tea, and water. Members are welcome to bring their favorite adult beverages to the party.



Save the Date!

Note the location!

We encourage members to help with the side dishes. Members with last names beginning with A-H are to bring a side dish, e.g. rice, beans, or salad; I-Q, a dessert, and R-Z, an appetizer or bread.

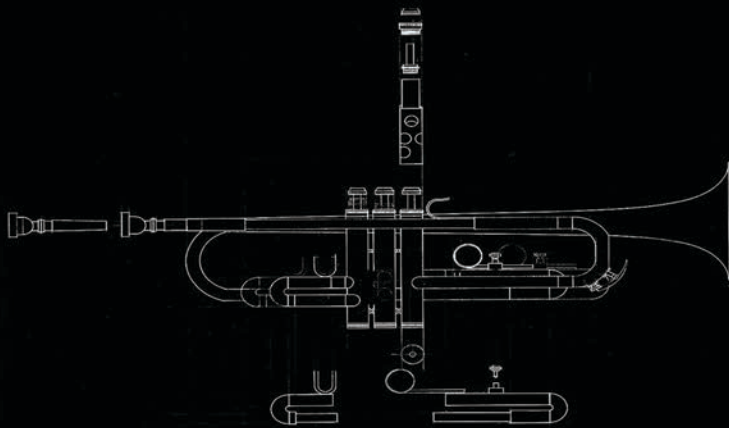
Attendees are also encouraged to bring an unwrapped toy for the Precinct 1 Constable toy drive.

Come join your friends and neighbors to celebrate the holidays!



Guests of honor Mayor Annise Parker (pictured left) and Council Member Ellen Cohen (pictured right).

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CONSTABLE PROGRAM UPDATE

By Terry Jeanes, Program Chair

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.



**Thank you Garden Oaks Community,
for your continued support
of me and the men and women of the
Precinct One Constable's Office!**



**Constable Alan Rosen
Harris County Precinct One**

GO Neighbors gather for National Night Out 2015



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CITIZENS' PATROL PROGRAM UPDATE

By Carl Waters, Jr., Program Chair

National Night Out was once again a successful event in the neighborhood. Many thanks to all the families who hosted events in the neighborhood.

It's November and the holiday shopping season is here. Here are a few safety reminders for the season:

- Stay alert to your surroundings in stores and parking lots.
- Don't shop alone and avoid closing time.
- Avoid carrying cash; use debit or credit cards instead for your purchases.
- Avoid carrying too many packages.
- Have your keys ready when you leave the store for quicker access to your vehicle.
- Place your purchases in the trunk or cover them if you are not headed directly home.

September Crime Statistics (10)

Burglary (2)

500 block of W. 32nd on Saturday, September 12 at 4:49 a.m. (garage).

700 block of W. 42nd on Monday, September 28 at 4:46 a.m. (residence).

Theft (6)

700 block of Garden Oaks Blvd. on Tuesday, September 8 at 8:44 a.m. (parking lot).

700 block of W. 43rd on Tuesday, September 8 at 10:57 a.m. (gym).

200 block of W. 31st on Tuesday, September 8 at 3:44 p.m. (residence).

500 block of W. 33rd on Wednesday, September 23 at 2:44 p.m. (residence).

3100 block of N. Shepherd on Thursday, September 24 at 4:29 p.m. (parking lot).

300 block of W. 34th on Monday, September 28 at 9:52 a.m. (street).

Auto Theft (2)

400 block of W. 34th on Friday, September 18 at 4:26 a.m. (listed as rental storage facility).

700 block of Garden Oaks Blvd. on Monday, September 28 at 10:30 a.m. (parking lot).

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.

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GOMO Board of Directors

SECTION 1

Wayne Forster (2016)
713-880-4367
wayne.forster@gardenoaks.org

Sheila Briones (2017)
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713-861-8091
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Dea Larson (2018)
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SECTION 5

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Chavonne Slovak (2017)
713-682-3601
chavonne.slovak@gardenoaks.org

VACANT (2018)

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



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GOMO REVIEW MEETINGS
take place at 6:30 p.m.
on the first Tuesday of each month
prior to Civic Club meetings
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.



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AIR CONDITIONING TIPS FOR THE FALL

By Mitch Weigand

Preventing Carbon Monoxide Problems in Your Home

What is carbon monoxide and why is it so dangerous? Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless, deadly gas. Because you can't see, taste or smell it, CO can kill you before you know it's there. In America, it's the leading cause of poisoning deaths. At greatest risk are children, pregnant women and their unborn babies, senior citizens and people with coronary or respiratory problems.

When carbon monoxide gets into your home's atmosphere, it enters your blood stream and replaces the oxygen there. This causes flu-like symptoms including fatigue, weakness, vomiting, trouble breathing, heart palpitations and even gastrointestinal problems. When people are exposed to high CO levels, they can pass out before they even show symptoms. Slow CO leaks can poison an environment so that people experience chronic symptoms which worsen over time.

How to Protect Yourself and Your Family

It is highly recommended that you have your gas furnace cleaned and inspected every year. Carbon monoxide is a by-product of combustion and is present whenever fuel is burned. Virtually every gas furnace produces some CO which is carried away from your home through the furnace's venting.

However, a furnace not running at peak performance can be deadly. While newer a gas furnace is equipped with features that shut it off when a problem is detected, older furnaces have no such devices. Over time, a furnace can develop small cracks in its combustion chamber. They may not be visible to the naked eye but it is through these cracks that CO leaks into your home.

Another important task is to change your filter regularly. A clean filter will help your furnace run more efficiently and help keep dust from being circulated throughout your home.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) recommends installing at least one carbon

monoxide detector per household, near the sleeping area. Additional detectors on every level of a home and in every bedroom provide extra protection. Be sure to choose an Underwriters Laboratories Inc. (UL) listed detector that emits an audible alarm and has a digital display.

Here are some other helpful hints:

- Never leave a car running in a garage, even with the garage door open. Fumes can build up very quickly in the garage and living area of your home.
- Never use a gas range, oven or dryer for heating, even for a short time.
- Never burn charcoal in houses, garages, vehicles or tents.
- Never sleep in a room with an unvented gas or kerosene space heater.
- Never use any gasoline-powered engines (mowers, weed trimmers, chain saws, small engines or generators) in enclosed spaces.
- Lastly, never ignore CO poisoning symptoms, especially if more than one person is feeling ill.

Mitch Weigand is the owner of Air Wise™ Air Conditioning & Heating.

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“Never thought an A/C repair would fit my budget.” *Brianna C., Shepherd Forest*

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Air Wise owner Mitch Weigand



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2015 WINE WALK SPONSORS

Thanks to our many neighbors and business supporters, we set a record this year of \$29,000 raised for the constable program. We are so grateful to the sponsors listed below, most of whom support our neighborhood in other ways as well. Please show your love to these folks!

Gold Sponsors (\$500)

- Aitu Taube, State Farm
- Blake Woods Design
- Central City Air – Suzanne Debien
- Christina Bell Gobe – Envoy Mortgage
- Constable Alan Rosen, Preceinct 1
- Heights Dermatology – Dr. Alpesh Desai
- John R. Bartos, Attorney at Law (www.htownlaw.com)
- Oak Forest Veterinary Hospital
- Oaks Wealth Management – Jonathan Kolmetz, CFP
- SCM Construction – Chris Schmidt
- Terry Jeanes, ReMax/Metro
- The Doggie Express

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2015 WINE WALK RAFFLE DONORS

This year's Wine Walk included a new twist: a raffle ticket was included with each event ticket purchased. We had a nice array of wine-themed gifts to raffle off during the Wine Walk. If you were one of the lucky raffle prize winners, you can thank the following people and businesses for their generosity:

- Aged to Perfection: Pamela Parks & Teresa Coleman, Elisa Cuellar & Knox Wright, and Paul & Vicki Singer
- Brenda & Ed de Alba
- GO Kids
- GO Red Hot Chili Peppers: Ron & Sheree' Peoples, Emilio & Patti Chemali, Francisca & Jeff Webster
- Harold's in the Heights
- Harry James Building + Design
- Heidi & Stuart Arouty
- Karie & Alyn Goad
- Lynn & Don Sievers

Our sincerest thanks!



- Merle Norman Cosmetics & Gift Boutique
- Mike & Diane Heath
- Painting With a Twist - Heights
- Plonk! Beer & Wine Bistro
- Rainbow Lodge
- Sandy Altman & Dian Austin
- Scott Miller
- Shelley Rogers & Pat Buron
- SK Designs/Susan Kostelecky
- Tina Rowe & Jim DiCola
- Wine and Love: Tina Beddow & Sue Walmsley Amash

2015 WINE WALK TABLE HOSTS

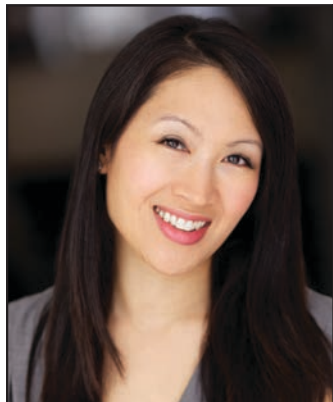
Each year we have generous neighbors and area business people who volunteer to serve as table hosts for the Wine Walk. Each of the hosts provides the wine(s) that are poured as well as the foods for tasting, all at his/her own expense. We are so very grateful for all these folks as the Wine Walk could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

This year, our 12 table hosts all returned from hosting in previous years. Some have participated since the very first Wine Walk in 2009. This year's wine walk table hosts were:

- "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
- GO Kids
- "GO Red Hot Chili Peppers" - Ron & Sheree' Peoples, Emilio & Patti Chemali, and Francisca & Jeff Webster
- Harry James Building + Design
- Heidi & Stuart Arouty
- Karie & Alyn Goad
- Scott Miller
- SK Designs/Susan Kostelecky
- Tina Rowe & Jim DiCola
- "Wine and Love" - Tina Beddow and Sue Walmsley Amash



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GARDEN OAKS WINE WALK 2015



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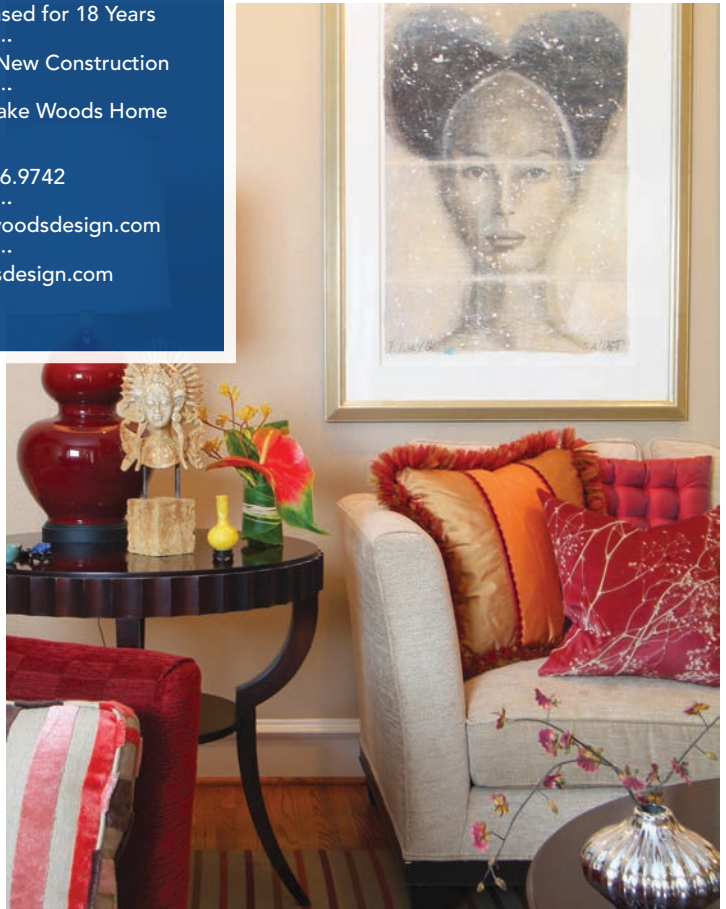
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2016 HOME & GARDEN TOUR SELECTIONS: “THE BIG REVEAL”

By Blake Woods, Selection Committee Chair

As the Selection Committee chair for the 2016 Garden Oaks Home & Garden Tour, I want to begin by thanking everyone who sent in nominations for tour locations and for the gracious neighbors who opened their homes to the Tour Selection Committee. The tour is scheduled for **Sunday, April 24** from **12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m.**

The tour’s primary goal is to showcase the wonderful, diverse architecture in Garden Oaks and that goal is accomplished by selecting homes and gardens representing a wide variety of styles, new and old, in as many neighborhood sections as possible. With so many wonderful homes and gardens nominated this year, deciding the tour selections was no easy task. The following six homes and two gardens will represent Garden Oaks in the 2016 tour:

2016 Home & Garden Tour Selections

Section 1

- 407 W. 34th Street (home-remodel)
- 323 W. 32nd Street (home-remodel)

Section 2

- 737 Sue Barnett (garden)

Section 3

- 851 W. 43rd Street (home-remodel)
- 858 W. 42nd Street (home-remodel)
- 1334 Sue Barnett Drive (home-new construction)

Section 4

- GO/Shepherd Park Plaza Community Garden (4400 Alba Road)

Section 5

- 1030 Gardenia Drive (home-new construction)

In addition to our selected tour homes and gardens, Garden Oaks Elementary Montessori with its pond, orchard, labyrinth, and gardens will also be included as a tour stop.

Stay tuned to the *Gazette* in the coming months; beginning in January, we will share highlights the 2016 featured homes and gardens.

Also, we are still looking for a Tour Chair or a Co-Chair. Please contact Sheila Briones at sheila.briones@gardenoaks.org if you are interested in serving in this capacity.

The responsibilities of a Home Tour Chair are as follows:

- Convene regular committee meetings to plan, delegate responsibilities, and carry out activities listed in the Home Tour timeline.
- Report to the Civic Club at its monthly meetings on the progress of the committee.
- Monitor the Home Tour budget and committee reimbursements.
- Direct publicity efforts including updates in the Gazette newsletter, website and Facebook page.
- Ensure that all artwork and items for publication are professionally produced.
- Encourage participation by the membership in the Home Tour.
- On Tour Day, circulate among the sites to ensure the tour is proceeding smoothly.
- Hold a wrap-up meeting to receive reports from committee chairs and discuss opportunities and challenges for the 2018 tour.
- Write a final report on the Home Tour, utilizing personal observations and reports from the committee chairs.

Thanks to the following volunteers who have stepped up to chair the various tour committees.

Underwriting/Sponsorships: Brenda de Alba

**Marketing/Publicity/
Social Media:**

Mark Klein

Graphics/Printing:

Jessica Jarvis

VIP Party Chair:

Tina Rowe

Silent/Live Auction:

Garden Oaks
Montessori
Secondary PTO

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Mark Saranie

Set-Up:

Ed de Alba

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Dian Austin

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GO GARDEN CLUB

By Cathy Warren



The GO Garden Club is open to all residents and friends of Garden Oaks. Regular meetings are held the **second Thursday of each month, from 7:00-8:30 p.m.** at the Kroger on 43rd, except for months with weekend activities, typically organized for the following Saturday. Annual membership dues are \$25, but there is no obligation to join.

butterflies, and in August, our neighbor Lynn Sievers shared her extensive local gardening expertise with the club, which was particularly beneficial to some of our newer attendees. The weather was perfect for our weekend outing in the fall to Mercer Arboretum, which was well-attended, as was our recent Work Day at Friendship Park.

Still upcoming this year is a **CRAFT NIGHT** we are planning for our regular second Thursday meeting on **November 12**, and we invite interested neighbors and friends to attend. We'll meet in the conference room facilities that have been generously provided by Kroger. The large conference room is upstairs over the cashier stations; just walk up either of the staircases located just inside the store entrances and head towards the middle - you can't miss it. Hope to see you there!

Please contact me at GardenClub@GardenOaks.org with any questions.

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This summer, after a spring outing to the McGovern Gardens in Hermann Park, was an eventful one. To keep out of the heat in June, July, and August, we held our meetings indoors. Patrick Purcell of Houston Fountain and Pond provided information on garden fountain components and installation considerations as part of our June meeting. In July, the Master Gardeners spoke to us about



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MICKEY'S MINUTE

By Mickey Morales

Ah, it's November once again... daylight savings is over, and Thanksgiving marks the beginning of the holiday season. We here at the Farmstand and the farm have much to be grateful for: an article in the November/December issue of Edible Houston, the promise of continued cooler weather, and last but not least, Farmer Cathy's continued recovery from her rollover accident back in September. I shudder to think of the consequences had that accident gone differently... the farm would have more than likely been sold off at some point, along with all of our egg producers (the hens) and the rest of animals. But thankfully, things went the other way and life at the farm continues apace; baby chicks are coming to replace the older girls this spring, all the girly goats are bred, as well as Violet, our mate for Arnold the Christmas pig. It should be a busy time a few months down the road with lots of baby animals to bring to our petting zoo.

Meanwhile at the market, Jacob of Old School Produce has rejoined us and we expect to have both of our wood carvers back with one-of-a-kind gifts at our after-Thanksgiving market. The farmers of course will have all sorts of greens and other vegetables for your Thanksgiving table, and I'll be taking pre-orders for my nearly famous gravy, cranberry chutney, and quiche to ease your workload. I'm pretty sure we can get Karen to bake y'all something sweet as well. I'm thinking that we will have a special pick-up point on the Wednesday afternoon before Thanksgiving, provided we have enough interest.

Of course, what we're most grateful for is you; our loyal customers' continued support of our little neighborhood market. Without y'all, none of this would exist and we can't thank you enough. Rarely have I ever heard anyone say, "Is this all there is? You're so small..." which I find puzzling because our farmers still take home some produce and occasionally a few dozen eggs

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

each week. Although we could use a good bread baker, I think we have packed the market with as much goodness as our small footprint will allow.

As always, "Come soon, come often, and be thankful for every day".

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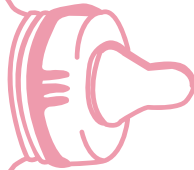


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GO KIDS UPDATE

By Jaime Cain-Mireles

If you're a new family to the neighborhood, we welcome you to join our kid-focused group with age-based playgroups, new parent dinner drops, a monthly Mom's Night Out, as well as many other amazing activities. Contact our Membership Coordinator, Diana Latta, at latta_diana@sbcglobal.net for information about joining.

October brought families in the neighborhood together with Neighbors' Night Out, the Garden Oaks Wine Walk, and Halloween! Our group had a blast hosting a table at the Wine Walk this year; it was wonderful to see everyone there supporting our neighborhood Constable Program. These officers are a vital part of keeping Garden Oaks safe for all residents. We unfortunately had to cancel our Halloween Bash due to projected heavy rainfall and winds and possible flooding from the Hurricane Patricia system. Many thanks all the same to Lisa Rentschler, volunteers, and our sponsors for planning and preparing for another fun event on Gardenia Drive.



Remaining GO Kids 2015 Events

Fall Movie Night
November 13th

Neighborhood Fun Run
November 14th

Santa Night
December 1st



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

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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DO YOUR HOLIDAYS SPARK JOY?

By Jessica Modad

Fall in Houston: easily the most exciting time of the year for me. October brought us cooler temperatures, Honeycrisp apples, and a seemingly limitless supply of all my favorite candies in fun size. During Autumn we slow down, enjoy a pumpkin-flavored beverage, and bring in the harvest.

Last fall I was introduced to Marie Kondo’s book *The Life Changing Magic of Tidying Up*, and I learned how to organize and clean out my closet asking a simple question of each item of clothing: “Does this spark joy?” Do these jeans, that purse, or those socks spark joy? I was suddenly examining everything that occupied space in my closet to get to the perfect wardrobe for me. One that is relaxed, easy, confident, and truly energizing.

As the holidays approach I invite you to ask yourself a simple question:

Will my holidays spark joy?

Are you looking forward to family gatherings, gift giving, cookie exchanges, or class parties?

Or are you dreading spending time with your in-laws, the office party, mall traffic and shopping?

In our house, October 1st is officially designated candy corn day and the kick-off to the holiday season. We welcome family gatherings, gift giving, class parties, and some much needed time off, but it was not always so...

While emptying the car loaded with gifts from our family members for our children and us, I began to think about what my small children may come to expect from the holidays as they got older. Certainly not spending time with family, slowing down, and the brilliance of handmade gifts (the values I wanted my family to share). The next year we had an executive committee meeting, took one baby step and discussed gifts we could make and give. Kettle corn topped the list and we got busy. Since then, we’ve made pralines, marshmallows, hot chocolate, bath scrub, and sweet potato pies. No malls, crowds, or holiday frenzy. After changing just one thing, our lives were altered forever.

This season give yourself an early gift by creating a holiday that sparks joy. Examine your feelings, traditions, and commitments. Take Marie Kondo’s lead and “keep only those things that speak to your heart. Then take the plunge and discard all the rest. By doing this, you can reset your life and embark on a new lifestyle.”

STUDENT ASSESSMENT AND THE PUBLIC MONTESSORI SCHOOL IN TEXAS

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

There has been a great deal of talk in the media about student assessment and the impact of testing on student learning and a teacher's impact on student achievement in public schools. As a tax-funded service to the public, accountability for the expenditure of money and concern for the well-being of our children are usually cited as the driving factors for standardized assessments. While Garden Oaks is a Montessori Magnet, we are still a public school in the Houston Independent School District and are responsible to adhering to all of the same accountability and assessment measures as other publicly-funded schools. As such we must combine Montessori education with public school guidelines to ensure that our children are able to demonstrate mastery on all grade level learning requirements as children in other public schools are. For more in-depth account of the recent history of school accountability in Texas, visit http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/perfreport/account/2015/manual/Chapter%2001_Final.pdf

In 1993, the Texas Legislature mandated the creation of a public school accountability system to evaluate and rate school districts and campuses. A viable and effective accountability system was possible because the necessary infrastructure was already in place: a student-level data collection system, a state-mandated curriculum, and a statewide assessment program tied to the curriculum. This first accountability system remained in use until the 2001–2002 school year.

The second accountability system included the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) and assigned ratings for the first time in fall 2004. A significant change from the previous system was that TAKS included additional subjects and grades that increased system rigor. Also, districts and campuses were required to meet criteria on up to 25 separate assessment measures and up to 10 dropout and completion measures. The last year for accountability ratings based on the TAKS was 2011.

House Bill 3, passed by Texas legislature in 2009, overhauled the state assessment and accountability systems to focus on postsecondary readiness for all Texas public school students. Because of the transition to the current assessment program, state accountability ratings were not issued in 2012. TEA worked throughout 2012 with technical and policy advisory committees to develop the current accountability system based on the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR®) program. This accountability system uses a performance index framework to combine a broad range of indicators into a comprehensive measure of district and campus performance. The 2012–2013 school year was the first for assigning ratings based on STAAR results. With the passage of House Bill 5 in 2013, the legislature added additional indicators of postsecondary readiness. The 2014 ratings included college-ready graduates, a new postsecondary readiness measure. The 2015 accountability system replaces college-ready graduates with an expanded postsecondary readiness measure that adds students who earn credit for at least two advanced/dual enrollment courses or enroll in a coherent sequence of career and technical education (CTE) courses.

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Schools are now held to the Texas State Accountability Ratings system which assigns one of three academic ratings to each district and campus: Met Standard, Met Alternative Standard, or Improvement Required. These ratings are based on a framework of four indexes that combine a range of indicators into a comprehensive measure of performance. The performance index framework combines results from STAAR assessments, graduation rates, rates of students completing the various graduation plans, and other indicators. The performance indexes are as follows: **Index 1: Student Achievement** provides a snapshot of performance across subjects. **Index 2: Student Progress** measures year-to-year student progress. **Index 3: Closing Performance Gaps** emphasizes the academic achievement of economically disadvantaged students and the two lowest performing racial/ethnic student groups. **Index 4: Postsecondary Readiness** emphasizes the importance of earning a high school diploma that provides students with the foundation necessary for success in college, job training programs, the workforce, or the military. For the 2014-2015 school year, Garden Oaks Montessori Met Standard on these measures! Next month, I will examine the ways in which public Montessori schools meet these standards and what parents can do to help!

NEW TEMPORARY POLLING LOCATION FOR RESIDENTS ACCUSTOMED TO VOTING AT GARDEN OAKS MONTESSORI

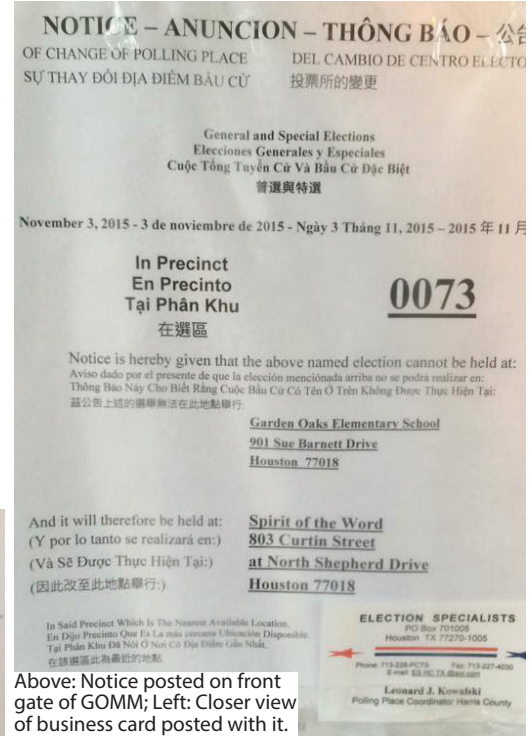
Garden Oaks residents who are accustomed to voting at Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet School (GOMM) are being temporarily rerouted to another polling location:

Spirit of the Word International Ministries
803 Curtin Street @ N. Shepherd Drive
Houston, Texas 77018

The reason for the change is that the multi-purpose room at GOMM where voting formerly took place is now being used as a middle school classroom for sixty-four 7th and 8th grade students. There is no other indoor area on campus available during school hours.

The redesign of the campus includes community space which may be used for voting after construction is complete.

Visit harrisvotes.com (screen shot below) to find your polling location and a sample ballot tailored to your precinct.



Above: Notice posted on front gate of GOMM; Left: Closer view of business card posted with it.

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General and Special Elections - November 3, 2015

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PCT	Voter	Polling Location(s)	
0073		Spirit of the Word 803 Curtin Street, at North Shepherd Drive Houston, 77018-2107	Sample Ballot

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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
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1. Placement of ads is subject to the discretion of the editor.
2. Artwork must be e-mailed to gazette@gardenoaks.org by the 10th 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
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NOVEMBER 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3  Election Day Civic Club Meeting ¹ 7PM @ GOMM	4	5	6	7 Farmers Market 9AM-1PM 948 Wakefield
8	9	10	11	12 GO Garden Club Meeting 7-8:30PM @ Kroger 1352 W. 43rd (Upstairs Conf. Room)	13 GO Kids Fall Movie Night	14 GOMM Garage Sale 8AM-1PM @ GOMM GO Kids Fun Run 9-10AM @ SPARK Park Farmers Market 9AM-1PM 948 Wakefield
15	16	17  GOMO Meeting 7PM @ GOPB	18	19 Heavy Trash Pick-Up (Tree Waste)	20	21 Farmers Market 9AM-1PM 948 Wakefield
22	23	24	25	26 Thanksgiving Day 	27	28 Farmers Market 9AM-1PM 948 Wakefield
29	30	¹ Preceded by GOMO meeting beginning at 6:30PM. Acronym/Event Location Key GOMM = Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet School, 901 Sue Barnett SPARK Park = Rick Englert Spark Park, Sue Barnett @ 41st GOMO = Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization GOPB = Garden Oaks Professional Building, 4001 N. Shepherd, Suite 216				



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Oaks Wealth Management
Launch Party

November 19, 2015

6:00 pm

Rainbow Lodge

2011 Ella Blvd.

Houston, TX 77008

Wine and hors d'oeuvres will be served
RSVP: jonathan@oakswm.com



Jonathan A. Kolmetz, MBA, CFP®

Jonathan joined the financial services industry in 2002 and spent the first few years of his career working for a large retail bank with a team of advisors and bankers managing high net-worth clients. Seeking a more boutique firm focused on clients, Jonathan spent the next seven years working for an independent firm where he honed his skills in the fixed-income arena, specializing in providing taxable and tax-free income ideas. In 2015 he formed Oaks Wealth Management, and provides financial planning and investment advice through LPL Financial.

Jonathan graduated from Texas A&M University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science and later obtained an MBA from the University of Houston. He completed the Certified Financial Planner course at Rice University and became a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ professional.

In addition to his career in the financial services industry, Jonathan served in the U.S. Army Reserve from 2000-2006, including one tour of duty in Iraq in 2004.

In his spare time, Jonathan is committed to a dedication of service to others. In 2013, he founded the Leather Apron Foundation, a non-profit organization devoted to serving individuals and organizations in the Greater Oak Forest/ Houston Heights neighborhoods. Additionally, Jonathan serves on the board of directors for The Oaks Business Association and is a member of the Financial Planning Association.

Jonathan was born and raised in Houston, Texas and married his high school sweetheart, Kristi. Their family currently resides in Shepherd Park Plaza. In addition to raising their two boys, Jackson and Benjamin, Jonathan and Kristi also raise an assortment of farm animals, including commercial Black Brangus cattle, on their ranch in Livingston, Texas.

www.oakswealthmanagement.com

Securities and advisory services offered through LPL Financial, a Registered Investment Advisor, Member FINRA/SIPC



ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES STATEMENT

January – December 2016

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: _____

E-Mail: _____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF OUR GREAT NEIGHBORHOOD!



2016 Constable Patrol Contributor Application & Contact Information

[] New Member or [] Renewal

Property Address : _____ Phone at this address: _____
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Please provide contact information for program member(s) at this address:

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

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

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

Payment Options

- [] Enclosed find my payment for 2016 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