



# Garden Oaks Gazette

A publication of the Garden Oaks Civic Club

## DECEMBER 2015

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### December Civic Club Meeting & Holiday Potluck Party

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

#### Santa at Gazebo Park

Tuesday, December 8th and  
Wednesday, December 9th  
6:00 – 7:30 p.m.



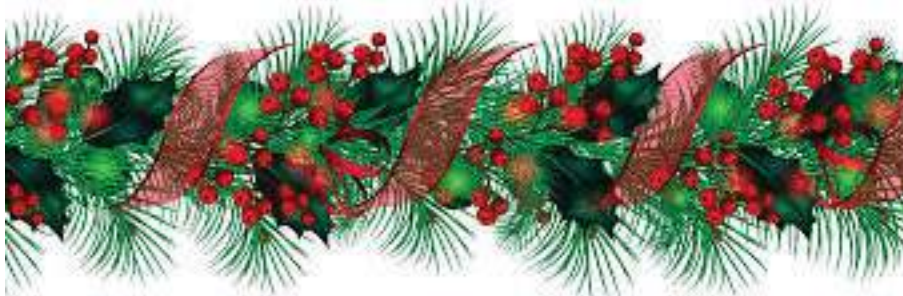
### SAVE THE DATE

#### 2016 Home & Garden Tour

Sunday, April 24th  
12 - 6 p.m.

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### JOIN US FOR THE CIVIC CLUB HOLIDAY POTLUCK TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1

**LOCATION: 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 (printed in the November Gazette), followed by a potluck supper and festivities.

This year's guest of honor will be Houston City Council Member Ellen Cohen. She will be presented with a special "thank you" gift for her 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.

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!





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? 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@artsaliveinc.com](mailto:tina@artsaliveinc.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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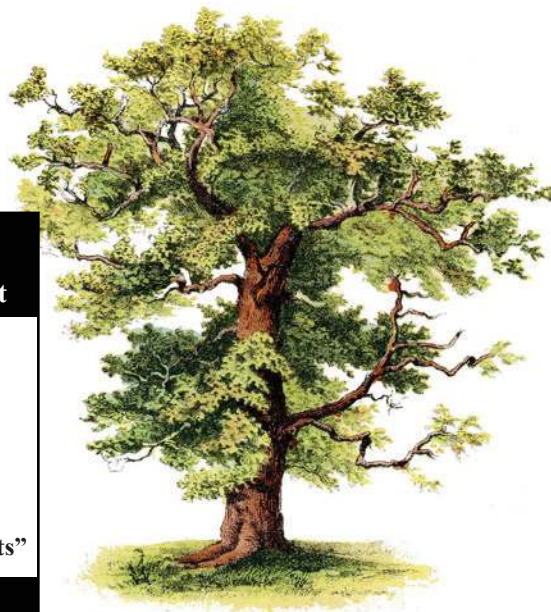
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**Garden Oaks Civic Club Officers**

- |  |                                       |  |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|
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**Standing Committee Chairs**

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <b>Joan Harmon</b><br>827 Lamonte        | <b>Beautification</b><br>713-818-9682     | <a href="mailto:beautification@gardenoaks.org">beautification@gardenoaks.org</a> |
| <b>Carl Waters, Jr.</b><br>821 West 31st | <b>Citizens' Patrol</b><br>713-569-3153   | <a href="mailto:gocop@gardenoaks.org">gocop@gardenoaks.org</a>                   |
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**Happy Anniversary**

John & Margie Hesse – 12/29  
 Stacy & Mike Gross – 12/31

**Out and About**

**Sean and Caroline McLean** had a blast celebrating Sean's birthday in Vegas with the Village People. **George Appling** headed to China. In the crowd at Billy Joel's concert were the **Salches**, the **Kleins**, and many others. The **Greenslates** had a grand time at Texas Motor Speedway.

**Congratulations**

To **Carl Waters, Jr.** on being recognized as Person of the Year by Houston Police Department's North Division at the Citywide PIP (Positive Interaction Program).

**Welcome Back**

To **Andy Hesse** and wife **Jenny** who have lived overseas for the last 4 years. Parents **John** and **Margie Hesse** are thrilled to have them home!

**Thanks**

From **Tina Sabuco** and **Shellye Arnold** to the many kind and generous Garden Oaks friends for their encouragement and support during the recent Hill Country flooding. Their home and business, Abundance Retreat in Wimberley, was impacted by the recent floods.

**Healing Wishes**

For **Diane Heath** as she recuperates from a heart procedure.

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

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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.

1019 Althea  
 4232 Apollo  
 834 Azalea  
 810 West 31st  
 702 West 42nd

**Happy Birthday**

Joel E. – 12/1  
 Eric Jarvis – 12/2  
 Joshua M. – 12/2  
 Jane Ann Roberts – 12/2  
 Pierce E. – 12/4  
 Ella C. – 12/9  
 Jason Espeseth – 12/9  
 Jayne Maltbie – 12/10  
 Terry Jeanes – 12/11  
 Ian M. – 12/12  
 Julia M. – 12/12  
 Chris Lindsay – 12/13  
 Sabrina Innocenti – 12/15  
 Jim McDaniel – 12/15  
 Cameron C. – 12/17  
 Brian O'Leary – 12/17  
 Sandy Altman – 12/24  
 Katie C. – 12/30

**Kim Ellis**  
 Wildscape Garden Consultant and Garden Oaks resident  
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 kim@plantahabitat.com  
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**Garden Oaks  
2016 Home & Garden Tour**

**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:

**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)

**2016 Home & Garden  
Tour Selections**

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@hotmail.com](mailto:sheila.briones@hotmail.com) 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.

<b>Underwriting/Sponsorships:</b>	Brenda de Alba
<b>Marketing/Publicity/ Social Media:</b>	Mark Klein
<b>Graphics/Printing:</b>	Jessica Jarvis
<b>VIP Party Chair:</b>	Tina Rowe
<b>Silent/Live Auction:</b>	Garden Oaks Montessori Secondary PTO
<b>Transportation:</b>	Mark Saranie
<b>Set-Up:</b>	Ed de Alba
<b>Finance:</b>	Dian Austin
<b>Pre-Sale Tickets/ Poster Distribution:</b>	Deborah Jeans
<b>Concessions:</b>	Jerry Butler
<b>Floral Arrangements:</b>	Debbie Padon
<b>Command Center:</b>	Elizabeth Klein
<b>Volunteer/Staffing:</b>	Katy Hall Wylie

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## GARDEN OKS CIVIC CLUB MEETING MINUTES

By Cindy Bartos, Secretary

**November 3, 2015**

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

**Welcome:** President Sheila Briones called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance. Everyone was invited to share in the dinner of rice, lentil soup, vegetable curry and halava provided by ISKCON of Houston, the presenters of the evening's program. A motion was made and seconded to approve the August 2015 minutes as they appeared in the *Gazette*. The motion passed.

**Announcements:** President Briones announced the Board is in the process of obtaining bids to repair the "Garden Oaks" street signs at ten entrances to the neighborhood. The swing at the Gazebo Park has been replaced, painted and is ready for Santa's visit next month. The position of editor for the Garden Oaks *Gazette* is currently open. If you are interested in the position notify President Briones [president@gardenoaks.org](mailto:president@gardenoaks.org) or Jenny Espeseth [gazette@gardenoaks.org](mailto:gazette@gardenoaks.org)

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Jerry Butler had copies of the Profit and Loss statement and the Balance Sheet available at the meeting. The proposed 2016 Budget appeared in the November *Gazette*. A vote to approve the budget will occur at the December meeting.

**Speaker:** President Sheila Briones introduced the program speakers representing the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON). Dr. Hansa Medley, Director of Outreach for ISKCON, Subra Lind, principal of the Goswami Academy School and others gave a brief history of the Temple and the services provided by ISKCON. A presentation of chants and a display of dance were enjoyed by those in attendance. The PowerPoint portion of the program is available on the Garden Oaks website

[www.gardenoaks.org](http://www.gardenoaks.org) and more information about ISKCON can be found at <http://www.iskconhouston.org/>

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Membership:** Committee Chair Dian Austin reported current membership at 321 members. The 2016 membership drive will be mailed to residents in the upcoming weeks. Luke Sustr won the raffle drawing.

**Wine Walk:** Chair Dian Austin reported the 2015 Wine Walk netted nearly \$29,400, a record amount. The event has raised over \$105,000 for the constable program since its inception. Wine Walk Host and Committee member Brenda de Alba presented the need for a better system of washing and storing the 300 wine glasses used for the event. 12 stackable commercial wine glass storage containers, lid, dolly transport and shipping could cost approximately \$850. A local restaurant has offered to have the items shipped directly to their restaurant, a savings of \$75, and the use of their commercial dishwasher to wash the glasses in the storage containers. Ms. de Alba made a motion for "the Garden Oaks Civic Club to spend up to \$1000 to purchase a commercial wine glass storage system". The motion was seconded and passed.

**Citizens' Patrol:** Committee Chair Carl Waters reported on 5 crimes reported by HPD in the month of October; a combination of burglaries, robberies and thefts occurred primarily on North Shepherd Dr. Mr. Waters encouraged those interested to join the Garden Oaks Citizens' Patrol.

**Gazette:** Editor Jenny Espeseth was not in attendance. President Briones again mentioned the open editor's position.

**Website:** No report from Webmaster Joe Muscara.

**Beautification:** Committee Chair Joan Harmon announced the future work scheduled for the Gazebo Park. Per Terry Jeanes, decorating the park for the holiday will take place on the Sunday after Thanksgiving.

**Constable Program:** Program Chair Terry Jeanes thanked those that hosted and attended a National Night Out party last month. Ms. Jeanes mentioned a recent burglary of a wallet and tools from a truck parked at a residence and the incident of a carjacking that involved a threat with a gun. She is in the process of getting a description and/or photo of the carjacking suspect to distribute through social media. A new deputy has been placed in the 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. time slot. The Precinct One Toy Drive will be accepting new, unwrapped toys at both the Garden Oaks Civic Club Meeting/Holiday Potluck on December 1<sup>st</sup> and also at the Gazebo Park on December 8th and 9th during the visit from Santa Claus.

### Ad Hoc In-Line Storm Water Detention Project Committee:

Committee Chair Pam Parks reported the city's Public Works Department will be presenting an update of the project to the Civic Club early next year.

### Government Affairs Standing

**Committee:** Committee Chair Mark Klein reported on the city's planned water main replacement construction in Section 1 slated for the first quarter of 2017. Super Neighborhood 12 meets monthly and continues to monitor the development of the High Speed Rail. See <http://www.sn12.org/> for more information.

**Home and Garden Tour:** Brenda de Alba announced the 2016 Tour is in need of a Chair. Home and Garden selections have been made and Ms. de Alba, as Sponsorship Chair, is looking for sponsors for the event. The Home and Garden Tour is scheduled for Sunday, April 24 from noon to 6:00 p.m.

**Nominations Committee:** Chair Teresa Coleman presented a slate of candidates for the 2016 Garden Oaks

# GARDEN OAKS

Civic Club Board: President: Sheila Briones; Vice President: Chris Lindsay; Treasurer: Jerry Butler; Secretary: Luke Sustr. Nominations will be taken from the floor at the December Civic Club meeting, followed by a vote.

**Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet School:** Dr. Lindsey Pollock provided updated plans for the reconstruction of the school. Construction is scheduled to begin in summer of 2016 and conclude before the start of school in fall of 2017. Debbie Reagan, a community member of the PAT team for the construction project at the school, presented the concept of the Walking School Bus Program. The Walking School Bus is a program designed to encourage more kids to walk to school and could help to alleviate traffic at the school. See <http://www.walkingschoolbus.org/> for more information on the program or contact Ms. Reagan at [dreagancac@gmail.com](mailto:dreagancac@gmail.com).

## New Business

The next regular meeting scheduled Tuesday, December 1, 2015 is our Annual Meeting and Holiday Potluck, 7 p.m. at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 1819 Heights Blvd.

Honorees will be Mayor Anise Parker, who is unable to attend, and Council Member Ellen Cohen. The Civic Club will provide the meat, tea and water. Bring wine or beer if you choose. Members with the last name beginning with A-H are

asked to bring a side dish; I-Q a dessert and R-Z an appetizer or bread. Entertainment will be provided by the Waltrip Ram Band lead by Jesse Espinosa. The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.



Dr. Hansa Medley, Meera Krishnan and Sheila Briones at the November Civic Club meeting.

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*Dear Garden Oaks,*

*It's that time of year again to "Ring out the Old" and "Ring in the New"..... and Harry James Building + Design will be "Ring in the New" with the addition of Harry's son, Alexander, as part of the team. After graduating as a Civil Engineer, Alex spent the last 8 years working as a Project Engineer and Project Manager in the D.C. area, but decided to move back home to Texas to be a part of the Custom Building company that his Dad established over the last four decades. With their combined skills and experience, they will continue with the tradition of offering the highest level of quality and service to their Clients.*

*Wishing You a Happy Holiday and Safe & Prosperous New Year!*

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## CONSTABLE PROGRAM UPDATE

By Terry Jeanes, Program Chair

Congratulations to Garden Oaks' own **Patrol Deputy Joe Bowden** who was recently recognized as Precinct One's Deputy of the Year at the precinct's annual event. Deputy Bowden, we appreciate you as well!

Just a reminder: the holiday season is here. **Conceal or remove all packages** from your vehicles as these can be an invitation for a vehicle break-in.

**Update on the recent arrest** of a suspect in the October carjacking in the 700 block of W. 43rd: thanks to the collective work of area law enforcement, an individual has been arrested and is being held without bond.

**Thanks to all who participated, sponsored, or attended this year's Wine Walk** fundraiser for the Constable Program. You certainly made a difference!

### Support the Program

PLEASE JOIN TODAY AND SUPPORT OUR PROGRAM via the form in the *Gazette* or the link below. Even if you pay online, please complete and submit the information form.

**Constable Program Contribution and Vacation Watch Forms are available at:**

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

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

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**2016 CONSTABLE AND CIVIC CLUB SUPPORTER MAIL OUT**  
*By Dian Austin, Membership Chair and Terry Jeanes, Constable Program Chair*

Within the next several weeks, each Garden Oaks resident should receive their 2016 Civic Club Membership and Constable Patrol Contributor forms in the mail.

While contributions to both of these are voluntary, we ask that you consider supporting your civic club and the constable program. Payment can be made via check and snail mail, or online at [www.gardenoaks.org](http://www.gardenoaks.org).

For civic club membership, there are two levels of basic household membership, at \$25 and \$75 (\$5 and \$15 for seniors, respectively). A basic membership is necessary to be able to vote on civic club matters.

This year, we have added a third new category: a \$100 Community Membership. This category includes 2 tickets to the April 2016 Home and Garden Tour (\$50 value). We hope you will consider this option.

The monthly civic club meetings provide all residents a forum to learn about neighborhood happenings and to become involved in Garden Oaks. This past year, the speakers included Council Member Ellen Cohen, County Attorney Vince Ryan, Salise Shuttlesworth, Executive Director of Friends for Life (no-kill shelter), experts on hurricane preparedness, the proposed high speed rail, and gardening, to name a few. The civic club was also instrumental in the mayoral forum and supported the neighborhood town hall high speed rail meeting. The civic club sponsors the home and garden tour every two years, the annual wine walk constable program fundraiser, and National Night Out.

As for the constable program, we currently have three contracts which give us almost 24/7 constable coverage. Two of these contracts are currently paid by GOMO with surplus funds, but the third contract is paid by the civic club with contributions from residents. And that third contract is woefully underfunded. If you care about the constable

program and keeping our patrols, please support it!

Currently, **less than 25% of the Garden Oaks neighborhood support either the civic club or the constable program.** Let me say that another way: 75% of the neighborhood does not support the constable program or their civic club. Please make a New Year's Resolution to support Garden Oaks in 2016!

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**BEAUTIFICATION UPDATE**

*By Joanie Harmon, Committee Chair*

All is well with the recent rains we finally got, but every time I said "rain is a good thing" we seemed to get a deluge instead of a slow and steady rain. It is time now to put down your fall lawn fertilizer to promote strong roots for the spring which is way more important than most people think. I have yet to find anything that comes close to Scott's Winterizer Weed and Feed product, but I'm always willing to try new and less expensive products. We will be trimming the overgrown brush at the Gazebo Park this month in anticipation of the arrival of Santa and his elves after Thanksgiving. The new swing is now installed at the Gazebo Park, so come by and give it a spin! That's about it....Now get out there and GARDEN!



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# GARDEN OAKS

## CITIZENS' PATROL PROGRAM UPDATE

By Carl Waters, Jr., Program Chair

Happy Holidays, Neighbors!

As you are disposing of the packaging from all those gifts Santa brought you for being so good this year, keep in mind that thieves enjoy this time as well. Please cut up boxes and flatten them before placing them in the recycling bin or trash can.

After two months of double-digit crime reports, HPD only listed 5 crimes in the neighborhood for the month of October. Here's hoping for more months like the last one or better yet even less crime.

### October Crime Statistics (5)

#### Robbery (1)

700 block of W. 43<sup>rd</sup> Street on Friday, October 16 at 3:12 a.m. (residence).

#### Burglary (1)

800 block of Lamonte on Monday, October 19 at 1:58 p.m. (residence).

#### Theft (3)

3400 block of N. Shepherd Drive on Thursday, October 22 at 11:22 p.m. (Apartment Parking Lot).

3000 block of N. Shepherd Drive on Wednesday, October 28 at 7:42 a.m. (Commercial Parking Lot).

3400 block of N. Shepherd Drive on Wednesday, October 28 at 2:45 p.m. (Bar).

*Inquiries about joining the Citizens' Patrol Program or other community safety issues can be directed to the website [GardenOaks.org](http://GardenOaks.org), the Citizens' Patrol email [GOCOP77018@aol.com](mailto:GOCOP77018@aol.com), or by phone at 713-864-1992.*

## START COLLECTING YOUR GENTLY WORN SHOES!

Garden Oaks Montessori Middle School students will be holding a shoe drive to raise funds for a trip to the Montessori Model UN and other special projects. More details to come!!



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[wayne.forster@gardenoaks.org](mailto:wayne.forster@gardenoaks.org)

**Sheila Briones** (2017)  
412 West 34th Street  
713-861-8091  
[sheila.briones@gardenoaks.org](mailto:sheila.briones@gardenoaks.org)

**Mark Saranie** (2018)  
713-724-1271  
[mark.saranie@gardenoaks.org](mailto:mark.saranie@gardenoaks.org)

### SECTION 2

**Ed de Alba** (2016)  
713-459-4954  
[ed.dealba@gardenoaks.org](mailto:ed.dealba@gardenoaks.org)

**Lori Kennedy** (2017)  
713-691-6833  
[lori.kennedy@gardenoaks.org](mailto:lori.kennedy@gardenoaks.org)

**Rafael Pina** (2018)  
713-614-6533  
[rafael.pina@gardenoaks.org](mailto:rafael.pina@gardenoaks.org)

### SECTION 3

**Kathy Silver** (2016)  
713-668-8781  
[kathy.silver@gardenoaks.org](mailto:kathy.silver@gardenoaks.org)

**Vidal Martinez** (2017)  
713-705-1310  
[vidal.martinez@gardenoaks.org](mailto:vidal.martinez@gardenoaks.org)

**Dea Larson** (2018)  
713-695-3634  
[dea.larson@gardenoaks.org](mailto:dea.larson@gardenoaks.org)

### SECTION 5

**Teresa Coleman** (2016)  
713-686-7728  
[teresa.coleman@gardenoaks.org](mailto:teresa.coleman@gardenoaks.org)

**Chavonne Slovak** (2017)  
713-682-3601  
[chavonne.slovak@gardenoaks.org](mailto:chavonne.slovak@gardenoaks.org)

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



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All Other City Services  
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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](http://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 WINTER**

*By Mitch Weigand*

**How to Get Your Furnace Ready for Winter**

With Houston temperatures falling, we may experience a winter as chilly as our summer was steamy hot. Your furnace has sat idle for months now, so here's some beneficial advice to ensure it is back in proper working order.

**Check your filter, check your filter, check your filter.**

Did I mention check your filter? Before using your furnace for the first time, be sure to check your air filter. Better yet, just go ahead and replace it. With all of the pollen, dust, pet hair and dander that can be found in your home's environment, the filter should be changed once a month. A clogged filter hinders air flow which makes your furnace work harder and can shorten its life. A new filter makes it easy for your furnace to do its job correctly from the start.

While the weather is still mild, do yourself and your furnace a favor and

stock up on filters. You may not feel like going to the store once it's cold, wet and miserable outside. Changing your filter will be a much simpler task when you have several on hand and therefore you'll be much more apt to do it.

**Examine the air vents throughout your home.**

You want to make it as easy as possible for your furnace to do its job. Not only will this maximize your comfort, you may save money on your utility bills. Take a moment and stroll through your home, making sure that all vents are open. In addition, make sure they are not obstructed by couches, chairs, boxes, etc. Free air flow is not only essential in the winter but throughout the year.

**Clear out the space around your furnace.**

It's very important that your furnace is accessible to both you and your A/C service technician. Keep the area surrounding it free of clutter. Avoid piling such things as clothes, cardboard boxes or loose paper around your furnace because it can become a safety concern.

**Put your programmable thermostat to good use.**

With a programmable thermostat, you can pre-set temperatures to match your daily schedule, whether you're at home relaxing or away for the holidays. The latest generation of thermostats have touchscreen controls which are easy to use and can inform you what the temperature is outside so you know how much (or little) to bundle up. They can also tell you when it's time to change your air filter.

**Finally, and most important of all, schedule a winter check-up.**

This is the best way to prepare your furnace for winter. Your service technician will check and adjust the thermostat, inspect the furnace's burners and controls, check for cracks in the heat exchanger and leaks in the gas valve plus much more. After the tune-up is complete, your furnace will be ready to take on the cold months ahead.

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





**Here's what our customers are saying about us:**

**“I really appreciate Air Wise’s fast service.”** *Katherine J., Oak Forest*

I really appreciate fast service, and Air Wise definitely has that. I called them during lunch and Mitch came to my house after work. He had my A/C blowing correctly about an hour later, explaining the return air seal was leaking. He explained everything which is how the term “return air” is now part of my vocabulary. I highly recommend Air Wise.



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*Air Wise owner Mitch Weigand*



## Garden Oaks 2016 Home & Garden Tour

### SHOW YOUR SUPPORT THROUGH SPONSORSHIP!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our past tour sponsors, many of whom have been there since we brought the event back to life in 1997. Our neighborhood is much of what it is due to your dedicated community support.

Please look over the insert included in this *Gazette* to learn more about our 2016 tour underwriting opportunities and determine which sponsorship level might benefit your business while supporting our unique neighborhood. We hope you will find a level that meets your marketing and advertising budget and will allow you to begin or continue your legacy of tour support.

The funds raised from the tour support Garden Oaks and our surrounding community. Proceeds from the home tour benefit:

- **Constable Patrol**  
This helps keep our neighborhood a little safer,

detering crime and protecting property here in Garden Oaks. Forty patrol hours per month under the Civic Club-sponsored contract are partially funded by home tour proceeds. (Put the Constable's phone number 713-755-7628 into your contacts list for future reference.)

- **Green Spaces**  
Garden Oaks boasts 7 beautiful green spaces to enjoy and maintain for all our neighbors and visitors
- **Education**  
Supporting special projects for our area's zoned schools has long been a priority of the Civic Club. Partnering with area schools enriches the educational experience of students and promotes community engagement.
- **Garden Oaks Citizens' Patrol**  
GOCP is a volunteer group of Garden Oaks neighbors who

patrol our streets and report suspicious activity to local law enforcement authorities. These additional sets of eyes and ears help to support the work of our paid Constable patrol.

- **Monthly Gazette newsletter**  
This is printed and delivered to all 1400 homes and published online in a colorized version.

If you support these programs and are either a business owner or know of a business looking for advertising opportunities to reach our neighbors, please contact Brenda de Alba at [htsponsorships@gardenoaks.org](mailto:htsponsorships@gardenoaks.org).

We look forward to hearing from you!

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### RIVER OAKS SHOPPING CENTER'S BARNES & NOBLE HOSTS BOOKFAIR TO BENEFIT GARDEN OAKS MONTESSORI MAGNET

By Stephanie Acosta, GOMM Parent Engagement Rep.

Support Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet at their annual Barnes & Noble book fair! This year the book fair will be on December 5th and 6th. In an effort to raise funds for their classrooms and school library, as well as Name That Book teams, Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet is working together with Barnes & Noble Booksellers by hosting a book fair at the River Oaks Center's Barnes & Noble store, 2030 W. Gray.

On Saturday, December 5 and Sunday, December 6, from 10am-6pm, Barnes & Noble will contribute a percentage of every sale (even in the café!) by mentioning Garden Oaks or with a BN book fair voucher. Vouchers will be available the school front office or at our school table at the event.

Barnes and Noble has also given an on-line shopping option for the book fair, December 5 - 11! It is a perfect way for family and friends who are unable to come to the store to support our school. During the check-out process, on the payment page, please indicate that the purchase is part of a book fair and enter the code 11752466.

As a special bonus, middle school students will be on site both Saturday and Sunday wrapping your purchases for donations to benefit their trip to the Montessori Model UN. On Saturday, each class at Garden Oaks will have a performance block every 30 minutes. We hope that you will support our students and our school! See you there!!

**REMEMBERING A KINDLY, SENIOR NEIGHBOR**

*By Emmett Doherty*

It was a little over a year ago that my barber said that he had lost his lease of several decades. He had built up a fine clientele on Judiway Street across from Oak Forest Park but now had to move on to make room for a larger renter.

It was then, as he made plans to move to FM2920 off I-45, he suggested that I commute with Mr. Jim Doyle. Hey, I knew Mr. Doyle. He lived just down the street. It was about two decades earlier that I began to notice him as he walked his dogs in the Rick Englert Spark Park and up W. 41st. I knew him on a first name basis but respectfully addressed him as Mr. Doyle.

So, the commute began one day about a year ago. "Hey, Mr. Doyle, I'm a neighbor. Remember me? Emmett. I'm calling to see if we can get together and go to Jimmy the barber and get our hair cut." "Great idea," he said. "When do you want to go?" That's when a year-long tradition began, and he and I made this trip once a month. The commute was 30 minutes each way, so the conversation was extensive over the year. The conversation ranged from his Wimberley home to fishing on the Blanco River, his pride in his family, camping trips with family decades ago, and the great neighbors he had. He always considerately asked about my wife. With a career as a chemical engineer, you can imagine the details of his questions of construction on N Shepherd or my backpacking hikes. Mr. Doyle's mind was crystal clear and sharp. I never needed to remind him of a hair cut appointment. Once he was waiting for me on his drive way. As he entered my vehicle, he said, "I knew you would be on time."

A week before he passed on to the heavens, we shared a trip to the barber shop. He was eager to address many detailed questions of my recent extensive backpacking trip. "What was the interval between rest breaks? How much did your pack weigh? What was the gender mix? What type of food did you eat?" Of all my friends, he was the only one to address these questions. His analytical mind was amazing for a 97 year old man.

I feel blessed to have shared a moment in the life of Mr. Doyle - a WWII war hero, a professional engineer, a family man that raised 5 children, and a kind man that claimed Garden Oaks as his home for about 67 years. I was proud to have known him as my friend.



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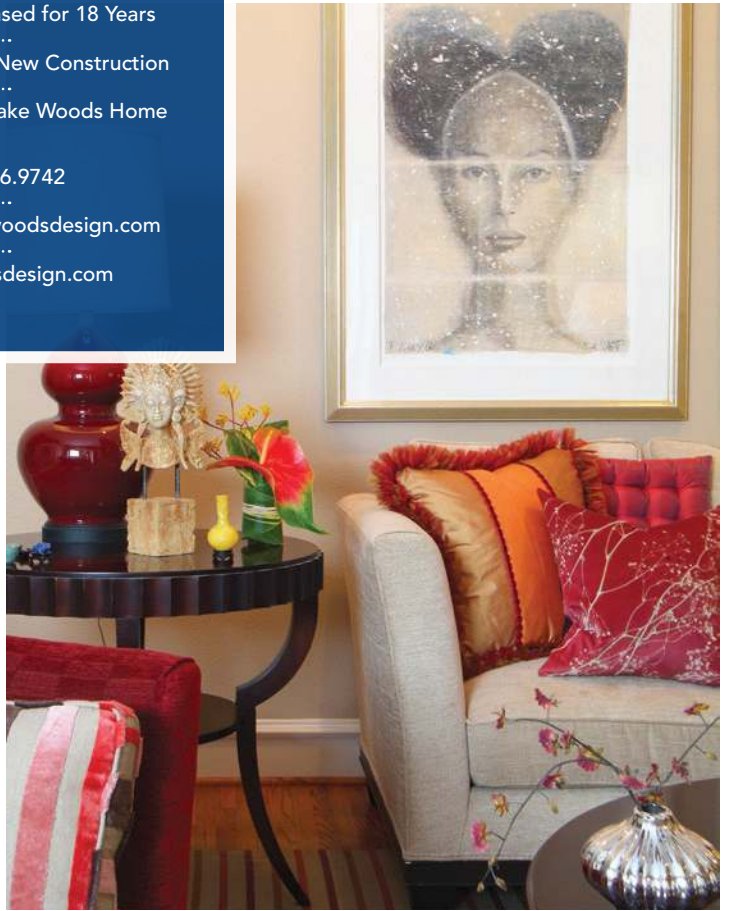




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A furry Garden Oaks resident enjoys the last of the fall seasonal decor. Remember that pumpkins can be donated to the folks at the Saturday Market who will happily feed their creatures with your gifts. Photo courtesy of Dian Austin.

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## MICKEY'S MINUTE

By Mickey Morales

Oh my goodness where has the year gone? And what a year it has been: torrential rain, equipment and crop failures, driving accidents and yet Farmer Cathy and I find ourselves still standing despite all this fun. So here we are smack dab in the middle of the Christmas season, just after the release of our little write up in the fourth issue of Edible Houston. We're almost famous and very humbled for the honor to serve the neighborhood for almost four years now.

We should be rejoined by our woodworkers as well of the rest of our stalwart vendors, which should make your holiday gift giving much more unique than shopping at the big box stores. We used to refer to ourselves as the "non-bar-code people" and maybe we should bring that moniker back. Depending on how the response was to our Thanksgiving offerings, Karen and I will likely be offering a selection of goodies for your Christmas table with pickup by noonish on Thursday.

Life at the farm continues unabated despite the aforementioned set backs. All the goats and our one surviving female pig, Violet, should all be bred and bring us an amazing amount of cuteness come late winter and early spring. I can just imagine the petting zoo we will be able to put on at the market. And of course not to mention the bounty of good clean eating that results from all that cuteness. Yes it's true: those little kids (baby goats) and piglets eventually grow up and become food for us to share with y'all.

As always, "Come soon, come often and bring your Christmas shopping list".



## Local Farmers' Market

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**GO KIDS UPDATE**

By Jaime Cain-Mireles



Yay for cooler weather! This is an amazing time to get outside with our families, friends and neighbors. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual GO Kids Fun Run on November 14<sup>th</sup> had a great turnout with about 50 runners racing around the Spark Park at GOMM. Thank you to Aitu Taube, Diana Latta, Katherine Taylor and other volunteers for making this event happen!

GO Babies and Toddlers have been active recently doing crafts and meeting at the park - a BIG thanks to all of the parents who have hosted/organized play groups and those who have attended! Your participation is key in making these groups possible and is much appreciated. If you are interested in hosting or organizing a play group please contact Jaime Cain-Mireles, jaime.cain2@gmail.com

2015 has been an active year for GO Kids, and we are very thankful to our spectacular sponsors! Special thanks to our leadership team, volunteers and families who put together and/or attended events. As we continue to grow and change just like our little ones we appreciate being part of such a wonderful neighborhood and community. We are proud to call Garden Oaks home, Wishing everyone a wonderful and safe holidays!

**Remaining GO Kids 2015 Events**

**Santa Night**  
December 1st

**Movie Night**  
December 4<sup>th</sup> – The Polar Express



Check out our calendar of events and obtain additional event details at [www.bigtent.com](http://www.bigtent.com) and our Facebook group.

**Interested in becoming a member?**

We welcome families to join our kid-focused group with annual events, age-based play groups, new parent dinner drops, and a monthly Moms' Night Out, as well as many other activities throughout the year. Please contact our Membership Coordinator, Diana Latta ([latta\\_diana@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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 the GO Kids Coordinator, Lindsey Gabriel at [lindsey.gabriel5@gmail.com](mailto:lindsey.gabriel5@gmail.com) or any member of the leadership team.*

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**REDEFINE YOUR HOLIDAY HUSTLE**

*By Jessica Modad*

Holiday Shopping is:  
 Hard  
 Expensive  
 Frustrating  
 Overwhelming  
 Time consuming

These are just a few things that I heard when discussing gift giving with several women during a recent workshop created to redefine the holidays. Today, all of that changes.

Stop whatever you are doing. Take a breath. Now, imagine for a moment that you are committed to making a new choice... a new decision about how you approach holiday gift giving. Your choice is to re-label December's festivities as: fun, easy, relaxing peaceful, joyful, comfortable or dare we say, luxurious?

Here are 6 ideas to get you started:

1. Christmas throughout the year— kids, friends, and parents can always use a little something to cheer them up. Why not celebrate and give a small token several times throughout the year?
2. Handwritten note- text messages, Facebook likes and email are nice but a handwritten note is 'special'. Take time to write down what you love and appreciate about your special someone.
3. Group outing—siblings, in-laws, cousins, aunts, uncles, and grandparents can add up to a lot

of money and time spent on gifts during the holiday. Years ago our family decided to put out an invitation for a group event that happens within the holiday, but after Christmas.

Past outings included:  
 Bowling  
 Zoo day  
 Movie  
 Picnic at Hermann Park  
 Ice skating

4. Gift card exchange—collect various gift cards (i.e. Chick-fil-A, Starbucks, Target, HEB, etc.) in the same denomination; we load each card with \$5. Place cards in a bag and have participants blindly choose a card. After all the cards have been picked the fun begins....everyone can trade, buy or negotiate for the card or cards that they want most.
5. Seed packets—giving herb, veggie and flower seeds are a fantastic way to ensure that your gift is remembered long after December. Perhaps the receiver will even think of you when its time to harvest?! (Parsley, anyone?)
6. Anticipation—placing a small gift or note in an enveloped marked "do not open until (insert date in the future)" builds excitement long after the holiday has ended.

With a little mind shift and some planning, you can give a gift that is perfect for you and the receiver. Give it a go!

## SUCCESS FOR EVERY CHILD

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

In Montessori education, we have a system that favors individualized, data-driven, systematic instruction which is focused on educating the whole child. In a public school setting, we work to ensure that this individualized system of education supports students in demonstrating mastery not only in the areas of their choosing, but on the required assessments at the end of each school year. Ideally, these goals are integrated throughout the year culminating in not just meeting, but exceeding state and district standards for promotion. One of our former Garden Oaks' teachers, Sara Cotner, is now the founder and executive director of Montessori For All, a public school charter in Austin, TX. She recommends that by making a handful of shifts will move toward that goal. According to her, we should:

- 1. Use data to systematically monitor progress and drive instruction:** One thing that No Child Left Behind has shown us is that there are real gaps between different groups of students. In order to close those gaps, we have to monitor each child's progress and use the data that we collect daily to determine our next steps. New tools enable us to capture and compare a greater range of data than we have in the past, in order to help each child meet specific goals.
- 2. Combine data-driven insights with innovative models of teaching to individualize instruction:** Teaching everyone the same thing at the same time and in the same way leaves higher-performing children bored and lower-performing children frustrated and tuned out. Montessori education provides children the opportunity to work within their zones of proximal development to make more efficient and effective progress. Well-designed blended learning models are beginning to address the challenge of differentiating

instruction. The Montessori model is another long-standing methodology that designs classroom interactions that address the needs of children with different interests and abilities.

- 3. Broaden what we measure and what we teach:** If we're truly committed to preparing children for the 21<sup>st</sup> century, we have to reevaluate what we teach and assess within our schools. We have to value (and begin to measure) skills like collaboration and time management as much as we value (and measure) skills like identifying main ideas. To ensure that children achieve a consistent, measurable minimum, it has value. But we also need to keep our eyes on a higher bar which is creating rich educational environments that deeply prepare children for success in college, the 21st century workplace and in life, as leaders in families and communities.

**What can parents do to help?** Stay abreast of your child's progress in school. Check their grades and work plans to ensure that students are keeping up on their assignments and are making progress. Work with the school to ensure that children have time to read every day at least 30 minutes. Turn off the TV and have authentic conversation with scholars about current events and learning at school. Model reading for your children by sitting down to read with them and discuss what you are reading. Most importantly, stress the importance of perseverance, creativity and getting along with others. These skills are emphasized in the Montessori classroom and stressed through the peace curriculum. Montessori education supports the development of every student and the goal of becoming a global citizen. To learn more go to:

<http://www.public-montessori.org/resources/does-it-work-what-research-says-about-montessori-and-student-outcomes>

<http://dianeravitch.net/2013/11/03/montessori-teacher-to-john-king-montessori-is-not-about-testing-and-common-core/>

<http://www.guidedstudies.com/2014/02/be-careful-what-you-test-for/>

<http://kut.org/post/why-more-public-schools-are-adopting-montessori-model>

## SEEKING SUCCESSFUL MONTESSORIANS

By Steve Pittman, GOMM PTO President

The Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet PTO would like to highlight students who have benefited from the Montessori program at Garden Oaks. The PTO will interview graduates and publish written and video profiles on its website as examples of the Montessori method leading to greater learning and achievement. If you are a graduate or you would like to nominate your child, please contact PTO President Steve Pittman at [gommptopresident@gmail.com](mailto:gommptopresident@gmail.com).

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Serving Garden Oaks/Oak Forest  
Licensed • Insured • Bonded

**Pool Guard**  
 Making Pools Safe for Kids

We know that your family is the most important thing in the world to you. Tragically, every year, hundreds of families are torn apart by a childhood drowning. In many areas, drowning is the leading cause of accidental death of children under the age of 5 years. Experts agree that the best way to prevent a swimming pool drowning accident is with adult supervision together with a pool safety barrier. We are dedicated to preventing drowning incidents and to maintaining your swimming pool enjoyment.

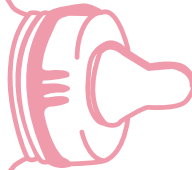


**281-495-8800**

[www.poolguardtexas.com](http://www.poolguardtexas.com) • [www.woodlandspoolguard.com](http://www.woodlandspoolguard.com)

**Precious  
 Baby  
 Protectors**

... In-Home Baby Proofing!



**Child Safety  
 At Home and On the Go**  
 We give you Piece of Mind

**281-438-4670**

***There Is No Such Thing As An Acceptable Accident***

The number one killer of children today is not disease or drugs. It's preventable accidents. 10,400,000 Emergency Room visits by children each year are the result of in-home accidents. Each year 8,000 children are killed and 50,000 permanently disabled by preventable injuries. Nine out of ten accidents are avoidable.

Precious Baby Protectors provides concerned parents with the tools and information necessary to identify hidden dangers in your home, significantly reducing the risk of an avoidable tragedy. Although not a substitute for close parental supervision, our services offer:



Expert room-by-room safety evaluation and a detailed checklist of potential hazards.

Hard to find products such as custom hearth guards, magnetic cabinet latches and toilet lid locks.

Convenient, affordable installation of high quality products by our experienced installers



***You Can't Afford to Experiment with your Child's Safety!***

## 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	\$280.00		
Full-page insert, double-sided	\$325.00		

**Please note:**

1. Placement of ads is subject to the discretion of the editor.
2. Artwork must be e-mailed to [gazette@gardenoaks.org](mailto: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).

Please support our advertisers  
who in turn support  
our neighborhood.



Tell them you saw  
their ad in the Gazette!

**GARDEN OAKS OUTREACH**

A color version of the *Gazette* is published each month on the Garden Oaks website [www.gardenoaks.org/involvement/gazette.html](http://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 2016.**

**Pay online at  
[gardenoaks.org](http://gardenoaks.org)  
or complete the enclosed forms.**

# DECEMBER 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<sup>1</sup> St. Andrews Episcopal Church 1819 Heights Blvd. Preceded by GOMO meeting beginning at 6:30PM.		1  <b>Civic Club Holiday Party<sup>1</sup></b> 7PM @ St. Andrews Episcopal Church 1819 Heights Blvd.	2	3	4 <b>GO Kids Movie Night</b>	5 <b>StRose Holiday Market</b> 10AM-5PM @ StRose  <b>Farmers Market</b> 9AM-1PM 948 Wakefield
6	7	8 <b>Santa at Gazebo Park</b> 6 - 7:30pm	9 <b>Santa at Gazebo Park</b> 6 - 7:30pm	10 <b>GO Garden Club Meeting</b> 7-8:30PM @ Kroger 1352 W. 43rd (Upstairs Conf. Room)	11	12 <b>Farmers-Market</b> 9AM-1PM 948 Wakefield
13	14	15  <b>GOMO Meeting</b> 7PM @ GOPB	16 <b>GOMO Meeting</b> 7PM @ GOPB	17 <b>Heavy Trash Pick-Up (Junk Waste)</b>	18	19 <b>Farmers Market</b> 9AM-1PM 948 Wakefield
20	21	22	23	24	25 <b>Christmas Day</b>	26 <b>Farmers Market</b> 9AM-1PM 948 Wakefield
27	28	29 	30	31 <b>New Years Eve</b>	<b>Acronym/Event Location Key</b> GOMM = Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet School, 901 Sue Barnett SPARK Park = Rick Englert Spark Park, Sue Barnett @ 41st GOMO = Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization	

**DEANNA**  
ZUGHERI  
GARDENOAKSHOMES.COM



"I KNOW GARDEN OAKS AND THE VALUE OF YOUR PROPERTY."

**kw. metropolitan** | **kw. LUXURY HOMES INTERNATIONAL**  
KELLER WILLIAMS REALTY | KELLER WILLIAMS REALTY  
**CLHMS** MILLION DOLLAR GUILD 

**AVAILABLE IN GARDEN OAKS**  
CALL ME FOR A FREE MARKET ANALYSIS OF YOUR HOME.

**JUST LISTED**



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319  
W. 33RD ST



831  
W. 41ST ST

**JUST LISTED**



419 W 31ST ST

978  
GARDENIA  
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