



Garden Oaks Gazette

A publication of the Garden Oaks Civic Club



JANUARY 2016

2016 HOME & GARDEN TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

By Blake Woods, Home Tour Selection Chair

The 2016 Home and Garden Tour committee is pleased to share some highlights of the wonderful homes and gardens for the upcoming tour in April. Over the next few months leading up to our tour we hope to excite everyone by sharing snippets and photos of the tour locations, a few at a time.



1334 Sue Barnett

Sited on a spacious Garden Oaks lot, this newly constructed modern home offers open plan living with a view to the outdoors. A custom Poggenpohl kitchen and a spacious living space overlook a modern swimming pool and lawn. The tall ceilings and large windows take advantage of the views to outdoor spaces. The parental suite, located on the ground floor, was designed "barrier free" for aging in place. The second floor contains the master suite, along with ancillary bedrooms and a media/play room. A crisp, clean color palate with nice accent colors makes this home a must see. *Continued on page 2*

UPCOMING EVENTS

January Civic Club Meeting

Tuesday, January 5

7:00 p.m.

Speaker Alan Rosen, Precinct One
Garden Oaks Montessori
901 Sue Barnett Drive

GOMM Pancake Breakfast

Saturday, February 6

8:00-10:30 a.m.

Garden Oaks Montessori
901 Sue Barnett Drive



SAVE THE DATE

2016 Home and Garden Tour

Sunday, April 24

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407 West 34th Street

An original Garden Oaks home boasts an updated floor plan from the original two bedrooms and one bath. A recent addition has expanded the footprint to consist of an open great room, a modern kitchen, and a master suite. The master suite boasts a custom walk-in closet and overlooks the swimming pool. The home's rich wood tones set the mood for the warm finishes and furnishings.

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 at the phone number or e-mail address 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.

Garden Oaks Gazette

The Garden Oaks Gazette is the official publication of the Garden Oaks Civic Club and is published monthly. The submission deadline is the 15th of each month for publication the following month, unless otherwise noted.

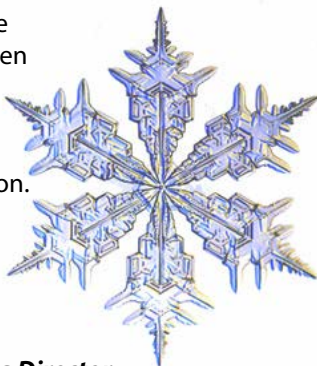
Publication herein of any article not directly related to the Garden Oaks Civic Club does not imply endorsement by the civic club and such article is solely an expression of its author's opinion.

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HEARD UNDER THE OAK TREE

By Terry Jeanes

Welcome, New Neighbors!

Congratulations on joining our community. We look forward to seeing you at a civic club meeting soon.

- 958 Lamonte
- 535 West 30th
- 725 West 30th
- 746 West 42nd
- 1027 West 43rd

Special Welcome to Benjamin

Anthony Busceme born October 24 and congratulations to proud parents **Desiree Guillory** and **Carmen Busceme**.

Happy Birthday

- Garrett L. – 1/3
- Hannah Stender – 1/4
- Katy G. – 1/6
- Mae T. - 1/8
- Phil Ramirez – 1/10
- Patricia Semands– 1/19
- Jennifer Langdon – 1/21
- Lindsay V. – 1/24
- Joe Muscara – 1/30
- Shellye Arnold – 1/30

Happy Anniversary

Bonnie & Rudy Hernandez

Out and About

Sarah Klein could be seen in the performance of "A Christmas Story" at Hobby Center and **Megan Noser** appeared in "13" at HITS.

Margarita Barcena's Annual Wine Swap was a big hit.

Congratulations

To **Shellye Arnold** as being named as one of the Houston Chronicle's Fascinating People of 2015.

Kudos to **Tina Rowe** on her recent retirement from her 26 year career as an air traffic controller.

Thumbs up for Ms. **Kaylee S.** on her

stamina and performance during Texas Childrens Hospital's Peanut Challenge.

Special Thoughts

For **Sandra O'Guynn** and family on the recent loss of Sandra's mother. Thoughts as well for the family of Garden Oaks resident **Julie Gomez** who passed away November 25th. Also for the **Shamblen family** in the loss of their beloved pet, Ellie Mae.

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



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GARDEN OAKS CIVIC CLUB MEETING MINUTES

By Cindy Bartos, Secretary

December 1, 2015

Location: St. Andrew's Episcopal Church,
1819 Heights Blvd

Welcome: President Sheila Briones called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance to the meeting, holiday potluck and constable toy drive. Following the introduction of Tess Jones, Assistant Band Director at Waltrip High School, a holiday selection was performed by members of the Waltrip Ram Band. Recognized in attendance were Harris County Precinct 1 Constable Alan Rosen and Houston City Council Member Ellen Cohen. A motion was made and seconded to approve the November 2015 minutes as they appeared in the *Gazette*. The motion passed.

Nominations Committee: Brenda de Alba, standing in for Chair Teresa Coleman, presented a slate of

candidates for the 2016 Garden Oaks Civic Club Board: President: Sheila Briones; Vice President: Chris Lindsay; Treasurer: Jerry Butler; Secretary: Luke Sustr. The floor was opened for nominations and hearing none, a motion was made and seconded to accept the presented slate by acclamation. The motion passed.

Announcements: President Briones presented a plaque to Cindy Bartos in recognition of her most recent 2 years of service as secretary of the Garden Oaks Civic Club.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Jerry Butler had copies of the Profit and Loss statement, the Balance Sheet and the proposed 2016 Budget available at the meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the 2016 Budget. The motion passed.

Mark Klein introduced Houston City Council Member District C, Ellen Cohen. The civic club presented Council Member Cohen with notecards designed by local artist Kiki Neumann and a plaque as

thanks and appreciation for Ms. Cohen's service, accessibility, and support of the Garden Oaks community.

President Briones presented a check in the amount of \$1000 to Steve Pittman, president of the Garden Oaks PTO, accepting on behalf of the PTO, and a check in the amount of \$1000 to Dr. Pollock, principal Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet accepting on behalf of the school.

Constable Alan Rosen introduced the deputies present and thanked the Garden Oaks community for their support. Chief Harrison specifically thanked Terry Jeanes, chair of the constable program, for her outstanding commitment and work with the constables.

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 and all those present enjoyed the potluck dinner with accompaniment of holiday music provided by members of the Waltrip Ram Band.

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JANUARY CIVIC CLUB SPEAKER: CONSTABLE ALAN ROSEN, PRECINCT ONE

Life-long Houstonian Alan Rosen’s law enforcement experience, business experience, training, and education uniquely qualify him to provide the leadership and management skills needed for the success and growth of the Precinct One Constable’s Office.

First elected in 2012, the constable has spent more than 23 years in local law enforcement, chiefly at the constable’s office and the Harris County Sheriff’s Office. He has worked in street patrol, fugitive warrants, marine patrol, criminal warrants, narcotics and mental health warrants. He also served as a member of the sheriff’s executive command staff.

During his first year in office, Constable Rosen created the first Precinct One Special Response Group, the first Precinct One S.W.A.T.-certified Tactical Response Team and the first Precinct One Game Room and Prostitution Task Force, which has shut down illegal gambling establishments and massage parlors that are often fronts for prostitution and human trafficking organizations. He also assigned the first Precinct One deputy to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration’s anti-drug task force and ensured that all deputies assigned to the Mental Health Special Operations Division are mental health-certified through the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement.



The constable was the recipient of the Acres Home Chamber of Business and Economic Development Inc’s Empowerment Award in Community Politics for 2014 and the Greater Heights Chamber of Commerce’s Government Advocate of the Year award for 2013.

Constable Rosen served or is serving on local civic boards and committees, including the MD Anderson Cancer Center Advance Team board of directors, the Greater Houston Visitors and Convention Bureau board of directors, the Houston Police Department – Citizen Review Committee, the Beth Yeshurun Day School board of directors (development chair), Beth Yeshurun Synagogue (security committee) and the Greater Heights Area Chamber of Commerce board of directors.

He is a Life Member of the 100 Club of Houston, and a Life Member of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. He was awarded the Presidential Volunteerism Award for 2009, 2010 and 2011.

Constable Rosen earned a bachelor of science degree in criminal justice from the University of Houston, graduating with honors. He is deeply committed to keeping families safe, aggressively addressing crime issues and improving the quality of life for all residents of Precinct One. He and his wife and children are proud residents of the precinct.

Child Care Offered at Civic Club Meetings

The Civic Club is pleased to offer members an arrangement with the Foster YMCA to provide child care during civic club meetings. YMCA child care specialists, each trained in first aid and CPR, will care for your children from 6:30-8:30 p.m. (the usual duration of civic club meetings) in an area adjacent to the meeting location for a nominal charge of \$1.00 per child.

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VACANT (2018)

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

CONSTABLE PROGRAM UPDATE

By Terry Jeanes, Program Chair

Thank you to all who contributed generously to the Precinct One Constables' Toy Drive. The Deputies were thrilled with our record breaking contributions which helped aid families in need from Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet.

Welcome to our newest Garden Oaks Patrol Deputy, Alex Palizo, our late night patroller. Deputy Alex is a former Harris County Sheriff Deputy.

REMINDER: JOIN TODAY AND SUPPORT OUR PROGRAM via the form in the Gazette, the recently mailed supporter form, or the link below. Even if you pay via Paypal, please complete and mail in the form.

Constable Program Contribution and Vacation Watch Forms are available at:
www.gardenoaks.org/constable

Sign up for Precinct One Constable Crime Alerts:
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Constable Dispatch
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Garden Oaks Montessori Middle School is hosting a shoe drive!

Funds raised by donated shoes will be used to help our students attend the Montessori Model UN

Our shoe drive will accept any new or gently worn shoes! Shoes will be refurbished or repurposed and sent to third world countries.

You may drop off shoes at the school January 5-March 6.

Garden Oaks
Montessori Magnet
901 Sue Barnett Dr.



GOMO Review Meetings

take place at 6:30 p.m. prior to Civic Club meetings on the first Tuesday and at 7:00 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month.

Meetings are open to anyone interested in attending.

Additional information about the **Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization (GOMO)** is available online at GardenOaks.org. Property owners in Sections 1, 2, 3 and 5 are all members of GOMO.

BEAUTIFICATION UPDATE

By Joanie Harmon, Program Chair

Beautification is ready to begin our quest for the best Home and Garden Tour ever. We have volunteers from Lamonte for the Gazebo Park beds, volunteers for the Rick Englert Spark Park sign area, and the Garden Club will keep up the Friendship Park beds. Thanks to the 6th grade class from GOMM for help with Garden Oaks Blvd.

We still need some volunteers to help with the beds in the Triangle Park and in the Rose Garden. Beautification will deliver plants and mulch for all the beds. It would be nice for volunteers to work the first Saturday each month (2-3 hours) and every thing should start looking our Garden Oaks quality. Knolton Wooten, our regular maintenance contractor, will take care of the majority of the work in each of the areas.



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**CITIZENS' PATROL PROGRAM
UPDATE**

By Carl Waters, Jr., Program Chair

Happy New Year Neighbors!

If you are looking for a volunteer activity to complete your New Year's resolution, please consider joining the Citizens' Patrol Program. Volunteers must be Garden Oaks residents 18 years of age or older. Additionally, you must be able to pass a criminal history check and attend a one-hour training provided by the Houston Police Department to participate in the program.

November Crime Statistics (6)

Aggravated Assault (1)

3900 Block of N. Shepherd Drive on Monday, November 9 at 2:41 a.m. (strip center).

Burglary (2)

3900 block of N. Shepherd Drive on Friday, November 6 at 6:00 p.m. (commercial center).

3100 block of N. Shepherd Drive on Wednesday, November 17 at 5:00 p.m. (restaurant).

Theft (3)

200 block of W. 30TH Street on Monday, November 2 at 6:16 p.m. (residence).

200 block of North Loop West on Sunday, November 8 at 5:46 p.m. (gas station).

3200 block of Randall on Wednesday, November 11 at 7:30 a.m. (residence).

Inquiries about joining the Citizens' Patrol Program or other community safety issues may be directed to me via the neighborhood website (GardenOaks.org), the Citizens' Patrol email account (GOCOP77018@AOL.COM) or by phone at 713-864-1992.

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MICKEY'S MINUTE

By Mickey Morales

Well here we are staring down the barrel of a whole new year. What to do? What to do? I know, I know, everyone says that this is the time to make your resolutions. I'm not particularly fond of the idea. I prefer to make changes in what I'm doing, just a little tweak here and there, with the hope of making my life and how I carry it out a little better. I also find that most people's resolutions are made in too bold of strokes that are not really achievable and are quickly abandoned. However, I'm only speaking for my self; other folks are free to do what works best for them.

Meanwhile at the market I have already started making some minor changes in my booth, like adding a soup of the week to the line up. The featured soup will vary depending on what's available and in the freezer and pantry from previous harvests at the farm. You can be sure that a lot of what I make each week will

center around pumpkin, not the jack o' lantern kind, but the wild hard varieties that sprung up from last years "bring us your pumpkin drive", which has been a boon to us this past year - thank you very much.

Another change I'd like to make is doing more pop up dinners at the market, both major and minor. In years past I have stolen time off from the farm to work the rodeo for some friends, but the problem is that my stolen time usually coincides with the best time for getting major things done around the farm or even hosting a farm dinner and tour before the weather becomes too disagreeable.

So, in light of such thinking and coinciding with our third year anniversary at the end of this month (yea us!!) I would like to do a real sit down dinner at The Farmstand but well after regular market hours, say around three pm. The celebration would include a cocktail hour and a three course seated dinner, weather

permitting of course. Stay tuned to our Facebook page or just ask for more details while you're shopping with us.

By the way, Farmer Cathy and I were witness to some piggy twerking going on between Arnold, the Christmas pig, and his main squeeze, Violet, around the first of December. We should have piglets by the end of March and pig shares available about June or maybe sooner. I'm new at this so please bear with us, as we discover the mysteries of raising a new breed of animal.

As always, "Come soon, come often and have a bowl of soup."

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2016 HOME AND GARDEN VIP TOUR, DINNER & AUCTION
'MI CASA ES SU CASA'
Saturday, April 23, 2016
By Tina Rowe, Home Tour VIP Party Chair

The 2016 Garden Oaks Home & Garden Tour will kick off Saturday, April 23rd with a casual, self-guided tour of the homes and gardens featured this year. One of the fun benefits of attending the VIP Dinner & Auction is the opportunity to preview the homes and gardens at leisure, visiting with the homeowners, generous sponsors and tireless volunteers who make this event possible! The homes and gardens will be held open for VIPs and tour volunteers from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Saturday evening, April 23rd.

The VIP Dinner & Auction, 'MI

CASA ES SU CASA', then continues at Whitney Oaks Hall, 816 E. Whitney, from 7:30 until 10:30 p.m. that same evening. Ticket prices include dinner, music, dancing, and two drink tickets for wine or beer. Set-ups will be available for attendees who wish to bring their own bottles of hard liquor.

- Two VIP reserved tables of 16 are available with two premium liquors for \$1500 (vodka, scotch, or bourbon up to \$35)
- VIP reserved tables of eight are available including one premium liquor \$800 (vodka, scotch, or bourbon up to \$35)
- VIP reserved table of 8 are available for \$700 (BYOB liquor)

- Individual tickets are \$75 per person.

Come ready to party!

Silent auction items will be available for viewing and bidding throughout dinner and will benefit Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet. As always, our guests of honor, the tour locations' owners and sponsors, will be introduced to all in attendance. It will be a great opportunity to meet those who so generously step up to help make Garden Oaks this city's best-kept and greenest secret!

Tickets will be limited so buy yours before they disappear. Additional information on when and how to buy tickets will be available closer to April

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Garden Oaks 2016 Home & Garden Tour

2016 HOME & GARDEN TOUR MOMENTUM BUILDING

By Brenda de Alba

Please don't forget to put Sunday, April 24th, 2016 on your calendar so you will not miss the opportunity to tour 6 great homes, 2 unique gardens, and the grounds of Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet school. The tour locations are listed below:

Homes:

- 323 W. 32nd St. (remodel)
- 407 W. 34th St. (remodel)
- 858 W. 42nd St. (remodel)
- 851 W. 43rd (remodel)
- 1030 Gardenia (new construction)
- 737 Sue Barnett (new construction)

Gardens:

- 737 Sue Barnett
- 901 Sue Barnett (Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet)
- 4407 Alba Rd. (GO/Shepherd Park Plaza Community Garden)

A new underwriting/sponsorship format was unveiled in December and the following sponsors have already stepped forward to lend their support.

Platinum Sponsor - \$2500

Deanna Zugheri with Metropolitan, Keller Williams Realty is our first Platinum sponsor this year and this will be Deanna's 7th tour sponsorship.

Gold Sponsor - \$1000

Shipley Donuts is our first Gold sponsor and their 2nd tour sponsorship.

Silver Sponsors - \$500

Oak Forest Veterinary Hospital is a returning sponsor and this is their 2nd year.

BB&T (Branch Banking & Trust) on Mangum has stepped forward as a new sponsor this year.

Bronze Sponsors - \$250

Ace Tree Specialist is a returning sponsor and this is their 3rd year. Diane Morish of Merle Norman Cosmetics & Gift Boutique is another returning sponsor and this is her 2nd year.

The Bell Tower on 34th is our last returning sponsor to date and this is their 2nd year.

Who will be our next sponsor?

There is a wide range of underwriting levels starting from \$250 all the way up to \$10,000. **If you own or work for a business that wants to see their donation dollars stay in the community, this is your opportunity!**

Without sponsors, our Civic Club would not be able to hold the tour, and the tour proceeds fund needed neighborhood projects, help keep our Civic Club sponsored Constable Patrol Program solvent, and support our area schools.

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A GARDEN OAKS TRADITION CONTINUES - - “GAZEBO” SANTA WELCOMED BY HUNDREDS

Santa took time off from his busy schedule to visit the families of Garden Oaks once again this year. On December 8th and 9th, Santa set up shop in the festively decorated Gazebo Park. Hundreds of neighbors, including several furry ones, visited Santa, Mrs. Claus and their merry elves. Amongst a flurry of “Houston Snow” (aka billions of bubbles that the magical elves provided us with) guests nibbled on cookies and candy canes. As they waited to see “the man of the hour,” all were invited to visit with Mrs. Claus who delighted children young and old by guessing their names and ages! Christmas magic must have been in the air, because her guessing was extraordinarily accurate this year!! After visiting with Mrs. Claus, each family was welcomed up into the twinkling gazebo to sit upon Santa’s lap and chat with him about their Christmas wishes! Santa and his wife were even treated to some art work and goodies made especially for them!

A special thanks goes out to Terry Jeanes, Georgia Lister and Tina Sabuco for sponsoring this merry event; Marley Dwiggin and Taylor Crownover for their effervescent elfing; bakers who baked delicious cookies to share; helpers who decorated our winter wonderland which helped set the scene for the hundreds of photos taken over the 2 nights; and to everyone who brought toys for the Constables’ toy drive to help neighborhood children in need. But, most especially, thanks to Patrick Kelley for making his annual “special appearance.” Ho Ho Ho until next December!

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Pancake Breakfast

22nd Annual

**Pancake Breakfast
& Silent Auction**

Feb 6, 2016

8:00-10:30am

Join us for **FREE Pancakes**,
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901 Sue Barnett Dr, Houston, TX 77018

Entertainment will include:

- DJ
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- Waltrip Jazz Band
- Waltrip Cheerleaders
- Face Painting
- Children's Activity

GARDEN OAKS' CAROLINE STENDER MAKES THINGS GROW IN THE COMMUNITY GARDEN

By *August Galiano*

The other day we noticed Caroline Stender working in the Community Garden on Alba - with a big smile on her face. And so the question came up: why does she seem to be so happy? We asked her and here's what she said:

My Dad, who became a nurseryman and master gardener as a second career in his mid-fifties, fostered my love of plants and interest in gardening. We spent time identifying and discussing flowers, plants and trees, and he helped me landscape my yard. There is something deeply satisfying about watching nature unfold to create something so delicious and beautiful.

It's difficult narrowing down what I like most about working in the garden, so I'll hit the highlights ... our knowledgeable, dedicated, kind-hearted, warm, Master Gardener Beth Galiano is the mainstay of the garden and the inspiration that binds the volunteers together. Her joy of nurturing plants and colorful flowers is rather infectious. She has helped create a sense of community, and a way of giving back to the community by donating the proceeds to local food pantries.

I love the outdoors and enjoy being part of the entire growing process, from planting to harvesting (and of course sampling) the fruits of our labor.

The garden is directly behind my house. It was in fact, one major attraction when deciding to buy our home on Sue Barnett. I've been aware of the garden since I first

moved here 22 years ago. I became involved in working in the garden about 15 years ago when a neighbor who was already volunteering her time there invited me to join her. At the time, there were just three or four of us there on a regular basis, and that is when I began learning about the entire process of organic gardening

I didn't have any previous experience growing edibles, just experience in decorative gardening. Gardening in the community garden is much like decorative landscaping...sometimes it takes trial and error to see what grows well in what area.

Sometimes people ask me if I have a favorite specific job in the garden and why do I like it most? Well, other than harvesting the vegetables (which means we get to sample them), I would say my favorite job in the garden is watering. During the watering process, one visits each plant in the garden, and provides it with one element it needs to sustain life and flourish.

As is the case with any garden, I help weed, plant, water, prepare and rotate soil for planting, and cover beds between seasons. And, of

course one of our biggest problems is all the pests, pests and pests! They come in the form of insects and small furry creatures that are all too happy to feast on the garden's delicious offerings.

This fall's challenge has been squirrels, which have ravaged the broccoli and kale with a vengeance the likes of which we have not seen before. We've given up on growing corn, because just as the corn is ready for harvest some four-legged creatures devour the entire crop overnight. Dealing with garden pests organically and humanely is challenging as well. Keeping the garden watered during drought requires careful monitoring, and gauging when to plant the tomatoes plants in the spring (which Beth so lovingly starts at home) after the last frost can get tricky.

I was asked if I have any suggestions for other gardeners? Here is what I would I would advise: Be patient and attentive - it will be worth it!"

If you are interested in participating in the Community Garden, contact August or Beth Galiano at [713-682-0920](tel:713-682-0920) or aeg3479@gmail.com.



HOME TOUR AUCTION WILL BENEFIT GOMM

By Heidi Lozano, Home Tour Auction Chair

The Tour Auction is another fun aspect of the 2016 Garden Oaks Home & Garden Tour. This year's auction will be chaired and staffed by the Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet Middle School with proceeds benefitting the Middle School's needs such as the Montessori Model United Nations Conference (2017), classroom materials and end of year celebration. There will be both silent and live auctions to be held during the VIP Tour, Dinner &

Auction on Saturday night, April 23rd, 2016.

Our donors are local businesses and individuals who contribute items or services as a way of supporting the Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet school community. We offer our warmest thanks and appreciation to all our auction donors for supporting this event.

Donors to the silent and live auctions receive numerous benefits in return for their participation and support. Anyone interested in becoming a donor may submit contact information and details about your

contribution through the flyer in this *Gazette*.

Have fun and happy bidding!

Heidi Lozano (GOMM Middle School), Co-Chair
2016 Garden Oaks Home and Garden Tour Auction
Email: GOHT.Auction2016@gmail.com



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MONTESSORI HIGH SCHOOL OVERVIEW

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

Thanks to the efforts of the Friends of Montessori, plans for the first HISD Montessori high school program are coming to fruition! The most recent copy of the **Leader** featured a front page article about the plan to initiate the program on the campus of Waltrip High School. Principal Mitchell is excited about the program and is dedicated to supporting the Montessori high school! Thanks to the combined efforts of parents and the staffs of both Wilson and Garden Oaks Montessori programs, we are working to ensure this educational opportunity is available to ALL students next year!

The program will be a concentration option on the campus and not a magnet program for the first year. Students will need to apply to the program with students from the existing PK – 8 Montessori programs receiving priority. Additionally, students with private Montessori experience are encouraged to apply. There will also be spaces for students without Montessori experience. These students must demonstrate a willingness to work independently and with others and be recommended by their teachers and parents.

Why start a Montessori high school strand? At the current time, 95% of Montessori students who are zoned to Waltrip transfer to another high school option. This results in a decrease in

enrollment at the neighborhood school which impacts the school budget negatively. Additionally, Montessori is growing on the existing PK-8 campuses and a transition to a Montessori high school setting would create a complete path through the Montessori curriculum.

The design of a Montessori high school program integrates current research in human development, best practices in education, and the Montessori philosophy. The goal is to provide opportunities for adolescents to be self-confident and gain self-knowledge, to belong to a community, to learn to be adaptable, to be academically competent and challenged, and to create a vision for their personal future.

Montessori observed that children moving into and through adolescence are focused on the developmental aspects of social, physical and emotional tasks as they are more concerned with the social interactions of their lives instead of academic or “work” tasks. She attributed this change in focus to the radical physical changes they are encountering through floods of hormones and growth spurts create physical challenges! Not only is the child’s physical center of balance changing, the emotional and social expectations for young adults shift dramatically. These changes coupled with the adolescent’s competing need for independence and need for support make adolescence a trying time for both child and parent! Montessori high school programs support this transition through adolescence with an emphasis on real life experiences such as community service and “externships”. Externships allow students to

shadow professionals in the work setting to develop and awareness and connection to Individual career aspirations.

Montessori middle school is structured to support students in their process of self-construction. As adolescents move toward adulthood, they work to identify their roles in society. A Montessori high school program will support students in gaining a complete understanding of themselves and their communities as they work to complete their peace studies and prepare to make a positive difference in the world.

Typically, a Montessori adolescent school day is divided into two kinds of work: individual work and group work. Individual work is designed to make a match between the skills, abilities, and interests of each student, and there are work choices in every academic area to be completed alone or in small, self-chosen groups. Individual work is assessed with written or oral mastery tests.

Group work is done in teams, which remain in place for that work cycle and are reconfigured each time. These groups work



together on academic tasks in the thematic units, which integrate all subject areas. Assessment includes individual written tests, group presentations, and self-assessments of the group process.

Mastery learning is another nuance of the program. It is a form of personalized learning that gives students the necessary time to master particular skills before progressing to the next level of work. The student takes on the responsibility of learning new information versus merely accepting a low grade and moving on to the next subject. The teacher's task is to break down the learning steps, offering suggestions for internalizing the knowledge, and providing the time necessary to learn the information. According to research, the advantage of mastery learning is that it offers clear expectations,

fosters mastery of a unit of study, is not competitive, and encourages student responsibility. Additionally, students in a Montessori program on a comprehensive campus will make friends with students outside their strand of study and participate in electives aligned to their focus of study. To read more, go to <http://wmpcs.org/Montessorihighschool.pdf>.

Parents of younger children may prepare themselves and their children for these changes by developing trusting relationships, creating systems at home for regular creating systems at home for regular family meetings, involving children in discussions around household matters including chores/responsibilities and maintaining regular schedules for homework, bedtimes and expectations around technology.

Emergency Numbers

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All Other City Services **311**




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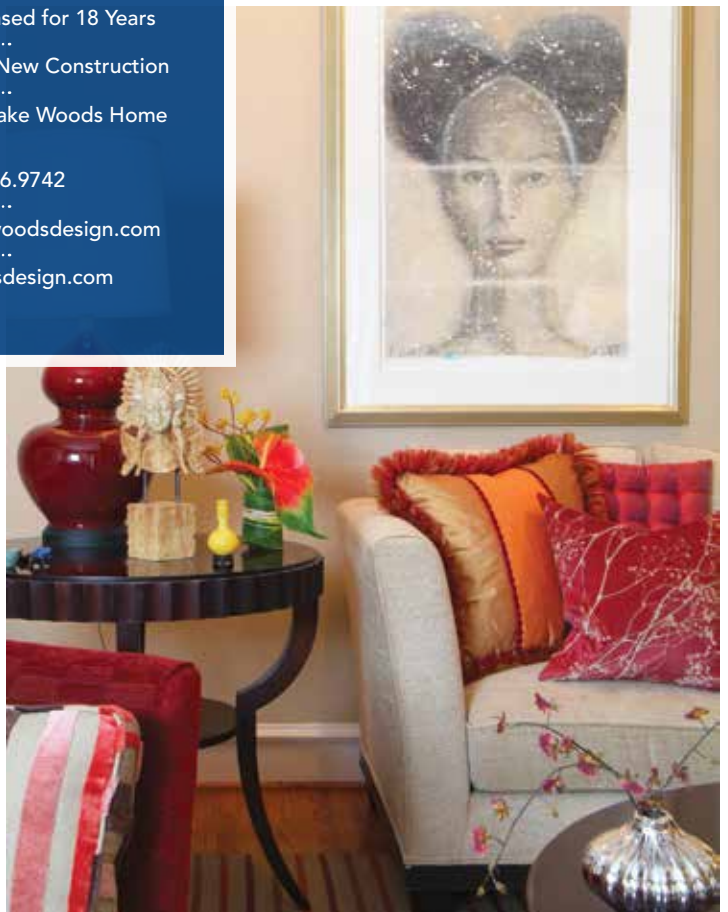
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HABITAT GARDENING TIPS FOR 2016

By Kim Ellis

After the holiday hustle, January is a great time to start planning our gardens and yards for 2016. The fluctuating Houston weather provides us both days suited for indoor and outdoor activities. Days inside can be used looking over the new seed catalogs that have arrived in the mail, and planning out any changes you'd like to make in your gardens. If you see areas of your lawn or beds that are not responding to their location, consider changing the use for that area during your garden planning. A too shady piece of sad looking lawn can become a beautiful bed of shade loving perennials.

If you already have seeds, cold season seeds can continue to go into the garden immediately for a late spring harvest. Warm season seeds can be started inside in anticipation for when the outside temperatures allow them to be put into the ground. Outside days can be spent pruning back dead growth, preparing new beds and amending soil in existing beds. These milder days also allow us to visit our local, independent garden centers and look for leftover spring bulbs or bare-root fruit trees that you can put into the garden immediately. Summer and fall bulbs can also be planted in January, and you will be rewarded later in the year. You can continue to plant cool season annuals in your bed, remembering to add organic material when planting to encourage additional flowering. Groundcover and woody vines should be planted as soon as possible, and before the end of winter, to allow the plants time to establish before the heat of the summer. Bare-root roses, ornamental/fruit/berry bearing

trees, and perennial shrubs can also be planted at this time as they are most likely dormant, and will suffer the least amount of shock. If not dormant, the need for sunlight and water is still low enough to allow these transplants to flourish. Perennials started from seed can be brought outside to harden up before being put into the yard in the spring. Some sustainable gardening tips for January include:

- leave dead growth on perennial ends until late spring, if you can stand the look
- water only during the initial transplant, and then only as needed
- use fallen leaves as mulch for your beds
- add natural fertilizer, like compost, to enhance your soils
- cover plants as needed when frost is coming

Plant of the Month

Yaupon Holly (*Ilex vomitoria*) is a large evergreen shrub or small tree, usually no taller than 25', occurring widely from central Texas east to southern Virginia and Florida. Loved for its evergreen leaves and bright red fruit in late fall and winter, the ornamental twigs are used as holiday decorations and make cheerful accents in the winter landscape. Yaupon is slow-growing and tends to get thick and twiggy on the inside, making it ideal for dense hedges, but requires careful pruning to shape it into a tree. It is very adaptable and can grow in sun or shade and tolerates poor drainage as well as drought. Various cultivars are available in nurseries, including dwarf and weeping varieties. You must have both a male and female plant to have berries, but most nursery plants are typically

female (fruiting) and are propagated by cuttings. The red berries are very important as a winter food source for birds, and it serves as the larval host plant for the Henry's Elfin butterfly. It is moderately deer resistant.

Sources: Month-by-Month Gardening Texas by Skip Richter, Doug Welsh's Texas Garden Almanac, and the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center website



Kim Ellis

Wildscape Garden Consultant
and Garden Oaks resident
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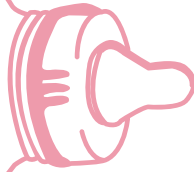


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AIR CONDITIONING TIPS FOR THE WINTER

By Mitch Weigand

Ready to Replace Your Furnace? Part One

If your furnace is 10 years old or older, you definitely need to get it inspected yearly and should consider replacing it. An old furnace can develop cracks in its heat exchanger which emit deadly carbon monoxide throughout your home. Energy-wise, old furnaces are very inefficient and waste your money with high utility bills. That's the bad news.

Now for some good news. New energy efficient furnaces are equipped with an electronically commutated motor (ECM). You can save serious money on your utility bills plus increase your indoor air quality and comfort.

The three components to a furnace with an ECM

(1) Energy Efficiency - Furnaces are rated using the Annual Fuel

Utilization Efficiency (AFUE). It measures the overall performance of the furnace in terms of fuel efficiency. Because of Houston's mild climate, we don't use our furnaces that much. However, it makes sense to buy an energy efficient furnace equipped with an ECM.

(2) Multi-Stage Firing - Unlike a furnace with one speed where your furnace is either on or off, a furnace with multi-stage firing can selectively turn some burners off when they're not needed. This increases energy efficiency because the furnace is not running at full capacity. In addition, the multi-stage firing gives the furnace the capacity to better meet the needs of your home's indoor space and allows the temperature to recover quickly.

Most of the time, a multi-stage furnace operates in a lower stage, delivering a gentle yet steady flow of heated air. Energy is saved because the burner flame is smaller and the blower fan runs at a slower speed. However, when the weather turns

really cold, the furnace automatically shifts into a higher stage, providing the extra heat needed to keep the home at the desired comfort level.

(3) Electronically Commutated Motor (ECM) - Multi-stage furnaces are usually equipped with an ECM fan that adjusts the speed of the fan to maintain optimal airflow. Sometimes called a variable speed fan, an ECM fan uses substantially less power and can consistently produce airflow over a wider range of temperatures for both heating and cooling.

Another advantage is less on-off cycling which reduces wear and tear on components. Also, with the furnace running for longer periods of time, more air is passing through the filter, helping improve indoor air quality at the same time.

Part Two will be in next month's issue.

Mitch Weigand is the owner of Air Wise™.

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Air Wise owner Mitch Weigand



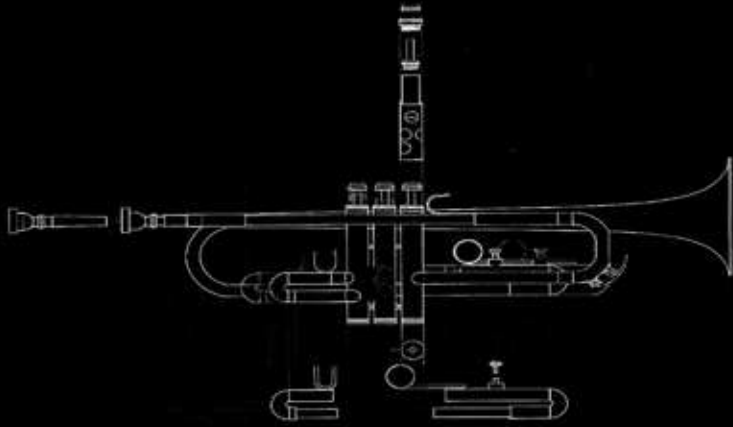
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Please note:

1. Placement of ads is subject to the discretion of the editor.
2. Artwork must be e-mailed to gazette@gardenoaks.org by the 15th of each month for publication the following month.
3. Artwork may be submitted in one of the following formats: **JPEG** (.jpg), **PDF** (.pdf), **GIF** (.gif) or **TIF** (.tif).

| Size | Single | Six Months | Twelve Months |
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| 2 1/4 W x 2 3/8 H | \$60.00 | \$300.00 | \$580.00 |
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GARDEN OAKS

TREE WASTE AND JUNK WASTE PROGRAM

Heavy Trash for all sections of Garden Oaks is on the third Thursday of each month.

Residents may dispose of their Tree Waste and Junk Waste at their streetside/curbside. Tree Waste is collected during ODD numbered months and Junk Waste is collected during EVEN numbered months. This method of collecting large waste comes with the benefits of diverting materials that can be recycled from landfills, saving landfill space and valuable tax dollars.

Tree Waste

“Tree Waste” is defined as “clean” wood waste such as tree limbs, branches, and stumps. Lumber, furniture, and treated wood will NOT be accepted.

Junk Waste may NOT be placed for collection during a Tree Waste month.

Tree Waste months are **January, March, May, July, September, and November.**

Junk Waste

“Junk Waste” is defined as items such as furniture, appliances, and other bulky material.

Tree Waste is accepted during Junk Waste Months; however, to ensure your Tree Waste is recycled, you may hold your tree waste materials until the next Tree Waste designated month or take it to a Neighborhood Depository/Recycling Center.

Junk Waste months are **February, April, June, August, October and December.**

Source: City of Houston website

JANUARY 2016

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|--|---|---|---|--------------------------------|--|
| | | | | | 1 New Year's Day | 2 Farmers Market 9AM-1PM 948 Wakefield |
| 3 | | 5 Civic Club Meeting¹ 7PM @ GOMM | | | | 9 Farmers Market (GF) 9AM-1PM 948 Wakefield |
| 10 | | | | | | 16 Farmers Market 9AM-1PM 948 Wakefield |
| | 18 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day | 19 Trash & Recycling Picked Up Wednesday due to MLK Holiday | 20 GOMO Meeting 7PM @ GOPB | 21 Heavy Trash Pick-Up (Tree Waste) | | 23 Farmers Market (GF) 9AM-1PM 948 Wakefield |
| 24/31 | | | | | | 30 Farmers Market 9AM-1PM 948 Wakefield |

¹ Preceded by GOMO meeting beginning at 6:30PM.
² Mention GOMM with order and Becks Prime will donate 15% of your purchase price to the school.
Acronym Key
 GOMM = Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet School, 901 Sue Barnett
 GOMO = Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization
 GOPB = Garden Oaks Professional Building, 4001 N. Shepherd, Suite 216
 GF = Gluten-free
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