



Garden Oaks Gazette

A publication of the Garden Oaks Civic Club

2016 HOME & GARDEN TOUR FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTED HOME



Photo courtesy of Miro Dvoscak

1030 Gardenia

This month's highlighted home that will be featured in the 2016 Garden Oaks Home & Garden Tour is situated on an expansive double lot. The Asian-inspired look of this newly constructed home is also influenced by the architecture of the Pacific Northwest. Low-pitched roofs anchor the house and exaggerated eaves help control sunlight and indoor temperatures, which are also regulated by geothermal heating and cooling systems. The unique burnt cedar siding was treated using a traditional Japanese technique, shou sugi ban, in lieu of stain. Large and thoughtfully placed windows unify the home's interior with the surrounding landscape. The family spaces are open, bright, and rich with detail and the private spaces are peaceful retreats. Prior to construction, the original buildings there were deconstructed by Habitat for Humanity, and 80% of the original landscaping was preserved for reuse. This home is a wonderfully warm and welcoming example of modern living that you will not want to miss on this year's Home Tour!

FEBRUARY 2016

UPCOMING EVENTS

February Civic Club Meeting

Tuesday, February 2
7:00 p.m.
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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**GARDEN OAKS MONTESSORI
HISD BOND COMMUNITY MEETING
TO BE HELD FEBRUARY 2**

By Sheila Briones, Garden Oaks Civic Club President

You are invited to attend a Houston Independent School District (HISD) Bond Community Meeting for Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet School (GOMM) in the school cafeteria at 901 Sue Barnett on **Tuesday, February 2 at 7:00 p.m.** Please come and hear from the architect and project manager on current design plans and get an update on the project status.

As part of HISD's \$1.89 billion bond program, Garden Oaks Montessori will receive a new \$26.6 million addition and general renovations of the existing facilities designed



to accommodate 750 to 900 students. The design plans feature both new and renovated classroom spaces, a new multipurpose gymnasium, and a new secure main entrance. Additional parking and separate bus and parent drop-off driveways, as well as upgraded electrical, mechanical, and plumbing systems are also included in the scope of work.

The school will feature flexible, child-centered learning spaces that will accommodate diverse learning styles with integrated technology. The project team aims to retain most of the green space and trees that are important to the school and incorporate outdoor learning centers. The school is currently in the design phase, which will continue in 2016. Construction is expected to begin later this year and take about 18 months to complete.

We hope you can make plans to attend this important community meeting. Immediately following the community meeting, the regular business meeting of the Garden Oaks Civic Club meeting will convene.

More information on the Garden Oaks project or any HISD building program can be found at www.BuildHISD.org.

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** 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.

Many Thanks!

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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| Chris Lindsay
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713-819-8412
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| Luke Sustr
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Standing Committee Chairs

- | | |
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| Joan Harmon
827 Lamonte | Beautification
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733 West 42nd | Membership
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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.

- 4129 Apollo 208 West 34th
- 978 Gardenia 415 West 34th
- 1034 Lamonte 432 West 34th
- 1321 Sue Barnett 726 West 38th
- 1563 Sue Barnett 979 West 41st
- 310 West 31st 1039 West 41st



Terry Jeanes
Your Neighbor & Area Specialist



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Happy Birthday

- Ann Best 2/2
- Georgia Lister 2/5
- Tonya Knauth 2/9
- Alisha Cunningham..... 2/12
- Lela C. 2/12
- Jude J. 2/13
- Brenda de Alba 2/17
- Terry Williams 2/17
- M'lissa Dilley 2/22
- Grady S..... 2/22
- Maya Rahman 2/23
- Elan Britt 2/28
- Shannon King 2/28
- Eddie Battenfield

Belated Birthday Wishes

- Maeve M.....1/5
- Diane Heath.....1/9
- Erick Martin1/24
- Owen H.....1/30
- Caroline C.1/31

Happy Anniversary

- Will & Deanna Zugheri 2/23

Belated Anniversary Wishes

- Alice & Mark Sarmiento1/30

Out and About

The **Roberts** family enjoyed Marfa, Texas. The **Greenslates** had a fabulous trip to Rome and much of Italy. **Carl Waters** and **Leslie Ryan** celebrated in Vegas. The **Salches** enjoyed the San Antonio Riverwalk and a special dedication day of their Grandpaw Barrett into the National Museum of the Pacific War in Fredricksburg. The **Espeseths** enjoyed a trip to Washington state, spending time in Olympia, Seattle, and Crystal Mountain. The **Ramirez** family spent some time in Belize. The **Nossa** family spent the holidays in Dubai and South Africa. **Tina Sabuco** and **Shellye Arnold** enjoyed a hill country Christmas in Spicewood. The **McLeans** spent Christmas in Scotland and also celebrated dad's 80th birthday. The **Theriotics** visited Disney.

Healing Wishes

To **Gale Gorman** as he recovers from foot surgery, and to **Pam Parks**, who's recovering from eye surgery.

Special Thoughts

To the **Roberts** family in the loss of their pet, Shirley Girlie.

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 Brenda de Alba

January 5, 2016

Location: Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet School (GOMM), 901 Sue Barnett

Welcome: President Sheila Briones called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance.

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

Announcements: Ms. Briones announced that the Garden Oaks Civic Club (GOCC) and Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization (GOMO) websites would be merged and redesigned. A committee consisting of Pam Parks, Joe Muscara, Brenda de Alba, Dian Austin, and Ms. Briones has been formed to oversee the effort.

Ms. Parks, in her capacity as Office Manager for GOMO, presented the Civic Club with a \$3000 sponsorship check for the 2016 Garden Oaks Home and Garden Tour.

Ms. Briones introduced the following political candidates seeking nominations in the upcoming March 1 Democratic primary. The candidates gave brief summaries of their backgrounds and reasons for running.

- Jarvis Johnson – running for the Texas House of Representatives, District 139 (Sylvester Turner’s vacated seat).
- Eric William Carter – running for Justice of the Peace, Harris County Precinct 1, Place 1 (seat being vacated by retiring JP Dale Gorczynski).
- Kristen Hawkins – running for Judge of the 11th District Court, Harris County.
- Kim Ogg – running for Harris County District Attorney.

Treasurer’s Report: Treasurer Jerry Butler reported on the Civic Club’s current finances and had copies of the Profit and Loss statement and the Balance Sheet available at the meeting.

Speaker: Terry Jeanes introduced Precinct 1 Constable Alan Rosen. Constable Rosen encouraged residents to sign up for the text and email crime alerts issued by his office pertaining to Garden Oaks and Shepherd Park Plaza. Since taking office, Constable Rosen has grown his staff by one-third and has still been able to implement savings efficiencies of approximately \$1.8 million. He introduced his Community Outreach Liaison, Erica Davis, who was in attendance. Constable Rosen answered questions regarding the recently enacted “open-carry” law that took effect in Texas on January 1.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership: Dian Austin reported that there are currently 208 members who have paid their 2016 dues. A new \$100 Community Household level was introduced this year which includes two tickets to the April Home and Garden Tour. The winner of the raffle drawing was Chris Lindsay, who won a Miller's Café gift certificate. Constable Rosen also offered a "Ride-Along" and the winner was Lisa Capfer.

Garden Oaks Citizens' Patrol: Committee Chair Carl Waters, Jr. reported on recent crimes in and around the neighborhood. The program currently has 10 patrollers, 6 of whom are active each month.

Gazette: The Editor position is vacant; anyone interested in helping is encouraged to contact President Briones.

Garden Oaks Website: Committee Chair Joe Muscara had no report.

Beautification: Committee Chair Joan Harmon was not in attendance.

Constable Program: Program Chair Terry Jeanes reported an increase in neighborhood door-to-door solicitations and encouraged residents to call Constable Dispatch to report them.

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

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

Home Tour: Brenda de Alba reported that, with the GOMO donation, committed tour sponsorships totaled \$10,000. She asked residents for assistance to solicit underwriting help from businesses they frequent.

Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet School: Principal Lindsey Pollock announced that attendance at GOMM is currently 770 students, with an increase to 800 projected

for the 2016-2017 school year. She announced that the first phase of the application process for the 2016-2017 school year had ended. The 2016 Pancake Breakfast and Auction will be held Saturday, February 6 from 8:00-10:30 a.m. and all are welcome. A second community meeting is being scheduled in February to provide more information about the progress of the HISD Bond rebuild project for GOMM.

OTHER BUSINESS

Brenda de Alba, a member of the GOMM Project Advisory Team (PAT) for the bond rebuild project, spoke to those in attendance about some important and troubling developments the PAT learned about in December, just seven months before construction is scheduled to start.

The PAT was formed and met for the first time in May 2013, and is composed of Dr. Pollock, GOMM teachers, students' parents, and community representatives. Its role included creating the educational specifications, prioritizing the rebuilding needs, advising the HISD-assigned architectural firm on what they wanted, and working with the HISD-assigned project management firm to accomplish the re-build project. The PAT's primary focus of the rebuild has always been to create more and better- utilized Montessori-designed classroom space for students on the campus while keeping a watchful eye on project costs.

In October, the PAT learned from the HISD-assigned Project Manager that HISD management was overriding some of the priority decisions and disregarding the educational specifications that had been established over two years earlier. These decisions will cost the project more than \$2 million and will result in zero dollars being applied to the classroom building currently housing the Lower Elementary students (Grades 1-3). Many of the HISD management decisions have

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.

no bearing on the goal of creating a Montessori-philosophy campus at GOMM. The PAT is concerned that further progress in this direction will not support the best learning environment nor be good stewardship of tax dollars allocated for this community school.

Ms. de Alba, along with another PAT member, Shana Tatum, urged those in attendance to make it a priority to attend the Bond Rebuild Community update meeting on February 2 from 7:00-8:00 p.m. in the GOMM cafeteria to ask questions and express their concerns about the project's recent turn of events.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

GOMO Board of Directors

In 2015, The Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization (GOMO):

SECTION 1

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

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

Mark Saranie (2018)
713-724-1271
mark.saranie@gardenoaks.org

Reviewed a total of 55 Plan Proposals for 45 Projects.

- 30 were approved at first review
- 11 were approved on review after revision (1 originally 2014)
- 1 was denied and not resubmitted
- 3 were informally reviewed and not submitted

Reviewed a total of 28 Member-Reported Deed Restriction Violations.

- 12 were determined not to be violations
- 10 were removed by homeowners at GOMO's request
- 3 are pending removal; homeowners have agreed to correct
- 2 were deemed unenforceable due to case law on "right of repair"
- 1 is awaiting attorney opinion

Began and settled litigation resulting in collection of an unpaid Transfer Fee. Two cases begun prior to 2015 remain in progress.

SECTION 2

Ed de Alba (2016)
713-459-4954
ed.dealba@gardenoaks.org

Lori Kennedy (2017)
713-691-6833
lori.kennedy@gardenoaks.org

Rafael Pina (2018)
713-614-6533
rafael.pina@gardenoaks.org

Fiscal Year (11/1/2014-10/30/2015) Financials:

Gross Income	\$289,039.78
Expenses	\$249,125.23

The top 4 expenditures were:

Constable	\$152,266	61%
Legal & Professional	48,729	20%
GOCC Beautification	20,000	8%
Rent	10,400	4%
Total	\$231,395	92%

SECTION 3

Kathy Silver (2016)
713-668-8781
kathy.silver@gardenoaks.org

Vidal Martinez (2017)
713-705-1310
vidal.martinez@gardenoaks.org

Dea Larson (2018)
713-695-3634
dea.larson@gardenoaks.org

Garden Oaks is a deed-restricted community of 1400 homes. The Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization is entrusted by homeowners and property owners (members) of Sections 1, 2, 3 and 5 to ensure compliance to deed restrictions. The directors of GOMO are member-elected volunteers.

GOMO news, director and office contact information, and meeting times and locations are published monthly in the Garden Oaks *Gazette*, delivered by volunteers to all homes in Garden Oaks.

At our website, gardenoaks.org/gomo, homeowners can find: Deed Restrictions, Plan Approval information, GOMO Bylaws, Policies, Financials, Transfer Fee information, meeting times and locations, information about election of directors and officers, and contact information for all officers and section directors. The minutes of GOMO meetings are available on request and homeowners are invited to attend our meetings. Meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the third Wednesday of the month in the GOMO office.

SECTION 5

Teresa Coleman (2016)
713-686-7728
teresa.coleman@gardenoaks.org

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

VACANT (2018)

Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization (GOMO)
4001 N. Shepherd Drive, Suite 216
Houston, Texas 77018

Contact:
713-561-3936
gardenoaks.org/gomo
manager@gardenoaks.org

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

Plans Approved



**Garden Oaks
Maintenance Org**
Gomo@GardenOaks.org

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.

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CITIZENS' PATROL UPDATE

By Carl Waters, Jr., Program Chair

Precinct One Constable Alan Rosen was the guest speaker at the January Civic Club Meeting. After a brief discussion of some of his accomplishments in office, he made a statement I have heard many times from our civic leaders: crime prevention starts with us. There are many ways we can help prevent crime, such as trimming the shrubbery around entrances and windows to leave fewer places for criminals to hide. Proper lighting also helps. Lights should be left on at both the front and back doors, again to eliminate places where criminals can hide. Proper lighting also helps emergency personnel find our homes in the event of an emergency. And finally, get involved. If you see something that does not seem right, call the authorities and let them check it out. As one of our neighbors found out the hard way, the call you make may keep someone from breaking into your home.

December Crime Statistics (5)

Burglary (3)

900 block of N. Shepherd on Thursday, December 17 at 11:12 p.m. (restaurant).

700 block of W. 31st on Friday, December 18 at 11:46 a.m. (residence).

200 block of W. 31st on Wednesday, December 23 at 5:48 a.m. (residence).

Theft (2)

500 block of W. 34th on Friday, December 4 at 8:20 a.m. (auto sales/leasing).

3400 block of N. Shepherd on Wednesday, December 16 at 12:52 p.m. (business).

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 gocop77018@aol.com or by phone at 713-864-1992.

Garden Oaks Resident and Home Specialist

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PeggySmith@mail.com



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AIR CONDITIONING TIPS FOR THE WINTER

By Mitch Weigand

Ready to Replace Your Furnace? Let's Talk ECM (Part Two)

If your furnace is 10 years old or older, you should consider replacing it. New energy-efficient furnaces equipped with an electronically commutated motor (ECM) can save serious money on your utility bill plus greatly improve indoor air quality and comfort.

Spend Money to Save Money

Furnaces equipped with ECMs usually cost more than standard furnaces. ECMs are typically bundled with other furnace features to create a top-of-the-line product. However, it won't take long to recover the initial increased cost of an ECM furnace through energy cost savings. For example, an older, inefficient furnace uses six amps of electricity per hour while a new furnace with an ECM uses only 1/6 of an amp. That's a 90% savings, folks.

Big on Benefits, Small on Energy Usage

- *Energy Savings* - An ECM furnace fan uses as little as 80 watts of electricity. That's 10 times less than a standard fan motor. Depending on how much you use it, an ECM furnace can save from \$40 to \$200 a year on energy costs. For example, if you use your fan continuously, it would likely pay for itself within three years or less. Now remember, this is the SAME fan that blows cool air throughout your home when the A/C system is running during the summer.
- *Comfort* - Multi-stage ECM furnaces provide increased airflow, resulting in consistent air temperature throughout your home. Customers that run their fan continually on low speed find that it levels out cold spots and provides extra air filtration. This can be especially beneficial to customers with health concerns such as breathing issues.
- *Quiet* - Furnaces equipped with an ECM are substantially quieter than standard furnaces because the fan adjusts to maintain optimal airflow

rather than starting and stopping like standard furnaces. You'll be surprised by the difference.

Is an ECM Furnace Right for You?

When considering a furnace with an ECM, ask yourself these questions:

- Do you want a consistent temperature throughout your home?
- Does your home have a second level that is likely to be warmer than the first level?
- Is your house likely to be too dry in the winter?
- Do you want a quieter heating system?
- Are you concerned about stale air or health issues relating to indoor air quality?

Saving Energy Helps Save the Environment

Finally, by choosing an energy-efficient ECM furnace, you are helping the environment by using less fuel and promoting cleaner air while enhancing the comfort of your home.

Mitch Weigand is the owner of Air Wise™.



Garden Oaks 2016 Home & Garden Tour

2016 HOME & GARDEN TOUR SPONSORSHIP UPDATE

By Brenda de Alba

Thank you to the generous sponsors who have stepped forward to help underwrite this year's home and garden tour! We are still in need additional sponsors, so if you've been meaning to contact us, please don't delay! A sponsorship form is included again in this month's Gazette.

These eleven new sponsors have committed since our last report:

Platinum Sponsor (\$3000+)

- **Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization (GOMO)**. This is their 6th tour sponsorship.

Gold Sponsors (\$1000)

- **Christina Gobe of Envoy Mortgage**. This is Christina's 2nd tour sponsorship.
- **Erin Stetzer of Stetzer Builders** has stepped forward as a new sponsor this year.
- **Harry James of Harry James Building + Design**. This is Harry's 13th tour sponsorship and Harry has been a sponsor for every tour since it was resurrected in 1997.
- **Suzanne Debien of Central City Air**. This is Suzanne's 2nd tour sponsorship.

Silver Sponsors (\$500)

- **Marisa Thomas of Amegy Mortgage**. Marisa has also stepped forward as a new sponsor this year.
- **Terry Jeanes of RE/MAX Metro**. This is Terry's 13th tour sponsorship and Terry has also been a sponsor for every tour since it was resurrected in 1997.

Bronze Sponsors (\$250)

- **Diane Morish of Merle Norman Cosmetics** is another returning sponsor and this is her 3rd tour sponsorship, not her 2nd as I reported last month. She has also been a tour auction donor for many years.
- **Evers & Butler, LLP** has also stepped forward as another new sponsor this year.
- **GO Kids** is another new sponsor this year.
- **Richmonds Air Heating & Air Conditioning** has agreed to be another new sponsor this year.
- **Tonya L. Knauth, Attorney, PLLC** is another returning sponsor and this is her 2nd tour sponsorship.

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 its 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.



Garden Oaks 2016 Home & Garden Tour

Platinum Sponsors

Deanna Zugheri, Keller Williams Realty Metropolitan
Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization (GOMO)

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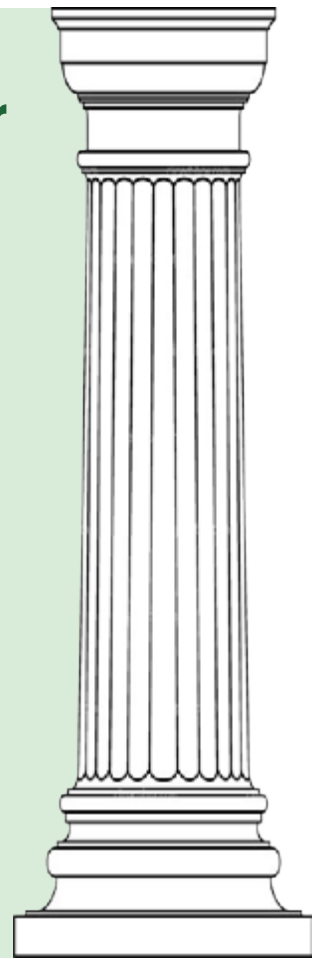
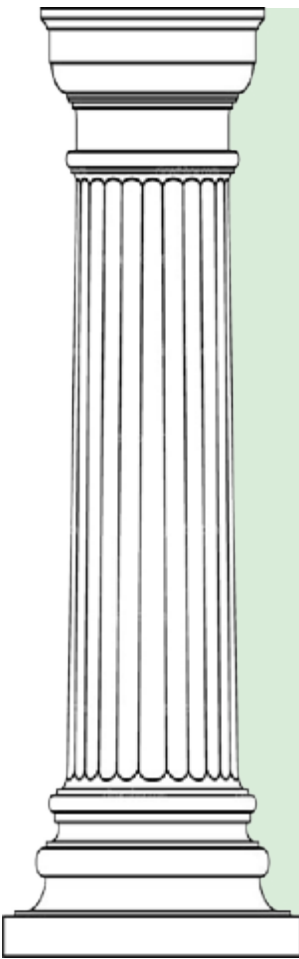
Central City Air
Envoy Mortgage
Harry James Building + Design
Shipley Do-Nuts – 3410 Ella Blvd.
Stetzer Builders

Silver Sponsors

Adolf Hoepfl & Son Garage
BB&T (Branch Banking & Trust) – 1929 Mangum Rd.
Marisa Thomas – Amegy Mortgage
Oak Forest Veterinary Hospital
Terry Jeanes, RE/MAX Metro

Bronze Sponsors

Ace Tree Specialist • The Bell Tower on 34th • GO Kids
Evers & Butler, LLP • Heights Dermatology & Aesthetics Center
Richmonds Air • Tonya L. Knauth, Attorney, PLLC
Merle Norman Cosmetics & Gift Boutique – 4216 Ella Blvd.





**Garden Oaks
2016 Home & Garden Tour**

2016 HOME AND GARDEN TOUR AUCTION
By Heidi Lozano, Auction Committee Chair

The auction team is working hard to obtain wonderful items and experiences for the silent and live auctions that will take place as part of the tour VIP Party on **Saturday, April 23**. 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 travel expenses for the Montessori Model United Nations Conference (2017), classroom materials, and end-of-year celebration. An auction donor form is included in this month's *Gazette*.

A big "thank you" to the auction donors listed below:

- Body 3 Personal Fitness
- Green Chiropractic
- Sea Glass Fine Art Photography
- Tonya L. Knauth, Attorney, PLLC
- John & Lorie Reno
- Syzdek Family
- Lozano Family
- Crider's on the Frio



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Garden Oaks Montessori Middle School Shoe Drive!



Funds raised by donated shoes will be used to help our students attend the Montessori Model United Nations in 2017.

You may drop off shoes at the school or the Foster YMCA on 34th Street
January 5 - March 6.

Any new or gently worn shoes accepted!
Shoes will be refurbished or repurposed and sent to third-world countries.

Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet
901 Sue Barnett Drive

75 YEARS AND GOING STRONG!

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

Garden Oaks Montessori is a public school that serves our neighborhood community within the Houston Independent School District. Additional students from the greater Houston area attend our all-school Montessori magnet program. This 2015-2016 school year marks the 75th year of our school's existence and service to our community. It is astounding to realize the progress we have made over the course of these 75 years. Here are a few of the highlights:

- Garden Oaks Elementary opened in 1940 as a traditional neighborhood school. The student body was approximately 125 students and 100% white.
- The campus was developed in stages, with wings built in 1957 and 1979 as the neighborhood and school population grew.
- In the early to mid-1980s, many families moved from urban Houston areas to the suburbs, and by the early 1990s there was growing concern about many schools in the "city".
- Neighborhood parents joined together in 1994 to support the efforts of public schools and a Montessori program was developed to attract parents back to public school at Garden Oaks. This effort was supported by parents in the newly-founded Friends of Montessori non-profit organization and by HISD personnel.
- By 2008, the enrollment at Garden Oaks Elementary was 405 students in pre-kindergarten (PK) through 6th grade, including 115 students enrolled in the neighborhood-supported Montessori program. 76% of students were Hispanic, 19% white, 3% African-American and 2% other. 79% of students were Economically Disadvantaged.
- In 2010, HISD submitted a federal Magnet School Assistance Program grant application to support the transition to an all-Montessori magnet with the goals of reducing minority isolation and ensuring that a greater number of students in the Houston area were able to access the Montessori methodology. This methodology is often available only in private schools for families who can afford to benefit from this innovative method of education.
- Today at Garden Oaks Montessori we serve 767 students in PK3-8th grade. Our school reflects the diversity of the greater Houston area with a student body that is 50% Hispanic, 23% White, 14% African-American, 5% Asian, 5% multi-racial, and 3% other. 52% of students are Economically Disadvantaged. We have received over 800 applications for next year!
- We are currently a part of the 2012 HISD bond construction and are planning to break ground in the next year on the next addition to the campus, a 65,000 square-foot building to ensure we continue to provide a world-class learning environment for ALL students on our campus!

Garden Oaks Montessori has been recognized as a leader and a School of Distinction by Magnet Schools of America and by the Human Rights Campaign for leadership in creating a welcoming school environment. Our staff is actively publishing in various professional magazines and regularly present at national and international conferences. Additionally, we receive many visitors from around the world who are interested in visiting a public Montessori school. Many education professionals view our collective (school, district, and community) dedication to ensuring this option is available for ALL children as a social justice endeavor, because we provide equitable access to unique and innovative program offerings. THANK YOU to everyone in Garden Oaks and beyond for your commitment to our children and families. Together we are creating opportunities for our children and contributing to our collective future!

MICKEY'S MINUTE*By Mickey Morales*

New beginnings - this marks the start of our fourth year serving the neighborhood. I want to start out by thanking the good folks at the Gazette for allowing me this forum to chat about our little market and the farm, and for all the continued support from our loyal customers each week. By the time you read this, hopefully we will have had our first in a series of pop-up dinners and printed some Farmstand t-shirts that you can sport to help spread the word. I'm not quite sure whether Karen of Chocolate and Sweetness will be back yet; she tripped and broke her wrist, which requires extensive mending. We are doing our best to fill in until she returns.

Meanwhile back at the farm, we should have baby goats born by the middle of this month, and piglets are due around the end of March.

And of course the hens should be at full stride in their egg-laying; Farmer Cathy should have a good supply of both chicken and duck eggs. We appreciate your understanding of the cyclical nature of our egg producers and although we keep adding more birds each year, there never seems to be enough to fill the need.

It seems my diabolical plan to corner the market on prepared foods is working out. I've been bringing about eight quarts of soup to the market each week and selling most every drop. I have tried to keep the rotation as varied as possible, while using as much protein and seasonal produce from the farm and from my other producers. My next conquest is doing something with our older hens. In the past we allowed them to retire, more or less, in a large shade cloth hoop house I built for Farmer Cathy before Hurricane Ike, but alas the great storm of Memorial Day weekend put an end to that structure

**Local Farmers'
Market**

Every Saturday Rain or Shine
9:00 am - 1:00 pm
948 Wakefield

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

and sealed their fate. So, they will be making the ultimate sacrifice for the rest of the girls and wind up as chicken sausage (think meat loaf) made with lots of veggies and oatmeal for the gluten-free folks.

That's all for now. Again, thank you all for making our market a continued success. We wouldn't be here without y'all and we hope to continue in our present location for years to come.

As always, "Come soon, come early and bring your appetite".

GO KIDS UPDATE*By Jaime Cain-Mireles*

2015 wrapped up with three Santa nights in the neighborhood. Garden Oaks families are very thankful to have such wonderful community members who put on great events for our children! Thank you to everyone involved – all of the children enjoyed their evenings with Santa.

There are more fantastic things in store for the families in Garden Oaks in 2016!

Leadership Team

The Leadership team met on January 14 to begin planning for 2016. We anticipate some openings on the leadership team this year – Treasurer, GO Babies/Toddlers coordinator, and Special Events coordinator, to name a few. If you are interested in a position or helping out in any capacity, please contact **Lindsey Gabriel**, GO Kids Coordinator, at lindsey.gabriel5@gmail.com.

The official kick-off meeting and election of officers will take place this month, so look on BigTent and Facebook for additional information.

GO Kids Dinner Drops

Have you or someone you know welcomed home a new baby recently? GO Kids will coordinate and provide several meals to families. Please contact our Dinner Drop coordinator **Julie Maddox** at juliemaddox1@gmail.com to participate. We are always in need of volunteers for this program; if you are interested, please refer to www.gardenoakskids.com for sign-up instructions.

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** at latta_diana@sbcglobal.net with any questions.

1st Annual GO Kids Mardi Gras Parade!

Saturday,
February 13
9:00 a.m.

Graham Park in
Garden Oaks Section 1

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

GO Kids was started by a group of parents who wanted to build a family-friendly neighborhood where children and parents know each other and grow together. We look forward to seeing you around the neighborhood!

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

CALLING ALL WORLD WAR II VETERANS!

*By Richard Voorhies, Commander,
American Legion Post 560*

Are you or someone you know a World War Veteran? We at the American Legion Post 560 would like to speak with you for our Oral History Project. Our aim is to record the experiences of area World War II vets and document the events that have shaped your memories.

On **February 19, 2016**, American Legion Post 560 invites all World War II service men and women as guests of the Post for an honorary appreciation dinner. Volunteers stand ready to help with transportation and any other needs.



For more information, call Richard Voorhies at 832-725-1003.

American Legion Post 560
3720 Alba Rd.
Houston, TX 77018

www.americanlegionpost560.org

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HABITAT GARDENING TIPS

By Kim Ellis

It might feel too chilly to be hacking away at your established plants, but February is known as PRUNING month for our area. The fluctuating temperatures allow for productive indoor and outdoor gardening days, both of which will set us up for a beautiful spring garden.

Inside days can be spent ordering more warm season seeds to start inside for a jump start on spring. Some of my favorite seed companies are Park Seed (parkseed.com) and Botanical Interests (botanicalinterests.com) for non-GMO vegetable, herb and flower seeds. Periods of excess rain provide a great time to look at your garden and see where water is running off to or standing. Those areas might be best for establishing a rain garden to help collect rainwater runoff while providing the opportunity for an exciting new habitat type.

Outside days can be spent planting a final round of cool season vegetables, or warm season annuals, perennials, vines, trees and shrubs which allows them time to establish before the summer heat. Remember to keep freeze protection handy if the overnight temps dip below 32F. The rest of February outdoor work involves pruning plants to help them become stronger and more productive. Fruit trees, vines and shrubs should be trimmed before new spring growth sprouts. Ornamental grasses can be cut to 6-10" above the ground as well as all aboveground growth of perennials that might have frozen back. Beds with newly planted seeds or spring blooming wildflowers will need to be hand weeded. In established beds and in lawns, spread pre-emergent weed control such as corn gluten meal, an organic method of weed control.

It is good to provide water and supplementary food for birds and mammals during the cold months. Leave dead growth on perennials until later spring as some bees use hollow stems as shelter. If you really can't stand it and want to trim back dead growth, consider stacking the cuttings in the back corner of your yard to create a larger bee habitat, providing nesting and shelter.

Sustainable gardening tips for February include:

- Water new plants generously initially, and then only as needed.
- Add natural fertilizer, like compost, to amend your soils, and then...
- Mulch your beds before spring comes.
- Cover plants as needed when frost is coming.
- Clean bird feeders and water sources often.

Plant of the Month

Texas Redbud (*Cercis canadensis var. texensis*, pictured above) is a large shrub or small tree, ranging 10-20 feet in height. Like all *Cercis canadensis* varieties, its clusters of flowers appear in early spring before the leaves emerge and continue to bloom as the leaves develop. Flowers are white to rose-purple, appearing before the leaves, in March or early April. Deciduous leaves turn gold or red in fall. Seedpods are reddish purple and persist into the winter. It is drought-tolerant within its range, prefers dappled shade but also thrives in full sun, and can do well even on relatively thin soils. Its glossy, rounded leaves bring welcome shade and its flowers attract pollinators. It is a larval host plant for the Henry's Elfin Butterfly.

Sources: *Month-By-Month Gardening Texas* by Skip Richter, *Doug Welsh's Texas Garden Almanac* and *The Wildflower Center of Texas*.



Texas Redbud (*Cercis canadensis var. texensis*)

Kim Ellis

Wildscape Garden Consultant
and Garden Oaks resident
713.259.9697
kim@plantahabitat.com
www.plantahabitat.com



Specializing in the use of native and adapted plants to
create habitat gardens for our pollinators and urban wildlife.



GARDEN CLUB UPDATE

By Cathy Wahren,
GO Garden Club President

The GO Garden Club wishes all Gazette readers happiness in the new year. We are looking forward to getting our hands in the dirt again come springtime--which always seems to arrive in Houston before we know it. But business must come first, so we plan our year and elect our officers in January.



GO
Garden
Club



Garden Oaks residents and friends interested in attending our **February 11** meeting should come to the 43rd Street Kroger conference room at **7:00 p.m.** The conference room is located up the stairs behind the cash registers. Additional information is available at gardenoaks.org under the "Neighborhood Info" tab. Please feel free to email gardenclub@gardenoaks.org with any questions.

This year's tentative schedule is as follows:

Month	Day	Date	Topic
January	Thursday	1/14/2016	Business
February	Thursday	2/11/2016	Speaker
March	Saturday	3/12/2016	Friendship Park Work Day
April	Thursday	4/14/2016	Plant Swap at Gazebo Park
May	Saturday	5/14/2016	Field Trip
June	Thursday	6/9/2016	Speaker
July	Thursday	7/14/2016	Speaker
August	Thursday	8/11/2016	Speaker
September	Saturday	9/10/2016	Field Trip
October	Thursday	10/13/2016	Craft Day
November	Saturday	11/12/2016	Friendship Park Work Day
December	Saturday	12/10/2016	Christmas Party

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Garden Oaks Resident



Transforming Your Dreams... Into Reality!

2016 GREEN THUMB GARDENING LECTURES AND WORKSHOPS

The Harris County Master Gardeners and the Texas AgriLife Extension Service offer the Green Thumb Gardening Series of lectures from January through October. These lectures are **free of charge** to residents of Harris County and are offered at multiple locations across Houston; the location closest to Garden Oaks is the Spring Branch Memorial Library.

Space is limited, so call to register at **281-855-5600**.

Third Tuesdays

6:30-8:30 p.m.

Spring Branch Memorial Library
930 Corbindale
Houston, Texas 77024

- February 16** Spring Vegetable Gardening
- March 15** Raised Beds and Low-Volume Irrigation
- April 19** Growing and Using Herbs
- May 17** Plants of the Bible
- June 21** Propagation and Seed Saving
- July 19** Fall Vegetables
- August 16** Container Gardening
- September 20** Decorate Your Garden
- October 18** Fruit Trees: Planting and Care

HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER TOMATO & PEPPER SALE & SYMPOSIA MARCH 5, 2016

Tomato and pepper varieties, as well as other vegetables and herbs suited to our summer growing season, will be offered for sale.

Location: Texas AgriLife Extension
Bear Creek Park
3033 Bear Creek Drive, Houston 77084

Time: Plant Symposia 8:00 a.m.
Plant Sale 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Master Gardener volunteers organize these plant sales annually for educational and fundraising purposes.

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



HOW DO YOU KNOW IF YOU HAVE A FOOD SENSITIVITY?

By Erin Palmer, CNHP

We are all unique; we have different personalities, different hair and eye color and different body types. So wouldn't it be safe to reason that we all have different needs when it comes to what we put into our bodies? After all, one man's medicine is another man's poison, right?

I know what you're thinking, "but I don't have any food sensitivities." Well, sorry to tell you this but 95 out of every 100 people have food sensitivities and don't even know it. These sensitivities are the underlying cause of many conditions from the severe to the ones we "just live with." Often times people think of reactions to allergies or sensitivities as symptoms like anaphylaxis, diarrhea, bloating, tongue and throat swelling, or vomiting; but often symptoms of a reaction do not appear until 72 hours to 21 days after you eat an offending food!

It is more often than not the day-to-day, mild to moderate symptoms we experience that are truly reactions to the food we eat, and once these foods are removed, the symptoms magically disappear. It is very common for an individual to see a great leap in energy levels and experience a clearer mind within 2-4 weeks after removing their offending foods. They start to sleep more soundly, handle stress better, lose weight, gain muscle, their workouts improve, chronic pain is relieved, and their fatigue, bad moods, and depression are gone. Sounds pretty awesome right?!

Figuring out which foods work best for you will also help to balance your hormones. Many hormones are made into their active form in the gut, so it makes sense that eating according to your biochemistry would alleviate these issues as well.

So what do food sensitivity symptoms look like?

- Digestive upset
- Bloating
- Heart burn/indigestion/acid reflux
- Fatigue
- Skin conditions
- Joint pain/chronic pain
- Depression/anxiety
- Poor sleep
- Inability to gain strength
- Inability to change body composition (lose fat/gain muscle)
- Thyroid conditions
- Hormonal imbalances
- Depressed immune system/chronic or recurrent infections or illness
- Mood swings
- Night sweats
- Dental issues
- Osteoporosis
- Autoimmune conditions
- ADD/ADHD
- The list goes on...

Figuring out what makes your body tick will not only improve how you feel from day to day, it will improve your quality of life and health in all aspects for the long haul.

Erin Palmer, CNHP has been working in the health, nutrition & fitness field for over 7 years. To learn more and/or to request a free consultation, visit www.erinpalmercnhp.com or email erin@erinthebeast.com. CrossFitters: be sure to check out www.erinthebeast.com.

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 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.

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
or complete the enclosed forms.**

FEBRUARY 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Civic Club & GOMM HISD Bond Meeting ¹ 7PM @ GOMM	3	4	5	6 GOMM Pancake Breakfast 8:30-10AM @ GOMM Farmers Market 9AM-1PM 948 Wakefield
7	8	9  Mardi Gras	10	11	12	6 GO Kids Mardi Gras Parade 9AM @ Graham Park Farmers Market 9AM-1PM 948 Wakefield
14  Valentine's Day	15	16	17 GOMO Meeting 7PM @ GOPB	18 Heavy Trash Pick-Up (Junk Waste)	19 World War II Veteran Appreciation Dinner 6-8PM @ American Legion Post 560 3720 Alba Road	20 Farmers Market 9AM-1PM 948 Wakefield
21	22	23 	24	25	26	27 Farmers Market 9AM-1PM 948 Wakefield
28	29	¹ Preceded by GOMO meeting beginning at 6:30PM. Acronym Key GOMM = Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet School, 901 Sue Barnett GOMO = Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization GOPB = Garden Oaks Professional Building, 4001 N. Shepherd, Suite 216				



Garden Oaks 2016 Home & Garden Tour

Auction Acquisition Form – Deadline March 15, 2016

Silent and Live Auctions will be held April 23, 2016. This year's proceeds benefit the Garden Oaks Montessori Middle School sponsored by the Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet PTO, a non-profit organization, EIN 45-2133035.

Please return form to GOHT.Auction2016@gmail.com or mail to:

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

Donor or Company Name: _____ Phone: _____

Donor Contact Name: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____ Website: _____

Name to Appear in Listing: _____

Donor Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Item: _____ Retail Value: _____

Description of Item: _____

Restrictions and/or Expiration Date: _____

If donation is a gift certificate: Gift certificate enclosed

Please prepare certificate

Item to be delivered: When: _____ Where: _____

Item to be picked up: When: _____ Where: _____

Display Items Available: _____

Donor's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Silent Auction Representative: _____

Items must be received by March 15, 2016 for recognition in printed materials.

We reserve the right to group items unless we receive a specific request from donor.

Thank you for your generous support!



Garden Oaks 2016 Home & Garden Tour

\$2,500

Website - Sponsorship recognition through 12/2016 with link to your website

Facebook – Sponsorship recognition on GO 2016 Home & Garden Tour FB Page

Gazette – Sponsorship listed in printed Gazette newsletter (circ. 1400 homes) as sponsor through June 2016
Half page Ad (Value \$110)

Tickets – 6 Tickets to Tour (Value \$150)
4 Tickets to VIP Preview & Sponsor Party (Value \$300)

Signage – Single sign at Home/Garden day of tour
Company handouts & listing on banner at Command Center

Promotional- Name printed on Day of Tour Tickets
Name printed on tour poster (150 distribution)
Name printed on tour T-shirt (220 distribution)

\$1,000

Website - Sponsorship recognition through 12/2016 with link to your website

Facebook – Sponsorship recognition on GO 2016 Home & Garden Tour FB Page

Gazette – Sponsorship listed in printed Gazette newsletter (circ. 1400 homes) as sponsor through June 2016
2¼” W x 4¼” H Ad (Value \$90)

Tickets – 4 Tickets to Tour (Value \$100)
2 Tickets to VIP Preview & Sponsor Party (Value \$150)

Signage – Shared sign at Home/Garden day of tour
Company handouts & listing on banner at Command Center

Promotional- Name printed on Day of Tour Tickets
Name printed on tour poster (150 distribution)

\$500

Website - Sponsorship recognition through 12/2016 with link to your website

Facebook – Sponsorship recognition on GO 2016 Home & Garden Tour FB Page

Gazette – Sponsorship listed in printed Gazette newsletter (circ. 1400 homes) as sponsor through June 2016
2¼” W x 2 3/8” H Ad (Value \$60)

Tickets – 4 Tickets to Tour (Value \$100)

Signage – Shared sign at Home/Garden day of tour

Promotional- Name printed on Day of Tour Tickets

\$250

Website - Sponsorship recognition through 12/2016 with link to your website

Facebook – Sponsorship recognition on GO 2016 Home & Garden Tour FB Page

Gazette – Sponsorship listed in printed Gazette newsletter (circ. 1400 homes) as sponsor through June 2016

Tickets – 2 Tickets to Tour (Value \$50)



Garden Oaks 2016 Home & Garden Tour

SPONSORSHIP RESPONSE FORM

Business Name:	
Address:	
Phone:	Contact Person:
Business website:	Email:

**Yes! We look forward to partnering in the 2016
Garden Oaks Home and Garden Tour at the following level:**

Platinum \$2,500

Gold \$1,000

Silver \$500

Bronze \$250

Payment Options:

Enclose check payable to Garden Oaks Civic Club. Mail to: Garden Oaks Civic Club ATTN GOHGT, PO BOX 10273, HOUSTON TX 77206

Pay by Paypal: Enter www.gardenoaks.org/hometour then click "sponsors" on the side of the page

Send an invoice to the above address

Attention: Printing deadline March 15th, The sooner you reply and pay, the sooner your advertising begins. An email will be sent to confirm your gift along with information about the next steps you must take to advertise.

To contact the Underwriting Chair, please email htsponsorships@gardenoaks.org.

Thank you for your support!



2016 Constable Patrol Contributor Application & Contact Information

[] New Member or [] Renewal

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

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

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

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

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

Payment Options

- [] Enclosed find my payment for 2016 of \$200. (Make checks payable to Garden Oaks Civic Club)
- [] I/We cannot contribute \$200 now; however, enclosed please find my/our check for \$_____.
- [] I/We will pay online (see below).

Many of our neighbors live on limited, fixed incomes. Are you willing to sponsor a neighbor?

- [] Yes! Please accept my additional gift of \$_____ for the year (enclosed).

Mail this form to
Garden Oaks Constable Program
PO Box 10273
Houston TX 77206

or pay online at

www.gardenoaks.org/constable



ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES STATEMENT

January – December 2016

Membership is open to all residents whether you own or rent. **While all memberships are voluntary, you must contribute at least at the Basic Level to be eligible to vote on civic club matters.** Membership dues are to be paid on or before **January 1st** for the calendar year.

Fill in Amount:

\$ _____	Crepe Myrtle (Basic Level) Household Membership	\$25 (\$5 for Seniors)
\$ _____	Red Oak (Patron Level) Household Membership	\$75 (\$15 for Seniors)
\$ _____	Business Membership (Non-Voting Membership)	\$50
\$ _____	Contribution to Beautification (all neighborhood green spaces)	
\$ _____	Contribution to Garden Club (maintain Friendship Park, Section 1)	
\$ _____	TOTAL	

Please mail this completed form along with your check payable to:

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

OR

Pay online at www.gardenoaks.org/membership; upon completion, you will receive e-mail confirmation of your dues payment.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF OUR GREAT NEIGHBORHOOD!