



Garden Oaks Gazette

A publication of the Garden Oaks Civic Club



It's Tour Time!



Garden Oaks 2016 Home & Garden Tour

APRIL 2016

UPCOMING EVENTS

April Civic Club Meeting
Tuesday, April 5 • 7:00 p.m.
Garden Oaks Montessori
901 Sue Barnett Drive

2016 Home and Garden Tour

- **VIP Preview, Party & Auction**
Saturday, April 23
5:00-10:30 p.m.
- **Tour Day**
Sunday, April 24
12:00-6:00 p.m.

Tickets for both events available online at gardenoaks.org/hometour

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APRIL HIGHLIGHTED HOMES

323 West 32nd

The lush landscape of this updated and expanded Garden Oaks home is a highlight of the tour. The interior design will surprise you with the eclectic furnishings, rich colors and textures, and one-of-a-kind items. Opening to the grand backyard are a den and living room with a glass-lined wall that achieves the "inside/outside" connection everyone desires. The homeowners' unique eye for detail makes this home a tour showstopper.



Photo courtesy of Miro Dvoscak



Photo courtesy of Miro Dvoscak

858 West 42nd

The owners describe their design aesthetic as "Garden Oaks traditional with an open concept". Nestled among large trees, this original Garden Oaks home is beautifully updated with an open floor plan including a great room that married the kitchen, living room, and outdoors. Art and accessories are beautifully displayed throughout with a keen eye for detail. Each room has a wonderful view to the exterior landscape, bringing in a sense of the outdoors.

**GARDEN OAKS
SOAR LIKE AN EAGLE
SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE**

By Terry Jeanes



The first annual *Soar Like An Eagle* Scholarship for graduating seniors who have attended Garden Oaks Elementary / Montessori Magnet for a minimum of 3 years will be awarded this May at the annual Greater Heights Chamber of Commerce Education Luncheon. Applicants (or those who know of someone who may wish to apply), please email Terry Jeanes at terry@terryjeanes.com.

Tax deductible donations can be made payable to the Greater Heights Community Fund, the community service arm of the Greater Heights Area Chamber of Commerce, as GOMM and many of its business partners are members.

Stay tuned for more information on a *Soar Like an Eagle* Scholarship Facebook page and email address, as well as an online donation link to the Heights Community Fund.

"An investment in knowledge pays the best interest." – Benjamin Franklin

**ARE YOU
ZONED TO
GARDEN OAKS
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Are you planning for your child (Kindergarten to 5th grade) to attend Garden Oaks Montessori next school year?

Please contact us for pre-registration information!

Laura Aasletten laaslett@houstonisd.org Stephanie Acosta sdubroff@houstonisd.org

We offer tours of our school each Thursday at 9:00 am, through April 7, 2016

713.696.2930

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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Dian Austin 733 West 42nd	Membership 713-691-6505 membership@gardenoaks.org

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.

- 967 Althea
- 3217 Lawrence
- 1411 Sue Barnett
- 319 West 33rd
- 1038 West 41st
- 907 West 42nd
- 803 West 43rd
- 850 West 43rd

Happy Birthday

- Kiran B.4/2
- Devin Hunter.....4/6
- Kylie S.4/7
- Keith Kostelecky.....4/9
- Reid S.4/9
- Melissa Neiser 4/10
- Mansi Patel 4/12
- Daniel Sanborn 4/12
- Anna M.4/15
- Lily B.4/18
- Leyton C.4/21
- Heather McKeown 4/21
- Leslie Waters 4/21
- Diane Morish 4/22
- Nicolas Marruffo 4/26
- Jim Tucker 4/28
- Wade M.4/30

Happy Anniversary

- Tina Sabuco & Shellye Arnold4/6
- Desiree Guillory & Carmen Busceme..... 4/14

Out and About

Garden Oaks travelers included the **Crownovers** who traveled to Port Aransas, the **McLeans** to Lake Louise in Canada, the **Jarvis** Family to Hawaii, **Jessica Modad** to Los Angeles, the **Salch** family spent some time on Lake Conroe, the **Theriotics** enjoyed St. Patrick's Parade in NOLA,



the **Zugheris** went on a celebratory escape to Louisiana, the **Johnson** family to Breckenridge, Colorado, and the **Rodriguez** family to New York City. The **Saranies** spent time in Fredericksburg for their anniversary and continued their tour and discovery of Texas wineries they started last year.

Among the many Garden Oaks faces at the Houston Rodeo were the **Heath** family, **Terry Jeanes & Patrick Kelley**, **Renee Shaver**, and **Tami Earl** and many more.

The **Bartos** enjoyed Birdfest at Houston Audubon's Edith L. Moore Sanctuary.

The talented **Sam Stengler** performed with Next Iteration Theatre and stellar **Sarah Klein** appeared in the TUTS production of *Mary Poppins*.

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

Terry Jeanes
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**APRIL CIVIC CLUB GUEST
SPEAKER: CITY CONTROLLER
CHRIS BROWN**

Chris Brown is a proud Houstonian whose unique combination of private and first-hand public sector expertise makes him the right person as our next City Controller. Chris is a proven professional with the experience to be a responsible financial steward, and the commitment to serve his community.

Experienced Financial Steward

Chris began his career two decades ago as a trader for Coastal Securities, an investment bank, where he focused on analysis of high tech stocks. After several years, Chris co-founded an equity trading firm. Chris, as head of operations for the equity trading firm, gained first-hand experience with risk management, compliance, reporting, building operations and negotiating complex agreements.

Prior to being elected Controller in

December 2015, Chris served as Chief Deputy City Controller, where he managed the day-to-day operations of the Controller's Office and oversaw the Executive Division of the office. Prior to being appointed Chief Deputy City Controller in 2009, Chris served as City Council Chief of Staff, overseeing community development initiatives and serving as a liaison to the Budget and Fiscal Affairs Committee.

Cares About His Community

In addition to his professional experience, Chris is an active participant in his community. He currently serves on the board of the William A. Lawson Institute for Peace & Prosperity (WALIPP), Asia Society of Texas Advisory Board, Texan-French Alliance for the Arts, and Prevent Blindness of Texas. He is a past board member of the TCU National Alumni and SEARCH Homeless Services.

Deep Houston Roots

Chris, as a fourth generation Houstonian, has deep roots in the

Houston community. Chris attended Briargrove Elementary and Lee High School, where he was a swim team varsity letterman. His family was a member of St. John's Episcopal Church. Chris attended Texas Christian University and obtained a Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance and later a Master in Business Administration from the University of Houston. Chris, his wife, Divya, an attorney, and their newborn daughter, Milana, reside in southwest Houston.



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GARDEN OAKS CIVIC CLUB MEETING MINUTES

By Luke Sustr, Secretary

March 1, 2016

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

Welcome: President Sheila Briones called the civic club meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance. A motion was made and seconded to approve the February 2016 minutes as published in the *Gazette*. A hardcopy of the February minutes was available at the meeting.

Guest Speaker: President Briones introduced Garden Oaks neighbor Suzanne Debien, President of Central City Air, who gave an interactive presentation on the topic *Are you living in a healthy home? How can you tell?* Ms. Debien also donated a "smart" Emerson thermostat with installation provided by Central City Air (total value \$455) for raffle drawing held during the meeting. (See Membership Committee report below for raffle results.)

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Jerry Butler was not present at the meeting; however, hardcopies of the Profit and Loss statement and the Balance Sheet were available to attendees.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership: Committee Chair Dian Austin reported 245 paid civic club memberships through March 1, 2016 for the 1400 homes encompassing the Garden Oaks neighborhood. Ms. Austin encouraged attendees to invite neighbors to become members and attend the civic club meetings.

Three raffle drawings were held during meeting. Heidi Lozano won the first raffle drawing for the "smart" Emerson thermostat with installation provided by Central City Air and valued at \$455, and re-donated the prize to the 2016 Garden Oaks Home & Garden Tour VIP Party Auction to be held Saturday April 23, 2016. The winner of the second raffle drawing for two Home Tour tickets valued at \$40 was Joan Harmon. The winner of the third raffle drawing for a

\$25 Amazon gift card was Joe Muscara.

Home and Garden Tour: Brenda de Alba reported \$22,000 in sponsorships received to date for the 2016 Garden Oaks Home & Garden Tour scheduled for Sunday, April 24, 2016. Volunteer Captains are needed and those interested should visit www.gardenoaks.org to contact Brenda. Sponsors are requested to donate as soon as possible to ensure that all marketing benefits are captured. Presale tickets are available for purchase via www.gardenoaks.org. A hardcopy of the Sponsorship Response form was available at the meeting.

The 2016 Home and Garden VIP Tour, Dinner & Auction, "Mi Casa Es Su Casa" is scheduled for April 23, 2016. Silent auction donation items are needed. All proceeds benefit the GOMM Middle School. A hardcopy of the VIP Ticket Purchase form was available at the meeting.

Gazette: The March issue of the *Gazette* is available online at www.gardenoaks.org. Hardcopies will be delivered to Section Delivery Coordinators for home delivery.

Garden Oaks Website: Webmaster Joe Muscara confirmed the Home & Garden Tour information has been updated and uploaded to the website.

Beautification: Committee Chair Joan Harmon announced plans to prepare the gardens and parks for spring. The Rose Garden has been weeded, roses trimmed, and garden cleaned up. The Friendship Circle Garden will be cleaned up on March 12, 2016. Ms. Harmon also reported placement of two pet waste bag dispensers at two locations in the neighborhood: one at the SPARK Park and the other at Gazebo Park. Committee members will monitor bag inventory levels; if these stations prove to be a useful resource, others may be installed in additional locations. An attendee suggested placing an additional dispenser at Graham Park. The Committee will look into any city restrictions on the placement of such stations.

Garden Oaks Citizens' Patrol:

Committee Chair Carl Waters, Jr. requested that neighbors volunteer for the neighborhood patrol. Anyone interested should contact Mr. Waters via the information listed on www.gardenoaks.org or in the *Gazette*. Neighbors should visit www.crimereports.com to view crime records in the area. Attendees were also reminded of the "Neighbors Night Out" event in October 2016. This event is a great way to meet your neighbors!

Constable Program: Committee Chair Terry Jeanes was not present at the meeting. Garden Oaks Patrol Deputy Alex Palizo was present and discussed a recent theft of front porch patio furniture. The suspect was driving a 2000 or older model black/dark blue Chevrolet Silverado pickup truck with a broken passenger tail light. No arrests have been made. Numerous speeding violations along 43rd Street between Ella and Shepherd were also reported.

Ad Hoc In-Line Storm Water Detention Project Committee: No report.

Government Affairs Standing Committee: No report.

OTHER BUSINESS

Brenda de Alba encouraged attendees to read the March *Gazette* "Habitat Gardening Tips" article written by Kim Ellis. Brenda also recommended the upcoming Green Thumb Gardening Series of free lectures by the Harris County Master Gardeners and the Texas AgriLife Extension Service held every third Tuesday at Spring Branch Memorial Library at 930 Corbindale, Houston, Texas 77024. The Tomato and Pepper Sale and Symposia by the Harris County Master Gardeners will be held March 5, 2016.

President Briones announced the next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 5, 2016 with Chris Brown, City of Houston Controller, as the featured speaker.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m. with 25 members in attendance.

GARDEN OAKS RESIDENT!



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GOMO Board of Directors

GARDEN OAKS MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATION (GOMO) MONTHLY REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2016

SECTION 1

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wayne.forster@gardenoaks.org

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Mark Saranie (2018)
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SECTION 2

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Lori Kennedy (2017)
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Rafael Pina (2018)
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rafael.pina@gardenoaks.org

SECTION 3

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Vidal Martinez (2017)
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Dea Larson (2018)
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dea.larson@gardenoaks.org

SECTION 5

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

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

VACANT (2018)

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

Revised Plans were approved for:

738 W 43rd
332 W 34th

Pending Resubmissions:

531 W 32nd
1039 W 41st

Deed Restriction Enforcement Activity

In a general way, the categories tracked below reflect the steps followed in the Enforcement Procedure so that a single reported violation may progress through several stages before being resolved.

Status	Jan	Feb	YTD
Determined not to be a violation	2	1	3
Legal opinion(s) requested regarding possible violation(s)	1	0	1
Informal contact with owner cleared violation	1	0	1
Awaiting owner response to first letter	0	0	0
Owner has agreed to remove the violation	1	0	1
Owner has removed the violation	1	1	2
Second Letter	0	0	0
Litigation begun	0	0	0
Total all Reported Violations	6	1	7
Total Resolved Violations	4	1	5

GOMO funded two shifts of the Constable Program for the month at a cost of \$12,790.

An election for a section 5 director is scheduled for the 7:00pm April 20, 2016 business meeting. The director's term will run through October 2018. Members wishing to stand for this position should contact any of the GOMO directors listed in the *Gazette* or on the GOMO web page.

The requirements for the position are:

- Must be 18 years or older.
- Must own property and live within Garden Oaks section 5.
- If no Member residing in the section stands for election, then a Member who owns property in that section but lives in another section may stand for election as a "non-section director" whose term is one year.
- Must sign a statement attesting to the above.

The GOMO website has been updated this month to include:

Case update for ongoing court case
[Refund of Transfer Fee Overpayment Policy](#)
The first set of owner questions with answers
Building Plan Submission Form

GARDEN OAKS

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 with ensuring compliance to deed restrictions. The directors of GOMO are member elected volunteers.

GOMO news, director and office contact info, meeting time and place 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 info, By-Laws, Policies, Financial Reports, Transfer Fee info, place and time of meetings, info on election of directors and officers, and contact info for all officers and section directors. The minutes of GOMO meetings are available on request and homeowners are invited to attend our meetings.

The Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization
4001 N Shepherd Dr, Suite 216 - Houston, TX 77018
Contact: 713-561-3936 gardenoaks.org/gomo/ manager@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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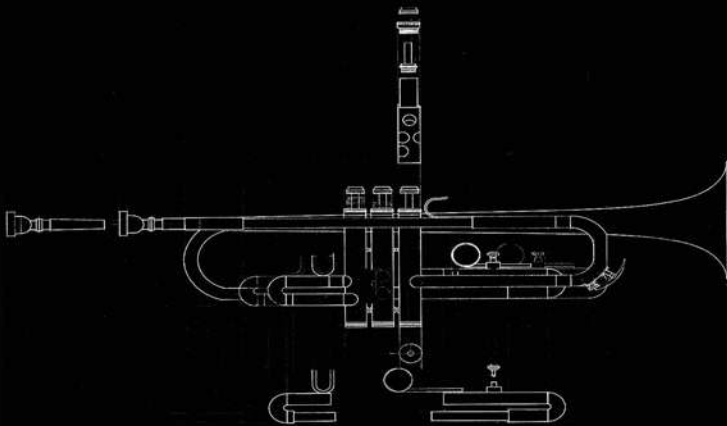
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CITIZENS' PATROL UPDATE

By Carl Waters, Jr., Program Chair

Last month I was reminded by a neighbor that while I am always asking people to report crimes, I have not shared how to do it. So, if you are ever the victim of a crime, contact the **Houston Police Department** at **713-884-3131** to report it. **If the crime is still in progress, call 911.**

Alternatively, crime reports can be made via the City of Houston website at www.houstontx.gov/police/online_report.htm or by calling the **Precinct One Constable Dispatch** at **713-755-7628**. These HPD and Constable non-emergency numbers can also be used to report suspicious activity.

February Crime Statistics (7)

Assault (1)

200 block of W. 31st on Friday, February 26 at 2:21 p.m.

Emergency Numbers

Emergency Services **911**

HPD Non-Emergency Services
713-884-3131

Constable Dispatch
713-755-7628

All Other City Services **311**

Burglary (1)

900 block of Lamonte on Wednesday, February 3 at 2:34 p.m.

Burglary of a Motor Vehicle (2)

600 block of W. 30th on Friday, February 12 at 10:02 a.m.
3000 block of N. Durham on Tuesday, February 23 at 3:39 p.m.

Theft (2)

200 block of W. 32nd on Wednesday, February 10 at 11:24 a.m.
1000 block of W. 41st on Wednesday, February 24 at 6:35 a.m.

Auto Theft (1)

2900 block of N. Shepherd on Friday, February 19 at 1:35 p.m.

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.



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THE ROLE OF DEED RESTRICTIONS IN A ZONE-FREE CITY

By Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization (GOMO)

In most US cities, zoning provides standards for orderly development by designating land use in particular areas as commercial, industrial, or residential. It can be used by governments to guide growth to desired areas. In addition to land use, zoning can restrict form, design and compatibility of development with adjacent land uses. Zoning is determined by government and can be periodically revised. Zoning rules are enforced by the government entity and can be changed by petitioning the zoning board. Houston has rejected zoning each time it was presented in 1929, 1948, and 1993.

Houston is distinguished from other US cities as the only major City without zoning. In the absence of zoning, the City of Houston has developed ordinances that serve a similar purpose, such as restricting how close certain uses can be to residential neighborhoods. For example: land use for motels, junk yards, and hazardous businesses are prohibited from being located close to residential neighborhoods, schools, and parks. The Houston Code of Ordinances has requirements for right of way, minimum lot size, sidewalks, streets, drainage and even trees and shrubs within the city limits, but does not restrict development that satisfies those minimal requirements.

With no formal zoning restrictions, deed restrictions become the most effective tool for preserving the attributes of a neighborhood. Deed

restrictions are covenants that run with the land that restrict, or limit, the use or activities that may take place on property in a particular subdivision. Developers create deed restrictions for their developments to assure predictability, protect property investment and maintain the subdivision as a desirable place to live and raise a family. These restrictions are recorded in real property records of the county in which the property is located and are part of the contract and deed of every property owner. Deed restrictions are developed and enforced at the subdivision level by a board of homeowners or by individual property owners. The City of Houston Legal Department may assist in enforcement in certain circumstances. Creating and/or revising deed restrictions is typically a lengthy process and requires anywhere from 50 to 100 percent approval of affected residents. Garden Oaks has 5 sections, each with slightly different deed restrictions. Sections 1 and 2 originally required a 75% approval level with no approval specified for the other sections which had the effect of requiring a 100%. The state legislature set the approval level to be no higher than 67% with a new law passed in 2011.

The lack of deed restrictions is evident in the subdivision on the southern border of Garden Oaks where 1950s single-family homes are intermixed with pubs, townhouses and light industry. Many of the original homes are being replaced by higher density development. Garden Oaks has not evolved in the same way in part because there were/are enough homeowners who took/take an active role in preserving the deed restrictions. In a future article the history of Garden Oaks

deed restriction enforcement will be explored up through the formation of GOMO.

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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 normal duration of Civic Club meetings) in an area adjacent to the meeting location for a nominal cost of \$1.00 per child.



**Garden Oaks
2016 Home & Garden Tour**

2016 HOME & GARDEN TOUR SPONSORSHIP UPDATE

By Brenda de Alba

Wow! **At press time our tour sponsorship total is \$26,000!** Thank you to **ALL of the local businesses who have stepped forward to contribute to the success of this year's tour.** I encourage all Garden Oaks neighbors to consider providing your patronage to these businesses when you need the type of services they provide. A complete list of current sponsors is provided in this *Gazette*.

Seven additional tour sponsors have committed since our last report:

Gold Sponsor - \$1000

Bayou City Aire, LLC is a new sponsor this year.
 Blake Woods Design is a returning sponsor for his sixth tour.
 Garden Oaks Veterinary Clinic is another new sponsor this year.

Silver Sponsors - \$500

STAN-CO Home Improvements is returning as a sponsor for their third tour sponsorship.
 Tony's Mexican Restaurant is returning as a sponsor this year for their eleventh tour.

Bronze Sponsors - \$250

Kim Ellis - HABITATS is a new sponsor this year.
 IndyQuest Properties, LLC is another returning sponsor with this being their second tour.

Each of these sponsors has paid for the privilege to have their name on a sponsor sign at one of the tour locations. Unfortunately, for a number of past tours, some neighborhood businesses use the tour as an opportunity to advertise their company without being a sponsor, by asking past customers to display their sign in the yard. If you get solicited to do this, the tour committee asks that you check to see if the business name is on the sponsor list and politely decline if it is not. We have purposefully continued to include a nominal \$250 sponsorship each year to encourage small businesses to participate and we feel non-sponsoring businesses should not be allowed to take advantage of garnering free publicity on tour day.

**RECYCLING TO CONTINUE BUT
GLASS NO LONGER ACCEPTED**

Taken from CitizensNet, the City of Houston's eNewsletter

The City of Houston and Waste Management have reached tentative agreement on a new 2-year contract that will allow the city to continue offering recycling services without any disruption. The only change in service that Houstonians will notice is the elimination of glass from the list of items that are acceptable for placement in the green curbside single-stream recycling bins. Glass, currently has no value on the commodities market, breaks down during collection and transportation and is unduly destructive to the processing equipment.

Residents will still have the option of dropping off glass for recycling at the City's neighborhood depositories.

The new arrangement, which City Council will consider on March 23, offers \$2 million in savings over other options that had been on the table.

The closest City Neighborhood Depository/ Recycling Center to Garden Oaks is located at:
9003 N. Main St. 77022

More information on the hours of operation and the materials that are accepted at the Neighborhood Depositories/Recycling Centers is available at <http://www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/depositories.html>.





Garden Oaks 2016 Home & Garden Tour

Platinum Sponsors

Deanna Zugheri, Keller Williams Realty Metropolitan
Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization (GOMO)
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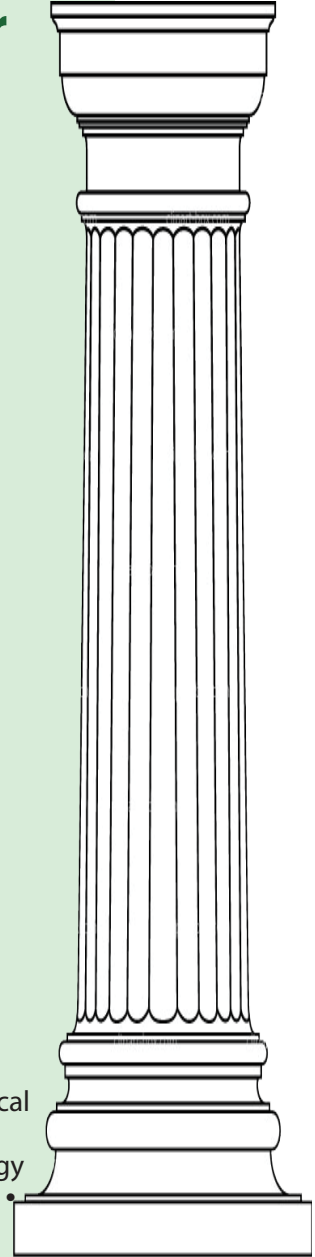
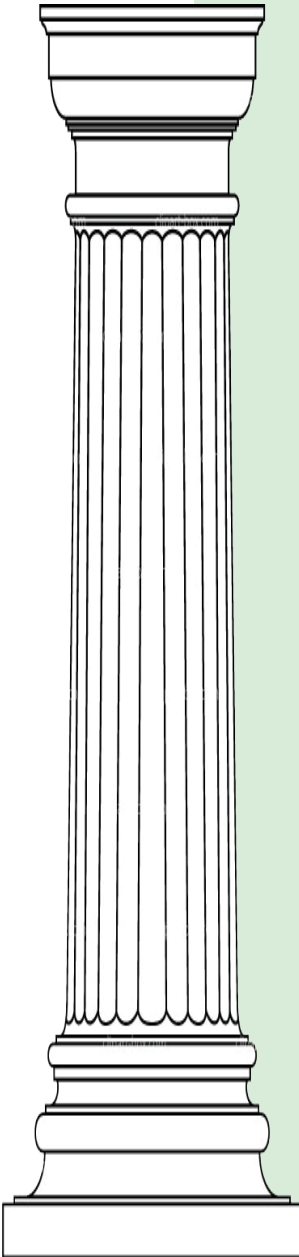
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2016 HOME & GARDEN TOUR VIP TOUR, DINNER & AUCTION

- When:** Saturday, April 23rd
7:30-10:30 p.m.
- Where:** Whitney Oaks Hall
816 E. Whitney Drive, Houston, TX 77022
- Why:** To thank our generous sponsors and tour destination owners for their support. To meet neighbors and make new friends. To raise money for our neighborhood and GOMM while having fun.
- Cost:** \$75/person
\$700 for a reserved table of 8 (BYOB)
\$800 for a reserved table of 8 (one premium liquor included)
\$1500 for a reserved table of 16 (two premium liquors included): only 2 tables of 16 available
- How many:** Limited to the first 165 purchased
- On Sale:** March 1st at www.gardenoaks/previewparty or with order form insert in the April Gazette
- What is included?** Ticket cost includes admission to preview the homes and gardens from 5:00-7:30 p.m. before the party (\$25 value), 2 beer or wine tickets, live music, dancing, dinner, drinks, and the silent and live auctions.

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Garden Oaks 2016 Home & Garden Tour

2016 HOME AND GARDEN TOUR AUCTION UPDATE

By Heidi Lozano and Salma Turrubiarres, Auction Committee Co-Chairs

The Auction Acquisition Team is continuing to collect amazing donations for the Silent and Live Auctions at the VIP Tour, Dinner & Auction on Saturday, April 23rd, 2016. We have a great variety of vacation rentals, health and wellness packages, photography packages, tickets to various events, restaurant certificates and a delightful private dinner for two. We're also planning a wine pull. If you have a bottle (or two) of wine to donate, please contact us at GOHT.Auction2016@gmail.com. We are still accepting other auction items as well. There is a donor form included in this month's *Gazette* or you can obtain the form online: www.gardenoaks.org/GOCivicClub/hometour/auction/donate/becomeadonor.html

This year we'll be using the Greater Giving software with mobile bidding via smart phone and iPads available on-site. This software is also used during the Garden Oaks Montessori Pancake Breakfast Silent Auction; if you are already registered in the system, all you need to do is check in at the event. If you need to pre-register, please send your name, cell number, and address to GOHT.Auction2016@gmail.com or text to 281-734-7693.

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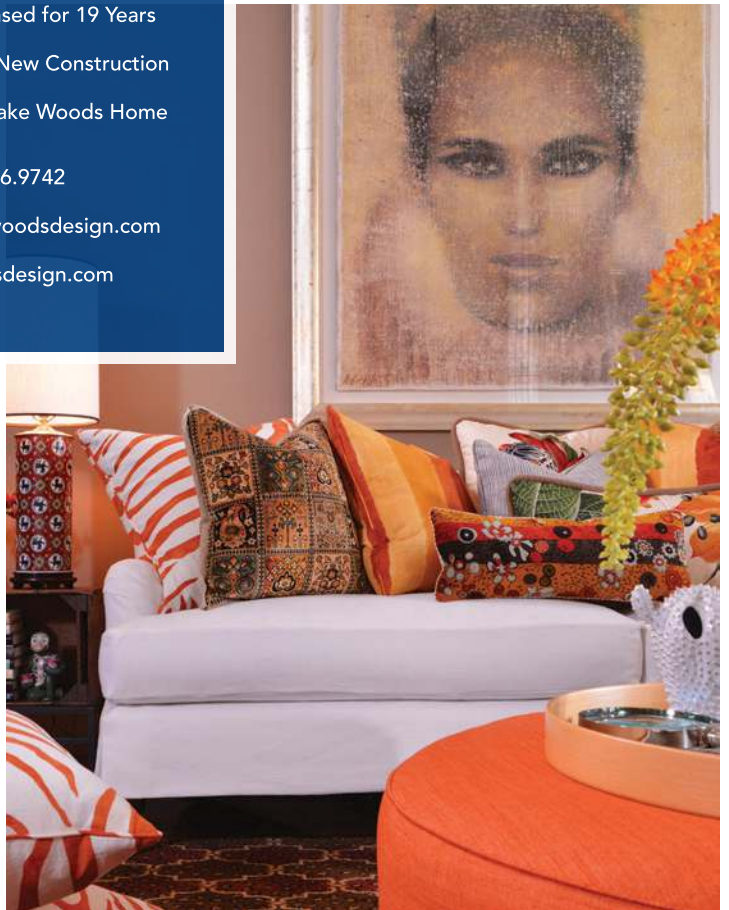
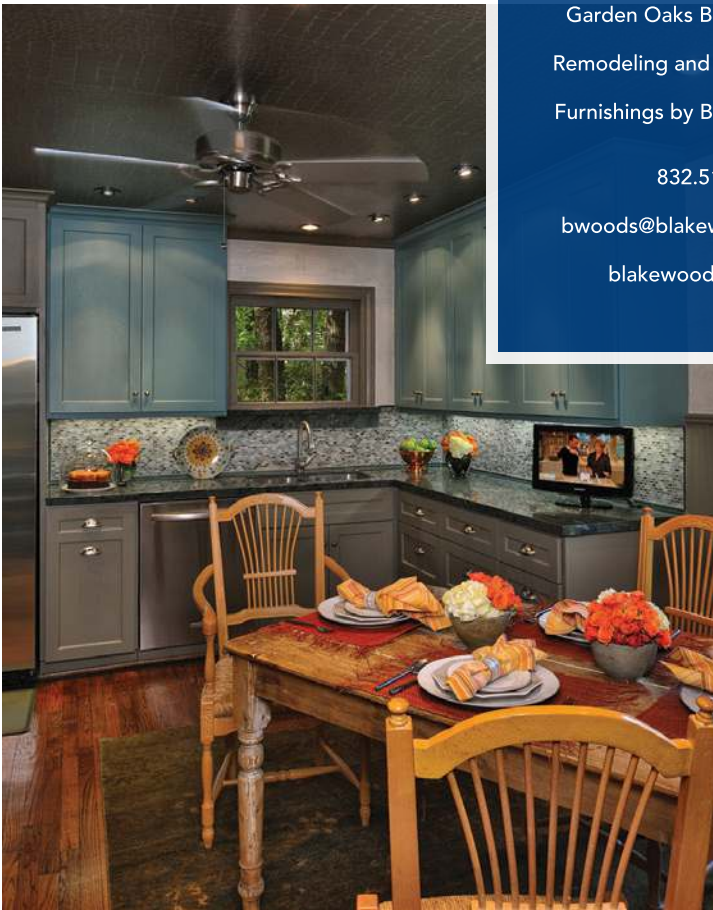
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2016 ANNUAL HOUSTON WATER GARDEN AND POND TOUR

The 2016 Water Garden and Pond Tour will be held **May 7 and 8** from **10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.** Sponsored by the Houston Pond Society and the Lone Star Koi Club, this annual self-guided tour is a great way to spend a weekend, and one of the featured stops on this year's tour is right here in Garden Oaks.



Peruse the beautiful scenery and fish and talk with the sponsoring club members about their ponds and fish. You can learn about how they achieved their backyard paradises; what they did right and, more importantly, what they did wrong and would do differently. You will see everything from small garden ponds and patio fountains to huge multi-pond landscapes to gain inspiration for your own pond.

Tickets cost only \$10.00 for both days and may be purchased at any of the tour locations on the day they are open (Saturday or Sunday, depending on geographical location).

Tour information and addresses can be found at houstonpondsociety.org or lonestarkoi.com.

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MICKEY'S MINUTE

By Mickey Morales

Wow! It's April already and we've had plenty of days in the 80s. Easter Sunday is behind us and the kids will be out of school before you know what happened. With a little luck we will not have had too much rain and may still have time to put together a farm tour and dinner before it becomes unbearably hot. We'll just have to wait and see.

In the meantime, Violet will have had her piglets, and I will have a firm count on how many pig shares we will have to offer. The way that a pig share works is that the pig is yours and your partner's animal (depending on whether you choose a half or whole share) when I take off to freezer camp. This little detail keeps me insulated from all the alphabet soup government agencies beating me up, while we endeavor to bring y'all the cleanest food possible. So you get to tell the butcher how you want your share packaged: chops or

ribs, whole ham or half, how much ground pork, etc. We'll work out the details as we near that fateful day of the one way trip off the farm.

Oh yeah, once the little guys and gals are old enough to leave their mom for the day, Farmer Cathy may be able to bring a few to the market for show and tell. Of course by now the baby goats will have already made their appearance a time or two, weather permitting. Spring and summer vegetables should be in and we will be looking for a huge flurry of great things to bring to the market, which should come early this year. There could even be plums and peaches early this year as well. It's going to be a very interesting year for everything that we grow because of the mild winter and early spring.

Life at the market continues unabated. Karen has somewhat recovered from her broken wrist. Catherine is holding Kristy's spot while she recuperates from hip surgery, and Farmer Cathy has fully

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recovered from her accident last year. And with the addition of bread from Angela's Oven, I believe we can offer just about everything you could expect to find at the local grocery, in season of course, and fresher and better for you. I'm trying to source some free-range beef; maybe that could be my next endeavor at Sullivan's Happy Heart Family Farm.

As always, "Come soon, come often and vote with your dollars for clean food".



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GARDEN CONSERVANCY HOUSTON SPRING TOUR

Saturday, April 30
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Peckerwood Garden is proud to partner with the Garden Conservancy to bring you the Houston Open Day on Saturday, April 30, a self-guided tour of 8 private gardens in Houston and a plant sale hosted by Peckerwood Garden. This event is part of the Conservancy's national garden visiting program, and a portion of the proceeds of this Open Day will benefit Peckerwood Garden. In 1998, Peckerwood Garden was designated a preservation garden of the Garden Conservancy, a national organization that has been working with the garden as it transitions into a public garden.



Discounted ticket books for the Houston Open Day may be purchased at the Peckerwood Plant Sale, offering a savings of \$16! Individual tickets are \$7 per garden, and discounted books are \$40 for an all-day pass. Tickets may also be purchased on the Garden Conservancy's website, where you will also find extended garden descriptions.

Three gardens in Garden Oaks, Woodland Heights, and The Heights will be on this year's tour.

www.gardenconservancy.org/events



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IN THE NAME OF NEIGHBORHOODS, Here's how these special communities got their names

Garden Oaks

Land developer Edward Lilo Crain's love of gardens led to the 1937 creation of Garden Oaks, a charming neighborhood with towering pines, grand magnolias and a wonderful sense of history.

Oak Forest

Oak Forest was the brainchild of Frank W. Sharp who developed the land presumably because he was inspired by its trees.

Houston Heights

An elevation of 23 ft. more than Downtown's gave rise to the name of one of the earliest planned communities, Houston Heights.

Norhill

Norhill's name reflected its location, north of the Houston Business District of the 1920s and on a higher elevation.

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AT HOME WITH JOHN DAUGHERTY, REALTORS IN HOUSTON

HABITAT GARDENING TIPS

By Kim Ellis

After the early March rain we entered into Spring expecting mild temperatures and even more showers. But this is Houston, and as we've already reached 85 degrees in late February and early March, we might see higher temperatures than typical. Even so, April is a busy month in the garden as we enjoy the colors of annual flowers, and rush to get trees and shrubs into the ground before the heat really sets in.

Unless it is raining, it's a good day to be out in the garden in April. It's a great time to visit your local garden center to see what's new, but it's best to avoid leftover annuals that look pretty as they won't last much longer in your garden...unless you need a quick burst of color for a party. Make sure to keep your journal up to date with new plantings' dates and locations, and remarks, if any. When planning for plant placement, remember to group plants that need similar water and light requirements.

In the garden, it's time to throw seed, plant almost anything, and collect seeds from spent annual flowers and cool season vegetables. You CAN really throw out seed or plant almost anything in April, but need to understand that some seeds will not sow (may sow in fall) and some plants may need more attention regarding watering. You can help them out by adding mulch around newly planted seeds, plants, and vegetables to help retain water, or create a mulch berm at about the same diameter as the shrub or tree canopy to hold water and allow a slow soaking watering. If any of your nursery plants are root-bound, and they have trouble taking in water, dunk the root ball in to a tub of rainwater for about 2 minutes to renew the absorbency. It's time to seed or sod your lawn as needed, and if you really looking for a low maintenance idea check out Texas native grass options (www.wildflower.org/habiturf/ or

www.seedsources.com/catalog/detail.asp?product_id=2855). If you still have ball & burlap roses, shrubs or trees, get them in the ground as soon as possible. It's best to add compost in with all of your seeds and plantings. With spring bulbs, don't remove the green leaves until they've turned yellow and fallen completely over, which allows all of the energy to the bulb for the best show next year. Any collected seeds should be dried, packaged in an envelope, labeled and stored in a jar in the refrigerator or freezer for extended life.

For all spring flowering annuals, roses and shrubs, deadheading the old flowers will promote additional flowering. When they are finished flowering, it is important to prune back to eliminate crossing branches and to put more energy into the plant for next spring. Trimming edges of perennials and ornamental grasses will help keep them tidy. For vegetables, harvest vegetables that fruit continuously to help production. If vegetables are no longer producing, it is best to remove the entire plant from the garden to avoid it attracting pests. If you are ok with the look, leave cool season vegetables in the garden and allow them to bolt (go to seed), which will attract beneficial insects to your garden to assist with pest control. Thin fruit from overburdened fruit tree branches, and check leaves often for pests to catch them early. Cut the lawn as needed to keep weed seed heads from dropping, and water as needed in April.

We should see an increase in wildlife in the garden in the spring, especially if we are providing food, water, shelter, and spaces to raise their young. For the wildlife, it is still most important to provide a safe and clean water source. It's also important to remember that most insects are beneficial, and therefore should not be killed on sight. Many of these insects are not only helpful, but also incredibly beautiful. So if you aren't sure, take the time to look

Kim Ellis

Wildscape Garden Consultant
and Garden Oaks resident
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it up. The Monarch butterflies will be making their migration north, so it is important to plant milkweeds to help with their reproductive cycle. It's encouraging that recent reports show that Monarch wintering area use has increased over the prior winter. This push to help the Monarchs has provided more and more native milkweeds being found in the market every spring.

Sustainable gardening tips for April include:

- Keep filling that compost pile with fallen leaves, newspaper and scrap veggies from your kitchen...and now you can add in cuttings from your spring cleanup.
- Add your compost as a natural fertilizer to amend your soils.
- Mulch your beds for weed control and better water retention. Hand pull weeds in beds or cover the area with cardboard or wet newspaper to act as a natural weed blocker. Another organic option is to spray individual plants with vinegar to kill them, and you can add orange oil to go after a fire ant bed.
- Minimize the use of herbicides, fungicides, pesticides and gas powered machines in the garden...and instead opt for integrated pest management with the attraction of beneficial insects and a free workout using a rake, broom or shovel.

Plant of the Month:

Sophora secundiflora –
Texas Mountain Laurel

Mescal bean or Texas mountain laurel is very popular as a native evergreen ornamental tree within its range, valued for its handsome, dark green foliage and lush early spring blooms. It is drought-tolerant and prefers well drained soils, and is therefore slow growing. Texas mountain laurel flowers can smell like grape jelly, and is a butterfly nectar tree. The bright red seeds were used by native people for ornamental and ceremonial uses, even though they were highly poisonous.



Texas mountain laurel is an evergreen, typically multi-trunked shrub or small tree. It can range from just a few feet to 30 ft. in height, though its usual height at maturity is 10-15 ft. The dense,

dark green, glossy compound leaves are composed of 7-9 shiny, leathery leaflets that are rounded on the ends. The leaflets are up to 2 inches or more long terminated by a single leaflet. The bluish lavender

flowers, in 3-7 in. drooping clusters, are very showy and fragrant.

Sources: *Month-By-Month Gardening Texas* by Skip Richter, and Doug Welsh's *Texas Garden Almanac*

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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.**

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- 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

BEAUTIFICATION UPDATE

By Joan Harmon, Committee Chair

Spring is in full motion for Texas no matter what the rest of the nation is experiencing! Trees are budding, flowers are starting to bloom, and we have even had several days with temperatures in the 80s. Gotta love Texas weather!

We are getting ready for the Home and Garden Tour on April 25th and we are sprucing up the various little park areas. Beds are getting cleaned and mulched, and we will get some flower displays installed too. Check out the Rose Garden in Section One to see what we've been doing. This week we are putting out fertilizer to green up the grass and feed all the azaleas. The recent rainfall will be a wonderful help.

On another note, our Head Gardener had the idea to install two pet waste bag dispensers for all dog walkers to use. One is installed just before you enter the Rick Englert Spark Park entrance on W. 41st, and the other is in the Gazbo Park. We wanted to help keep the Garden Oaks Montessori School play area free of doggie waste, and these bag dispensers will help a lot. Plans are in the works to put them in critical need areas throughout Garden Oaks, so dog walkers rejoice!

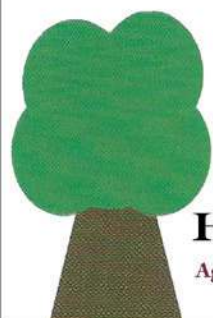
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HOW TO ENCOURAGE CONVERSATION WITH CHILDREN

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

Recently I sat at dinner with my 30-year-old son reminiscing about our family routines when he was growing up. All around us in the restaurant, we observed families completely engrossed in the miniature screens in their hands, glued to what was happening in their personal worlds and seemingly oblivious to the other people at the table. My son remarked, "Mom you always made us talk about something even when we didn't feel like it. I think that really helped me in my interactions today!" In today's electronic society, it is more important than ever to ensure that we are taking time to cultivate connections and relationships with our children and teaching them the importance of face-to-face communication skills. These "soft skills" are what business people all over the globe consider some of the most important skills for young people entering the work force. Here are a few tips from educator and author Dr. Allen Mendler:

1. Model a Good Conversation. Make a point of having one-to-two minute interactions, and show interest in the child by asking questions about his or her interests. Use conversation enhancers, which include responses and prompts like: "Really?" "Wow!" "That's interesting." "No kidding!"

2. Challenge Put-Downs or Hurtful Comments. For example, if a student says, "I think what she did was really stupid," challenge with "How else can you say that without being hurtful?" If your child seems unaware, teach an alternative like, "I disagree with that." Ask the child to repeat what you said and then move on to: "What happened to make you feel that way?" "How would you have handled things differently?" "Do you think there is only one right answer, or could there be more?"

3. Ask Open-Ended Questions. These are questions without one correct answer, questions that stimulate discussion and can be a very powerful way to reinforce the idea that there are different views of an issue, or a set of beliefs that can be equally valid. For example: "If Columbus came knocking on your door today and told you that sailing to the New World would be an amazing adventure and there might be lots of riches there, but you might never arrive because the world is flat, would you go?"

4. Put Thinking Ahead of Knowing. When asked a question, don't accept "I don't know." Tell your children that you don't require them to "know" but that you do expect them to "think." Teach them how to wonder aloud, speculate, guess or give the best answer they can. ("I'm not sure about that, but I think ____.")

5. Have Informal Chats. Ask your child about her day or about a current event, or how she feels about an assignment. Share your thoughts as well. ("I thought the character in the story was very brave when the bear appeared. How would you have felt?")

6. Make Eye Contact. When a child is speaking and you are listening, give him your eye contact. Put your cell phone down and turn off the TV. Make your child feel that he is important and that you care about what he has to say.

7. Encourage Turn-Taking. At Garden Oaks we use a "talking stick" to signify whose turn it is to talk. Use an object as a signal for turn-taking and if members of your family need to monitor their "air time", use a timer to help them recognize the importance of allowing others to speak. Teach your children that it is equally important to listen actively and respectfully as it is to speak!

Enjoy your time in conversation with the young people in your lives! They grow up all too quickly!



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EASY STRESS MANAGEMENT TOOLS

By Erin Palmer, CNHP

We live in a time when everyone is stressed and pressed for time continuously. This fast-paced lifestyle really takes a toll on our health and can lead to conditions such as:

- Digestive issues
- Depression and anxiety
- Poor sleep
- High blood pressure
- Chronic fatigue
- Anger issues
- Hormonal imbalances
- Weight gain/loss
- Inability to gain muscle
- Weakened immune system
- Cancer and autoimmune conditions

Tips to managing stress:

1. Make a list before going to bed of all the things you have to do the following day. This will help to unload your mind. If everything is down on paper or in your phone, you will be less likely to keep running through the list all night worrying that you forgot something. It may take some practice to stop listing as you lie in bed. Just remind yourself, "I made my list and I have nothing to worry about."
2. Use your list! As you accomplish your tasks the next day, check them off the list.
3. Plan, Plan, Plan! If you fail to plan, you plan to fail. Do food prep for days in advance; keep a schedule in your phone for everything from your daily workout, picking up the kids, meetings, etc. This way you always know where you are going.
4. Eat clean! The better you fuel your body, the better you will feel and the better equipped your body will be to handle your day-to-day stress.
5. Check in with yourself throughout the day. This will help you stay centered and grounded. Ask yourself, "How do I feel at this exact moment?" If you're experiencing a negative emotion, ask yourself what you can do at that moment to change the emotion. Simply breathing deeply and slowly will often help. If the situation is out of your control, recognize that there is nothing you can do about it, while acknowledging that you can control your reaction to it. Acceptance of this position will take practice.
6. Take two minutes three times a day to breathe deeply and slowly. This is a great coping strategy for those times when you are feeling super-frantic and flustered.

7. Have a word or positive short phrase that you can repeat to yourself over and over to help calm you down. (examples: "calm", "peace", "breathe", "it's all going to be ok", "I can do this.") It may take a few tries to figure out the one that will work best for you.
8. Stick to your sleep schedule to help to keep those stress hormones in check!
9. Do something FUN! All work and no play makes for a very stressful and unhappy existence. Be sure to have some time each week to let loose.
10. Work out regularly! Especially on those days when you just don't want to... those are usually the days when you need that release the most and you will be so glad you did it!
11. Don't drink too much alcohol! Excessive alcohol consumption can dampen your productivity and energy, make it harder to get quality sleep, and you'll just feel gross the next day.
12. Take some time to do some gentle yoga, stretching, meditation, or prayer every day.

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


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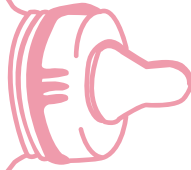


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AIR CONDITIONING TIPS FOR THE SPRING

By Mitch Weigand

Help Nip Springtime Allergies in the Bud

Spring means flower buds and blooming trees, and if you're one of the millions of people who have seasonal allergies, it also means sneezing, congestion, a runny nose and other annoying symptoms.

Nationwide, it's estimated that one in five adults has allergies, and the rates for children are even higher. Seasonal allergies - called hay fever and allergic rhinitis - can make you miserable. But before you settle for plastic flowers and artificial turf, try these simple strategies to keep seasonal allergies under control:

- Avoid outdoor activity in the early morning when pollen counts are at their highest and keep doors and windows closed at night.
- Delegate outdoor activities which

stir up allergens. These include lawn mowing, weed pulling and other gardening chores. If this isn't possible, wear a dust mask when doing outdoor chores.

- Stay indoors on windy days. The best time to go outside is after a good rain because it clears the air of pollen.
- Shower more frequently to remove pollen from your skin and hair.
- Wash clothes thoroughly that you've worn outside, and don't hang laundry outdoors. Pollen can stick to damp sheets and towels.
- Check your local TV or radio station, newspaper or online for current pollen levels and future pollen forecasts.
- Be sure to use the air conditioning in both your house and car.
- Clean floors frequently using a vacuum cleaner equipped with a HEPA filter.

- Keep the humidity in your house below 50% to help prevent mold growth.
- Most important of all, replace your home A/C system's air filter on a monthly basis. Keeping these filters clean can make the biggest difference in the management of your allergy symptoms. Air Wise has the perfect filter to help you with all airborne allergens.

Mitch is the owner of Air Wise™.



Here's what our customers are saying about us:

"I felt comfortable leaving them with my wife and three girls."

Sean G., Seabrook, TX

Mitch and his Air Wise team installed a state-of-the-art air conditioner. Wow!!!

The crew was polite, and I felt comfortable leaving them with my wife and three girls. They cleaned up after themselves, and all their work was neat. I asked lots of questions and they were patient, explaining everything thoroughly.

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Air Wise owner Mitch Weigand



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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)
\$ _____	Community Household Membership (includes 2 tickets to the 2016 Home/Garden Tour)	\$100
\$ _____	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!

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).

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GARDEN OAKS OUTREACH



A color version of the *Gazette* is published each month on the Garden Oaks website www.gardenoaks.org/involvement/gazette.html.

Classified Ads are \$20 per run for residents, and are for personal services only, e.g. help wanted, items for sale, infant care needed, etc.

**Please remember to pay
Civic Club and Constable Program
Dues for 2016.**

**Pay online at
gardenoaks.org
or complete the enclosed forms.**

APRIL 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
*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					1 April Fool's Day	2 Farmers Market 9AM-1PM 948 Wakefield
3	4	5  Civic Club Meeting* 7PM @ GOMM	6	7	8	9 Farmers Market 9AM-1PM 948 Wakefield
10	11	12	13	14	15 Tax Day	16 Farmers Market 9AM-1PM 948 Wakefield
17	18	19 	20 GOMO Meeting 7PM @ GOPB	21 Heavy Trash Pick-Up (Junk Waste)	22 Earth Day	23 Farmers Market 9AM-1PM 948 Wakefield Home Tour VIP Preview, Party & Auction 5:30-10:30PM Whitney Oaks Hall
24 Garden Oaks Home & Garden Tour 12-6PM	25	26	27	28	29	30 Farmers Market 9AM-1PM 948 Wakefield



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