



# Garden Oaks Gazette

A publication of the Garden Oaks Civic Club



## GIRL SCOUT TROOP 21 BAKE SALE RETURNS TO GARDEN OAKS!

By Tina Sabuco

You may remember that for the past two years in May, a group of special-needs Girl Scouts led by Tina Sabuco and Shellye Arnold have held a bake sale in Garden Oaks at the corner of Azalea and Alba. Well, it's that time again and we hope that you can come meet and support our very special scouts on **Sunday, May 22 from 12:00-2:00 p.m.** at **859 Azalea Street**. This is the only fundraiser we have each year, and thanks to the generosity of so many Garden Oaks residents, the money that we've raised carries our troop throughout the year.



Troop 21 is the only special-needs Girl Scout troop in the United States comprised entirely of adults. The troop formed in 1976, and many of the then-young women are still members. Today, members range in age from their 20s to 60s. Like most Girl Scout troops, they meet monthly and participate in activities that help them learn, grow, contribute, and have fun!

Also, for the second year in a row, we will be joined by Girl Scout Troop 122017, a group of six- and seven-year-old Daisy Scouts who attend St. Rose and GOMM. They will be providing some of the goodies AND a rockin' lemonade stand. They generously donate 100% of the proceeds to our Troop 21! We love our Daisy Friends!

How can YOU help?

- We invite you to bake some goodies for us to sell. We would love to have you drop off any baked goods the day before or the morning of the sale. We will provide a cooler on our front porch for drop off.
- We invite you to bring your pups. A fun addition this year will be a table of homemade dog treats, so bring your pups - or pick up some treats to take home to them.
- We invite you to stop by and purchase items. Please visit us and our Scouts in our front yard at 859 Azalea Street, at the corner of Alba, between noon and 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 22.
- We invite you to make a monetary donation. If you want to support us but are not able to stop by, we will happily accept donations. Please make your check payable to **Tina Sabuco** with "Troop 21" noted in the memo section.

If you can help, please contact me at [tina@artsaliveinc.com](mailto:tina@artsaliveinc.com) or **713-819-9339**. WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

## MAY 2016

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### May Civic Club Meeting

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

#### Girl Scout Troop 21 Bake Sale

Sunday, May 22  
Noon-2:00 p.m.  
859 Azalea Street  
@ Alba Road



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Are you planning for your child  
 (Kindergarten to 5th grade)  
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 next school year?

Please contact us for  
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Laura Aasletten Stephanie Acosta  
[laaslett@houstonisd.org](mailto:laaslett@houstonisd.org) [sdubroff@houstonisd.org](mailto:sdubroff@houstonisd.org)

713.696.2930

School Office

## 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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## Standing Committee Chairs

<b>Joan Harmon</b> 827 Lamonte	<b>Beautification</b> 713-818-9682 <a href="mailto:beautification@gardenoaks.org">beautification@gardenoaks.org</a>
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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.

- 858 Azalea            211 West 31st
- 1058 Gardenia      511 West 32nd
- 1071 Gardenia      507 West 34th
- 408 West 30th      1031 West 42nd
- 428 West 30th      747 West 43rd



**Happy Birthday**

- Cheryl McCosh .....5/1
- Brad Hem .....5/2
- Christopher K.....5/5
- Susie Heath .....5/8
- Linda Sparks .....5/8
- Ryan W. ....5/9
- Jenny Odinet..... 5/14
- Victor Seghers..... 5/20
- Gaia O. ....5/21
- Gareth O. ....5/21
- Riley T. ....5/22
- Amelie P. ....5/24
- Lauren S..... 5/24
- Shannon Miller ..... 5/31
- Rowan S..... 5/31

**Happy Anniversary**

- Victor & Deborah Seghers.....5/3
- Jason & Alisha Cunningham .... 5/16

**Out and About**

The **McLeans** had a special guest, **Caroline's** dad from across the pond. The **Sherbers** traveled to Disney World while **Terry Jeanes** cruised to Cozumel with sister Lori. **Tina Rowe** and **Jim DiCola** vacationed in Hawaii. It was another successful Sherwood Forest Faire season for the **Appling-O'Leary** crew. The **Lozano** family enjoyed a family outing at Top Golf.

**Megan Salch** was a featured guest on the recent Community Business Hour Radio Show talking about marketing and life.

Kudos to the talented **Sarah Klein** for her appearance in the TUTS production of *Oliver!* and **Megan Noser** for her performance in the HITS productions of *Crazy For You* at Miller Outdoor Theatre.

**Terry Jeanes**  
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**Congratulations**

Congrats to **Josh McLean** for winning his recent 1st and 2nd place track medals. Hats off to **E. Johnson** for advancing to *en pointe* ballet and for her medal recognition for completing the year-long Girl Scout program *I Live My Faith*.

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

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**MAY CIVIC CLUB GUEST  
SPEAKERS: CITY COUNCIL  
MEMBERS AMANDA EDWARDS  
AND DAVID ROBINSON**

**Amanda Edwards**

Amanda K. Edwards is one of Houston City Council's newest members, serving At-Large Position 4. She is also an attorney and native Houstonian with a passion for building communities through public service. Currently, Amanda serves as Vice Chair of the Budget and Fiscal Affairs Committee and serves on the Economic Development, and Transportation, Technology and Infrastructure Committees. She strives to innovatively address the city's fiscal challenges and its urban core needs in order to move all of Houston forward so that it can be the place where the Gulf Coast and the world's future meet.

Amanda attended Eisenhower High School (Aldine ISD) and Emory University in Atlanta, where she earned a degree in political science, served as student body president for the college and was inducted to the Emory University Hall of Fame. While in Atlanta, Amanda gained valuable community building and public policy experience working in community development corporations as a Community Building and Social Change Fellow and in the Georgia State Legislature. Amanda's experiences broadened her perspective about how to effect change through urban policy and collaboration.

Amanda also worked for Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee in Washington D.C. before earning her degree from Harvard Law School. While at Harvard, Amanda served as a Criminal Justice Institute student attorney, chaired the Harvard Black Law Students Association Spring Conference and was awarded the Elaine Osborne Jacobson Award for her commitment to serving underserved populations in the healthcare law arena.



Compelled by the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, Amanda relocated to New Orleans. While there, Amanda served as a judicial law clerk for Federal District Court Judge Ivan L. R. Lemelle and founded Project NOW: The New Orleans Writing Project, which inspired New Orleans youth to empower themselves and their community through the power of writing.

Currently, Amanda practices law as a municipal finance lawyer, where she solves complex issues relating to tax-exempt bond financings, public-private partnerships, community development projects, and non-profit organizations.

She has served as President of the Board of Directors for Project Row Houses in the Historical Third Ward community and on numerous other civic boards and committees, including Texas Lyceum, Crisis Intervention of Houston, Texas One Voice: A Health and Human Services Collaborative and the Houston Area Urban League Young Professionals. Amanda is also a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

**David W. Robinson**

In his second term as Houston City Council Member, At-Large Position 2, David W. Robinson was recently appointed by Mayor Sylvester Turner to represent Houston on the regional Transportation Policy Council.

Early in his architectural career, David assisted with the new U.S. Embassy in Amman, Jordan, and then



contributed to the development and production of the master planning document for the campus of the Texas Children's Hospital. In 1999, he started his own architecture firm as a sole practitioner with a broad, diverse portfolio ranging from health care to housing. He teaches a graduate-level course for Texas Tech University in the Houston program on planning and development called "Infrastructure in the Urban Environment."

Along with his architectural practice, David has long been actively involved with neighborhood issues, serving eight years as an officer of the Neartown (Montrose) Association, including terms as vice president and president. With the nomination of civic club representatives from across Houston, he was elected to serve as chairman and president of the citywide Super Neighborhood Alliance to a maximum two-year term that concluded in January 2013. While serving on the board of directors of the local chapter of the American Institute of Architects, David was appointed to the City of Houston Planning Commission by Mayor Bill White in 2007 and re-appointed by Mayor Annise Parker in 2009 – becoming the first licensed architect to serve the city as a commissioner since the 1970's.

David Robinson received a BA in Architecture from Yale College in 1988 and earned a Master of Architecture from Rice University in 1993. He is the proud father of 16-year-old Elissa and an active member of Palmer Memorial Episcopal Church.



## GARDEN OAKS CIVIC CLUB MEETING MINUTES

By Chris Lindsay, Vice President

April 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.

She then introduced Dr. Lindsey Pollock, principal of GOMM. Dr. Pollock reported that Thursday, April 7 is Signing Day, which is when the parents of those students who have been offered places at GOMM for the 2016-2017 school year need to sign a commitment to enrollment. If they do not, their spots will be made available to those on the waiting list. The new school year will begin on Monday, August 22.

Groundbreaking for construction of the new building on campus is scheduled for this summer. Temporary buildings will be used to house classes during construction. Once the new building has been completed, renovation of the old buildings will begin.

Dr. Pollock also announced the school's upcoming Spring Fling on April 29 from 3:00-5:00 p.m. and invited everyone to participate. *[Editor's note: Due to weather concerns, the Spring Fling has been rescheduled for Friday, May 13 from 3:00-5:00 p.m.]*

President Briones extended the civic club's congratulations to Dr. Pollock and her staff for GOMM's recognition as a Magnet School of Distinction. The award, granted by Magnet Schools of America, is based upon high academic standards, school diversity, specialized curricula and instruction, family engagement, and community partnerships.

**Minutes:** A motion was made and seconded to approve the March 1, 2016 minutes as published in the *Gazette*. A hard copy of the March minutes was available at the meeting.

**Treasurer's Report:** President Briones stated that the financial report was available at the sign-in table for those interested in having a copy.

**Guest Speaker:** Vice President Christina Lindsay introduced the guest speaker for the evening, Houston City Controller Chris Brown. Mr. Brown spoke about the role of the City Controller and highlighted that in his first three months as Controller he refunded/refinanced some of the city's bonds which will save the City \$165 million over the next 15-20 years. He also completed an audit of a contract with NAPA Auto Parts and found the company was overcharging the city on some items. This will result in a multi-million dollar saving when completed.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Home and Garden Tour:** Brenda de Alba reported \$26,000 in sponsorships received to date for the 2016 Garden Oaks Home & Garden Tour scheduled for Sunday, April 24, 2016.

The 2016 Home & Garden Tour VIP Party, preview tour, and auction, "Mi Casa Es Su Casa", is scheduled for Saturday, April 23, 2016. Tickets are available at [www.gardenoaks.org](http://www.gardenoaks.org). Items are still being accepted for the auction.

**Membership:** No report was available.

**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 spruce up our green spaces and Garden Oaks Blvd. ahead of the Home Tour date.

**Citizens' Patrol:** Program Chair Carl Waters, Jr. said that there were only 4 incidents reported last month. He encouraged neighbors to volunteer for patrolling the neighborhood. Anyone interested should contact Carl Waters via the information listed on [www.gardenoaks.org](http://www.gardenoaks.org). Neighbors should visit [www.crimereports.com](http://www.crimereports.com) to view crime records in the area.

### 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. Please note that children must be three years of age or older.

**Constable Program:** Committee Chair Terry Jeanes reported how neighbors' Facebook posts about aggressive magazine subscription sellers in the neighborhood alerted the constables who found the sales people and checked to see if they had the appropriate permits and in general kept an eye on them. Ultimately, two of them were arrested and the magazine companies they allegedly worked for were found not to be legitimate.

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

**Government Affairs Standing Committee:** Committee Chair Mark Klein reported that there is no longer any funding available within the City's budget for Quiet Zones. If we want our Quiet Zone project done, we are going to have to find a way to keep this in front of council members, as well as find other means to raise a portion of the funds needed to complete the project. We need sponsorships from home developers and business owners. Super Neighborhood 12 has been working on the 34th Street Quiet Zone and continues to advocate for the project with elected officials.

Mr. Klein also mentioned a discussion at the Super Neighborhood 12 meeting about possibly having a "Cigna Sunday Streets" event in the Garden Oaks/Oak Forest area.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

GARDEN OAKS RESIDENT!



¡HABLAMOS ESPAÑOL!



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## GOMO Board of Directors

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**Sheila Briones** (2017)  
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[sheila.briones@gardenoaks.org](mailto:sheila.briones@gardenoaks.org)

**Mark Saranie** (2018)  
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### SECTION 2

**Ed de Alba** (2016)  
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**Lori Kennedy** (2017)  
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**Rafael Pina** (2018)  
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### SECTION 3

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**Vidal Martinez** (2017)  
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**Dea Larson** (2018)  
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### SECTION 5

**Teresa Coleman** (2016)  
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**Chavonne Slovak** (2017)  
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**Kip Noser** (2018)  
281-846-5479  
[kip.noser@gardenoaks.org](mailto:kip.noser@gardenoaks.org)

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

## GARDEN OAKS MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATION (GOMO) MONTHLY REPORT FOR MARCH 2016

**Plans were approved for:**  
1007 W. 41st

**Revised Plans were approved for:**  
1039 W. 42nd

**Pending Resubmissions:**  
None.

### 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. A few more categories were added and monthly figures updated below.

2016	Jan	Feb	Mar	YTD (as of 3/31/2016)
Not a violation	3	1	0	4
City pending	1	1	1	N/A
City cleared	0	0	1	1
Informal w/owner pending	0	0	1	N/A
Informal w/owner cleared	1		1	2
Legal opinion pending	1	1	2	N/A
Legal opinion cleared	0	0	1	1
1st letter sent pending	2	0	0	N/A
1st letter cleared	1	2	0	3
2nd letter sent pending	0	0	0	N/A
2nd letter cleared	0	0	0	0
Litigation authorized	0	0	0	0
<b>Total New Reported</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Total Cleared</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Total In-Progress</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>N/A</b>

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

The GOMO website has been updated this month to include:  
Meeting minutes for January – March 2016  
New FAQ  
New litigation updates

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 with deed restrictions. The directors of GOMO are member-elected volunteers.

GOMO news, director and office contact information, 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](http://gardenoaks.org/gomo), homeowners can find: deed restrictions, plan approval information, bylaws, policies, financial reports, transfer fee information, meeting schedule, 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.

**Contact:**

The Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization  
4001 N. Shepherd Drive, Suite 216  
Houston, TX 77018

713-561-3936

[manager@gardenoaksmaintenance.org](mailto:manager@gardenoaksmaintenance.org)

[gardenoaks.org/gomo](http://gardenoaks.org/gomo)

**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](http://GardenOaks.org).

Property owners in Sections 1, 2, 3 and 5 are all members of GOMO.

**Garden Oaks Resident  
and Home Specialist**

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**CITIZENS' PATROL UPDATE**

*By Carl Waters, Jr., Program Chair*

Thanks to information provided by concerned citizens, the Precinct One Constable's Office was able to arrest and charge two aggressive solicitors with trespassing. One man entered a plea at an early court appearance. The other man's case was still pending in early April. The Constable's Office reported that the companies the two men claimed to work for were not legitimate. If you encounter an aggressive salesman or any other person, please call the authorities. Please don't buy magazines or give them money to leave. It only encourages them to return to the neighborhood.

Additionally, if someone comes to your door, acknowledge his or her presence. You don't have to open the door, but let him or her know that someone is home. Criminals are using that technique to see if someone is home. If they sense that no one is home, they go the rear of the house where they are less likely

to be seen, and break a window or kick in the back door to gain entry and burglarize the home.

**March Crime Statistics (4)**

**Burglary (3)**

900 block of Althea  
on Thursday, March 10 at 1:12 p.m.

900 block of W. 42nd  
on Friday, March 11 at 3:00 p.m.

700 block of W. 41st  
on Monday, March 14 at 4:08 p.m.

**Auto Theft (1)**

600 block of W. 34th  
on Tuesday, March 8 at 2:55 a.m.

*Inquiries about joining the Citizens' Patrol Program or other community safety issues may be directed to me via the neighborhood website [GardenOaks.org](http://GardenOaks.org), the Citizens' Patrol email [gocop77018@aol.com](mailto:gocop77018@aol.com) or by phone at 713-864-1992.*

**Emergency Numbers**



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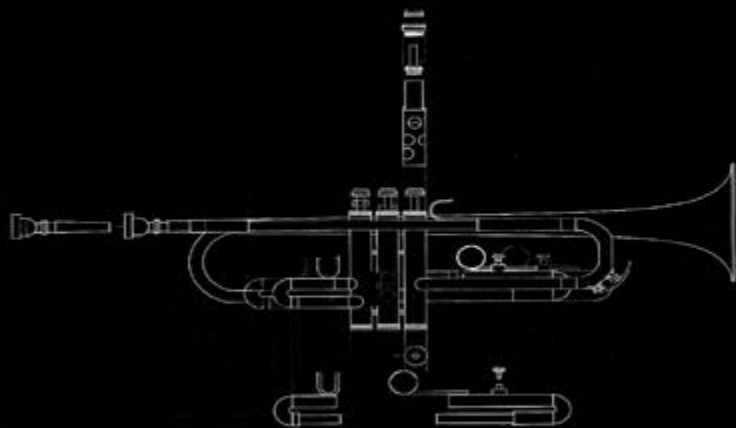
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**AIR CONDITIONING TIPS FOR THE SPRING**

*By Mitch Weigand*

**Long, Hot Summer: Common Reasons Your A/C Could Quit this Summer**

In less than a month, it will officially be summer here in Houston. This is the time of year that your A/C system works the hardest and has the greatest chance for failure.

Although there are many things that can go wrong, here are the most common reasons we as A/C service technicians see again and again. Let's discuss what they are and how to avoid experiencing a long, hot summer.

**1. Lack of proper routine maintenance.** Keeping your A/C system well-maintained is absolutely critical if you want to avoid a breakdown. The first step involves having your A/C technician perform a spring check-up. During the check-up, the entire system will be inspected in order to spot and fix potential problems. A well-maintained A/C unit uses less energy

to cool your house, and lower energy usage can mean big savings on your monthly utility bill. Also, here's where a preventive maintenance agreement (PMA) sure comes in handy. It saves you money, and the A/C company calls to remind you when the tune-up is due.


**2. Not replacing your filter when it's dirty.** When it comes to routine maintenance that you as a homeowner can perform, changing the air filter is numero uno. Make sure you replace the filter once a month. I cannot emphasize this enough.

**3. Leaks which allow freon to escape.** Freon (also known as refrigerant) is the lifeblood of your A/C system. Operating properly, it does not lose freon. The only time that you will need to have freon added is if there's a leak or your system was undercharged to begin with. Did you know if your system is short just one pound of freon (that's about 10% overall), your electrical bill can increase nearly \$50 per month?

**4. The A/C system gets overworked.** With some summer days approaching 100 degrees with 90-plus percent humidity, there's no doubt your system will have to work extremely hard. It can lead to problems like tripped circuit breakers, blown capacitors and more. Help ease your system's workload by raising the temperature in your home to 80 degrees while at work, keep curtains closed to avoid sunlight heating up the indoor air and have realistic expectations regarding your home's indoor temperature. Don't expect your home to be 65 degrees inside while it's 95 degrees outside. Not gonna happen.

**5. The system is old and past its prime.** Most home A/C systems in Houston last about 10 years, and summer puts tremendous stress on them. If your system is old and not up to the challenge, consider installing a brand new system. Not only will this prevent breakdowns, it can make your home more comfortable and very likely lower your monthly electric bill.


*Mitch is the owner of Air Wise™.*




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**“My A/C started making eerie noises.”** *Kathy J., Oak Forest, TX*

One night my A/C started making eerie noises, like a vicious swarm of bees. I called Air Wise and Mitch came to my house, calling 15 minutes before he arrived. He took time to listen to all of my concerns and things I've noticed and had my A/C working an hour later. Call Mitch.





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**Air Wise owner Mitch Weigand**





**Garden Oaks  
2016 Home & Garden Tour**

**2016 HOME & GARDEN TOUR SPONSORSHIP RECAP**  
By Brenda de Alba

At the final bell our tour sponsorship total is an amazing **\$26,500!** Big, big thanks to all of the local businesses that answered our calls, letters, and emails asking for support. Their sponsorships have greatly contributed to the success of this year's tour. Please consider thanking these businesses with your patronage when you need the goods and services they provide. A complete list of the 2016 Home & Garden Tour sponsors can be found on the facing page.

Our final tour sponsor since our last report is **Chris Schmidt** of **SCM Construction Services** who committed for his sixth tour sponsorship at the Silver (\$500) level.

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2016 Home & Garden Tour**

**2016 HOME AND GARDEN TOUR AUCTION RECAP**

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

Thanks to our generous donors for supporting the Auction held during the Garden Oaks Home & Garden VIP Party. Proceeds of the auction benefit the Garden Oaks Montessori Middle School. We had over 100 packages available at the auction. Thanks to everyone who participated in the auction and we hope you enjoy your purchases. Please visit these businesses and tell them thank you!

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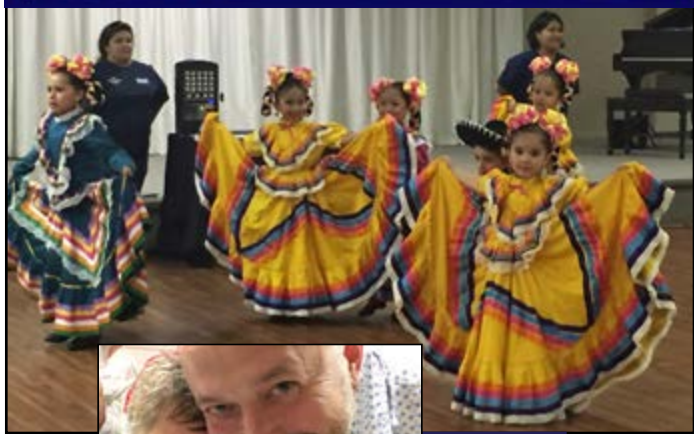
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## HABITAT GARDENING TIPS

By Kim Ellis

Some days lately feel like spring and some days like summer... nothing new for us here in Houston. May is the month that we enjoy the final display of warm season flowers and get ready for the heat and the hardy plants that love Texas in the summer.

May is a MOSTLY comfortable month in the garden, and still a great time to visit your local garden center to see what's new, and maybe try out some native plants or other varieties for a fresh addition to your beds. Keep that journal up to date, for reference in years to come. This month is also a great time to visit local garden tours, including the Houston Pond Society's Water Garden and Pond Tour on May 7.

In the garden, before it gets too hot, it's a great time to transplant, plant, or divide plants that are ready to go into the ground. With all new plants it is best to make sure they are placed in good soil, fertilized, and watered accordingly. To encourage new growth for existing plants, cut or pinch them back to the first set of leaves, which will send more energy to the blooms. When picking out new plants, remember to buy plants that need similar water and light requirements. If your lawn has issues, May is a great month for seeding or sodding your lawn, as the soil temperatures are getting warmer to encourage growth. Most plants respond well to a mixed soil with good drainage, slow-release fertilizer, and water to keep moist, but not soggy.

May will probably show an increase in plant pests and disease with the higher temperatures, so check your plants often to try to catch issues early. Some plant problems can be helped with the promotion of beneficial insects in your garden. Most of our insects are not damaging

to our plants, and in turn act as pollinators, weed-eaters, soil conditioners, and pest predators. An internet search for "integrated pest management" will turn up good examples of solutions for your garden's particular issues.

Spring means more wildlife in the garden. Butterflies will be looking for host plants to lay eggs on, and nectar plants to feed on. All water sources should be kept safe and clean for birds and mammals. Baby birds and mammals will be all over our yards, and some may seem to be in distress. The Wildlife Center of Texas recommends that we take these steps when assessing our stranded wildlife:

- (1) **Observe:** Look for injuries, parents, and siblings;
- (2) **Replace:** If the baby is not injured and the parents are still around, just re-nest it;
- (3) **Collect:** Place it in a box with soft rags and keep it warm until you can get to the center (DO NOT give the baby any food or liquids!); and
- (4) **Call** WCT at (713) 861-WILD.

### Sustainable gardening tips for May include:

- compost fallen leaves, newspaper, and scraps from your kitchen
- use your compost as a natural fertilizer to amend your soils
- mulch your beds for weed control and better water retention
- use drip irrigation for pinpoint watering, lessening water waste
- eliminate the use of synthetic 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

**Kim Ellis**

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



### Plant of the Month: **Lonicera sempervirens - Coral honeysuckle**

Coral Honeysuckle is the best behaved of our Texas native vines, and provides beautiful blooms for you and hummingbirds to enjoy almost year round. It's a high-climbing, twining vine that grows 3-20 feet long. It has semi-evergreen leaves and 2-4 flowered clusters of red, tubular blooms followed by bright-red berries. This vine has showy, trumpet-shaped flowers, red outside and yellow inside, and fruits with a red berry.

This beautiful, slender, climbing vine is frequently visited by hummingbirds and can act as a climber or ground cover.

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

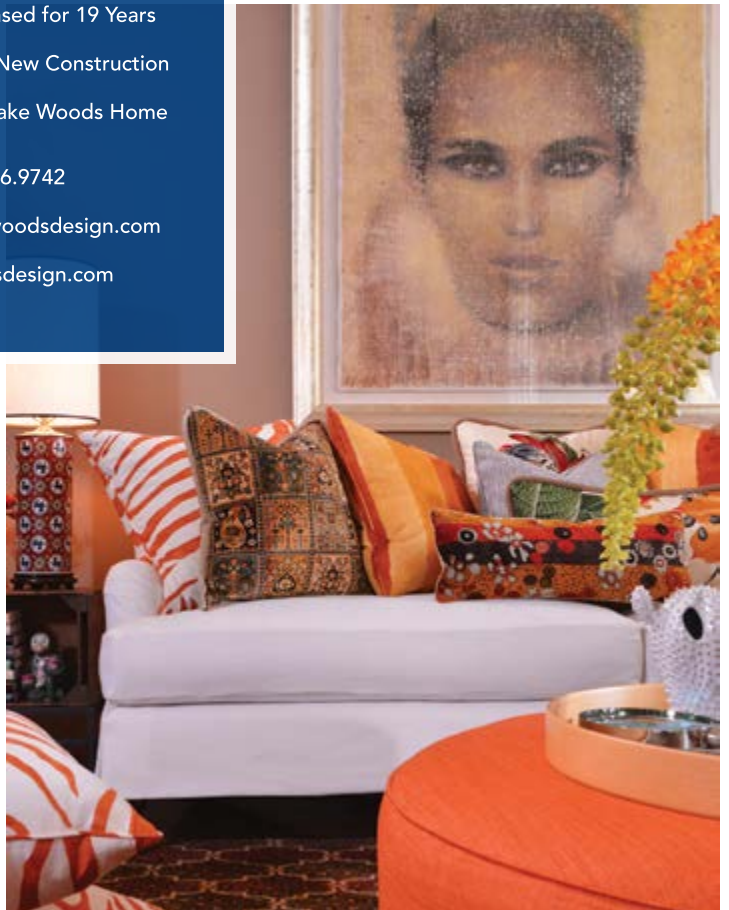




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**MICKEY'S MINUTE**

*By Mickey Morales*

Years ago, actually decades probably, I read an editorial in *Rolling Stone* magazine written by Hunter S. Thompson called "The Reality of Becoming a Statistic" in which he described his experience of being robbed at gunpoint. Basically it's about how you never think it's going to happen to you until it does. Well, dear friends and supporters, it has happened to one of ours. On April 2nd, Farmer Cathy was parked at the Chevron station at Durham and 610, waiting to rendez-vous with one of our other farmers to make a pickup before heading to the market. A young very large black gentleman pulled up next to her pretending to ask for directions, when he suddenly opened her passenger door and grabbed her purse. There was a struggle and Cathy was pulled to the ground screaming for help as he drove away. Thankfully, she survived with only minor scrapes and bruises. Ironically, she had been parked square in front of the security camera

and had been asked by the store clerk to move just seconds before the attack. Neither the clerk nor the people pumping gas offered to help.

The reason I've taken the opportunity to rant about this event is to underscore the need to be on guard when you're out and about. Hopefully, by the time you read this, our Officer Bowden will have interviewed Cathy and captured the culprit. Officer Bowden did quite a good job last year of identifying the guy rifling through my truck at the Petrol Station, which led to his capture; he is now spending a few well-deserved years in the pokey.

On a happier note, the market continues unabated. We should have Kristy back with her jams, jellies, and cheese spreads. Our friend Jenna Pepper has taken over the helm for Angela's Oven, and local baker Steve Romero will have joined us with delicious pies that he learned to bake at his grandpa's elbow. Gus Nawara and company, along with Farmer Cathy and Blackwood Bounty,

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should have lots of spring veggies, and the hens at the farm will be at full stride. We also will have weaned the six piglets that Violet had mid-March and we will be well on the way to getting them up to market weight (a few months I guess). So far, I have requests for two and a half pig shares; there are still three and a half left to spread around. My plan is to have them custom butchered and do an interactive demonstration at the market on cutting and wrapping meat for freezer storage.

As always, "Come soon, come often, and please watch out for yourselves".



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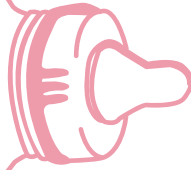


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## PLANNING FOR EVERYDAY SCIENCE

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

With summer approaching, **this is the time to start planning activities** for your children. According to Dr. Sandra Slutz, "Summer is the perfect time to encourage kids to ask 'why' as they explore science—with their own hands." Discovery learning is important at all ages but asking "why" is the beginning of innovation. "'Why' is the foundation of science, but even more importantly, asking 'why' builds critical and creative thinking skills," Kristi Calcagno, director of the Open Gate Cooperative Nursery School, agrees and encourages parents to explore hands-on science with their children on a daily basis. "The most important thing that children gain from a hands-on and wonder, and by doing so, learn!" Here are a few ideas for you to explore the wonder of science with your children of all ages.

### Invent and Innovate

Reuse those outdated, broken items by deconstructing them and creating something new! Use parts of an old clock to make a new invention or find a new use for an old item. Children learn from building with blocks, Legos, and sticks from the backyard. They can compare materials, structures, and discover the relationship between height and stability and investigate what stands and what falls. Assemble a marble-run kit from an assortment of household items, including toilet paper holders, plastic funnels, small train track pieces, cardboard, and lots of tape. If you are at the beach, experiment with sand castle building with different shapes and containers.

### Outdoors

Nature provides a limitless supply of fun, easy and free things to do outdoors that encourage children to compare, observe, explore and experiment. You can find wonder in overturning large rocks after a rainstorm to expose earthworms to splashing in puddles to comparing leaves in the garden. Frogs, lizards, butterflies, caterpillars, nests, and

ponds all invite observation of habitats and ecosystems. Set up multiple bird feeders, each with different types of seed, and see what happens. On hot days, make rainbows with a sprinkler, tumble ice cream in a coffee can, or make butter with heavy cream. In an open space, kites, frisbees, and paper airplanes all use basic principles of flight. Why do different shapes and sizes travel distances? Measure and study why!

### Kitchen

The kitchen is another handy place that invites all kinds of science investigations. Baking or cooking with your children reinforces math and reading skills and encourages science questions. What happens when you mix those two ingredients together? Why do you need baking soda in those cookies? Do all fruits have the same size, shape, and number of seeds? Food science can be fun, but not all recipes for kitchen science are to eat. Add a bit of food coloring to the water in a vase of white carnations for a colorful example of capillary action or oil, water and Alka-Seltzer for a homemade lava lamp. Mix up batches of silly putty, salt dough, or homemade chalk. Reuse empty glass jars to grow and compare salt- and sugar-based crystals on a string. Seal a slice of bread in another jar and use a microscope to watch what grows over the next few days.

### Grow Something

Indoors or out, letting your kids grow their own flowers, herbs, or vegetables creates a long-term learning activity that encourages monitoring and observation. Plant seeds in an empty egg carton or grow a houseplant in water from a carrot, pineapple, radish, or last night's avocado pit.

### Think Outside the Box

Make up your own games and experiments. Plan a trip to a museum or create your own museum "displays" at home and invite your family and friends over. Your family adventures and innovative ideas might turn out to be the most memorable and rewarding moments of the summer. Enjoy!



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## WHAT ARE YOU CLEANING WITH?

By Erin Palmer, CNHP

We are exposed to over 80,000 different chemicals in our cleaning products every day that have never been fully tested prior to being placed on the market to verify that they are safe to use.

The United States' main chemical safety law, the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), makes it nearly impossible for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to take regulatory action against dangerous chemicals, even those that are known to cause cancer or other serious health effects.

This is why we will often see chemicals, like chlorine, on the World Health Organization's (WHO) list as a top carcinogen that is extremely dangerous and is still prevalent in our cleaning supplies and water.

When TSCA became law in 1976, the goal was to ensure the safety of chemicals from manufacture to use and disposal. But weaknesses in the law have left the EPA largely unable to act on known health dangers or require testing on specific chemicals that may be unsafe.

The government acknowledges that these cleaning products are hazardous, but regulation only requires labels to indicate if they are: combustible, corrosive, poisonous, should be used with caution, etc. They are not required to disclose the full ingredient list.

Most common household cleaners contain toxic chemicals such as ammonia, formaldehyde, phthalates, benzalkonium chloride, and 2-butoxyethanol. Oven cleaners are among the most toxic products people use. They contain lye and ammonia. When these two chemicals are combined they produce toxic chloramine gases that damage the lungs, throat, heart, eyes, and skin, and are even suspected carcinogens.

A 1985 EPA report concluded that the toxic chemicals in household cleaners are three times more likely to cause cancer than outdoor air pollution. Also, a report by the Consumer Product Safety Commission on chemicals commonly found in homes identified 150 that have been linked to allergies, birth defects, cancer, and psychological abnormalities. With windows sealed shut in the winter to conserve heat and save energy, and in the summer to hold in the cool air-conditioned air, these toxins build up to higher and higher levels.

Most of these chemical cleaners have been linked to hormonal disruption. This means they interfere with the body's natural chemical messages by either blocking or mimicking the specific actions of the hormones. Most commonly, they elevate estrogen levels in both men and

women which can lead to hormonal-based cancers such as breast, ovarian, uterine, prostate, and testicular cancers. They may also decrease sperm counts and increase the rates of male birth defects such as undescended testicles.

Fragrances are added to many cleaners, especially laundry detergents and fabric softeners. Many of these products cause acute reactions such as respiratory irritation, headaches, sneezing, sinus congestion, watery eyes, and skin irritation. The National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health has found that one-third of the substances used in fragrances for these products are toxic. However, because the chemical formulations are considered "trade secrets" or "special recipes", companies are not required to disclose the fragrance ingredients; the simple word "fragrance" is legally sufficient for a product's ingredients list.

So, what *should* we use to clean? Going back to basics is the best way to start. Vinegar and hot water are safe and very effective. Baking soda and water clean stainless steel like a dream. One cup of vodka in with your laundry detergent will get the stink out of your workout clothes better than anything else. For ready-made alternatives to your conventional products, look for the following brands:

**Dish Soap:** Seventh Generation, Sun and Earth

**Dishwasher Detergent:** Seventh Generation, BioKleen, Whole Foods Market store brand

**Laundry Detergent:** Seventh Generation, Earth Friendly Products Ultra ECOS, Zum Clean, Mrs. Meyers

**Toilet Cleaners:** Earth Friendly Products, Mrs. Meyers, Zum Clean, Green Shield Organic

**All-Purpose Cleaners:** Earth Friendly Products, Mrs. Meyers, BioKleen

You can also get chlorine-free bleach, fabric softeners, stain removers, and other specialty cleaners from many of the companies listed above.

As you run out of your current products start replacing them with the items above.

*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](http://www.erinpalmercnhp.com) or email [erin@erinthebeast.com](mailto:erin@erinthebeast.com). CrossFitters: be sure to check out [www.erinthebeast.com](http://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](mailto:gazette@gardenoaks.org) by the 10th of each month for publication the following month.
3. Artwork may be submitted in one of the following formats: **JPEG** (.jpg), **PDF** (.pdf), **GIF** (.gif) or **TIF** (.tif).

**Please support our advertisers  
who in turn support  
our neighborhood.**



**Tell them you saw  
their ad in the Gazette!**

**GARDEN OAKS OUTREACH**




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

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

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

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

# MAY 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3  Civic Club Meeting* 7PM @ GOMM	4	5	6	7 Farmers Market 9AM-1PM 948 Wakefield
8 Mother's Day	9	10	11	12	13 GOMM Spring Fling 3-5PM @ GOMM	14 Farmers Market 9AM-1PM 948 Wakefield
15	16	17 	18 GOMO Meeting 7PM @ GOPB	19 Heavy Trash Pick-Up (Tree Waste)	20	21 Farmers Market 9AM-1PM 948 Wakefield
22 Girl Scout Troop 21 Bake Sale 12-2PM 859 Azalea @ Alba (see details page 1)	23	24	25	26	27	28 Farmers Market 9AM-1PM 948 Wakefield
29	30 Memorial Day	31	JUNE 1  Trash & Recycling Picked Up Wed. Due to Holiday	*Preceded by GOMO meeting beginning at 6:30PM. <b>Acronym Key</b> GOMM = Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet School, 901 Sue Barnett GOMO = Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization GOPB = Garden Oaks Professional Building, 4001 N. Shepherd, Suite 216		

# Plumbco

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GARDENOAKSHOMES.COM

# WELCOME TO GARDEN OAKS!



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



CALL ME FOR A FREE MARKET ANALYSIS OF YOUR HOME.



When my husband, Will and I moved to Garden Oaks in 1993, we knew it was the perfect place to raise our family.



It was the cute homes and tree-lined streets that first attracted us to the area but we quickly realized that we found a true neighborhood where neighbors wave as they drive pass and visit in their front yards in the evenings.

It is full of great history and old-fashioned traditions such as the 4th of July Bike Parade, Fall Festival and of course the Home and Garden Tour. Over the years we have seen Garden Oaks grow and change, yet it still has that same wonderful sense of community.



It gives me great pleasure to help others discover this beautiful place we call home. If you or any of your friends or relatives are thinking of buying or selling, please give me a call.

Deanna Zugheri  
CLHMS, Keller Williams Realty  
Metropolitan



Deanna@GardenOaksHomes.com - 281.658.4514



## 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.

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**Fill in Amount:**

\$ _____	Crepe Myrtle (Basic Level) Household Membership	<b>\$25</b> (\$5 for Seniors)
\$ _____	Red Oak (Patron Level) Household Membership	<b>\$75</b> (\$15 for Seniors)
\$ _____	Community Household Membership (includes 2 tickets to the 2016 Home/Garden Tour)	<b>\$100</b>
\$ _____	Business Membership (Non-Voting Membership)	<b>\$50</b>
\$ _____	Contribution to Beautification (all neighborhood green spaces)	
\$ _____	Contribution to Garden Club (maintain Friendship Park, Section 1)	
\$ _____	<b>TOTAL</b>	

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](http://www.gardenoaks.org/membership);  
upon completion, you will receive e-mail confirmation of your dues payment.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF OUR GREAT NEIGHBORHOOD!





**2016 Constable Patrol Contributor Application & Contact Information**

[ ] New Member or [ ] Renewal

<b>Property Address :</b> _____ <b>Phone at this address:</b> _____
--

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