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** or **713-819-9339**. WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!
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.

Garden Oaks Civic Club Officers

Sheila Briones 412 West 34th  President 281-685-8133  president@gardenoaks.org
Chris Lindsay 938 Lamonte  Vice President 713-819-8412  vicepresident@gardenoaks.org
Jerry Butler 871 West 41st  Treasurer 713-822-3175  treasurer@gardenoaks.org
Luke Sustr 407 West 34th  Secretary 832-289-4795  secretary@gardenoaks.org

Standing Committee Chairs

Joan Harmon 827 Lamonte  Beautification 713-818-9682  beautification@gardenoaks.org
Carl Waters, Jr. 821 West 31st  Citizens’ Patrol 713-569-3153  gocop@gardenoaks.org
Terry Jeanes 922 West 41st  Constable Program 713-812-9154  constable@gardenoaks.org
Joe Muscara 750 Sue Barnett  GardenOaks.org 713-691-6833  webmaster@gardenoaks.org
Mark Klein 846 Azalea  Government Affairs 281-536-6063  mklein1503@gmail.com
Dian Austin 733 West 42nd  Membership 713-691-6505  membership@gardenoaks.org

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402 E 26th -1905 Farmhouse Reno / Add 3000 SF $930K
406 E 26th – New Contemporary 1-Story 1900 SF $675K
1027 Allston – Craftsman Reno / Add 4100 SF $1.35 M

(713) 256-4303 Carol Toups (832) 706-9626 Joe Toups

ARE YOU IN THE (GARDEN OAKS MONTESSORI) ZONE?

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  Stephanie Acosta
laaslett@houstonisd.org  sdubroff@houstonisd.org
713.696.2930
School Office
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.

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 or 713-812-9154.
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.
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. 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. Neighbors should visit 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.
¡HABLAMOS ESPAÑOL!

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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.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Feb</th>
<th>Mar</th>
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<td>4</td>
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<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Informal w/owner cleared</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
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<td>2</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<td>1</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Cleared</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total In-Progress</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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CITIZENS’ PATROL UPDATE
By Carl Waters, Jr., Program Chair

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, the Citizens’ Patrol email gocop77018@aol.com or by phone at 713-864-1992.
GARDEN OAKS

OAK FOREST
VETERINARY HOSPITAL

Monday - Friday: 7:00 AM - 6:00 PM
By appointment only
Saturday: 7:30 - 11:30 AM
Walk-ins welcome
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Dr. Jenna Maddox
Dr. Beverly Crocker
Dr. Lisa Box

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Transforming Your Dreams... Into Reality!
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 in 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™.
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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Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization (GOMO)
Katy Hall Wyly, John Daugherty Realtors

**Gold Sponsors ($1000+)**
Bayou City Aire, LLC
Blake Woods Design
Central City Air
Christina Gobe, Envoy Mortgage
Garden Oaks Veterinary Clinic
Harry James Building + Design
Shipley Do-Nuts – 3410 Ella Blvd.
Stetzer Builders
The Reyna Realty Group

**Silver Sponsors ($500+)**
Adolf Hoepfl & Son Garage
Blackbird + Cothren
Facundo Artisan Builders, Inc.
Marisa Thomas – Amegy Mortgage
Oak Forest Veterinary Hospital
Wyly and Cook, LLP
BB&T (Branch Banking & Trust) – 1929 Mangum Rd.
SCM Construction Services
STAN-CO Home Improvements
Stewart Title
Tony’s Mexican Restaurant

**Bronze Sponsors ($250+)**
Ace Tree Specialist • Evers & Butler, LLP • GO Kids • Richmonds Air
Heights Dermatology & Aesthetics Center • The Bell Tower on 34th
Jennifer Klein – AATB Pilates and Physical Therapy • IndyQuest Properties, LLC
Northwest Chiropractic Center • Peggy Smith, Realtor • Wabash Feed & Garden
Kim Ellis – HABITATS Wildscape Consulting • Tonya L. Knauth, Attorney, PLLC
Merle Norman Cosmetics & Gift Boutique – 4216 Ella Blvd.
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!

$1000+ Supporter Level
Crider’s on the Frio
Harriet & Joe Foster Family YMCA
Inner Loop Design
Syzdek Family
Thomas Fallon Photography
Tonya L. Knauth, Attorney, PLLC

$500-999 Supporter Level
Body 3 Personal Fitness Center
Bread Alone - The Harvest
de Alba Family
Hunter Dance Center
Merle Norman Cosmetics & Gift Boutique
Mindy Harmon Photography
Nicole Denae Photography
Shellye Arnold
www.MommaStrong.com

$250-499 Supporter Level
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Good Meal Deals Savvy
Green Chiropractic
Habitats Wildscape Consulting
Jonathon Farkasofky
Lozano Family
Nationwide Tools & Supplies
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Sarah Gish
Home Office Services
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The Katy House Bed & Breakfast, Smithville, TX
The Werline Family
West U Wellness
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Becks Prime on 19th Street
Buchanan’s Native Plants
Cathy Crawford
Cheeseballsy’s
Cowan Family
Don Teo’s Restaurant
Edible Arrangements
European Wax Center - Shops at Oak Forest
Experimac - The Heights
Fat Cat Creamery
Goodyear Tire Center (Downtown)
Houston Rockets Clutch City Foundation
Jennifer Klein Physical Therapy/AATB Pilates
John & Lorie Reno
Joshua’s Native Plants
Juice Girl
Kaelin Customs
Karbach Brewing Co.
Katz Coffee
Keif’s Catering
Klein Family
Langdon-Crownover Family
Liberation Gluten-Free Bakery
Mark Saranie

Omni Houston Hotel
Papa Murphy’s on 43rd Street
Plonk! Beer & Wine Bistro
Rainbow Lodge
Rodolfo F. Leal Intero Real Estate Services
Sally & Eli Pittman
Sheila Briones
SMG-NRG Park
Teotihuacan Mexican Café
Terry Jeanes - Garden Oaks Neighbor @ REMAX Metro
Texas Art Asylum
The Chocolate Bar
The Creek Group
The Demartini Institute
The Ground Up
The Spaghetti Western Italian Café
Tina Rowe
Toasted
Top Golf
Uchi Restaurants
Urban Harvest
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Whataburger
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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

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

There Is No Such Thing As An Acceptable Accident

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

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

- Expert room-by-room safety evaluation and a detailed checklist of potential hazards.
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281-438-4670
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.

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!
Say bye-bye to food cravings, excess weight, mood swings, aches and pains, fatigue, hormonal imbalances, poor sleep, bad skin and digestive issues!

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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@erinthethebeast.com. CrossFitters: be sure to check out [www.erinthethebeast.com](http://www.erinthethebeast.com).**
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).

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 support our advertisers who in turn support our neighborhood.

Tell them you saw their ad in the Gazette!

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

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

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*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

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Gary Bloch

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MPL 17021
Welcome to Garden Oaks!

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.

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: ____________________________________________

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2016 Constable Patrol Contributor Application & Contact Information

[   ] New Member or [   ] Renewal

Property Address: ______________________________________________________________
Phone at this address: __________________________________________________________

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

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

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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