



Garden Oaks Gazette

A publication of the Garden Oaks Civic Club

Garden Oaks 2016 Home & Garden Tour

2016 HOME & GARDEN TOUR FINAL RESULTS

By Brenda de Alba

Despite rainy skies, hundreds of people, with their umbrellas and wearing smiles, visited the narrow streets of Garden Oaks riding trolleys and shuttle buses, in cars, on bicycles, and on foot to tour six wonderful homes and three unique gardens in the starring roles for the Tour. It was the supporting actors who may have stolen the show, as dozens of volunteers became neighborhood ambassadors, greeting visitors enthusiastically and causing many to proclaim newfound love for Garden Oaks.

The rainy afternoon definitely affected our overall attendance and ticket sales; however, over \$36,000 profit was still raised from generous sponsor support, a successful auction during Saturday's VIP Preview Party gala, and through tour ticket sales to support the Garden Oaks Civic Club (\$23,000) and Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet Middle School (\$13,200).

Over 140 volunteers came together – many working for almost a year to make the tour one that numerous visitors called their favorite and the best-run home tour they'd been to recently. Tour volunteers worked the home and garden tour locations; rode the trolleys as docents; ran the Command Center; put up posters all over town; organized ticket pre-sale locations; hung banners and dug in signs; hauled tables, chairs and sponsor signs to each location;

managed the VIP Preview Party at Whitney Oaks Hall; collected a bevy of auction items and ran the auction; obtained magnificent, donated floral arrangements for each home; brought water to every location; pitched the story to local media; wrote copy and designed printed materials; spread the word in social media and on GardenOaks.org; recruited volunteers; published articles in the Gazette; and got sponsors on board. No question about it: the volunteers for our home and garden tour were a dedicated, resourceful, and remarkable lot. Lastly, a big thank-you to Joan and Gary Harmon for their hard work and efforts to have the neighborhood parks and common areas looking wonderful by tour time.

The featured home and garden owners were an amazing group. By opening their homes and gardens – and a part of their lives – to everyone, they helped make 2016 a special tour. It's no easy commitment to be on a home tour. The home and garden owners spent weeks meticulously preparing their homes and gardens as shining stars for hundreds of visitors to admire.

Sponsor support was incredible this year as area businesses invested back into the community they serve to make this fundraising effort possible. The Garden Oaks neighbors who support and champion our sponsors are encouraging future donations.

JUNE 2016

UPCOMING EVENTS

June Civic Club Meeting

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

GO Fourth of July Bicycle Parade

Monday, July 4
8:30 a.m. Registration
9:00 a.m. Parade Begins
Rick Englert SPARK Park
Sue Barnett Drive @ 41st Street

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Our next home and garden tour will be in 2018! Be a part of the fun and volunteer, nominate your home as a tour location, be a sponsor, donate an auction item and – above all – thank those who contributed money and hard work to make the 2016 tour a memorable one.



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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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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.

- 4327 Apollo 946 West 41st
- 1062 Gardenia 709 West 42nd
- 3007 Lawrence 902 West 42nd
- 729 West 30th 955 West 42nd
- 328 West 31st 938 West 43rd
- 235 West 32nd 1071 West 43rd



Happy Birthday

- Andrew B.6/1
- Julie Sherber6/2
- Stephen S.6/4
- Tina Rowe.....6/5
- Rebecca Stark6/5
- Elyse S.6/9
- Mark Klein..... 6/13
- Landon C..... 6/18
- Shana Tatum 6/21
- Antonio R. 6/23
- Allison Padon 6/28

Congratulations

Congratulations to **Mel Johnson** for her recent Appreciation Pin Award from Emerald Oaks Community of the Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council.

Kudos as well to **Margarita Barcenas** for her recognition at the University of Houston Distinguished Alumnae Awards celebration. She wears her medal well!

Congratulations to **Alexandra Feit** on her recent First Communion.

Hooray for **Josh McLean** for winning first place at the Splash and Dash.

Congratulations to **Megan Salch** for her graduation from the Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses Program.

Kudos to **Abby Ganze** for earning her recent Latin Exam award.

Out and About

Heather McKeown enjoyed Mother's Day with her Mom at the Historic Galveston Home Tour.

The **Zugheris** were stylin' at the Kentucky Derby celebration at Federal Grille.

Tina Rowe spent two exciting weeks in South Africa.

Leslie Ryan & Carl Waters and the **Acosta** clan all enjoyed some Astros baseball.

Lots happening at the **Stark** Homestead with the recent filming of an Academy commercial.

The **Greenslates** traveled to Louisiana for a family wedding.

Best wishes to **Cameron Carlin** as he prepares to head to Trinity University in San Antonio this fall.

Tony & Debbie Padon recently visited daughter **Allison** who is studying abroad in the Netherlands. The trio visited Amsterdam, London, and Dublin.

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

Terry Jeanes
Your Neighbor & Area Specialist



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GARDEN OAKS CIVIC CLUB MEETING MINUTES

By Luke Sustr

May 3, 2016

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

Welcome: President Sheila Briones called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance. A motion was made and seconded to approve the April 2016 minutes as published in the *Gazette*. A hard copy of the April minutes was available at the meeting. President Briones also reported on behalf of the Committee Chairs for the Membership and the Home and Garden Tour Committees; see committee reports below.

Guest Speaker: Government Affairs Committee Chair Mark Klein introduced Amanda K. Edwards, who serves as the Houston City Council Member in the At-Large Position 4. Ms. Edwards currently serves as Vice Chair of the Budget and Fiscal Affairs Committee and also serves on the Economic Development and Transportation, Technology and Infrastructure Committees. She is a native Houstonian with a passion for public service.

Amanda spoke about her role on the Houston City Council and her involvement in several committees. Amanda highlighted the current City of Houston (CoH) \$160 million budget shortfall and that a strategic plan to rectify the shortfall has been developed with a forecasted approval of May 2016. She stated the city is doing its best to avoid layoffs, with a focus of improving the CoH credit rating. Amanda also discussed the importance of economic development to attract people and businesses into the city limits and

of having a cohesive transportation system. She also mentioned that Mayor Turner will be appointing a czar to manage the city's drainage issues and help allocate appropriate drainage funding. All in attendance thanked Ms. Edwards for speaking at the meeting. Her full biography may be found online at www.houstontx.gov/council/4/about_amanda_edwards.html.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Jerry Butler provided copies of the Profit and Loss statement and the Balance Sheet for attendees. Actual Home Tour revenues will be reported in June; however, the preliminary net revenue to the GOCC was reported at \$24K.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership: President Briones stated the current lists of paid civic club members and constable program contributors are available on the website at gardenoaks.org/GOCivicClub/civicclub-member.html.

Home and Garden Tour: President Briones reported a total of 350 to 380 people toured the homes and gardens during the VIP Tour Saturday evening, April 23 and during event day on Sunday, April 24th. The VIP Dinner & Auction, "Mi Casa Es Su Casa" held April 23, raised \$13K from the auction and had about 200 attendees. All proceeds benefited GOMM. The VIP Dinner & Auction was a success thanks to the many volunteers from GOMM who coordinated, operated, and managed the auction.

President Briones thanked the home and garden owners for opening up their properties for the tour, all the many volunteers, Gary and Joan Harmon of the Beautification Committee for cleaning up the green spaces, and extended a special

thanks to Brenda de Alba for all of her hard work as Committee Chair. All of these neighbors and friends made the biennial 2016 Garden Oaks Home & Garden Tour a success!

Gazette: The May issue of the *Gazette* is available online at www.gardenoaks.org.

Garden Oaks Website: Webmaster Joe Muscara confirmed the website is operating as expected.

Beautification: Committee Chair Joan Harmon announced plans to take a hiatus from new projects during May due to the amount of effort placed into readying all green spaces for the Home and Garden Tour. Joan thanked Ace Tree Specialist for their contribution to help beautify the neighborhood for the tour.

Garden Oaks Citizens' Patrol: No report.

Constable Program: Committee Chair Terry Jeanes was present at the meeting with Garden Oaks Patrol Deputy Bowden who discussed several incidents in the neighborhood. A "knock and talk" disturbance was reported and "tailgate thefts" were reported to be occurring between 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. in the neighborhood. Residents were asked to be vigilant of tailgate thefts and not to leave any items in vehicles. A question was raised regarding past "magazine scam" solicitations and Deputy Bowden commented they should no longer occur as offenders have been advised not to return. Residents were also warned about "alarm scam" solicitors in the area; solicitors must have a valid Texas permit on file to sell products/services door-to-door. Residents were reminded to fill out the Vacation Watch form at www.gardenoaks.org and to fax or email prior to leaving for vacation.

JUNE CIVIC CLUB PRESENTATION: LITERACY ADVANCE OF HOUSTON

Learn about Literacy Advance of Houston through *Story Time*, a presentation about the oldest and largest volunteer-based literacy provider in Houston. During *Story Time* you will learn about the growing literacy crisis in Houston, how Literacy Advance is leading the charge to alleviate low literacy among adults in Houston, hear



the stories of lives and families transformed through the doorway of literacy and look down the road at future plans.



Literacy Advance of Houston

{ 2424 Wilcrest, Suite 120, Houston, Texas 77042 }
 { www.literacyadvance.org } { phone 713.266.8777 }

Literacy Advance is a United Way agency.



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.

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

Government Affairs Standing Committee: Committee Chair Mark Klein reported on recent efforts by the City of Houston and others to bring high-speed rail downtown despite the objections of long-established neighborhoods. The City is now pursuing a feasibility study to evaluate bringing high-speed rail downtown. Mr. Klein, a member of Houston High-Speed Rail Watch, said the group continues to monitor the progress of the project by Texas Central Railway, which has agreed with strong neighborhood comments to stop the rail line in the IH-610/IH-10 area, one closer to four of Houston's top employment centers. However, while the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) rejected two proposed routes that would go

through either Garden Oaks or the Washington Corridor, strong political pressure remains to bring high-speed rail downtown. The FRA will release its Environmental Impact Study (EIS) later this summer or early fall, when residents may and should comment. Please visit houstonhsrwatch.org for up-to-date information.

Mr. Klein also mentioned that a lawsuit has been filed against Texas Central Railway by people in rural counties who are worried about eminent domain, ranchland and homesteads being bifurcated, road closures, and the environmental intrusion that running bullet trains 18 hours a day might cause. The project cost is an estimated \$11 billion. It was noted there the project is not commuter rail and thus there would be no stations in Garden Oaks, as the project is designed to serve business commuters between Houston and Dallas.

Mr. Klein requested volunteers to advocate for the 34th Street Quiet Zone project, which is being promoted by Super Neighborhood 12. He is seeking volunteers for a committee that would work with Super Neighborhood 12. He noted that neighborhoods have benefited from Quiet Zones and anticipated improved property values along Quiet Zone corridors.

President Briones announced the next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 7, 2016 with Cary Duval, Development Director for Literacy Advance of Houston, as the featured speaker.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

GARDEN OAKS RESIDENT!



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

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

Plans were approved for:

224 W. 31st
524 W. 30th

Revised plans were approved for:

None.

Pending resubmissions:

702 W. 42nd
310 W. 31st

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.

2016	April	YTD (as of 4/30/2016)
Not a violation	0	4
City pending	1	N/A
City cleared	0	1
Informal w/owner pending	1	N/A
Informal w/owner cleared	0	2
Legal opinion pending	2	N/A
Legal opinion cleared	0	1
1st letter sent pending	0	N/A
1st letter cleared	0	3
2nd letter sent pending	0	N/A
2nd letter cleared	0	0
Litigation authorized	0	0
Total New Reported	1	13
Total Cleared	0	11
Total In-Progress	5	N/A

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 April-May 2016
- New FAQ
- 2nd Quarter 2016 financials*

*includes legal costs through April 30, 2016. GOMO assets as of this date are over \$418,000, which is up \$60,000 from the prior year.

GARDEN OAKS

Garden Oaks is a deed-restricted community of 1400 homes. The Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization is entrusted by homeowners and property owners (members) of Sections 1, 2, 3, and 5 with ensuring compliance 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



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GOMO Review Meetings

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


Meetings are open to anyone interested in attending.
Additional information about the
Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization (GOMO)
is available online at GardenOaks.org.

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



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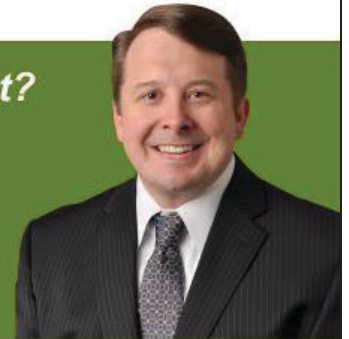
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CITIZENS' PATROL UPDATE

By Carl Waters, Jr., Program Chair

Following last month's arrests and charges of two persons for criminal trespass, the Precinct One Constable's Office issued a notice on April 27 indicating that Precinct One deputies, acting on a suspicious behavior call, encountered three men at a car in a parking lot. One was arrested for violating parole. HPD officers arrested the other two later nearby in connection with thefts in the area. These arrests were made outside of our neighborhood, but it is nice to know that law enforcement caught up with these characters. Please continue to report any suspicious activity you see to the Constable's Office at 713-755-7628 or the Houston Police Department at 713-884-3131 or 911 for crimes in progress.

On a personal note, I recently happened upon a piece Garden Oaks' patroller history. We are doing some

Emergency Numbers



Emergency Services
911

HPD Non-Emergency Services
713-884-3131

Constable Dispatch
713-755-7628

All Other City Services
311

renovations to our home and I came across a poster board made by my citizens' patrol predecessor. Back in the days of CB radios, our volunteer patrollers used alpha codes to inform base stations of their location in the neighborhood. For example if a patroller called in from the intersection of Alba and Lamonte, the patroller would state he or she was at the corner of Adam and John. This was done in case any

criminals were listening in on CB radios to see where patrollers were so they could go somewhere else in the neighborhood.

April Crime Statistics (5)

Theft (1)

3800 block of N. Shepherd Dr. on Thursday, April 21 at 1:22 p.m.

Burglary of a Motor Vehicle (2)

4300 block of N. Shepherd on Monday, April 18 at 1:54 p.m.

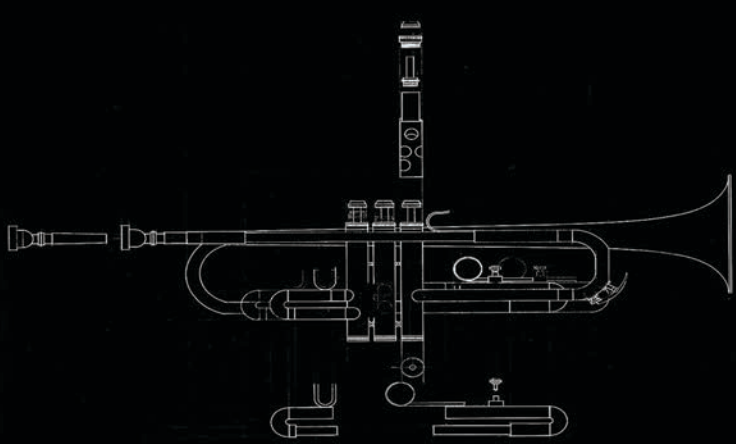
3400 block of Yale on Tuesday, April 26 at 2:17 p.m.

Auto Theft (1)

3400 block of N. Shepherd on Saturday, April 16 at 4:35 p.m.

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

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AIR CONDITIONING TIPS FOR THE SUMMER

By Mitch Weigand

Air Conditioning 101: How Your A/C System Actually Works

Have you ever sat and wondered how your air conditioner does its job? It's important to be aware that an A/C system focuses less on supplying cool air and more about removing hot, humid air from your home. While there are a wide range of choices available for your home (central A/C systems, heat pumps, ductless/mini splits, window units, etc.), they all basically work the same way.

The Freon

Most home A/C systems use freon, a chemical that easily changes from a liquid to a gas and back to a liquid. Also known as refrigerant, when liquid freon converts into a gas, it absorbs heat that's present. This process is called phase transition and is essential for the A/C system to move hot air from within your home to the outside.

The Compressor

With central A/C systems, both the compressor and condenser are housed in the outdoor unit. That's the box-shaped element that sits in the yard next to your house. Freon is compressed into a liquid by the compressor. This liquid freon enters your home and travels up into the attic via freon lines to where the evaporator is located. When it enters the evaporator, the liquid freon expands to a gas, and in this process, picks up heat from your home that is being sucked up through the return air. The return air is the place where your air filter is located. The compressor then pushes the freon along (now fully gorged with heat) to the outside condenser.

The Condenser

The condenser is a series of copper coils through which the heated freon, in a gaseous state, travels. While moving through these coils, the heat dissipates into the air outside, aided by an exterior fan. You can feel this heat being dispersed while standing next to your outdoor unit. At the

end of the condenser, the freon has now lost most of its heat and is compressed back down to a liquid state again. It is then sent back to your attic to pick up more heat that's blowing across the inside of your evaporator coil.

The Evaporator

Now that the liquid freon is re-entering your home, it does so a little at a time in a controlled process. It is reintroduced to the interior coils and begins to evaporate rapidly within the coils. Placed over the evaporator coils are a series of metal fins which become very cold. At this point, the blower motor of your furnace is being used by your A/C system to blow hot air from inside your home across the cold fins. The resulting cooled air is now spread throughout your home via the air ducts in every room. This process repeats itself until the desired temperature set on the thermostat is attained. Simple!

Oh, by the way, this is essentially how your refrigerator works too!

Mitch is the owner of Air Wise™.





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2016 HOME & GARDEN TOUR SPONSORSHIP RECAP

By Brenda de Alba

One last shout-out of thanks to this year's home and garden tour sponsors. Please support these local businesses when you need the type of products and services they provide as they have definitely shown support for our neighborhood! We are so very grateful to them.



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**Garden Oaks
2016 Home & Garden Tour**

2016 HOME AND GARDEN TOUR AUCTION RECAP

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

The Garden Oaks Home Tour VIP Auction was a huge success! We raised over \$13,000 on Saturday, April 23. Thank you to all of the donors, auction buyers and many volunteers. A huge thank-you to Tina Sabuco for serving as our amazing live auctioneer. Proceeds from the auction will benefit the 2016-2017 class of the Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet Middle School and will be used for much-needed classroom materials and community-building events. The following is our final list of all auction donors. Be sure to patronize these businesses and let them know we appreciate their support.



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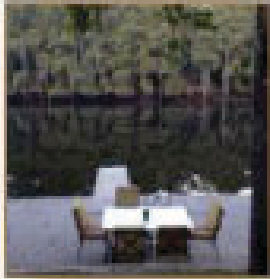
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HABITAT GARDENING TIPS

By Kim Ellis

June really kicks up the heat and leads us into summer. The May rains may have spoiled us with our watering routine, but periods of no precipitation will start to show in the gardens more quickly now. In June it's important to start thinking about your safety when heading outside to work in your yard. First, if you can work outside in the early morning or early evening hours, you will be the most comfortable. It's good to build these habits before we get into the depths of summer. Protective clothing, sunscreen, and drinking lots of water will also keep you safe and your skin happy. It's a very colorful time in garden beds and local nurseries, and there are a lot of new plants to try if you have a spot that opens up. Keep notes in your journal of which annuals need to be refreshed early, and consider replacing with a perennial that will come back year after year.

There is still time to sow seeds, and to plant or transplant as long as you're willing to take the extra responsibility of additional watering. Hot summer vegetables like okra, southern peas, sweet potato slips, peppers, and hardy herbs can be planted, along with many native and well-adapted perennials. Remember to check potted plants from the nurseries to make sure they are not root bound by pulling back the plant's container to make sure that the roots are not wrapping around the growing medium. It's best to keep newly sown seeds or plants' soil moist, but not wet. June is a great month for seeding or sodding your lawn, as the soil temperatures are warm enough to encourage growth. Again, water in the grass as needed for it to take root.

Maintaining plants in June includes deadheading as needed for leftover spring annuals, perennials, and roses.

You can shear back fall blooming shrubs by 1/3 to keep compact and encourage more blooms in the fall. You should also complete your trimming of spring blooming shrubs and trees as they will start putting their energy back into bud building for the following spring. Also, remember to check tree limbs before hurricane season for limbs that might be dead, broken, or rubbing against another limb or the roof of your house.

Plant pests and disease ramp up with the higher temperatures, so check your plants often to catch issues early and treat quickly. Again, inviting or introducing beneficial insects in your garden will give the best overall treatment plan, but sometimes we need help from other treatment options. The more organic the option, the better for your entire yard and garden. All pest issues can be easily searched on the internet, but for more local and professional advice ask your local county extension agent or check with your local independent garden center. Remember to take an affected leaf, pest, or picture of the pest with you for review.

Water is the most important resource for garden wildlife during the hot months. If possible, it's best to have a variety of water sources as different species needs vary. A birdbath, a pond, a fountain or bird mister will all help birds in different ways. And make sure that you ask a neighbor to fill water sources and water your plants as needed over summer vacation.

Sustainable gardening tips for June include:

- as you lose cool season vegetables, fill the area with your homemade compost and cover with fallen leaves; this will prepare the site for fall vegetable planting

- mulch your beds for weed control and better water retention
- use muscle power to work in the garden, lessening the use of hydrocarbons and their emissions
- properly dispose of unwanted garden chemicals and fertilizers during your community's household hazardous waste collection days



Plant of the Month:
***Conoclinium greggii* -**
Gregg's Mistflower

Gregg's Mistflower is a native perennial reaching about two feet tall, with small, purplish-blue flowers clustered together to form puffy, two-inch, cushion-like flower heads. It has a tendency to sprawl, and works great as a groundcover between larger perennials or out on its own. Depending on the winter, it can go dormant, but will pop back up in early spring. I've seen it flower from April through frost, with its peak display in the fall, coinciding with the fall Monarch migration. Gregg's Mistflower is frequently found covered with butterflies.

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

Kim Ellis

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GO GARDEN CLUB UPDATE

By Cathy Wahren, Garden Club President

The Garden Club's June 9 meeting will feature a relaxing audio-visual "spa" hour, listening to the various calls, alerts, and songs of our common backyard birds. Combining a projected image with the audio will help fix the correlation in our minds, so that the next time a bird is heard (but not seen) we will be more likely to recall the source. The meeting should be a fun way to become more familiar with our regular backyard visitors. The location for the meeting has not yet been finalized so please contact Cathy at 713-686-8686 or gardenclub@gardenoaks.org or check the neighborhood Facebook pages and gardenoaks.org to find out where to meet.

The GO Garden Club is open to all residents and friends of Garden Oaks. Our regular meetings are held the second Thursday of each month, from 7:00-8:30 p.m., except for months with weekend activities, typically organized for the following Saturday. Annual membership dues are \$25, but there is no obligation to join.



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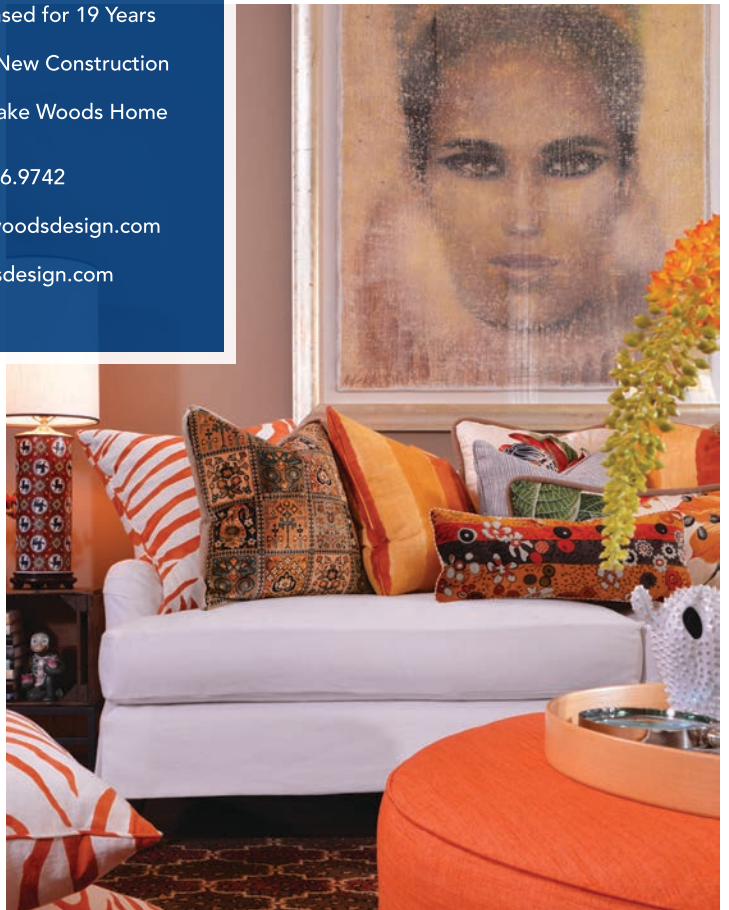
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**GARDEN OAKS MONTESSORI
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Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet School (GOMM) was recently recognized by the Magnet Schools of America (MSA) as a National Magnet School of Distinction. MSA is the national association for magnet and theme-based schools which determined the recipients of its 2016 national merit awards. These 258 public magnet schools and programs located in 19 states are recognized for their commitment to high academic standards, school diversity, specialized curricula and instruction, family engagement, and community partnerships. This year, 371 schools applied for national merit awards, making 2016 the most competitive year in the award program's history.

"The announcement of our national merit awards is an extraordinary time for the magnet school community," said MSA Executive Director, Todd Mann. "This is a way for our association to recognize the most accomplished magnet schools in the country. These schools are making a lasting, positive impact on the lives of children. They are preparing them for the challenges of the future by providing them with unique learning experiences that give them the critical skills needed to be workforce and college ready."

To receive a national merit award, MSA member schools must submit a detailed application that is scored by a panel of educators. These schools are judged on their demonstrated ability to raise student academic achievement, promote racial and socioeconomic diversity, provide integrated curricula and instruction, and create community partnerships that enhance the school's theme.



There are two categories of merit awards: (1) Magnet Schools of Excellence, the top merit award given to a select group of magnet schools and (2) Magnet Schools of Distinction, the second highest award of recognition. GOMM Principal Lindsey Pollock and Magnet Coordinator Laura Aasletten attended the awards ceremony held at the 34th National Conference on Magnet Schools in Miami, Florida May 3-7, 2016. They were joined by the Director of Houston Independent School District's School Choice Office, Noelia Longoria. They toured outstanding magnet schools in the Miami-Dade County school system and worked with other magnet school teachers and administrators to develop strategies for continued success!

Magnet Schools of America (MSA) was founded in 1986 and authorized as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit education association in 1994. It sponsors a national awards program, hosts professional development activities, and provides technical assistance through the National Institute for Magnet School Leadership (NIMSL). MSA supports the leaders and teachers of magnet and theme-based schools, while promoting the development of new magnet programs and public schools of choice. To see the complete list of MSA Schools of Distinction go to: www.magnet.edu/files/awards/2016-awards/2016-merit/2016-schools-of-distinction-list-v2.pdf

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GARDEN OAKS MONTESSORI 8TH GRADERS TRAVEL TO WASHINGTON, DC

By Heidi Lozano and Taylor Crownover

The eighth graders from Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet School enjoyed a three-day adventure in our nation's capital. They departed in the early morning hours of April 25 and returned late evening on April 27. The trip was made possible due to the generous contributions from the Garden Oaks Montessori PTO, family sponsors, and community members who supported the fundraising efforts of the middle school, including those who contributed at the GO Home Tour auction by sponsoring "Lunch at the Smithsonian". The following is a brief account of the experience written by eighth grader Taylor Crownover:

"Ladies and gentlemen, we've just landed in Washington D.C. I would like to be the first to welcome the Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet 8th grade class and wish them a pleasant trip." That was the first thing we heard when we landed in D.C. last week. As soon as we got off the flight that'd we'd woken up at 4:00 a.m. for, we were off to the Lincoln Memorial and the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial. The Vietnam Veterans' Memorial was heart-breaking because I really got to understand how many people died and how others were impacted. Then we walked to Ford's Theatre and learned about what exactly happened the day Lincoln

was assassinated. The next day we visited both the Natural History Museum and the American History Museum where we enjoyed lunch while sightseeing. One of my favorite exhibits was all of the first ladies' dresses and seeing how fashions have changed over time. I also dragged my group to see Dorothy's ruby slippers because the Wizard of Oz was my favorite series. On our final day we visited the Newseum. It was fascinating to see how journalism has affected our history. It was also moving to watch a video about the reporters who were working during 9/11 and then listen to my teacher, who was there in NYC, tell the story from his perspective. Overall, going to Washington, D.C. with my class was a fun learning experience for everyone there and I'd love to go again.

Thank you to everyone who made this trip possible. There were several students who had never been out of the state of Texas, flown on a plane, or stayed in a hotel! For many, this trip was the chance of a lifetime. The students have been studying history and social studies this year and this trip gave them the opportunity for hands-on experience at the museums and monuments our capital has to offer. Special thanks to those who so generously supported the students at their lunch at the Smithsonian on Tuesday. They were able to have a wonderful meal, sit for a brief rest, and discuss their favorite part of the day. Thank you!



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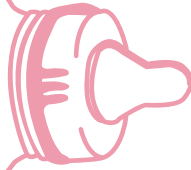


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HEALTHY SUMMER TIME TREATS

By Erin Palmer, CNHP

Memorial Day is quickly approaching, and with it, the kick-off to summer! All those pool parties, weekends at the lake, and time spent out on the Gulf call for healthy, crowd-pleasing treats that won't leave you reaching for your cover up after you indulge. Here is a recipe for one of my all-time favorite summer desserts that is guaranteed to please, a spin-off of a not-so-healthy classic: The Fruit Pizza. Enjoy!

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



Fruit Pizza

1/2 cup pecans	6 dates
1 cup walnuts	1/8 teaspoon Himalayan sea salt
1 teaspoon cinnamon	1 vanilla bean

Blend nuts and cinnamon in your food processor with the S blade until all the nuts are very finely chopped. Add the rest of the ingredients and process until everything is well blended. Press the crust into the bottom of a cookie sheet.

1 cup raw cashew butter
1/2 cup canned or homemade full-fat coconut milk
3 tablespoons raw coconut oil
2 tablespoons raw honey
1 tablespoon vanilla extract

Beat the five ingredients above with an electric mixer until creamy and smooth.

2-3 cups of fruit for topping your pizza:

Blueberries	Pineapple
Strawberries	Raspberries
Kiwi	Blackberries
Avocado	The sky is the limit!

Press the walnut crust evenly across a large cookie sheet, top with the cashew cream "cheeze" and then top with the fruit. Serve immediately or store covered in the fridge until you are ready to serve.

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JUNE 2016

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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			1	2	3	4 Farmers Market 9AM-1PM 948 Wakefield
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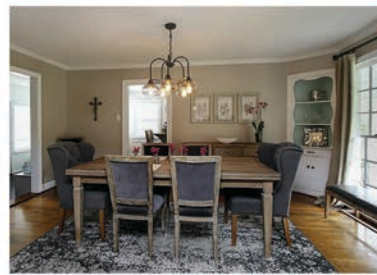
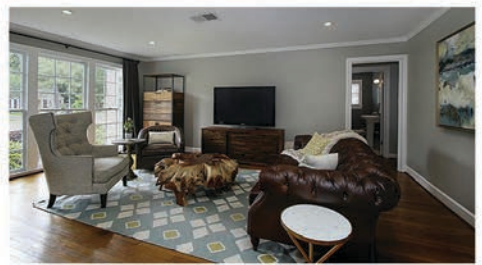


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Monday, July 4, 2016
Registration at 8:30 am, Parade Begins at 9:00 am
Rick Englert SPARK Park Sue Barnett Dr. at 41st St.

Deanna@GardenOaksHomes.com ~ 281.658.4514



2016 Constable Patrol Contributor Application & Contact Information

[] New Member or [] Renewal

Property Address : _____ Phone at this address: _____
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Please provide contact information for program member(s) at this address:

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

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

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

Payment Options

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

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

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

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

or pay online at

www.gardenoaks.org/constable



ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES STATEMENT

January – December 2016

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

Fill in Amount:

\$ _____	Crepe Myrtle (Basic Level) Household Membership	\$25 (\$5 for Seniors)
\$ _____	Red Oak (Patron Level) Household Membership	\$75 (\$15 for Seniors)
\$ _____	Community Household Membership	\$100
\$ _____	Business Membership (Non-Voting Membership)	\$50
\$ _____	Contribution to Beautification (all neighborhood green spaces)	
\$ _____	Contribution to Garden Club (maintain Friendship Park, Section 1)	
\$ _____	TOTAL	

Please mail this completed form along with your check payable to:
Garden Oaks Civic Club, P.O. Box 10273, Houston, TX 77206

-OR-

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF OUR GREAT NEIGHBORHOOD!