



Garden Oaks Gazette

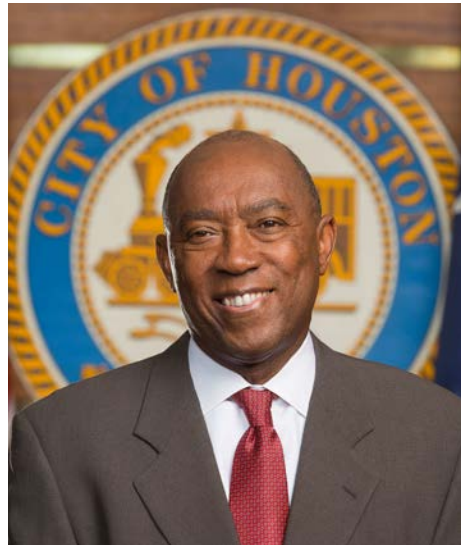
A publication of the Garden Oaks Civic Club

Mayor Turner is Coming to Garden Oaks!

AUGUST CIVIC CLUB MEETING SPEAKER: MAYOR SYLVESTER TURNER

Sylvester Turner was elected Mayor of the City of Houston on December 12, 2015 to serve a four-year term beginning January 4, 2016.

Born in 1954, Sylvester grew up in the Acres Homes community in northwest Houston. His mother worked as a maid in the old Rice Hotel in Houston and his father worked as a painter for Continental EnSCO, and cut yards with his sons on the weekends to make extra money. The Turners raised nine children in their modest two-bedroom home in Acres Homes. When he was 13 years old, Sylvester lost his father to cancer and his mother took charge of the Turner household. Although she never finished high school or learned to drive, she ensured her children got an education and inspired them to achieve.



Sylvester attended neighborhood public schools until forced integration came to Houston and he was bused to Klein High School. After a predictably rocky start, the student body adapted to its new enrollees – and Sylvester was later elected president of the student body and graduated as valedictorian.

Sylvester graduated from the University of Houston and Harvard Law School before joining the law firm of Fulbright & Jaworski. He later founded the Houston law firm of Barnes & Turner in 1983.

In 1988, Sylvester was elected to the Texas House of Representatives to serve the people of House District 139 in Northwest Houston. He served until his election as mayor, working on the House Appropriations Committee for 21 years and serving as Speaker Pro Tem for three terms. He was appointed to several Budget Conference Committees to help balance the state’s budget and served on the Legislative Budget Board.

He is very proud of his daughter Ashley, who is continuing the Turner family tradition of public service with her work in the healthcare field.

AUGUST 2016

UPCOMING EVENTS

August Civic Club Meeting
(Speaker: Mayor Sylvester Turner)
 Tuesday, August 2
 7:00 p.m.
 Garden Oaks Montessori
 901 Sue Barnett Drive

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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Monday - Friday: 7:00 AM - 6:00 PM

By appointment only

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

HEARD UNDER THE OAK TREE

By Terry Jeanes

Welcome, New Neighbors!

Congratulations on joining our community. We look forward to seeing you at a civic club meeting soon.

- 943 Lamonte 851 West 41st
- 524 West 30th 831 West 43rd
- 709 West 39th 1007 West 43rd



Happy Birthday

- Mark Sarmiento8/3
- Elizabeth Klein.....8/4
- Katherine K.....8/4
- Bill W.....8/5
- Avery T.....8/5
- Rick Knauth8/9
- Elizabeth J..... 8/20
- Matt Veech..... 8/22
- Tony Padon 8/23
- Isabella R..... 8/23
- Trent Salch 8/23
- Mary Beck..... 8/24
- Bridgette Martinez 8/25
- Emma Catherine C..... 8/29
- Debbie Padon..... 8/28
- Gretchen Dreher..... 8/29
- Carl Waters, Jr..... 8/29

Happy Anniversary

- Pat Buron & Shelley Rogers8/5
- Sheree' & Ron Peoples8/8

Out and About

Tina Beddow enjoyed Sonoma. **Stella Stevens and family** cooled off at Hamilton Pool Reserve Park. The **Seghers family** visited Costa Rica while the **Parrs** visited England. New York City was a popular destination for the **Acosta family, Sarah and Elizabeth Klein**, as well as the **Lozano family**. The **Weltin boys** visited Colorado, Kansas, and Oklahoma City. **John and Cindy Bartos** enjoyed Ruidoso, New Mexico. The **Polaseks** conquered Enchanted Rock, while the entire **Knauth family** enjoyed Paris and some of the French countryside. **Mel Johnson and daughter** went on a family adventure in Ireland.

The **Reichles** celebrated the 4th of July in style at the Round Top parade. **Lori Kennedy** and **Joe Muscara** enjoyed the weekend in Smithville following Joe's performance at Sherwood Forest Faire (stage name Joe Stone) and a rendezvous at a local Smithville venue with fellow Garden Oaks neighbor **Terry Jeanes**. **Missy Alwais** cruised in the golf cart parade at Pirates Beach. The **Salch family** also enjoyed the 4th of July in Galveston, while the **Carlin clan** celebrated Independence Day at Minute Maid Park with a bit of Astros baseball. Also seen in the Astros crowd last month: the **Acostas** and **Leslie Ryan** and **Carl Waters, Jr**. Summer fun keeps rolling on.

Congratulations

Congratulations to **Susan Kostelecky**, owner of SK Designs, who received recognition for her project for GO resident **Sheila Amalfi** which won First Place in the Slipcover category and was one of her two national awards recognized in *Window Fashions* magazine's spring/summer editions.

Special Thoughts

Condolences to **Craig and M'lissa Dilley** and their family in the recent loss of Craig's mother, Jo.

Condolences also to the **McLean family** for the recent loss of their dog Marty, the **McKeown family** for the loss of their dog Hunter, **Tina Sabuco and Shellye Arnold** for the loss of their dog Elvis, and the **Bunge-Murata family** for the loss of their dog Zoe.

Please submit information about events, celebrations, and other tidbits to terry@terryjeanes.com no later than the 8th of the month to allow adequate time to meet Gazette deadline.



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GARDEN OAKS CIVIC CLUB MEETING MINUTES

By Luke Sustr, Secretary

July 5, 2016

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

Welcome: President Sheila Briones called the Garden Oaks Civic Club (GOCC) meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Vice President Chris Lindsay and Secretary Luke Sustr joined the meeting at 7:10 p.m. due to a previous engagement. A total of 44 people were in attendance. Membership Committee Chair Dian Austin made a motion to approve the June 2016 minutes as published in the *Gazette*, hardcopies of which were available at the meeting. A member requested replacement of one word in the third paragraph of the "Other Business" section of the June 2016 GOCC meeting minutes and a discussion followed. A vote was then taken on the original motion to approve the June 2016 minutes as published in the *Gazette*, and the motion passed.

Guest Speaker: President Sheila Briones introduced Garden Oaks resident and owner of Habitats Wildscape Consulting, Ms. Kim Ellis, who gave a very informative presentation on habitat gardening basics and sustainable gardening practices. Ms. Ellis recommended several local nurseries such as Joshua's Nursery and Buchanan's Nursery in the Heights that carry native and exotic plants that thrive in our neighborhood. She also mentioned that members may visit the Native Plant Society of Texas – Houston Chapter website at <http://npsot.org/wp/houston/> for examples of well-adaptive grasses, shrubs, and trees. She explained the importance of pollination and how plants provide the basic needs (e.g. food, water, shelter, etc.) for living

organisms in the environment. For example, if your garden provides for butterflies, you might also be providing for hummingbirds and bees your pollinating plants. Plant diversity is important for survival of the various cultures of plants in the area. Please visit the Habitats Wildscape Consulting website at www.plantahabitat.com for more information on how Kim can help create your own wildscape garden.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Jerry Butler was not present; however, hard copies of the current organization's profit and loss statement and balance sheet were available at the meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership: Committee Chair Dian Austin conducted a raffle which Joan Harmon won.

Gazette: A volunteer is currently needed to serve as Editor. Please contact the Interim Editor, Jenny Espeseth at gogazette@gardenoaks.org for more information.

Garden Oaks Website: President Briones reported that the current list of paid GOCC members has been uploaded to the website along with July 4th parade pictures featured on KHOU Channel 11 news.

Beautification: Committee Chair Joan Harmon reported that the committee was busy the past month re-landscaping the SPARK Park for the July 4th parade. She advised that the committee will be treating the common areas with Roundup® during the month of July. Ms. Harmon asked Deputy Bowden, present at the meeting, for help monitoring the SPARK Park because young residents playing soccer are not cleaning up after themselves and regularly leave behind water bottles (i.e. 50+ bottles) lying on the ground. Deputy Bowden agreed to speak to the young residents about littering at the park.

Garden Oaks Citizens' Patrol:

Committee Chair Carl Waters, Jr. discussed the home burglary that occurred July 1 in the 1000 block of Gardenia Drive. Mr. Waters encouraged neighbors to volunteer for patrolling the neighborhood and asked anyone interested to contact him via the information listed on www.gardenoaks.org. Mr. Waters also urged Garden Oaks residents to visit www.crimereports.com to view crime records in the area.

Constable Program: Committee Chair Terry Jeanes was present at the meeting with Garden Oaks Patrol Deputy Bowden. Ms. Jeanes spoke about neighborhood safety and the importance of crime prevention. Deputy Bowden advised of two murder, one FBI, and one indecent exposure suspect arrests made during the month of June. The suspect in the July 1 Gardenia Drive burglary that Mr. Waters discussed had four open warrants for burglary in the area. Deputy Bowden reminded members to call our constables immediately if they observe anything suspicious.

Ms. Jeanes then spoke about the history of the constable program which started in Garden Oaks over seven years ago. Garden Oaks currently has three constables on contract; two funded by Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization (GOMO) and one funded by the GOCC. GOCC funding will run out after only thirteen more months. After this time, if fundraising does not occur, the GOCC will not be able to afford continuation of the constable contract. The primary fundraisers for the program have been the Home Tours and Wine Walks over the past seven years. Ms. Jeanes explained that mailer requests are not raising sufficient funds for the program.

Ms. Jeanes asked meeting attendees to volunteer as Garden Oaks Section Captains and for innovative ideas to help raise awareness of the constable program. No members came forward. Anyone interested should contact her via the information listed on www.gardenoaks.org.

Ms. Jeanes passed out lists of paid constable supporters along with donation forms.

Ad Hoc In-Line Storm Water Detention Project Committee:

Committee Chair Mark Klein reported that the Mayor has awarded a contract to JFT Construction for a city street-widening project to alleviate extensive flooding within Shepherd Park Plaza. Construction will be occur in phases with Phase 1 to begin in August 2016 down Golf and Sue Barnett. This is a \$23 million project with forecasted completion within 635 days. Mr. Klein recommended that members and residents visit www.rebuildhouston.org for more information about completed and upcoming construction projects with an interactive map tool.

NEW BUSINESS

Joan Harmon asked if the "yard of the month" program was still occurring, and if not, could it be resurrected. Chris Lindsay advised that this has been a program of the Garden Oaks Garden Club, which is not affiliated with the GOCC. The Garden Club currently has only ten members and its "yard of the month" program has been dormant. Terry Jeanes asked if the GOCC Beautification Committee could assume the program from the Garden Club and Ms. Lindsay stated that she would discuss the possibility at the July Garden Club meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

President Briones asked Vice President Chris Lindsay to give a report of the June decisions made by the GOCC Executive Board. Ms. Lindsay informed attendees that regarding the Wine Walk Committee's decision to request a member not attend the event, the Board engaged in discussions with interested parties including the Wine Walk Committee, Brenda de Alba, and Susan Kostelecky. The Board voted to not hold the event at the de Albas' home this year. A private event, not sanctioned by the GOCC, is being planned by a newly-formed, non-GOCC-affiliated group named "GO Constable". The fundraiser is scheduled to take place in October 2016 at the de Albas' home, with all proceeds to benefit the constable program.

The Board also voted to prohibit scheduling any GOCC-sanctioned fundraising event less than five months before or after another in order to prevent over-solicitation of sponsors.

Lastly, the Board voted to rent GOCC-owned event supplies (e.g. tent, table, chairs, table covers, etc.) at a lump-sum rate of \$300 to GO Constable for their private fundraising event benefitting the GOCC.

Ms. Lindsay then asked for any suggestions and/or ideas for a GOCC-sanctioned fundraising event for the constable program. No residents came forward. Ms. Lindsay suggested a "beer and cheese" or "beer and bingo" event to help raise additional funds for the constable program. Anyone interested in planning or coordinating a GOCC-sponsored fundraising event should get in touch with a member of the GOCC Board of Directors via the contact information listed on www.gardenoaks.org and in the *Gazette* to discuss their proposal.

OTHER BUSINESS

GOMM Principal Dr. Lindsey Pollock gave an update on the current school construction progress. Construction is forecasted to break ground in September 2016 due to a delay in securing the temporary modular buildings. Dr. Pollock reminded those in attendance that no alcohol is allowed at SPARK Park as the park is on school property. Dr. Pollock explained the "parking variance" sign in front of the school pertains to a request for a reduction in the required number of parking spaces. The City of Houston's requirement is 200 spaces and the school requested this number be reduced to 150 spaces to preserve "green" areas of the property. Community and school events are the only time more spaces would be needed, not during normal school hours. Dr. Pollock also urged new residents with school-aged children to contact the school administration immediately if interested in enrolling, as registration is full. The first day of school will be August 22, 2016.

President Sheila Briones announced the next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 2, 2016 with City of Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner as the featured speaker. Members are urged to attend to give Mayor Turner a full audience.

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

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GOMO Board of Directors

SECTION 1

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

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

Mark Saranie (2018)
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mark.saranie@gardenoaks.org

SECTION 2

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

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

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

SECTION 3

Kathy Silver (2016)
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kathy.silver@gardenoaks.org

Vidal Martinez (2017)
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vidal.martinez@gardenoaks.org

Dea Larson (2018)
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dea.larson@gardenoaks.org

SECTION 5

Teresa Coleman (2016)
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teresa.coleman@gardenoaks.org

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

Kip Noser (2018)
281-846-5479
kip.noser@gardenoaks.org

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

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

Plans were approved for:

1554 Sue Barnett

Revised plans were approved for:

750 W. 42nd

Pending resubmission:

702 W. 42nd

Deed Restriction Enforcement Activity

A single reported violation might progress through several stages before being resolved. This chart summarizes last month's activity and the totals for the year.

2016	June	YTD (as of 6/30/2016)
Not a violation	0	4
City pending	0	N/A
City cleared	0	1
Informal w/owner pending	5	N/A
Informal w/owner cleared	1	5
Legal opinion pending	3	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
Prior Year Carryover	N/A	5
Total New Reported	2	18
Total Cleared	1	14
Total In-Progress	7	N/A
Litigation Authorized	0	0
Litigation In-Progress 2 cases re: subdivision of lot 1 case re: number of garages	3	N/A
Litigation Concluded	0	0

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

The GOMO website has been updated and now includes:

- Meeting minutes for January-June 2016
- 1st and 2nd Quarter FY 2016 financials
- Litigation updates
- Member FAQ content on litigation and non-profit status

GOCC representatives have begun review of the combined GOMO/GOCC website.

Garden Oaks is a deed-restricted community of 1400 homes. The Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization (GOMO) 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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GARDEN OAKS CONSTABLE PROGRAM UPDATE

By Terry Jeanes, Constable Program Chair

New Initiative to Increase Participation and Funding

Safety and crime prevention are of utmost importance to most if not all of us. And a big part of our neighborhood safety and security rests with our Precinct One Constables. We are fortunate to currently have three Precinct One Constable contracts; the contracts cover our three deputies, who make up 120 hours of dedicated neighborhood patrol time plus provide the back-up of quick response times. When an issue occurs and law enforcement is needed, the Constables provide the quickest way to get help. They are usually in the neighborhood just a few blocks away and can arrive much more quickly than HPD.

One of our three contracts is paid by the Garden Oaks Civic Club by voluntary contributions from Garden Oaks residents. The other two contracts are currently underwritten by GOMO, and are approved by vote of the GOMO membership.

Currently, the account balance for the GOCC Precinct One Constable contract, inclusive of all funds, mail-outs and fundraising, only carries us through the next thirteen months. Our annual mail-outs requesting \$200 Constable supporter fees

for each Garden Oaks property unfortunately do not fulfill the amount of a one-year contract, which is about \$77,000.

Less than 25% of Garden Oaks residents support our GOCC Constable contract. It is these few residents who currently contribute the voluntary \$200 annual supporter fee to keep our constables on our streets.

In an effort to increase support of our GOCC constable contract and to help continue the presence of our deputies in our neighborhood, the GOCC leadership has authorized expansion of the Constable Program Committee. Just as we did when we first reinstated the Constable Program years ago, we are asking for Section Captains and volunteers to join in the effort. Each household in Garden Oaks is requested, at a minimum, to support the Constable Program with a financial contribution. If you cannot afford the \$200 suggested annual supporter fee, please contribute what you can. Contributions can be made online at www.gardenoaks.org/constable or by check. Payments can be made in full or partial, or by monthly draft. We make it easy for you to be a supporter.

The Constable Supporter list is currently updated at least monthly, sometimes more often, and is available on the Garden Oaks Facebook pages, and also on www.gardenoaks.org. Please review it to see if you have made a contribution or if it perhaps slipped your mind. And a big thanks to those of you who are current supporters and have supported our program throughout the years.

Thank you to the volunteers who have stepped forward thus far to coordinate their respective sections: **Gina Greenslate, Tina Rowe, Sandy Altman, Martin & Yasmin Parr, and Sheree' Peoples**. We still need a Section Captain for Section 4.

Our new plan will focus on following up with past supporters, starting a friendly block participation contest with a celebratory event for the first 100% participation block, and recognition. The membership/supporter-measuring thermometers will make their way back to our space as well. This is how we previously brought the program back after a multi-year hiatus. Also, a group of residents have formed a new organization called GO Constable to help bring awareness of the need to support our Constable Program. Check out their GO Constable Facebook page and the insert in this month's *Gazette* for details about a Constable Program fundraiser the group is planning for the fall.

As someone who was held at gunpoint at the age of 18, my passion for crime prevention and safety on our community streets runs deep. Be aware that the bad guys are out there. There have already been arrests in Section 1 of two murder suspects, and within five doors of my home, a person was stopped with added officers' assistance, and an individual in the vehicle was on the FBI's most wanted list. In addition, deputies have stopped several other individuals with probable cause who were found to have outstanding warrants. At least one of the aggressive magazine sales persons is now in jail as a result of our program, and one of the front porch package thieves was arrested with our constables' assistance. These are just a few fairly recent incidents that occurred right here in our community. We need our constables on the streets of Garden Oaks!

So please step up and support the Garden Oaks Constable Program. Our community's increased security is a priceless asset.

Please contact Terry@TerryJeanes.com if you are interested in helping with our Constable Program participation campaign.



CITIZENS' PATROL UPDATE

By Carl Waters, Jr., Program Chair

As you can see below, the neighborhood experienced quite a bit of crime again last month. The person who allegedly exposed himself was arrested by one of our Deputy Constables later in the month. The perpetrator has a criminal history and was returned to prison where he will remain for quite a while. It was also reported during the month that our constable deputy was instrumental in the apprehension of two felons who were wanted on murder charges.

Reminder: now is a good time to start planning your National Night Out parties. National Night Out will be held on the first Tuesday in October, which this year is October 4. If you decide to host a party, please let Constable Chair Terry Jeanes or myself know. We will contact the Constable's Office and the Houston Police Department to request that an officer stop by your event.

June Crime Statistics (10)

Burglary (4)

2900 block of N. Shepherd on Saturday, June 4 at 4:10 a.m.

200 block of W. 33rd on Saturday, June 4 at 7:43 a.m.

400 block of W. 32nd on Sunday, June 19 at 2:06 p.m.

3000 block of N. Durham on Tuesday, June 21 at 5:04 a.m.

Burglary of a Motor Vehicle (2)

3900 block of N. Shepherd on Thursday, June 2 at 5:52 a.m.

900 block of Althea on Thursday, June 30 at 3:45 p.m.

Theft (3)

700 block of W. 42nd on Tuesday, June 14 at 8:13 a.m.

1400 block of Sue Barnett on Wednesday, June 29 at 2:45 p.m.

900 block of W. 41st on Thursday, June 30 at 6:44 a.m.

Emergency Numbers



Emergency Services
911

HPD Non-Emergency Services
713-884-3131

Constable Dispatch
713-755-7628

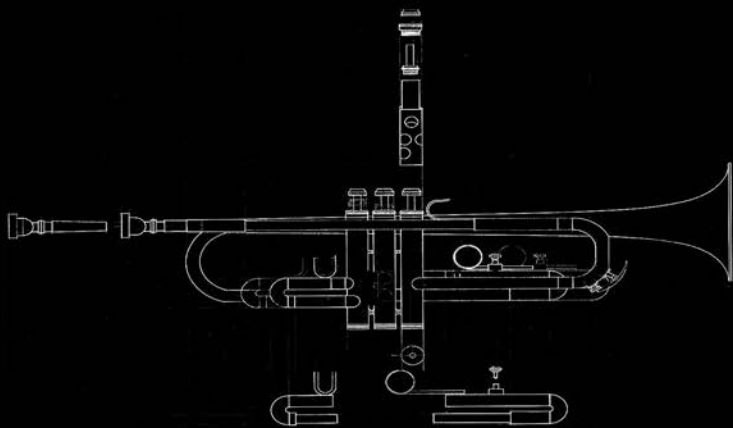
All Other City Services
311

Indecent Exposure (1)

800 block of W. 38th on Wednesday, June 1 at 11:45 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.

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HISD MAGNET APPLICATION INFORMATION FOR 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR

By Stephanie Dubroff-Acosta, Parent Engagement Representative, Garden Oaks Montessori

Here is some information for parents as the school year is about to begin and considerations for the 2017-18 school year start to cross your mind.

Magnet applications will be available online October 4 – December 9. Applications submitted after December 9 will not be considered for the lottery, but will be placed on a waitlist in the order received AFTER the lottery waitlist.

School Choice Fairs are a great way to explore which schools would be a good fit for your child and determine which you would like to tour.

HISD Magnet School Choice Fairs will be held from **9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.** at the campuses listed to the right; although hosted at high schools, ALL magnet schools are represented, so you really only need to attend the one nearest you.

HISD magnet schools will begin their tours Thursday, October 6. Tours will be conducted at 9:00 a.m. for elementary and K-8 schools and at 1:00 p.m. for middle and high schools. Tours will continue each Thursday through December 8.

Houston Independent School District Magnet School Choice Fairs

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Dates & Locations Below

(Programs for all grade levels represented; not high school only)

September 17	Booker T. Washington High School 119 W. 39th Street Houston, TX 77018
October 1	Chavez High School 8501 Howard Drive Houston, TX 77017
October 22	Westbury High School 11911 Chimney Rock Houston, TX 77035-4403
November 5	Austin High School 1700 Dumble Houston, TX 77023-3139
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AIR CONDITIONING TIPS FOR THE SUMMER

By Mitch Weigand

Beating the Summer Blues: Air Conditioning Tips for Late Summer

Part One

Ah, the dog days of summer. While we endure the hottest temperatures and highest humidity of the year, your A/C system is being put to its most rigorous test right when it's needed the most. This is also the time when problems can occur which have the potential to turn into major expenses next year. Correcting them now can be much more cost-effective than waiting until something major breaks down, requiring extensive repairs or even a new installation. Here's what to look for:

Restricted Air Flow

Free air flow is absolutely essential for your A/C system. In Houston, air conditioners run all summer long and can develop fan motor issues and clogged filters. These inhibit air flow and decrease your system's overall efficiency.

Misaligned fans tend to strike against their casings, causing quite a racket. Whether this is the result of accumulated debris or improper installation, a misaligned fan will only worsen while the system runs. Be alert to any rattling sounds because they might indicate misalignment.

When clogged air filters are the problem, your A/C system has to work harder and harder to compensate for the blockage, putting tremendous strain on it during the hottest part of the year. Replace these filters every month because once they become clogged, it can affect your home's indoor air quality plus shorten the life of your system.

Low Freon

Not only can freon leaks increase your energy usage, they can prevent your A/C from doing its job properly. You can have a freon check done any time of the year, especially in late summer. Signs that system may have a leak include a much lower cooling output and frost accumulation on the A/C's evaporator coils.

Additionally, when your system is low on freon, it seems to run nonstop and take forever to cool your house down. That's because there isn't enough freon available to absorb the heat effectively, and the air blowing out of your home's vents is warmer than normal. Call your A/C service technician to perform a diagnostic check to locate any leaks and restore the system's freon to its proper level.

Part Two will appear in next month's issue of the Garden Oaks Gazette.

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HABITAT GARDENING TIPS

By Kim Ellis

My general rule for August is to enjoy indoor activities, but some gardening is required during August, mostly focused on watering and plant survival. Fortunately, the early July dry period has turned back to the more typical pattern of tropical pop-up showers. Let's hope that sticks around until cooler temperatures come back.

Again, the best time to work outside in August is in the early morning or early evening hours, to avoid the hottest hours of the day. Remember to wear protective clothing and sunscreen, and to stay hydrated. Keep an eye out for plants that are really struggling with the August heat, and research plants that are better adapted for that spot. I typically don't like to plant in August, but sometimes it is necessary. Plants that can take August planting are lawn grass seed and sod, ornamental grasses, palms, and heat loving annuals. In later August some of the fall color annuals, such as marigolds, pentas, impatiens, zinnias and salvias can be transplanted. You can also transplant tomatoes and peppers, and put in pumpkin seeds and one more round of heat loving squash, beans, eggplant and cucumbers. Temporary shade cover will help newly planted seeds or plants tender new growth

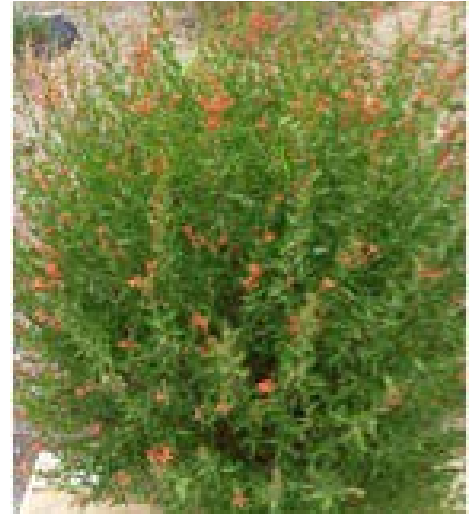
and acclimate gradually. Make sure that all newly planted areas and existing bare areas are compost and mulched, to fertilize and help reduce soil temperatures.

Required August maintenance is watering, with weeding only if you want to, in my opinion. If your mulch has become crusty, break it up to allow water to get into the soil below. Most plants would like to have some water every other day during August heat. Remember that deep watering is always better than a quick shower. Continue to trim spent flowers, pinch back fall blooming shrubs, and trim vines until late August, when we need to leave developing fall buds. Remove suckers and water sprouts from fruit trees and water, water, water. Pecans are developing their kernel flesh and can use some extra water in August to help.

Water is still the most important resource for garden wildlife, as well. Provide fresh water daily in shallow and deep dishes for a variety of water sources. To deter mosquitos, remove unintentional standing water on your property. If you have a pond or water fountain, make sure that the water is moving or use mosquito dunks to help deter mosquito egg laying and growth. Hummingbirds are starting their migration south. If you don't have hummingbird-attracting plants like Turk's Cap, Firebush, Firecracker, or Flame Acanthus, you can provide sugar water. Again, make sure to clean your feeders every couple of days for the hummingbirds' health.

Sustainable gardening tips for August include:

- mulch your beds for weed control and better water retention
- mulch in grass clippings, as they will decompose quickly and fertilize your lawn
- water deeply, rather than short showers



Plant of the Month

Anisacanthus quadrifidus -
Flame acanthus

Flame Acanthus is a native, shrubby perennial with exfoliating bark; red-orange, tubular flowers; and light-green, lanceolate leaves that hummingbirds love. It is a drought-tolerant and heat-loving shrub that works as well in the perennial border as it does as an informal hedge or specimen plant. It is adaptable to sunny, well-drained exposures throughout the state, even Houston. It is a good choice for sites with poor soils and reflected heat - although supplemental water in dry summer months will encourage flowering. As with other xeric plants within its range, rain will trigger a flush of blooms.

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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GARDEN CLUB UPDATE

By Cathy Wahren, Garden Club President

Daylilies! Dave Roberts, who is a member of the Houston Area Daylily Society, will share his knowledge about this popular garden hobby at our regular 2nd Thursday meeting on August 11 at the Kroger on 43rd Street.

We will be gathering in the upstairs meeting room that Kroger generously provides for us at 7:00 p.m. to first enjoy potluck nibbles brought by attendees. The presentation is scheduled to run from 7:20 until 8:00 p.m. or so, followed by a quick discussion of club agenda items until about 8:30 p.m. Our meetings are open to all Garden Oaks residents and friends. Feel free to contact us at gardenclub@gardenoaks.org, or me at 713-686-8686, as needed.

Daylily fans: mark your calendars for the Society's annual bulb sale on Saturday, October 1 at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in the Heights.



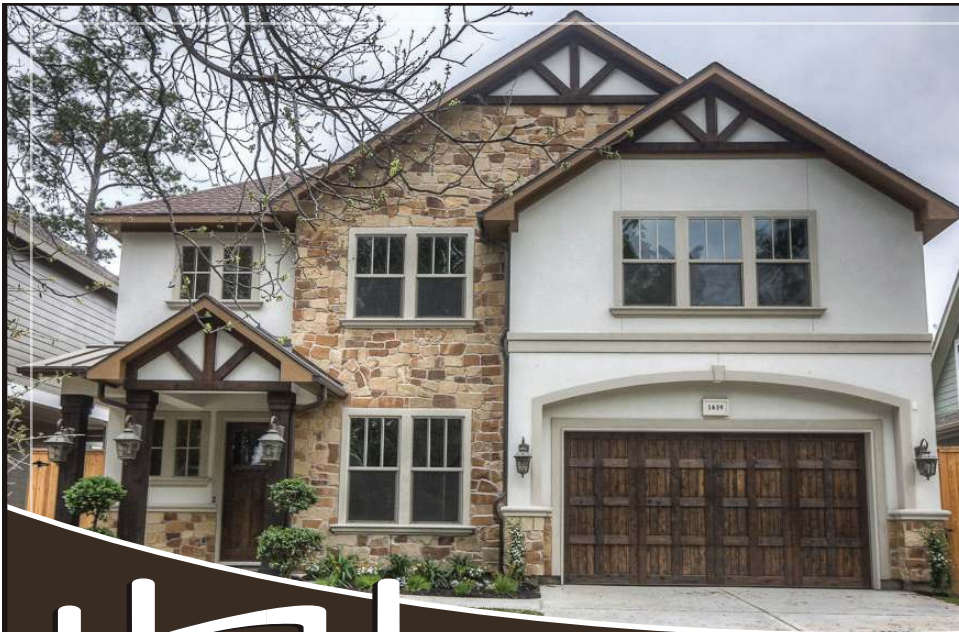
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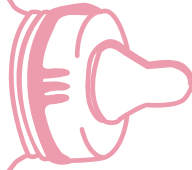


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GO CONSTABLE

By Dian Austin

Several ardent Constable Program supporters in the neighborhood have joined together to create a new group, GO Constable. The purpose of GO Constable is to promote the visibility of the Constable Program, hold fundraisers to supplement funds available for the Constable Program, and to encourage and solicit new supporters.

Garden Oaks currently has three constable contracts, each costing about \$77,000 annually. With three contracts, the neighborhood enjoys almost 24/7 coverage. All residents living in Garden Oaks, not just current constable supporters, benefit from having the constables in our neighborhood. The Constable Program adds to the safety and security of Garden Oaks. Should you need help, the constable response time is much quicker than that of HPD, as they are usually right here in the neighborhood. Having a visible constable presence is a major crime deterrent in itself.

Currently, two of the constable contracts are paid out of GOMO surplus funds; GOMO's continued ability to do so is not guaranteed. The third contract is paid by the Garden Oaks Civic Club (GOCC) via voluntary contributions from Garden Oaks residents. However, less than 25% of the neighborhood currently pays the requested \$200 annual fee. Hence, GO Constable is concerned about the continued viability of the Constable Program and has banded together in a grass roots effort to support keeping our constables on patrol.

For the past seven years, the Civic Club has sanctioned an ad-hoc committee to host a winetasting fundraiser (The Wine Walk) to raise monies for the Constable Program. The event has raised over \$100,000 for the Constable Program during that time. This year, the fundraiser will be hosted by the newly formed GO Constable group as a private event and while the group is not part of the GOCC, all monies raised, less expenses, will be given to the GOCC for use in paying for the constable contract.

How can you help?

- Join the Constable Program today. Do your part to contribute to the security of the neighborhood. You can contribute online either monthly or annually at gardenoaks.org/GOCivicClub/civicclub-consta.html, or pay the entire amount via check.
- Support the Constable Program fundraisers. Check out the details for our upcoming event in a separate flyer in this month's Gazette.
- Encourage your Garden Oaks friends and neighbors to sign up to support the Constable Program.
- Host a Neighbors' Night Out party in October and have Constable Supporter forms on hand. The form is available at www.gardenoaks.org/constableform.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please email us at GOConstable@gmail.com and check out our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/GardenOaksConstable.



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THE IMPORTANCE OF PLAY AND RECESS

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

The significance of play in school settings is undeniably important. Researchers have recognized that recess is crucial in school settings, and legislators in Texas have mandated that 30 minutes of daily recess be provided in public elementary schools. As the principal of a PK3 – 8th grade public Montessori campus in HISD, I have made it a priority that our children have time to play during the school day. Some of this play time is provided 30 minutes before school starts on our playgrounds where students gather, supervised by adult staff members and parent volunteers. This time is unstructured and provides students with choices such as walking or running the jogging trail, playing soccer in the field or using the playground equipment. Additionally, many children play in the natural environment, creating games and social dilemma made up from their collective imaginations. One child I spoke with stated “Most of our games are just made up fun from our minds. They’re really the funnest because they (the games) can change when we want them to – we’re not just stuck with the rules.” This leads me to ponder the influence that play has in developing innovative thinkers.

One phenomenon we have observed is the children’s persistence in building with whatever they have at hand. For example, we noticed that after our PE coach left a stack of “steppers” outside (those low platforms used to step up on during aerobic exercise) our children persisted in using them to build a variety of structures and mazes to facilitate their games. Similarly, when we had a pile of bricks remaining after a recent patio project, we repeatedly found neatly stacked piles of bricks in various configurations even though the teachers and assistants on duty did their best to dissuade students from the area which in all fairness was located on the playground. When the excess bricks were moved, we replaced them with outdoor storage containers filled with wooden blocks. Students (both boys and girls) at all ages, worked together constructing all kinds of castles, roads, fortresses and other works of their imagination. We have established rules to mitigate some disagreements that have arisen, such as blocks must be used for building, words must be used to solve problems and only the builder may knock down their creation. In the words of one of my kindergarteners, “I love when I build things because I can make stuff from my head.” Children’s ability to manipulate objects into representations of their visual images supports nonverbal expression of ideas, their spatial knowledge and interpretation of the world. This is essential for our students who are learning English as a second language or students with language delays as they have an opportunity to participate in a creative outlet that is not dependent on oral language.

At GOMM, recess and PE are two different experiences. Recess is the time each day that children play without the confines of a planned curriculum. However, we did begin to observe some trends that we felt needed to be addressed. We noticed that some students almost exclusively preferred sedentary activities which concerned us as we worked to instill healthy habits for physical activity. Another observation was that some children either withdrew from the group or were left out of group play/games when there were teams or more aerobic or rough and tumble play such as tag or dodge ball. These activities require highly skilled adult supervision to ensure that children are able to self-monitor their behaviors and not harm themselves or others. Additionally, modified equipment and rules such as soft sponge balls for dodge ball, contact only below the waist and a modified “out” where students who go “out” activate another student on the sideline to go in, thus creating a continual stream of participants and reducing the competitive nature of the game. Rules are established BEFORE the game begins and are monitored by the adults, junior coaches and student participants. The most skilled teachers review class progress on recess and student behaviors during community meetings to ensure students agree that the guidelines are being followed. Some community meetings result in the collective agreement to ban a game for an agreed upon time or to modify the rules further to support participation of everyone.

Teachers were encouraged to build a sense of community during circle time or community meetings. Some of the strategies helped reinforce ideas such as the importance of trying new things and being an inclusive community. Finally, we implemented a structured play component led by the adult for the first 10 minutes of each recess in which the adult modeled physical activity to ensure all students were engaged in warm-up activities. Some colleagues have argued that with all the pressure to ensure academic excellence, why waste time on recess? I counter with some of today’s realities that often prevent children from engaging in physical activity:

- children who live in apartments and in inner city settings have limited opportunity for green space physical movement and encounters with nature;
- latch key kids go home and lock themselves in for the evening;
- families are worried about children playing outside unsupervised;
- and stranger danger is a realistic fear for many families and the children report that they too are fearful to be outside playing.

GARDEN OAKS

For many children, school is the primary opportunity to engage in play with same age peers. However, the over-arching reason that RECESS is staunchly defended is that the children in all grades at Garden Oaks report high satisfaction with the opportunity to play outside during the day. Since we have mandated daily outdoor play, we have seen a measurable drop in bullying and aggressive behavior. Anecdotally, we can track spikes in calls to parents about behavioral concerns when we have a string of days where students are not able to have outdoor recess due to inclement weather. (In Houston that translates into heavy rain!)

Benefits far outweigh the Potential Pitfalls

Injuries on the playground are an inevitable outcome of physical activity. In order to avoid unnecessary risk, we provide training led by our school nurse and PE teacher and also contract the services of PlayWorks which provides activities and skills to promote a safe and inclusive experience and a consultant who gives monthly staff updates. PlayWorks also has a junior coaches' component for training students to become leaders and game facilitators on the playground. We have found that most accidents happen on the playground equipment, and supervision of these areas is a top priority as is educating our children on the equipment's proper use.

Additionally, each classroom has an assigned recess time and location to limit the number of children at any one time and to avoid overcrowding. The locations rotate as we have a variety of outdoor play settings such as the front field, playground and covered pavilion. The nurse also tracks all incidents and the setting in which an injury occurred. During our weekly meeting, we review these data to ensure that we are taking proper precautions. We also encourage all staff to report any playground concerns immediately to our plant operator and an administrator if any risk factor is detected such as a sharp piece of playground equipment or a need for mulch. Overall, it takes the collective efforts of the students, parents and teachers to support the physical development of our children and safe, fun recess at school. We believe the effort is well worth it as we observe children who are able to navigate outdoor play spaces and the nuances of this interactive social setting developing a greater sense of confidence and increased physical well-being. One first grader who actively engages in outdoor play reported that recess is "my most favoritist part of my day because I get my chance to think with my body and be me". Hopefully our goal as educators is to guide every child in their efforts to be their most authentic selves and to provide a variety of activities that support learners of every modality explore the world around them.



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424 W. 32	729 W. 38	811 W. 41	1458 Sue Barnett
228 W. 33	733 W. 38	822 W. 42	1463 Sue Barnett
235 W. 33	733 W. 39	858 W. 42	1466 Sue Barnett
303 W. 33	733 W. 42	855 W. 43	
311 W. 33	730 W. 43	822 Lamonte	SECTION 5:
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gardenoaks.org
or complete the enclosed forms.**



2016 Constable Patrol Contributor Application & Contact Information

New Member or Renewal

Property Address : _____

Phone at this address: _____

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

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

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

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

Payment Options

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

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

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

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

or pay online at

www.gardenoaks.org/constable



ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES STATEMENT

January – December 2016

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

Fill in Amount:

\$ _____	Crepe Myrtle (Basic Level) Household Membership	\$25 (\$5 for Seniors)
\$ _____	Red Oak (Patron Level) Household Membership	\$75 (\$15 for Seniors)
\$ _____	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!

AUGUST 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Civic Club Meeting* 7PM @ GOMM	3	4	5	6 Farmers Market 9AM-1PM 948 Wakefield
7	8	9 	10	11 GO Garden Club Meeting 7-8:30PM @ Kroger 1352 W. 43rd (Upstairs Conf. Room)	12 First Day of School (St. Rose of Lima) 	13 Farmers Market 9AM-1PM 948 Wakefield
14	15	16	17 GOMO Meeting 7PM @ GOPB	18 Heavy Trash Pick-Up (Junk Waste)	19	20 Farmers Market 9AM-1PM 948 Wakefield
21	22 First Day of School (GOMM/HISD) 	23 	24	25	26	27 Farmers Market 9AM-1PM 948 Wakefield
28	29	30	31	*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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Deanna@GardenOaksHomes.com ~ 281.658.4514



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



GO CONSTABLE
WINE WALK 2016
Around the Rim

12 DIFFERENT WINE-TASTING STATIONS
CELEBRATING WINES FROM AROUND THE PACIFIC RIM
AND SUPPORTING THE GARDEN OAKS CONSTABLE PROGRAM

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22 @ 4:00-6:30 PM
744 WEST 43RD STREET

Tickets available for purchase online at
<http://tinyurl.com/supportconstables>

or by mail with this completed form and a check payable to:
Garden Oaks Civic Club, PO Box 10293 ~ Houston, TX 77206

- YES! I would like to reserve _____ tickets @ \$85 each for a total of \$_____.
- NO, I cannot attend, but enclosed is a donation for \$_____ to be applied to the Garden Oaks Constable Program.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

We will acknowledge your ticket order by phone or e-mail.
Ticket sales limited to first 200 orders with payment received;
orders received by mail after tickets have sold out will be returned to sender.
Rain date will be Saturday, November 5. No refunds.
This is a private, adults-only event for those age 21 and older.



GO CONSTABLE

P.O. BOX 10293
HOUSTON, TX 77206

2016 WINE WALK SPONSORSHIP BENEFITS

PLATINUM SPONSOR (\$1000 CASH CONTRIBUTION)

- INDIVIDUAL sign on day of event at the entrance
 - Recognition in the GO Gazette
(delivered to 1400+ homes, the GO Facebook pages,
and on the Tasting Notes distributed to the 275 Wine Walk attendees)
 - Six tickets to the Wine Walk (ticket value \$510)

GOLD SPONSOR (\$500 CASH CONTRIBUTION)

- INDIVIDUAL sign on the day of the event at the entrance
- Recognition in the GO Gazette, GO Facebook pages and
and on the Tasting Notes distributed to the 275 attendees
- Three tickets to the Wine Walk (ticket value \$255)

SILVER SPONSOR (\$300 CASH CONTRIBUTION)

- Shared signage with other Silver Sponsors on the day of the event at the entrance
 - Recognition in the GO Gazette, the GO Facebook pages,
and on the Tasting Notes distributed to the 275 Wine Walk attendees
 - One ticket to the Wine Walk (ticket value \$85)

If you are interested in finding out more or in sponsoring,
please email GOConstable@gmail.com or
mail a check made payable to GOCC to the above address.