



Garden Oaks Gazette

A publication of the Garden Oaks Civic Club

NOVEMBER 2016



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT IN GARDEN OAKS

Garden Oaks residents gathered outside on October 4 to observe National Night Out together.



UPCOMING EVENTS

November Civic Club Meeting

Tuesday, November 1
7:00 p.m.
Garden Oaks Montessori
901 Sue Barnett Drive

Election Day

Tuesday, November 8

Veterans Day

Friday, November 11



Thank you for serving our country

Thanksgiving Day

Thursday, November 24

December Civic Club Meeting & Holiday Potluck Party

Tuesday, December 6
7:00 p.m.
The O'Leary-Applying Home
701 Garden Oaks Blvd.

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Here Comes Santa Claus!

A Winter Wonderland awaits you and your family where you will be welcomed by Santa and Mrs. Claus and their elves.

**Wednesday, December 7
and
Thursday, December 8
6:00–7:30 p.m.
in Gazebo Park
at the intersection of
Sue Barnett, W. 42nd, and Lamonte**

Elves Georgia Lister, Terry Jeanes, and Tina Sabuco will be on hand once again to assist Santa and Mrs. Claus in spreading Christmas cheer. Bring your whole family, including your fur family members for enjoyment of the Winter Wonderland, visiting with the Clauses, and capturing photo ops.

Calling All Handy Decorating Elves:

If you are handy and/or love to decorate, we are in need of helpers to decorate Gazebo Park for all Garden Oaksians and nearby neighbors to enjoy. We will be decorating EARLY this year on Sunday, November 6 at 10:00 a.m.

Calling All Baker Elves:

We would appreciate any nut-free homemade goodies that you can bring with you on either event night.

Also, there will be a collection box available for those of you who would like to donate unwrapped new toys that are being collected for the Precinct One Constables' Toy Drive. These toys will be donated to area children to help brighten their holidays.



If you would like to become a Handy Elf and help us decorate or if you have any questions about the event, please contact Elf Tina at tina@artsaliveinc.com.

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 Membership
733 West 42nd 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.

- 1039 Althea 1482 Sue Barnett
- 4212 Apollo 1543 Sue Barnett
- 923 Gardenia 862 W. 41st

Happy Birthday

- Adelaide Leonard..... 11/1
- Stacy Gross 11/2
- Gina Pecoraro 11/4
- Deborah Seghers..... 11/4
- Mike Maltbie 11/5
- Frank C. 11/7
- Angela Winston 11/7
- Anthony Neiser..... 11/10
- Caroline P. 11/12
- Sheila Briones 11/14
- Emma M. 11/14
- Dianne Murata 11/18
- Susan Saranie 11/19
- Hannah M. 11/20
- Jay McKeown..... 11/21
- Kit Schoenfield 11/23
- Lucy M. 11/25
- Cheryl Cohorn..... 11/28
- Megan Salch 11/29

Happy Anniversary

- Bob & Debbie Driver..... 11/4
- Hal Bowman & Georgia Lister ... 11/11
- Keith & Susan Kostelecky..... 10/13
- Mel & Ken Johnson 10/20

Congratulations

Congratulations to **Linda Reichle** on her new ride.

Congratulations to **Leslie Ryan** on the one-year anniversary of her special celebration of "ringing the bell".

Blake Woods hosted his cooking group in the garden at his home, Cricketwood. Congratulations on 21 years of gatherings.



Out and About

The **McLeans** visited Dubai.

The **Zindler Feit** family enjoyed Hangar 9 Wake Board park. **Marissa** and **Jason** enjoyed one of their favorite bands at Fitzgerald's. Their home was also the site of recent photo shoot for Channel 13 commercial. The **Theriot** home was also a filming site.

Stephanie and **Edgar Acosta** attended the Texas Art and Music Festival in downtown Brenham.

Tonya Knauth visited Fredericksburg.

The **Dilley** boys enjoyed their first rock climbing experience.

George Appling and **Brian O'Leary** enjoyed a cruise to the Bahamas to celebrate their 20th anniversary.

Welcome to four-legged family member Enzo to the **Jernigan** household.

Tina Sabuco and **Shellye Arnold** attended a family reunion in Illinois.

Heidi Lozano enjoyed hiking in Lost Maples State Park.

Al Thomas and **Dea Larson** vacationed in Yosemite.

The **Greenslates** enjoyed Hawaii.

Jim and **Sally McDaniel** celebrated their 25th anniversary in Hawaii.

Tina Rowe was off on another adventure; this time she went to the Great Smoky Mountains.

Terry Jeanes
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Sat 9-2

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Gail Bell enjoyed some grandbaby time at the pumpkin patch, while **Terry Jeanes** enjoyed granddaughter time, the corn maze, and all-around family fun at Barton Hill Farms in Bastrop.

Rusty and **Linda Reichle** enjoyed a beautiful trip to the mountains as well as Asheville.

Special Thoughts

On a personal note, to my many neighbors and friends here in Garden Oaks who are like family, I appreciate and am humbled by your positive thoughts, energy and prayers in response to my recent diagnosis. Your support is so precious to me.

Terry Jeanes

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



**NOVEMBER CIVIC CLUB SPEAKER:
ELYSSA HORVATH, FRIENDS OF OAK FOREST PARK**

The civic club speaker for the November 1 meeting is Elyssa Horvath, a resident of Oak Forest since 2007 and co-founder of The Friends of Oak Forest Park www.facebook.com/FriendsofOakForestPark/

The key focus of The Friends of Oak Forest Park is building an accessible playground to serve the community. As all probably know, there are no public playgrounds in our neighborhood that are inclusive of kids and parents with disabilities. This will become the seventh in the city's park system and the first in the central northwest community.

Following a spontaneous visit to Morgan's Wonderland during a trip to San Antonio, she was inspired to bring accessibility and inclusion to a neighborhood park, which launched the More Than 1Way 2Play campaign houstonparksboard.org/projects/oak_forest_park/. Funding for the playground area must be generated by support of the community, and Elyssa encourages everyone to give what they can, by purchasing an engraved paver to honor loved ones, buying and painting ceramic tiles for inclusion in an art tile installation, hosting a fundraising activity, or contributing in any other way possible to make this landmark project a reality for our community.

After 15 years serving as the marketing manager for a large commercial general contractor, Elyssa founded Core Landing Marketing Solutions and currently works as a freelance marketing consultant and event planner. She and her husband, Mike, have 2 kids, Tyler and Savannah, who attend Oak Forest Elementary.

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Child Care Offered at Civic Club Meetings

The Civic Club is pleased to offer members an arrangement with the Foster YMCA to provide child care during civic club meetings. YMCA child care specialists, each trained in first aid and CPR, will care for your children from 6:30-8:30 p.m. (the normal duration of Civic Club meetings) in an area adjacent to the meeting location for a nominal cost of \$1.00 per child. Please note that children must be three years of age or older.

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Holiday Market
Saturday, December 3, 2016
10:00 am – 2:00 pm

- Holiday Gift Shopping (over 30 booths!)
- Handcrafted & Gourmet Items
- Silent Auction 10:00 am-1:00 pm
- Pictures with Santa (TBA)
- Concession Stand

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**GARDEN OAKS CIVIC CLUB, INC.
PROPOSED BUDGET
2017**

	<u>REVENUES</u>	<u>EXPENSES</u>	<u>NET</u>
Civic Club Membership	\$6,000	\$100	\$5,900
Gazette	28,000	21,000	7,000
Constable Fundraiser	20,000	-	20,000
Constable	85,200	85,200	-
Home Tour	-	-	-
Beautification, Improvements & Maintenance	-	30,000	(30,000)
Garden Club	500	500	-
Interest Income	35	-	35
Citizen Patrol		250	(250)
Civic Club Meeting Expense		2,000	(2,000)
Community Events		2,000	(2,000)
Friends of Montessori-Pancake Breakfast		-	-
Grants		-	-
Insurance		1,400	(1,400)
Mailouts		1,500	(1,500)
Membership Expense		750	(750)
Miscellaneous		1,975	(1,975)
Professional Fees		750	(750)
Rent-Aztec Rental		1,560	(1,560)
Santa at Gazebo Park		-	-
Utilities		1,000	(1,000)
Website Redesign & Other		-	-
TOTALS	\$139,735	\$149,985	(\$10,250)

*Garden Oaks Resident
and Home Specialist*

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**COME JOIN YOUR NEIGHBORS
TO CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS!**

**Garden Oaks Civic Club
Annual Meeting & Holiday Potluck**

**Tuesday, December 6, 2016
7:00 p.m.**

*at the Home of
Brian O'leary & George Appling
701 Garden Oaks Blvd.*

The civic club will provide the main dish and drinks.
Feel free to bring a bottle of wine to share.

If your last name begins with A-H, bring a side dish;
I-Q, a dessert; R-Z, an appetizer.

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**GARDEN OAKS CIVIC CLUB
MEMBERSHIP & CONSTABLE
PROGRAM PARTICIPATION**

Ever wonder how many of your neighbors at the 1,400-odd households in Garden Oaks have paid their civic club membership dues and/or constable program contributions? The number of neighbors who have paid for 2017 as of press time are represented at right; visit www.gardenoaks.org any time for the latest tallies and for information about supporting these vital programs.

**Civic Club
Memberships
107**

**Constable Program
Supporters
187**



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CITIZENS' PATROL PROGRAM UPDATE

By Carl Waters, Jr., Program Chair

Thanks to all the families who hosted a block party in October for National Night Out. We had a good time at our party, meeting several new neighbors and catching up with many others.

Holiday Safety Reminders

- Stay alert to your surroundings.
- Don't shop alone (as with swimming, there is safety in numbers).
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash; use debit or credit cards.
- Carry a small purse or be sure to wrap the strap around your arm if you carry a larger one.
- Carry your wallet in your front pocket instead of your back pocket. Consider keeping it in your left pocket as most people shake with their right hand.
- Keep an eye on your purchases while eating to avoid having someone switch bags with you.
- Consider using a package pickup service when you make a large number of purchases.
- Have your keys ready when you exit the store to stay alert in the parking lot and quicken your ability to enter your vehicle.
- Avoid shopping at closing time. If you must shop after dark, select parking spaces in well-lit areas.
- Avoid parking next to vans or vehicles with dark tinted windows.
- Walk briskly, confidently, and directly through parking lots. Be wary of strangers soliciting sales or information in the parking lot.

Emergency Numbers



Emergency Services
911

HPD Non-Emergency Services
713-884-3131

Constable Dispatch
713-755-7628

All Other City Services
311

September Crime Statistics (6)

Aggravated Robbery (3)

4100 block of N. Shepherd on Friday, September 4 at 8:35 p.m.

3400 block of N. Shepherd on Wednesday, September 7 at 5:05 p.m.

3400 block of N. Shepherd on Friday, September 16 at 11:04 p.m.

Auto Theft (1)

3800 block of N. Shepherd on Friday, September 2 at 1:52 p.m.

Theft (2)

3400 block of N. Shepherd on Saturday, September at 9:52 a.m.

700 block of W. 42nd on Tuesday, September 27 at 4:45 p.m.

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



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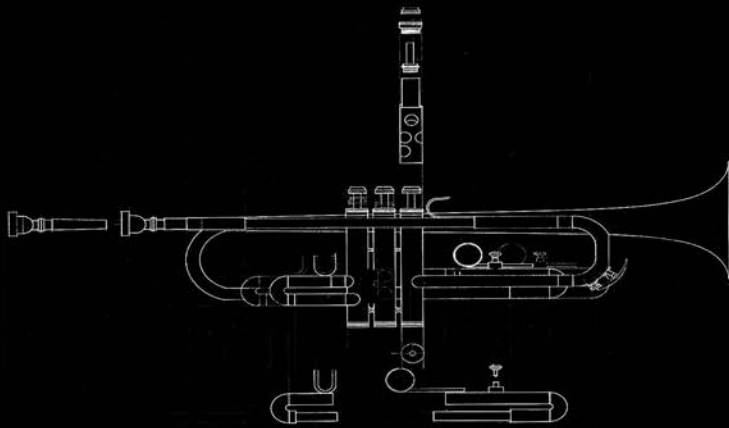
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AIR CONDITIONING TIPS FOR THE FALL

By Mitch Weigand

Gobble Up Some Energy Savings This Thanksgiving

Let's discuss some simple strategies to help you save energy while keeping your Thanksgiving guests comfy as well as making sure your home's heating system is running efficiently.

Take Advantage of the Sun's Heat

Open the curtains on your south and west-facing windows during the day to allow sunlight to naturally heat your home. Be sure to close them at night to reduce the chill that may be felt from cold windows.

Keep Dust to a Minimum

Not only does dust, pet hair and other air-borne particles aggravate allergies, they're hard on your heating system. They float around your home, travel into the system's duct work and eventually collect on the air filter. A simple and cost-effective means of dusting is dampen an old towel and run it over your furniture. Any particles will be trapped on the towel and when you're finished, just throw it in the washer.

Replace Your Air Filter Every Month

Yes, I'm saying it again. This is one of the most overlooked home maintenance tasks there is. Make it easy on yourself

by having them always on hand. Take a used filter to the hardware store to ensure you get the correct size and buy a box of them. They're sometimes cheaper that way too.

Reduce Heat Loss From Your Fireplace

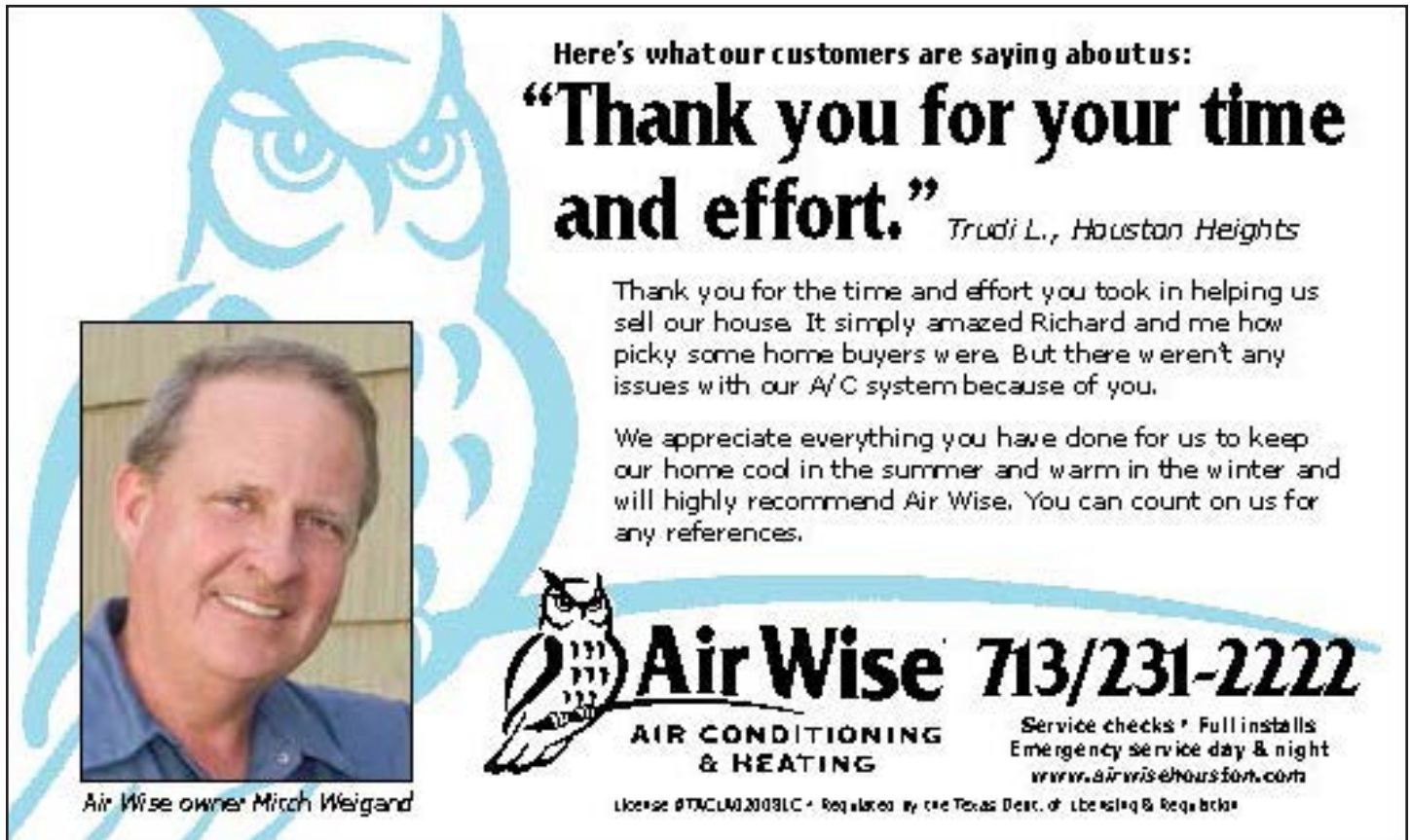
Keep your fireplace damper closed unless a fire is burning. Install tempered glass doors and a heat-air exchange system that blows warmed air back into the room.

An open damper is like having a window that's always wide open during the winter. Since hot air rises, this allows expensive, warmed air to escape right up the chimney. But only do this when you are not burning a fire. Also, if you never use your fireplace, consider sealing the chimney flue.

Lower the Temperature on Your Thermostat

Once you start cooking that grand Thanksgiving meal, your oven will help keep the house warm. You can turn on your ceiling fan so it pulls warm air upward and distributes it throughout the room. When you and your guests are asleep or out of the house, turn your thermostat down five degrees. By doing this, you can save on your heating bills. A programmable thermostat can make it easy to do.

Mitch Weigand is the owner of Air Wise™.



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GOMO Board of Directors

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

SECTION 1

Sheila Briones (2017)
713-861-8091
sheila.briones@gardenoaks.org

Mark Saranie (2018)
713-724-1271
mark.saranie@gardenoaks.org

Michael Taylor (2019)
713-526-2108
michael.taylor@gardenoaks.org

SECTION 2

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

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

Sue Schmidt (2019)
832-563-3402
sue.schmidt@gardenoaks.org

SECTION 3

Susan Kostelecky (2017)
713-697-4110
susan.kostelecky@gardenoaks.org

Dea Larson (2018)
713-695-3634
dea.larson@gardenoaks.org

Frances Schwartz (2019)
832-483-1546
frances.schwartz@gardenoaks.org

SECTION 5

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

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

Coley Groth (2019)
832-482-5896
coley.groth@gardenoaks.org

Plans were approved for:

809 W. 30th
747 W. 43rd
3217 Lawrence

Revised plans were approved for:

None

Pending resubmission:

1038 Gardenia
1062 W. 43rd

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	September	YTD (as of 9/30/2016)
Not a violation	1	7
City pending	0	N/A
City cleared	0	1
Informal w/owner pending	0	N/A
Informal w/owner cleared	0	6
Legal opinion pending	2	N/A
Legal opinion cleared	0	1
1st letter sent pending	3	N/A
1st letter cleared	0	4
2nd letter sent pending	0	N/A
2nd letter cleared	0	0
Prior Year Carryover	5	N/A
Total New Reported	1	18
Total Cleared	1	19
Total In-Progress	5	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

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

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-September 2016
- FY 2015-2016 Audit Results
- Litigation Updates for Section 1 Subdivision (September 18, 2016) and Section 3 Garage (September 23, 2016) cases

A draft of the redesigned website is online at gardenoaks.net. Comments and suggestions are welcomed.

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

GOMO ELECTS DIRECTORS AND CALLS SPECIAL MEETING FOR NOVEMBER 16, 2016

At the Annual Meeting, the following Directors were elected:

- Section 1: Michael Taylor
- Section 2: Sue Schmidt
- Section 3: Susan Kostelecky (one-year term)
- Section 3: Frances Schwartz (three-year term)
- Section 5: Coley Groth

A Special Meeting will be held **November 16, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.** for the purpose of filling the vacant Director Position in Section 5. The position, previously held by Chavonne Slovak, has one year remaining in its term. The Special Meeting will take place at the Garden Oaks Professional Building (4001 N. Shepherd, Suite 216) prior to the regularly scheduled GOMO Plan Review and Business Meetings. Members of Section 5 wishing to run for this position are urged to contact a GOMO Director or the Office Manager to make their interest known.

GOMO Review Meetings

take place at **6:30 p.m.** on the **first Tuesday** prior to Civic Club meetings 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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GOMO Q&A

The Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization (GOMO) receives questions from GOMO members on a variety of subjects including Garden Oaks Deed Restrictions, GOMO Bylaws, the GOMO board, communication, board member elections, finances, transfer fees and more. Edited versions of these questions are answered on our website at gardenoaks.org/gomo/.

Questions have been edited to combine similar questions and to provide answers that would be useful to more members. Additionally, an effort has been made to remove references to specific properties in the interest of maintaining civility and privacy.

In an effort to increase awareness among Garden Oaks residents about GOMO and its function, the board has approved the publication of a selection of these questions and answers. The Q&As will be published monthly dependent on the availability of column space. Questions from members may be submitted by email to manager@gardenoaks.org or by filling out the form at the website. The board will review all questions submitted by the members (owners) of Sections 1, 2, 3 and 5. The intention is to publish answers to questions which do not compromise GOMO's ability to function and/or do not needlessly violate the privacy of a member.

For our first selection, we have chosen questions about Plan Approval and Deed Restriction Enforcement:

Plan Approval

Are owners compelled to submit Plans to GOMO for approval?

Possibly. The language in the original DR's, Amendment A and the Bylaws would appear to compel owners to obtain approval for construction projects. Two issues are raised; the first is whether the full powers of the Garden Oaks Corporation have been inherited by GOMO and the second issue is that a lawsuit is GOMO's only enforcement tool.

A better question is perhaps, "What are the advantages of obtaining GOMO approval on Plans?"

GOMO approval provides owners the opportunity to bring their projects into conformance with the Deed Restrictions at a point where making changes is relatively cheap and painless. Furthermore, a GOMO approval on a set of plans provides an owner a "safe harbor" from later challenges.

Is GOMO approval needed for a pool?

The Deed Restrictions have no mention of pools or ponds. However, if your plans include any sort of outbuilding for pool filtering/heating equipment, pool house, covered deck or if a pergola/cabana is attached (to house) plans should be submitted. A GOMO approval provides a "safe harbor" from subsequent challenges.

DR Violation Enforcement

Does GOMO "red-tag" property?

No. Red-tags are issued by the City of Houston (COH).

The COH has a FAQ page about their deed restriction enforcement activity. <http://www.houstontx.gov/legal/dr-faq.html>

Does GOMO have an enforcement procedure?

Yes. GOMO has had a written procedure which has been used for several years. This policy has been updated and will be recorded with the Harris County Clerk's Office. Also, it is published with the other policies at gardenoaks.org/gomo/.

Are there privacy issues and protections around the discussions of violations?

Yes. There may be legal restrictions in addition to a basic need to treat all members with civility and respect when it comes to publicly discussing actual situations on a member's property. For this reason, the board has found it best to minimize discussions about actual or potential violations with anyone other than the owner of the property with the violation.

For those members desiring clarification of any Garden Oaks Deed Restrictions, plans and sketches of a proposed configuration or a written description can be submitted with questions. For reasons of homeowner privacy, we suggest that submissions omit references to another member's property.

We do not wish to discourage inclusion of photographs when a violation report is filed. These photos are very useful in working with owners to correct violations. However, these photos will not be used in public discussions of what is and is not a violation. Again, this is in the interest of homeowner privacy.

AN APPLE A DAY

By Shana Tatum

Eating more seasonally healthy foods is something I am working on this fall with my family. It takes time to break away from my boring and routine meal plans. Our time is short and creativity does not flow when I am in that reactive mindset. I have been back in school studying nutrition and am delighted with the things I am learning. While I am still some time away from becoming a registered dietitian, I can offer some information about seasonal foods as I strive for that ever-balanced dinner table.

One such enjoyable fall source of nutrition is the simple apple. I often overlook this fruit as I go down the produce aisle choosing mangos and bananas, or grapes and tangelos. But fall is here and so is my desire for a juicy, crisp apple. As I was researching more information about apples, I was surprised to learn about the history of so many varieties. A few examples: Braeburn apples discovered in New Zealand in 1952 are a cross between Granny Smith and Lady Hamilton apples. The delicious Honeycrisp apple is actually a trademark of the University of Minnesota from the 60s. The Pink Lady apple was one of the first to be given a "real brand name", starting the naming trend and allowing breeders to receive additional income for each apple sold.

In addition to all that sweet taste and crunchy mouth feel of an apple, research shows antioxidants found in fruit such as apples can help prevent cell damage.



Photo source: busybugs.co/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/apple-tasting-1.jpg

Other compounds such as flavonoid polyphenols may help reduce inflammation. Scientists are learning that most chronic diseases have roots in inflammation. How wonderful to know that as I am enjoying my apple, I am also supporting my body while satisfying my taste buds. I suggest the next trip to the grocery, purchase 5-6 varieties and do a taste test. Slice them up and let your family or guests try some new flavors. Compare the texture, flavor, juiciness and crunch. Choose a new favorite and pair it with some different cheeses. My favorite cheese this time of year with thin slices of a Honeycrisp apple is Ski Queen, a Norwegian cheese. It tastes smooth and sweet just like caramel. (Thanks to Stephanie Acosta for introducing me to that one!) Or consider grilling sliced Jazz apples and enjoy on a bagel with some almond butter or cream cheese. Try a new fall apple and be sure to share it with someone you love.

Sources: www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/301506.php
www.prevention.com/food/apple-varieties-and-recipes/slide/7

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HISD MAGNET APPLICATION INFORMATION FOR 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR

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

Students Zoned to Garden Oaks Montessori

If you are zoned to Garden Oaks Montessori and you would like your child to attend in the 2017-2018 school year, please complete the online application (www.hisdchoice.com) no later than **December 9, 2016**.

Your application will not be subject to the magnet lottery but will reserve a seat for your child. You will receive notification in late March of the supplemental documentation required to keep the seat.

Please note that only Kindergarten–5th grades are ZONED to Garden Oaks Montessori. If you have not toured our school in the past, you are encouraged to attend one of our weekly tours at 9:00 a.m. on Thursdays through December 8, 2016.

If you have further questions, please contact me at sdubroff@houstonisd.org or 713-696-2930.

Magnet applications are available online until **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.

Choosing Schools

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. These 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 schools are offering tours each Thursday through December 8. **Elementary and K-8 school** tours are for parents only and will be conducted at **9:00 a.m.** Prospective students may accompany their parents on tours of **middle and high schools** which take place at **1:00 p.m.** (These tours are scheduled in the afternoon so that prospective students who want to tour can be counted as present during attendance in the morning at their current school.)

Applications

The application deadline is **December 9**. This year, applicants can only apply to 5 schools. This is a change from years past, where parents could choose 10 schools. Please choose your schools wisely. I highly encourage parents to specify 5 school options rather than only 1 or 2 schools. As last year, you are asked to rank your school choices, with the school in your #1 slot being your most desired and #5 being the least desired of the 5 choices.

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)

Saturday, November 5

Austin High School
1700 Dumble
Houston, TX 77023-3139

Saturday, December 3

Sterling High School
11625 Martindale
Houston, TX 77048-2005

Please note: if you are applying to 5 Vanguard magnet schools and your kindergartener does not meet the Vanguard requirements, all of your applications for Vanguard will be marked as unqualified.

Whatever you decide, make certain that you initial and click SUBMIT on your applications by December 9 to be considered for the lottery (Phase 1). **Applications that come in after December 9, but before May 31, will NOT be considered for the Phase 1 lottery, but rather placed in the Phase 2 application group.**

Once the Phase 1 lottery waitlists have been cleared (by parents accepting or declining spots), only then will Phase 2 applicants be considered for open spots. These Phase 2 applicants are offered open spots based on the time and date stamp on their applications. Applications received after May 30 and ALL Out Of District Applicants are considered Phase 3, and will be considered after Phase 1 and Phase 2 applicants have declined any remaining spots.

Notifications

Elementary applicants will be notified of acceptance or waitlist number on **March 22**. Middle School and High School applicants will be notified on **March 23**. Parents must reply no later than **April 6** if they are accepting an offered seat. Magnet Entrance Agreements must be turned in to the school when you accept an offered spot at this time.

If you are notified of an offered spot after this time frame, parents have 3 days (72 hours) to accept the spot and turn in the Magnet Entrance Agreement. If, after 3 days there is no response, the spot will be declined and offered to the next applicant on the waitlist.



For questions about the Fun Run,
please contact goptofunrun@gmail.com.

Garden Oaks Montessori PTO is a 501(c)(3)
tax-exempt charitable organization.

Support Team Garden Oaks Today!

The Garden Oaks Montessori PTO
is hosting its inaugural Fun Run for students on

Thursday, November 10, 2016

and invites members of the community to make
a donation in honor of students' participation.

Online donations can be made at:

**[my.reason2race.com/cause/
gopto/gardenoaksfunrun2016](http://my.reason2race.com/cause/gopto/gardenoaksfunrun2016)**

Donations by cash or check can
be mailed or hand-delivered to:

**Garden Oaks Montessori PTO
901 Sue Barnett
Houston, TX 77018**

Thank you for your support!

COMMUNICATION ETIQUETTE: THE CHILDREN ARE LISTENING

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

This year's political debates have sparked many conversations on our campus. Dr. Maria Montessori said, "The development of language is part of the development of the personality, for words are the natural means of expressing thoughts and establishing understanding between people." But understanding has evaded many of us over the past few months. By the time this is published, we will have elected a new Commander in Chief and no matter who that is, we are sure to engage in more conversations around politics and what is happening in our world.

Perhaps one of the most discussed aspects of this race has been the way in which adults have spoken to one another. Anyone who has ever been in the company of children knows that no matter how softly we whisper, somehow children have a way of hearing what has been said even in the next room! I have had many children (and adults) ask me why it is that the people on TV "talk so mean" to each other. It is my belief that the public behaviors we are witnessing in the examples of many public figures may be reflective of the lack of filters we so often see in online communications. While in the past, we have attributed unbridled internet behavior to the anonymity of computer screens, the lines seem to be blurring as we now hear this same stream of rhetoric live when tensions rise and people use this excuse to exhibit uncivil behavior.

In a world where communication can quickly go viral and conversations live forever digitally, we spend a great deal of time at Garden Oaks teaching our students not only about

internet safety but also about appropriate means and contents of conversations. Here are a few things you may try at home.

First, be sure to talk to your children about stranger danger not only in real life but also in cyber space. This includes never giving out your home address or school name if you are "talking" or corresponding to people online. Additionally, any conversation that makes a child feel uncomfortable (curse words or vulgarity) should be reported to you immediately. Some online predators will tell a child they are a health care professional, a peace officer or a teacher. Tell your child that any of these people would never ask them online for personal information!

Further, it is important to share with your child communication etiquette. We teach the children the **THINK** method of communicating with others whether online or in person: Is what you are saying **True**? Is the information you are sharing **Helpful** to others? Is it **Inspiring**? Is it **Necessary**? And finally, Is it **Kind**? If the message does not meet these five criteria, we encourage students to think about the way they are communicating to ensure that trust and collaboration are the core components of any message. Also, it is important for young people to feel that they have a voice in conversations and feel empowered to speak up when they hear something that is unkind. We encourage children to be upstanders and to tell an adult immediately if they hear or see anyone being unkind to another person. As adults we must model kind behavior to our children and guide them on the path of peace. In the words of Dr. Montessori, "We shall walk together on this path of life, for all things are part of the universe and are connected with each other to form one whole unity."



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HABITAT GARDENING TIPS

By Kim Ellis

October brought more heat than I had hoped, and with that additional time watering and pulling weeds. Here's hoping that November really brings us in to fall, when we can safely plant our woody ornamentals, vines, roses and more without the fear of heat stroke and lost plants. We also begin leaf season, where the lower temperatures and lessened sunlight per day trigger the deciduous plants to drop their leaves.

November is a great time to be outside in the Houston area. Strolling the local nurseries is a great way to find inspiration for your fall and spring beds and gardens. When planning your garden, think ahead for the spring to leave spaces for plants that you might not be able to find in the nurseries at this time of year. Prepare the area as you would normally, and then cover with mulch or leaf litter to protect until the spring. All of those fallen leaves make a great free mulch and insulation for the newly planted plants, as well as providing nutrients. Cool season annuals look great in colorful pots for the holidays, as well as forced bulbs for inside decoration. You may still be able to find bags of bulbs in the local nurseries and the beautiful large Amaryllis and Paperwhites are available through Christmas. Trimming in November should only occur for thinning purposes. We can continue to dig up and divide perennials and bulbs, with advanced planning of where they will be transplanted, or gifted to a friend as a holiday gift. Remember to spread a pre-emergent weed control, like Corn Gluten Meal, to deter the sprouting of winter and spring weeds, but making sure to avoid any areas where you've throw out wildflower seeds for next spring. We only need to water and mow as needed. And although it seems unlikely, we can have a freeze in November. It's best to have plant covers ready to go if a freeze is forecasted. Plants in pots will need more freeze protection than plants that are in the ground. Pests should be

lessened, but you will have to wait to deal with any lawn brown patch until the spring.

Planting in November give your plants a head start for spring. Continue to plant cool season annual bedding plants, like mums, snapdragons, allysum, pansies, and dianthus for seasonal color. Remember that this is the best time to plant your trees, shrubs, roses and smaller perennials too. November is great for moving shrubs and young trees that might have gotten too big for their area, or you'd like to try in another spot. Fall nectar plants are blooming like crazy and are helping the Monarchs and other pollinator species with their fall migration. And finally we can start throwing out wildflower seed for next spring. Remember that good seed to soil contact is very important, with watering to keep them moist for germination. And if you still have room in your vegetable garden, you can direct seed beets, carrots, radishes and turnips.

As I mentioned in October, we need to be thinking now about the migrating wildlife and their need for extra winter water and energy. Fall nectar plants, leftover ornamental grasses seedheads and spent perennial blooms provide great nutrition for migrating and wintering wildlife. Providing clean water sources at differing height levels will allow more wildlife to access the water safely.

Kim Ellis

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



HABITATS

Specializing in the use of native and adapted plants to
create habitat gardens for our pollinators and urban wildlife.

Sustainable gardening tips for November include:

- Use fallen leaves from your trees, or your neighbors, to mulch walkways and beds for weed control and nutrients.
- Stockpile additional fallen leaves for use as mulch and compost, as needed later in the year. Avoid bagging as this can create a haven for mosquitos.
- Mow and water your lawn only as needed.
- Apply a natural pre-emergent weed control like Corn Gluten Meal to keep winter and spring weeds from germinating.
- Buy supplemental bird seed with limited millet "filler".



Plant of the Month

Muhlenbergia capillaris -
Gulf muhly, Pink muhly

Gulf muhly is a native perennial grass reaching 3 feet tall and wide, with large, airy, much-branched seedheads up to half as long as the entire plant. The spikelets are purple and in the fall the plant takes on a feathery, deep pink hue. It can handle full sun to part shade conditions, and dry and wet soils, making it the perfect native ornamental grass. It can also be found in a white variety selection called "White Clouds" which has more white colors fall seedheads. The seeds are eaten by many species of birds and wildlife, as well as being the host plant for many skipper butterfly species.

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

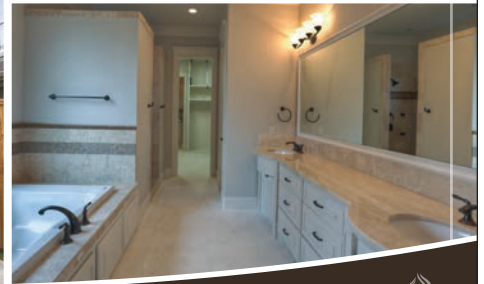


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Size	Single	Six Months	Twelve Months
2 1/4 W x 2 3/8 H	\$60.00	\$300.00	\$580.00
2 1/4 W x 4 1/4 H	\$90.00	\$450.00	\$870.00
Half Page 7 1/2 W X 4 1/2 H	\$110.00	\$550.00	\$1065.00
Full Page 7 1/2 W x 9 1/2 H	\$180.00	\$900.00	\$1745.00
Half Page Back Cover	\$150.00	\$750.00	
Full Page Back Cover	\$225.00	\$1125.00	
Full-page insert, single-sided	\$280.00		
Full-page insert, double-sided	\$325.00		

Please note:

1. Placement of ads is subject to the discretion of the editor.
2. Artwork must be e-mailed to gazette@gardenoaks.org by the 10th of each month for publication the following month.
3. Artwork may be submitted in one of the following formats: **JPEG** (.jpg), **PDF** (.pdf), **GIF** (.gif) or **TIF** (.tif).

GARDEN OAKS OUTREACH

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

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

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MICKEY'S MINUTE

By Mickey Morales

Bring on the pumpkins! As you may already know, we have a pumpkin drive each year after Halloween, so you don't have to send your slightly used gourds off to the landfill. Just bring them to the market where you're going to come shopping anyway, and I'll have the trailer there so you can deposit them. Farmers Cathy and Gus can take them back to their farms and feed them to the very grateful animals. This saves them a bit in feed costs and their seeds are quite beneficial to the animals; if I'm not mistaken, they are a natural wormer.

We will also be hosting a Fall Festival popup luncheon following the regular market hours on November 12 featuring beef from Ranch to Kitchen and chicken from Bryan Farms and produce from our vendors.

I'm thinking of having crispy beef tostadas and chicken flautas along with side dishes. Farmer Cathy said she'll bring one of the goats. We may be able to talk Felix Flores into coming so you can meet the rancher who's responsible for raising the animals that provide the meats that Emma Moon sells each Saturday.

I'm also considering doing a market pickup point on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving day, so y'all can pick up any pre-ordered goods needed to make your holiday celebration less of a chore. I'll be making cranberry chutney, brown gravy, and quiche. Perhaps we can talk Karen into making cookies and Stephen into baking pies that would be way better than anything you can get at a store.

So as always, "Come soon, come often and bring us your pumpkins."

**Local
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9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Every Saturday
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Thanks to all the generous 2016 Wine Walk sponsors, table hosts, and ticket purchasers, GO Constable raised \$30,550 for the Garden Oaks Constable Program!

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NOVEMBER 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1  Civic Club Meeting¹ 7PM @ GOMM	2	3	4	5 Farmers Market 9AM-1PM 948 Wakefield
6	7	8 Election Day 	9	10 GOMM Fun Run (see page 17) 	11 Veterans Day 	12 GO Kids Fun Run 9AM @ GOMM SPARK Park Farmers Market 9AM-1PM 948 Wakefield
13	14	15 	16 GOMO Special Meeting² 6:30PM @ GOPB	17 Heavy Trash Pick-Up (Tree Waste)	18	19 Farmers Market 9AM-1PM 948 Wakefield
20	21	22	23	24 Thanksgiving Day 	25	26 Farmers Market 9AM-1PM 948 Wakefield
27	28	29 	30	¹ Preceded by GOMO meeting beginning at 6:30PM. ² See page 13 special meeting followed by regularly scheduled plan review and business meeting at 7:00PM. 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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--

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 2017 of \$225. (Make checks payable to **Garden Oaks Civic Club**.)
- [] I/We cannot contribute \$225 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 2017

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.

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