



March 2017

Volume 39 Issue 3

# Garden Oaks Gazette

A publication of the Garden Oaks Civic Club

## Smoke 'n' Spirits Garden Oaks Constable Program Fundraiser

*Sheree' Peoples*

Do you or someone you know love fine spirits and/or fine cigars? If so, this event is for you! The inaugural Smoke 'n' Spirits event benefiting the Garden Oaks Constable Program invites you to enjoy high end spirits and fine cigars.

Our gracious hosts will be Vidal and Debbie Martinez. Their beautiful home will accommodate tasting tables inside and provide a large covered area for attendees to enjoy their cigars outside. A variety of foods will be served and complimentary valet parking will be available. Of course, if you are close enough to walk, we encourage you to do so. You can find Smoke 'n' Spirits on the Garden Oaks website under the "Events" tab at [gardenoaks.org](http://gardenoaks.org). There is also a separate Facebook page at <http://tinyurl.com/smokenspiritsfacebook>.

**When & Where:** Saturday April 8th at 1345 Sue Barnett Drive, from 4:00 – 6:30 p.m.

**How:** Tickets are available for purchase thru Eventbrite at <http://tinyurl.com/smokenspirits> at a cost of \$100 per ticket. Only 100 tickets will be sold, so plan on making your purchases early!

**What you get:** Participants will enjoy tastings of high end whiskeys, bourbons and scotches, along with highly rated cigars, including Cuban cigars. You will receive a commemorative whiskey glass and a swag bag with goodies. We will be holding both a silent and a live auction.

**Why:** Garden Oaks now has only two constable patrol contracts with Harris County Precinct One and it is entirely up to the neighborhood to provide the funding for the Constable Patrol Program. We need continued monies to keep our two constables patrolling in our neighborhood. Please support this community fundraiser that will benefit the safety and security of everyone living in Garden Oaks.

We are in the process of soliciting sponsors, donations, and auction items. Please contact Sheree' Peoples at [sheree79@aol.com](mailto:sheree79@aol.com) or John Beddow at [jcbeddow@outlook.com](mailto:jcbeddow@outlook.com) if you would like to be part of this exciting event.

Sponsorship opportunities are available at the Platinum (\$1000), Gold (\$500), and Silver (\$300) levels. Sponsorship benefits are outlined on [gardenoaks.org](http://gardenoaks.org). Many thanks to GO Constable, our initial Platinum sponsor, for their support.

Volunteers to help before, during, and after the event are being organized by Erica Gannon. If you are interested, please contact her at [erica@gannon.us.com](mailto:erica@gannon.us.com). It would be nice to have at least two volunteers from each section.

If you love fine spirits or cigars, this is the event for you!

### Garden Oaks Civic Club Meeting

Guest Speaker: Susan Kostelecky

Topic: Yard Beautification with Fairy Houses

Tuesday, March 7, 7 PM

Garden Oaks Montessori  
901 Sue Barnett

### *Save the Date:*

### Smoke 'n' Spirits Constable Fundraiser

Saturday, April 8, 4 - 6:30 PM

Home of Vidal and Debbie Martinez  
1345 Sue Barnett

### Spring Fling on Sue Barnett Drive

Saturday, April 29, 4 - 6:30 PM

1300 block Sue Barnett

# President's Message

*Matt Gannon, Civic Club*

## President

For many of us, the month of March is associated with warmer weather, blooming flowers and the start of Spring, although this year you might be forgiven for thinking that Spring started in February, given our recent weather! It is fitting, therefore, that the topic of our next Civic Club meeting will be yard beautification, and specifically, fairy houses and miniature gardens. These unique elements can be added to one's yard to create fun and interesting additions to the landscape. Inspired by the recent CNN short film, *The Gnomist*, the guest speaker for this topic will be our neighbor from section 3, Susan Kostelecky.

Continuing the theme of beautification and looking forward, I'm happy to announce our latest fundraising effort: "Spring Fling on Sue Barnett Drive", which will be hosted on April 29th and will benefit the GO Beautification Committee. Please check on our website and social media channels for more information to follow.

In addition to the Spring Fling, please also do not forget about the upcoming Smoke 'n' Spirits event on April 8th, benefiting the Garden Oaks Constable Program. Both of these events promise to be fun, interesting, and most importantly, will provide opportunities for neighbors to gather and will bring additional funding into the Civic Club for worthy causes.

In closing, it was wonderful to see several new faces at our February Civic Club meeting. Please keep attending, keep the ideas coming, and encourage your friends and neighbors to be involved. If you missed Jim Noteware's presentation on the state of City of Houston finances, the electronic version is available via email; check with GOCC officers if you are interested.

Please join us for our March Civic Club meeting at Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet at 7 pm on Tuesday, March 7th.

Warmest regards and best wishes,

Matt Gannon

## Civic Club Officers

*President* - Matt Gannon 832-646-4140  
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*Vice President* - Jim DiCola 281-627-4687  
424 W. 34th vicepresident@gardenoaks.org

*Treasurer* - Teresa Coleman 713-686-7728  
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411 W. 34th secretary@gardenoaks.org

## Committee Chairs

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827 Lamonte beautification@gardenoaks.org

*Citizens' Patrol* - Carl Waters, Jr. 713-569-3153  
821 West 31st gocop@gardenoaks.org

*Constable Program* - Terry Jeanes 713-812-9154  
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*Membership* - Dian Austin 713-691-6505  
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The Garden Oaks *Gazette* is the official publication of the Garden Oaks Civic Club and is published monthly. The submission deadline to the editor is 11:59 PM of the 10th of each month for publication the next month unless otherwise noted.

Publication of any article or letter does not imply endorsement by the Garden Oaks Civic Club and is solely the opinion of the author.

# Spring Fling Event

*Susan Kostelecky, Ad Hoc Committee Chair*

Help beautify Garden Oaks by attending a sip and stroll fundraiser in the 1300 block of Sue Barnett Drive on Saturday, April 29 from 4:00-6:30 p.m. The rain date is Saturday, May 6th.

The event will feature front yard garden tours, street art, miniature garden displays, fairy and gnome house displays, and curated vendors with creative yard art and container gardens for sale. Numerous residents in the 1300 block of Sue Barnett will be sharing their gardens, yards, and driveways to make this a fun and easily accessible event.

This family and adult friendly event will also feature food and drinks for children and adults provided by area restaurants and residents. Be inspired with great garden ideas, yard art, and more at this event!

This event was created to raise funds for the Beautification Committee for projects that fall outside of normal maintenance to help further beautify our great neighborhood.

Any area residents and businesses or groups (scout troops, block neighbors, etc.) are invited to create a transportable fairy house or miniature garden to be featured and displayed at the event. Architects, builders, artists, creative adults and children, individually or in groups, are welcome to participate in this display of magic, dreams, and inspiration!

The March Civic Club meeting will feature a video, *The Gnomist*, which was the inspiration behind this event. (<http://www.thegnomistfilm.com/>)

How can you help? Buy tickets, be a sponsor, volunteer at the event, be a fairy house creator, and "like" and share our Facebook event page: Spring Fling on Sue Barnett Drive! More details will be posted as they become available.

Thank you to our first sponsors: Peter & Kathy Chang, SCM Construction Services, and SK Designs. Sponsor details will be listed on the GO website, the event Facebook page, and in upcoming *Gazettes*.



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We had such a great experience, we went to Chris when we considered moving and doing another remodel. Again, Chris's guidance and ideas were priceless. We are now in our second major renovation in Candlelight Estates. Chris and Matt have both been wonderful to work with. Everything has gone smoothly, with no surprises or hiccups. They are projected to finish on time and on budget. I would highly recommend Chris and Matt for any building or renovation needs you have.

John and Liz Tharp



We appreciate the care and integrity that you and Matt have demonstrated throughout the process of building our home. This is the home where we hope to raise our children, gather with family and friends, and provide respite to those in need. You both have been a pleasure to work with, and we value the relationship we have built.

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# Constable Program Update

*Terry Jeanes, Committee Chair*

Starting March 1, we are now utilizing two constable patrols to help keep our neighborhood safer, rather than the three patrols that we have had for many years. This is a direct result of GOMO no longer being able to fund the Constable Program at this time. The Garden Oaks Civic Club has signed new contracts for the two deputies to patrol our streets, but we need increased contributions and additional participants to keep those two contracts in effect, as they are paid monthly. We do not currently have enough funds to pay for both of these contracts for the entire year.

Increased participation in the Constable Program is crucial to maintaining the safety and security of the neighborhood. We need your financial support to keep these two deputies patrolling. It is up to the residents of Garden Oaks to pay for the constables. Each contract costs about \$77,000 per year.

Donating to the Constable Program can be done via the form in this month's *Gazette*, or online at [gardenoaks.org](http://gardenoaks.org). You can pay in one lump sum for the year or monthly. There are many options online if you want to pay beyond the suggested \$225 annual minimum. We really do need your support!

As we go to press, only 283 households out of the 1430 homes in Garden Oaks are contributing at least the \$225 suggested minimum annual donation in 2017. That means only 20% of all households in Garden Oaks financially support the Constable Program. We still need more participation and funding in order to keep the Constable Program viable. The Constable Program benefits every single resident in the neighborhood, so please support the program. An updated supporter roster can be found at [gardenoaks.org](http://gardenoaks.org).

Two Constable Program fundraisers are on the calendar in hopes of raising additional monies:

1. Smoke 'n' Spirits will offer an opportunity to drink upscale liquors and smoke fine cigars. It will be held April 8, 2017 at the home of Vidal and Debbie Martinez. There is a separate article in this month's *Gazette* with more information and how to purchase tickets. If you are interested in participating, sponsoring, donating, or helping with the event, please contact committee chair Sheree' Peoples at [sheree79@aol.com](mailto:sheree79@aol.com).
2. The 9th Annual Wine Walk is scheduled for Saturday October 21, 2017 from 4 to 6:30 pm. The event will be a neighborhood/community wine and food tasting, and more details will be available later this year. If you are interested in sponsoring, please email [GOConstable@gmail.com](mailto:GOConstable@gmail.com). The 2016 Wine Walk netted some \$30,000 for the Constable Program.

If you have other ideas for Constable Program fundraisers, how to increase participation, or are interested in volunteering, please email [constable@gardenoaks.org](mailto:constable@gardenoaks.org).

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## Talk to Each Other

*Lindsey Pollock, Ed.D., Principal, Garden Oaks  
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This past winter break, my son and I embarked on a 10 day, 4,200 mile trek from Texas to New Jersey, Minnesota, Nebraska, and back to Texas. Over the course of those miles, I was reminded of the days when I would pick up the kids from school and ask them, "How was your day?" Inevitably, the answer would result in a sigh or a giggle followed by "fine" to which I would ask, "What did you learn today?" followed by an equally vague or evasive "I don't remember"! As the miles rolled on I remembered some of the conversation starters that had saved me those many years ago in the car, and together my son and I reminisced about those seemingly absurd questions or statements that would spark conversations and keep us engaged all the way home at the end of the day. Here are a few of them to try with your children or friends.

I'm certain I saw a shooting star last night. What wish do you think I should make?

What would you do if we had all the money in the world?

Who is the best pancake maker (or any favorite food) you know?

What should we do if there's a lion on the road on our way home?

If a space ship landed in our backyard what would it look like?

What's your favorite spot in your classroom?

These types of questions initiated discussions with my children that put them at ease at the end of the day and assured them that I was there to listen to them without judgment. Knowing that helped us establish communication without an expectation of right or wrong. The biggest deficits I see in children today are vocabulary and the ability to express themselves both orally and in writing. This is connected to limited interactions with language and I believe this may be attributable to heavy use of technology in our society. Everywhere I turn, I see both adults and children sitting side by side with devices in their hands totally engrossed in the technology instead of each other. Take time to connect with the people around you. Make up your own questions together or use resources online. Parents Together is one such site that offers you a question each day for free: <http://www.q4kidz.org/>. Positive Parenting online is another resource: <http://www.positiveparentingconnection.net/40-questions-that-get-kids-talking/>.

Take time to connect with your children no matter what age! As my 31-year-old son and I rolled along the countryside, we laughed and shared the stories we remembered. It is a memory I will cherish for the rest of my life. Have fun with the people who surround you and make your memories last a lifetime!

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# Garden Oaks Civic Club Meeting Minutes

*Joe Casarez, Secretary*

**February 7, 2017**

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

**Welcome and Introduction:**

President Matt Gannon welcomed those in attendance and called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. A motion was made and passed to accept the January 2017 minutes as published in the *Gazette*.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Treasurer Teresa Coleman had hard copies of the organization's revised format of the current profit and loss statement and balance sheet available to attendees. Ms. Coleman explained that in the past the budget and finances for both the Constable program and the Civic Club had been combined when in reality the Constable budget and funding are tracked separately from the Civic Club budget and funding. The two programs were separated into different balance sheets to allow for more transparency and better ease of reading and understanding.

**Guest Speaker:** John Beddow introduced the guest speaker, Jim Noteware. Mr. Noteware gave an informative and eye-opening presentation about the City of Houston's (CoH) budgetary and financial health. Mr. Noteware has written a series of op-ed articles regarding the CoH financial issues in the *Houston Business Journal*. (These articles can be found on the *Houston Business Journal* website.)

Mr. Noteware's presentation was very detailed and informative, focusing on CoH employee pension funds and how the CoH is attempting to fund them at the expense of other city services. Mr. Noteware also discussed how property tax revenues are up but that the areas of Garden Oaks, Oak Forest, Galleria and down I-10 to the Energy Corridor are actually funding the CoH budget while the rest of Houston is failing to maintain its property tax obligations to the city. Since 2010, the city has lost population and jobs due to corporations such as Schlumberger (Energy Corridor) and ExxonMobil (The Woodlands) moving their operations into the surrounding areas of Houston, and these tax revenues are not being replaced in the city.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Constable Program:** Program Chair Terry Jeanes reported that beginning March 1, GO will have two constables instead of three patrolling the neighborhood. Patrolling hours will be reduced from 120 hours a week to 80 hours. Calls will also roll over to the adjoining neighborhood patrols from Shepherd Park and Heights. Both of these Harris County Precinct One Constable contracts will be funded entirely by contributions from GO residents. Since GOCC is committed to providing two constables, it is important to get as many households participating in this very beneficial program for the neighborhood. One can join the

Constable Program at [www.gardenoaks.org](http://www.gardenoaks.org).

**Beautification:** Committee Chair Joan Harmon reported that this month's focus will be on cleaning up the park areas and preparing them for spring. Irrigation systems will be checked and maintained as necessary. The drinking fountain at the Spark Park will be installed sometime this month.

**Website:** Pam Parks announced that several new updates will be operational this week. Information for Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization (GOMO) and the Garden Oaks Civic Club (GOCC) can be found at [www.gardenoaks.org](http://www.gardenoaks.org). The previous website is archived at the bottom of the home page.

**Garden Oaks Citizens' Patrol:** Program Chair Carl Waters, Jr. was unable to attend but provided an update. There were 5 incidents reported for January 2017 on the website used by HPD to report information to the public (CrimeReports.com). Four of the five incidents occurred on N. Shepherd Drive: one burglary of a motor vehicle, one auto theft, and two thefts. More details will appear in the monthly article in the *March Gazette*. Mr. Waters also requested volunteers to help patrol the neighborhood and if interested, to please contact him via the GOCC website. One must be at least 18 years of age and able to pass a background check with the Houston Police Department.



**Membership:** Chairperson Dian Austin was unable to attend but provided an update. As of February 1st, there are 212 paid civic club members and 273 contributors to the Constable Program members. Sheila Briones handled the monthly raffle and Sue Schmidt was the lucky winner.

**Gazette:** Editor Joe Muscara thanked everyone for getting their submissions in on time for the February *Gazette* and reminded everyone that February 10th is the deadline to submit for the March *Gazette*.

**Garden Oaks Montessori**

**Magnet:** GOMM Principal Dr. Lindsey Pollock gave an update on the school's construction project which is going smoothly. A formal groundbreaking ceremony will occur February 17th at 9:30 AM. If you have an application in the Magnet lottery, you will be notified on March 20th as to the status of your application. If you know anyone who has moved into the neighborhood and has a child of kindergarten age or older, please have them contact the GOMM office as soon as possible if they plan to enroll this fall.

The pancake breakfast and silent auction that took place Saturday February 4th was a huge success. The Waltrip jazz band provided music at the event. Proceeds from the breakfast and auction netted \$26,470.

**There were no reports from the following committees:**

- Ad Hoc In-Line Storm Water Retention Project Committee
- Government Affairs Standing Committee


**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Smoke 'n' Spirits:** Chairperson Sheree' Peoples reported that the event will be held April 8th and the goal is to raise \$10,000 for the Constable Patrol Program. Ms. Peoples made a motion for \$500 in seed money for the event. The motion was amended to state that the seed money will be returned from the proceeds of event. Terry Jeanes seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**Spring Fling:** Chairperson Susan Kostelecky reported that the event will take place April 29th on the 1300 block of Sue Barnett, with a rain date for the following weekend, May 6th. The Spring Fling will feature front yard gardens, food, and drinks provided by residents, donors, sponsors, and area restaurants. Fairy houses, yard art, and curated vendors with yard and garden related items will be the highlight of the event. Both adults and children are invited to attend. The cost to attend the event is still being determined. A Facebook event page has been created. Frances Schwartz made a motion that the event be GOCC-sanctioned with proceeds benefitting any beautification projects that fall outside the normal maintenance routine. Sue Schmidt seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 7th. The guest speaker will be Susan Kostelecky.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m. Pizzas were graciously donated by Brother's Pizzeria.



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- Mark Saranie** (2018)  
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- Michael Taylor** (2019)  
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- Sue Schmidt** (2019)  
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Section 3

- Susan Kostelecky** (2017)  
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- Dea Larson** (2018)  
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- Frances Schwartz** (2019)  
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Section 5

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- Kip Noser** (2018)  
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kip.noser@gardenoaks.org
- Coley Groth** (2019)  
832-482-5896  
coley.groth@gardenoaks.org

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

# Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization (GOMO) Monthly Update for January 2017

*Pam Parks, GOMO Office Manager*

Plans were approved for:

- 524 W 32nd St

Revised plans were approved for:

- 705 W 39th St

Pending resubmission:

- None

### Deed Restriction Enforcement Activity

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

	Jan	YTD (as of 1/31/2017)
Not a violation	0	0
City pending	0	N/A
City cleared	0	0
Informal w/owner pending	1	N/A
Informal w/owner cleared	0	0
Legal opinion pending	2	N/A
Legal opinion cleared	0	0
1st letter sent pending	1	N/A
1st letter cleared	0	0
2nd letter sent pending	1	N/A
2nd letter cleared	0	0
Prior Period Carry Over	4	N/A
Total New Reported	0	0
Total Cleared	0	0
Total In-Progress	4	N/A
Litigation authorized	0	0
Litigation In Progress		
2 cases subdivision of lot,		
1 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.



Content additions to the website since last month are the following:

- Meeting minutes for Dec 2016

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

GOMO news, director and office contact information, meeting times and locations are published monthly in the Garden Oaks Gazette, delivered by volunteers to all homes in Garden Oaks.

At gardenoaks.org, 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 business meetings are posted. Home owners are invited to attend our meetings.

**Contact:**

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

713-561-3936  
gardenoaks.org  
manager@gardenoaksmaintenance.org

**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.



**Have you filed your Homestead Exemption?**

You should file your regular residential homestead exemption application between **January 1 and April 30**. If your application is postmarked by April 30, this will allow the district time to process it before your tax statement comes out in the fall. If you miss the April 30th deadline, you can still apply. For details and forms, visit

<http://www.hcad.org/resources/exemptions/homeowners.asp>

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# Weed-and-Feed Fertilizers Kill Trees and Shrubs

*Brenda de Alba, Harris County Master Gardener*

Garden Oaks is known for its many beautiful mature trees. **If your desire is to keep your trees and shrubs as healthy as possible, DO NOT USE GRANULAR WEED-AND-FEED FERTILIZERS!**

Marketed under many different brand names, these chemically-based herbicides are some of the most toxic substances that are still legal to buy. Most granular weed-and-feed fertilizers contain atrazine, an herbicide used to prevent broadleaf weeds.

I learned early on in my master gardener training that atrazine moves quickly through soil, often contaminating ground water. I was also surprised to learn that applying atrazine near the drip line

of trees and shrubs can gradually weaken and kill the plants over a period of time. A tree's drip line is the area defined by the outermost circumference of a tree canopy where water drips from the tree onto the ground. Take a minute to think how wide the canopies are for most of our mature trees and how far the root systems extend under our lawns. If you broadly distribute the granules, I can guarantee you are affecting the roots of your larger, woody plants.

According to a risk assessment released by the Environmental Protection Agency, the amount of the atrazine released into the environment in the United States is likely harming most species of

plants and animals, including mammals, birds, amphibians, and reptiles.

What can be used instead of granular weed-and-feed fertilizers? I recommend organic solutions if possible. I only use liquid forms of broadleaf control that do not contain atrazine and allow me to spot treat for weeds. If convenience is what you seek, there are some new granular products considered environmentally safe replacements for the atrazine-based weed-and-feeds and they can be used at any time of the year. Fertilome's is called Dollarweed Control Plus, and Greenlight's is a granular version of Wipe Out.



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Dr. Amanda Fiser



## 2017 Green Thumb Lectures and Workshops

The Harris County Master Gardeners and the Texas AgriLife Extension Service offer the Green Thumb gardening series of lectures from January through October. These lectures are free to residents of Harris County and are offered at locations across Houston; the location closest to Garden Oaks is the Spring Branch Memorial Library at 930 Corbindale, 77024.

If you have a desire to increase your knowledge on vegetable and herb gardening, composting, rainwater harvesting, pests, or a variety of other topics, please see the calendar of lectures below.

Third Tuesdays • January to October • 6:30 - 8:30 pm

- March 21      Roses: Planting, Growing & Upkeep
- April 18     Herbs Growing and Using
- May 16      Insects in the Garden
- June 20     Propagation & Seed Saving
- July 18      Raised Beds, Drip Irrigation & Rain Barrels
- August 15   Fall Vegetables
- September 20 Gardening with Children & Grandchildren

October 18    Trees: Planting and Care (Including Fruit Trees)

Answers to any of your gardening or horticulture questions can be found at <https://hcmga.tamu.edu>.

## Harris County Master Gardener's Tomato & Pepper Sale & Symposia

March 4, 2017 (8:00AM – 1:00PM)

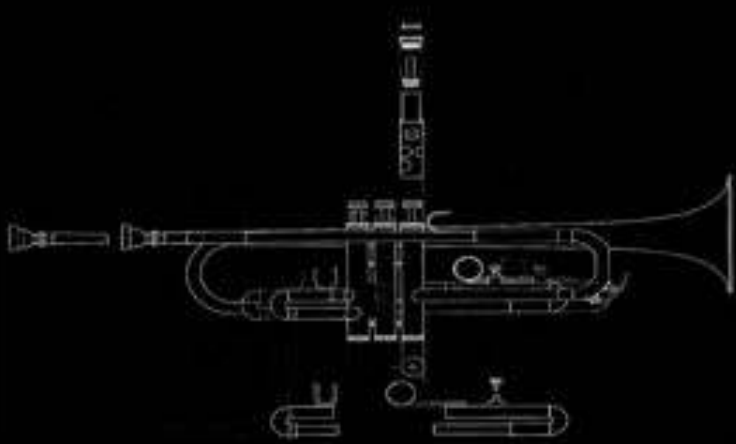
8:00 AM – Plant Symposia  
9:00 AM – Sale begins

Bear Creek Park  
3033 Bear Creek Dr.  
Houston, TX 77084

Master Gardener volunteers organize this sale annually as an educational and a fund-raising event. Tomato, pepper, and herb plants suited to our yearly growing season will be offered for sale.

More information can be found at <https://hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/> under Plant Sales.

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# Citizens' Patrol Update

*Carl Waters, Jr., Program Chair*

As noted below, we had six crimes reported for the neighborhood in January. Five of the reported crimes occurred on North Shepherd Drive, so only one of our neighbors was a victim of crime in their home which I feel is encouraging news. Please remain alert when you are out in the community and report any suspicious activity to the authorities.

Interested in joining the Citizens' Patrol Program? If you are at least 18 years of age, live in Garden Oaks, and can pass a criminal background check by the Houston Police Department, you are welcome to join. Volunteers will receive training through the Houston Police Department, and will be given magnetic signs to display on your vehicle while patrolling. Please complete an application and submit it to me to join the program.

## Crime Statistics (6)

### Aggravated Robbery (1)

3400 block of N. Shepherd on Sun, Jan 22 at 6:13 p.m.

### Auto Theft (1)

3900 block of N. Shepherd on Thur, Jan 12 at 10:34 p.m.

### Burglary (1)

4100 block of N. Shepherd on Wed, Jan 11 at 5:08 p.m.

### Burglary of a Motor Vehicle (1)

3900 block of N. Shepherd on Mon, Jan 23 at 7:57 p.m.

### Theft (2)

1000 block of Gardenia on Sun, Jan 15 at 10:35 a.m.

4100 block of N. Shepherd on Sun, Jan 15 at 6:17 p.m.

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

## Emergency Numbers

Crimes in progress, fire, or ambulance	911
HPD (Non-Emergency)	713-884-3131
Precinct One Constable Dispatch	713-755-7628
All Other City Services	311



## SHAPING TOMORROW'S VOICES

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Homeschool  
Afterschool
- Private Voice Lessons  
Homeschool  
Afterschool

### AGE & LOCATION

- 6 Grade – Adult
- In Garden Oaks

### TRAINING FOCUS

- Sight singing/Ear training
- Performance
- Stage Presence
- Breath Control
- Vocal Technique
- Vocal Care

For class times or information on tuition and registration, visit my Facebook page: [@CCVocalAcademy](https://www.facebook.com/CCVocalAcademy)

E: [CCVocalAcademy@gmail.com](mailto:CCVocalAcademy@gmail.com) P: 832.910.7896





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# Heard Under the Oak Tree

*Terry Jeanes*

## Welcome, New Neighbors!

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

962 Althea      4255 Apollo      709 West 39th  
721 West 42nd    1063 West 42nd    1067 West 43rd

## Happy Birthday

Ollie H. - 3/3	Sydney Grace N. - 3/3
Lori Kennedy - 3/5	Stephanie Acosta - 3/6
Jennifer Garza - 3/7	Dodie Davis - 3/11
Jeff Martin - 3/11	George Appling - 3/13
Rob Bunge - 3/15	Angelica Sullivan - 3/16
Nathan Grey Sarmiento - 3/26	
Susan Kostelecky - 3/26	Sharron Sanborn - 3/26
Lindsey Bartlett - 3/27	Will Zugheri - 3/30

**Belated Wishes** to Ann Best - 2/2 and Jude J. - 2/5

## Happy Anniversary

John & Nhilka Murphy - 3/15  
Jeff & Gaylynn Martin - 3/21  
Mark & Susan Saranie - 3/24  
Sean & Caroline McLean - 3/27

## Out and About

**Tony and Debbie Padon** enjoyed Austin to ring in the new year with friends and then a family wedding in Georgetown, Texas.

**Leslie Ryan** traveled to Indiana.

It was Vegas for **Kerry Carter-Taylor** and crew.

**Shellye Arnold and Tina Sabuco** attended the Memorial Park Conservancy Gala.

**Caroline Stender** enjoyed Robert Earl Keen at the new Heights Theatre.

**Nancy Polasek** and family enjoyed an up-close view of the Budweiser Clydesdales.

**Teresa Coleman, Brenda de Alba, Susan Saranie, Sheila Briones, Pam Parks, Imelda Johnson, Dian Austin, Tina Sabuco, Shellye Arnold, and Tom Stell** (previously a GO neighbor) were all in attendance at the

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Houston Women’s March in January (see photos).

**Congratulations**

Hats off to **Allison Padon** who graduated a semester early with honors and an accounting degree from Clemson University in December.

She began work at Deloitte in Houston in January 2017.

Kudos to **Zach Zugheri**, class of 2017 St. Thomas High School, for being an inaugural member of GDK Honor Roll.

And a high five to **Lucy McLean** and her team who celebrated a big TAPPS Division III State Championship in swimming.

*To highlight an event, celebration or other tidbit, please submit information no later than the 8th of the month to Terry Jeanes at [terry@terryjeanes.com](mailto:terry@terryjeanes.com).*



# Which Foods to Purchase Organically

*Erin Thole, CNHP*

There is much talk about the cleanliness of our food and how that has a direct effect on our health. One of the main areas of concern is the use of the chemical glyphosate, which is found in Round-Up and other chemical fertilizers and weed killers. Glyphosate has been linked to ailments such as digestive conditions and diseases, cardiovascular diseases, allergies, depression, obesity, cancer, infertility, and neurological disorders such as Parkinson's, MS and Alzheimers, to name a few. See <http://articles.mercola.com/sites/articles/archive/2014/04/15/glyphosate-health-effects.aspx>

Eating organically cuts down significantly on the amount of chemicals that you and your family are exposed to. Organic foods are held to high regulatory standards and to maintain their certified organic status, farmers are not allowed to use chemicals on the foods they grow. In other words, they are grown the old fashioned way as nature intended.

If you cannot purchase all your produce organically the Environmental Working Group has produced a list that will help you to lessen your chemical exposure by purchasing organic versions of foods on the "Dirty Dozen" (should be called the "Dirty Baker's Dozen") list and conventional foods on the "Clean 15" list. In general, foods where you eat the skin and/or that have a thinner skin need to be purchased organically.

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

Erin Thole, CNHP works with each client's unique biochemistry to determine what dietary, supplementation and lifestyle changes will work best for them as an individual. There is NO one-size-fits-all program!



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**Clean 15**

Onion	Corn	Pineapple	Avocado	Cabbage	Sweet peas	Asparagus
Mangos	Eggplant	Kiwi	Cantaloupe	Sweet potatoes/yams		Grapefruit
Watermelon	Mushrooms					

**Dirty Dozen**

Apples	Celery	Bell Peppers	Blueberries/Berries	Peaches	Strawberries
Nectarines	Grapes	Cucumbers	Kale/Collard Greens	Potatoes	Green Beans
Lettuce of any kind					

\*Table information from the Environmental Working Group. [www.ewg.org](http://www.ewg.org)

\*Since all corn is Genetically Modified, I would recommend purchasing only organic corn and corn products. I also recommend using corn sparingly or not at all as it is a highly inflammatory food and has a very moldy nature. Also, it is important to know corn is a grain, not a vegetable.

Although not sprayed directly with herbicides, pesticides and other chemicals, sweet potatoes/yams, onions, and other root vegetables do absorb a ton of these pollutants as they seep into the soil and basically marinate the vegetables in a chemical concoction. I recommend purchasing all root vegetables organically.

*Erin Thole, CNHP has been working in the health, nutrition & fitness field for over 8 years. To learn more and request a free consultation: [www.erinthole.com](http://www.erinthole.com) - [erin@erinthebeast.com](mailto:erin@erinthebeast.com); CrossFitters- be sure to check out [www.erinthebeast.com](http://www.erinthebeast.com)*



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# Air Conditioning Tips For the Spring

*Mitch Weigand*

## Houston Humidity and Its Effect on Your Indoor Comfort

As you know, Houston's over-the-top humidity can make you feel pretty steamy during the summer. But did you know it can affect your comfort throughout the year?

## Too much or too little equals discomfort

During the cooler months, have you ever noticed when it's both cold and humid outside? High humidity makes it feel like the heat is being sucked right out of you. Low humidity causes its own problems too. It can make your home feel a lot chillier than it actually is as well as cause

annoying problems like static electricity.

Your home's thermostat should be set between 71 and 77 degrees. This is ideal when it comes to comfort and cost. However, this range won't feel comfortable if humidity levels fall below 50 percent. No matter how warm you keep your home, it will feel too cool to you and your family.

The best way to correct low indoor humidity is with a humidifier. This appliance can be installed as part of your HVAC system and it adds needed moisture in the air that is distributed throughout your home via the ducts. This keeps the relative humidity above 50 percent

which makes the apparent temperature feel a lot more comfortable. We usually don't have this problem in Houston.

## How excess humidity affects air conditioning

During the summer, your A/C system cools your home by removing excess heat and moisture from the air. When the humidity level is high and the equipment doesn't have sufficient cooling capacity, your home may never feel truly comfortable.

Here are some common signs of excessive indoor humidity:

Here's what our customers are saying about us:

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*Air Wise owner Mitch Weigand*



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- Your skin feels clammy to the touch.
- Your home’s windows fog and collect moisture on the inside.
- A musty odor becomes present caused by dampness which can eventually lead to mold, an even worse problem.

**Too much is too much**

People often assume that the larger and more powerful their home’s A/C system is, the more effective it will be. This is not true. Since it won’t need to run very long in order to lower the temperature, the system won’t get a chance to remove sufficient moisture from the air. The result is cold, clammy air. This is why it’s essential to buy a system that’s the correct size for your home,

approximately one ton per 500 square feet.

**Dehumidifiers**

The best way to contend with indoor humidity is have a dehumidifier installed on your HVAC system. When humidity levels are kept in check during the summer, the system is able to do its job much more effectively. You will feel cooler and more refreshed as well as notice a nice drop in your energy bill. That’s because your air conditioner won’t have to work as hard while keeping you comfortable. Problems such as foggy windows, musty odors and clammy air should disappear too.

*Mitch Weigand is the owner of Air Wise™*

A color version of the Gazette is published each month at the Garden Oaks web site, [gardenoaks.org](http://gardenoaks.org) . You can download past issues as well as find contact information and pay for ads.

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

*Mickey Morales*

Wow, is it really March already? I just don't feel like we had enough of what passes for winter in our area. I mean that dreadful cold snap we had a month or so back was devastating to our farmers; however we haven't had enough chill hours for our stone fruit crops (peaches, plums and the like) to do well either. The one thing I do know for sure, drilled into my head by Farmer Cathy and Gus, is that we're not out of frost possibilities until the pecan trees tassel and the rodeo parade is over. Have y'all noticed that the day of the rodeo parade is one of the wettest and dreariest days of the year?

But with March also comes some of the best days of the year for being outdoors, shopping at your local farmers market among other things. Because after all it is your market, or actually ours. Someone recently complemented me on our market and my response was that we could not have done it without the support of the neighborhood. I've been as careful as possible to gather as great a mix of vendors as I could. However, it really comes down to you folks voting with your dollars that keeps us coming back week after week. And of course we can't begin to thank y'all enough.

Oh, I almost forgot—March also ushers in baby goat season. Just yesterday (2/11) while Farmer Cathy was at the market, Huggie gave birth to triplets and there are more due this week. We will keep you posted on our Facebook page when the blessed event occurs.

As always, "Come soon, come often and come love on a baby goat or two."

## Local Farm Stand

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

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# GOMM Pancake Breakfast and Silent Auction Wrap-Up

*Celina Sandoval*

Hundreds of current and prospective parents attended the Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet Pancake Breakfast and Silent Auction (PBSA) on Saturday, February 4. The 23rd annual event served as a fundraiser for upcoming construction of the school's campus, raising over \$26,400 in just two hours.

The event is staffed annually by parent volunteers and teachers who donate their time and efforts soliciting items or in-kind donations for the silent auction from our GO community businesses and neighbors. The free

pancake breakfast drew hungry crowds, and over 50 volunteer dads and granddads were on hand to personally flip and serve thousands of pancakes to the masses. Each stack was served up with an option of fresh brewed coffee or hot chocolate donated by local roaster, Katz Coffee. Sponsors included Zeno Imaging, Impressive Events, Friend of Montessori, Central Market, Shipley's Donuts, Reserve at Garden Oaks, Garden Oaks Civic Club, YMCA, and Major Equipment & Remediation.

Committee chair Celina Sandoval was elated at the community and local business support, saying "Last year I attended as an eager parent looking for the perfect place for my

child to start her educational path. I fell in love with Garden Oaks Montessori at the PBSA. Fast forward a year, and today I was part of the team behind the scenes working to make the event another wonderful experience for our families, community and potential students. I see how hard each of you works to invest in our community and I am proud to be a part of it. We could not do this work without the generous support of our volunteers and local businesses who donated thousands of dollars of merchandise. For everyone who made this event a success, please accept our most sincere thanks."

Attendees were offered an array of



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entertainment options including Waltrip High School’s Jazz Ensemble. Also on site was their mascot, the Waltrip Ram, who hugged babies and posed for endless selfies with the crowd. Both Waltrip HS and Garden Oaks cheer teams were on hand to cheer on the bidders and pancake flippers!

City of Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner was in attendance to deliver a rousing welcome and thanking the crowd for investing in the education of our future community leaders. He said, “When we invest in our children, there are endless possibilities to what they can do.”

The Pancake Breakfast and Silent Auction is an event that

demonstrates what a community of parents and students of Garden Oaks we truly are. The event strikes a great balance between a family-style breakfast and a fundraising event that can position us for a future rich in opportunities for our students. Since the school’s enrollment has nearly doubled after the transition to an all-Montessori magnet campus, the need for additional classroom space grew quickly. Plans for the new 65,000 square foot facility and renovation of the remaining buildings ensure that the students have adequate space and a state of the art facility to continue their focus on Environmental Sciences.



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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 [gazetteads@gardenoaks.org](mailto:gazetteads@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).

# Central Northwest Super Neighborhood Council 12

The Central Northwest Super Neighborhood Council (SN 12) represents numerous Houston civic clubs and property owners associations to improve livability by addressing our community's needs and concerns.

Garden Oaks is a part of SN 12 along with the following neighborhoods:

- Candlelight Estates, Section 1
- Candlelight Estates POA
- Candlelight Place, Sections 3 & 4
- Candlelight Oaks
- Candlelight Oaks Village
- Candlelight Plaza
- Ella Lee Forest
- Garden Oaks Plaza
- Mangum Manor
- Oak Forest
- Pinemont Park Square
- Shepherd Forest
- Shepherd Park Plaza

SN 12 is bounded by 610 to White Oak Bayou to Reliant Energy power line to Mangum Road on the south; US 290 to Lumberdale on the west; Cole Creek to BNSF railroad line on the north; and North Shepherd Dr. to BNSF RR line to Yale on the east.

The Central NW Super Neighborhood Council meets on the **fourth Wednesday of every other month** (unless holiday weeks prevail) from 6:30-8:15 p.m. at the **Candlelight Community Center, 1520 Candlelight Lane, Houston, TX 77018**. Meetings are open to the public.

Upcoming meetings are scheduled for

- Wednesday, March 22
- Wednesday, May 24
- Wednesday, July 26
- Wednesday, September 27
- Wednesday, November 22

For further information about SN 12, visit [sn12.org](http://sn12.org) or email [cnwsuper@gmail.com](mailto:cnwsuper@gmail.com).

The Super Neighborhood program is sponsored by the City of Houston Dept. of Neighborhoods. For more, visit [www.houstontx.gov/superneighborhoods/](http://www.houstontx.gov/superneighborhoods/).



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Gary Bloch

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sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
26	27	28	1	2	3	4 Farm Stand 9 AM - 1 PM 948 Wakefield
5	6	7 GOMO Plan Review 6:30 PM Civic Club Meeting 7 PM GO Montessori	8	9 Garden Club Meeting 7 PM Kroger Upstairs Meeting Room 1352 W 43rd	10 Gazette Article Deadline	11 Farm Stand 9 AM - 1 PM 948 Wakefield Garden Club Work Day 9 AM Friendship Garden
12 Daylight Savings Time	13	14	15 GOMO Meeting 7 PM GO Professional Building Suite 216	16 Heavy Trash (Tree Waste)	17 St. Patrick's Day	18 Farm Stand 9 AM - 1 PM 948 Wakefield
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 Farm Stand 9 AM - 1 PM 948 Wakefield
26	27	28	29	30	31	1 When I was a boy I was told that anybody could become President. Now I'm beginning to believe it. -Clarence Darrow, lawyer and author (1857-1938)



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## 2017 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 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](http://www.gardenoaks.org)**



## 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.

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**Fill in Amount:**

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

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

-OR-

Pay online at [www.gardenoaks.org](http://www.gardenoaks.org)

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!