



June 2017

Volume 39 Issue 6

Garden Oaks Gazette

The newsletter of the Garden Oaks Civic Club



Spring Fling a Success!

Susan Kostelecky

The Spring Fling on Sue Barnett Drive netted almost \$9,000 for Beautification for Garden Oaks! We are thankful that the weather held out, that we **sold out** of tickets, that so many people enjoyed the event, and that area residents and businesses were so generous in participating!

Almost 350 attendees braved the grey skies and wind to enjoy the food, drink and activities provided by the 20 table

hosts, as well as the silent auction by **Rescued Pets Movement**, great yard art and local honey from **Wabash Feed**, glass art from **EcoFab Arts**, and story time by **Friends of Oak Forest Park**.

It was wonderful to see the kids running up and down the street (blocked off for the event), and one resident said that it was "like a little piece of Mayberry" in our neighborhood for the day.

The committee worked hard to make this a successful and fun event: **Karen Benson, Kathy Chang, Michael Dreiss, Joan Harmon, Sue Schmidt, Frances Schwartz, and Carol Terrett**.

(Continued on page 6)

Garden Oaks Civic Club Meeting

Tuesday, June 6, 7 PM
Garden Oaks Montessori
901 Sue Barnett

Topic: Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo's Lizzie Williams, the Cattle Queen of Texas

Wine Walk Constable Fundraiser

Saturday, October 21
4 - 6:30 PM
744 W 43rd



Quiet on the Set!

Joe Muscara, Gazette Editor

Before I begin on what might seem like a rant, please realize that nothing here should be taken as a criticism of anyone.

When we first moved to Garden Oaks, it was quiet, quaint, and frankly, old. It was all very charming and while some places needed fixing, we loved it. Little did we know what was coming.

I've been working from home since the early 2000s (lucky me). Back then it was bucolic, or at least my memory of it was. I think the first thing that happened that changed things was the sound wall along 610. While that was done with good intentions and may have benefited some, Lori and I believe it got louder at our house. There are times when our backyard sounds pretty noisy, and we live north of the railroad tracks.

Over the years, Garden Oaks has boomed and with it has come a lot of remodeling and new construction. This has been great for the neighborhood but the price can be the traffic and noise while it happens. It has become so frequent that construction noise might be considered a constant.

With all the busy lives people have now, the other "noise" that has increased has been landscapers. It used to be most yard work took place on weekends because people were doing it themselves. Now, I can count on a landscaping crew to be at a different neighbor's house nearly every weekday. It's Monday morning at 11:30 as I write this, and the second crew of the day just started up their small engines.

Of course, I realize that all these things are the sound of progress, and these are all indications of how well Garden Oaks is doing, as well as its residents. I think that's great. But I guess the noise is one of the prices we pay for that.

Until next month, I'm...

Still the editor

[*Editor's note: The day after I wrote this, they started tearing down a house across the street from us. That took most of the week. Was that Karma?*]

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

President's Message

Matt Gannon, Civic Club President

As we head into June, summer is now firmly upon us and we begin the adjustment to Houston's warm and humid mid-year climate. As a result, June, July, and August are good months to do some cleaning, arranging and tidying up around the home. It was therefore very timely that at last month's Civic Club meeting we had a visit from Sharon Moses, with the City of Houston recycling program, discussing the various initiatives that exist to recycle household items. This was an educational and interesting presentation, and I personally learned a lot from it. Did you know that styrofoam cups can't be recycled by the City? I didn't. Please look for Jim DiCola's article about what to recycle and what not to recycle elsewhere in this month's *Gazette*.

At June's Civic Club meeting we will have Lizzie Williams, the Cattle Queen of Texas, coming to speak with us. Lizzie is a representative of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. This promises to be a fun, interesting and entertaining experience.

In other news, I am happy to report that the Spring Fling on Sue Barnett Drive was a success, and approximately \$9,000 was raised for beautification projects and non-routine maintenance. Keep an eye open for the various improvements that will be implemented by Joanie and the Beautification committee in the coming months.

Finally, a quick update on the 2018 Home and Garden Tour. As I announced at the last GOCC meeting, Sue Schmidt has unfortunately had to step down as the chair of the committee. However, I am delighted to report that we already have a new chair. Katy Hall Wyly has graciously offered to step up and lead the team for 2018. As many of you know, Katy was involved with the last tour, and managed the volunteers. I have no doubt that Katy will do a stellar job, and with her real estate experience, will ensure that the home tour really showcases our neighborhood as a great place to live. For all those who have volunteered to help, we will be holding a meeting soon to introduce the committee members to each other and start initial planning.

Recycling Dos and Don'ts

Jim DiCola, Civic Club Vice President

Sharon Moses from the City of Houston (COH) Solid Waste Management Department was the speaker at the May Civic Club meeting. She covered things we can recycle and things we should not be throwing into our green recycling bins.

The COH does **not** accept for recycling the following items:

Wet newspapers, aluminum foil, paper towels, cellophane, plastic bags, plastic trash bags, plastic baggies, plastic film of any kind, charcoal briquette bags, cat



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food bags, dog food bags, potato chip bags, Pringle's containers, plastic straws, plastic ware, laminated labels, and stickers with any kind of glue on them.

The COH **does** accept these items for curbside recycling:

Newspapers, magazines, color ad inserts, office paper, mail, telephone books, tin, aluminum, empty aerosol cans, plastic bottles and jugs (marked with a #1 - #5, and #7 recycling symbol).

In addition, it was mentioned that:

- COH does not provide for curbside recycling of glass. (There are glass recycling depositories both at TC Jester Park and at the North Main Recycling Depository, 9003 N. Main, just north of Crosstimbers.)
- Plastic bottle caps should be taken off of plastic containers. Did you know that instead of throwing these caps away they can be brought to GOMM for **reuse** in school projects? (Drop off at the school office starting in September as the school is closed now for the summer.)
- Aluminum cans should be rinsed out as much as possible before being recycled
- The boxes from plastic wraps and aluminum foils can be recycled, but it would be better if the serrated cutting edges were removed.
- Cardboard boxes should be flattened and have as much of the packing tape and labels removed as possible.
- Plastic bags can be recycled at many grocery stores.

Lastly (are you ready for this?), just throw away your non-rechargeable household batteries. So the A, AA, AAA, C, and D batteries can be just thrown away in the regular garbage. Even if you take them to the City's battery recycling center—you guessed it—they just throw them away there too!

Constable Program Update

Terry Jeanes, Committee Chair

Thanks to those of you who generously support our Constable Patrol Program. Our deputies really add to the safety and security of Garden Oaks and work for everyone in the neighborhood, regardless if you own, rent, or are just passing through.

While we continue to gain new Constable Program contributors daily, as we go to press, we still have only some 336 supporters who are contributing at least the \$225 suggested minimum annual donation in 2017. That means out of a possible 1430+ households, only about 23% of the households in Garden Oaks are shouldering the load for all of us. Each Constable Patrol contract costs about \$77,000 annually, and we currently have to pay for two contracts.

An updated supporter roster can be found at gardenoaks.org. Thanks again to those who are currently supporting the program. If you are not a current

(Continued on page 9)

Unplug and **Connect** with Your Children!

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

Have you ever stopped to count the number of devices in your family that are connected to the internet or other sources of information? More and more, technology is filling in where conversations and meaningful human-to-human interactions were once the norm. Dinner time, rides in the car, walks in the neighborhood, and even play time outside are all too often times that children are engaged with their phones/electronic devices instead of with the people around them. In fact, many children wake up in the middle of the night to reconnect with their technology without a parent's knowledge.

The definition of media mentors emerging in education is anyone who works with or on behalf of children and families in the digital age. "Children need guidance from digital age adults – from media mentors", writes Chip Donohue in his article, "Digital Age Family Engagement: The Role of Media Mentors", (<https://www.childcareexchange.com/article/digital-age-family/5023412/>) in the March/April 2017 edition of *Exchange* magazine. "A worthy goal is to empower parents to become thoughtful media mentors for their own children, so educators need to support parents as they try to navigate the digital age for themselves and their children, in order to encourage a healthy media diet and family media ecology at home. The intersection with technology-enhanced family engagement strategies is the opportunity for parents to reflect on their own use of digital tools and to feel confident as their child's first and most influential role model for healthy media use." As the adult in your child's life, consider the steps below to mentor your children (0 - adult) in the healthy use of technology.

First of all, **monitor what your children are watching** and identify sources of information that can inform your decisions about what is appropriate for viewing. The program *13 Reasons Why* sparked a great deal of anxiety among students at Garden Oaks. Many parents were shocked to read the Common Sense Media review (<https://www.common Sense Media.org/tv-reviews/13->

reasons-why) about the series that is centered on the suicide of a girl. The review included, "There's teen drinking, voyeurism (a boy circulates a picture of a girl in a compromising position after a sexual encounter), and lots of swearing ("f--k," "s--t," and "a--holes")." While the program is rated for audiences 16+ , many of our 10 year-olds were watching it at home on Netflix because "everyone is talking about it." Remember to check their browsing histories, cell phone logs, and online accounts to see what activity has already taken place.

Talk to your children about viewing and about what types of movies/programs are age appropriate. I will always remember the time when an older family member left a scary movie in the DVD player which was discovered by my children. They promptly turned off the video and ejected the film which they then delivered to me in the kitchen and announced that the movie was not "appropriate for kids" and that I should really talk to the person who had been watching it!

Consult with your friends about the media and what is trending online and in theaters. When my children were young, we had to rent video games at the Blockbuster store. I was eternally grateful for the store clerk's help when video games were being added to the stack at check out. It takes a village to stay abreast of what is being produced and circulated.

Keep the devices away from children at night. Take up the cell phones at bed time and keep the TVs out of the bedroom. Be sure your children are getting a good night's sleep and ask them if they slept through the night. Sleep is a crucial time of regeneration for a growing body and is a major contributor to balanced mental health. Protect your child's well-being and stay connected to the "inputs" in their lives. **You** are an important mentor to them in the matters of media consumption and every aspect of their social, emotional, physical and academic well-being!

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(Spring Fling, continued from page 1)

We'd like to thank our generous sponsors who contributed a total of \$4,250! **\$500 Silver Sponsors** were: Peter & Kathy Chang, SCM Construction Services, Shipley Donuts, SK Designs, and Tony's Mexican Restaurant. **\$250 Bronze Sponsors** were: Abundance Retreat, Buffalo Paint, Garden Oaks



Veterinary Clinic, Heights A/C & Heating, Jeff & Melissa Gibb, La Fresca Pizza, and Schwartz Interests.

The table hosts were awesome, providing well decorated tables, activities for kids, great food and drink and a festive atmosphere for the attendees. The

feedback about the table host offerings was terrific — lots to eat and drink for adults and kids, and it was a great way to meet resident hosts as well as more area businesses.

Thank you to the table hosts and donors: **Animal Justice League, The Baker's Man, The Barking Pig, The Driver Family, Eureka Heights Brew Co., Frenchy's Chicken, GO Kids, The Goats, Great Heights Brewing Company, The Happy Macaron, Heights A/C & Heating, The House Manager, La Fresca Pizza, Marchese's Kitchen, Mi Sombrero, Natran, Naturally Sweet Treats, The Petrelli Family, Rainbow Lodge, Spaghetti Western, and Union Kitchen.** The time and effort you each put into making your booth/table great were appreciated and obvious.

The event could not have happened without the generous residents who permitted the use of their yards and driveways for the table hosts: **the Brauns, Changs, Cowards, Dardens, Drivers, Gurrolas, Kleins, Kosteleckys, Petrellis, Starks, Taylors, Warrens, and the Zamoras.**

The **Garden Oaks Garden Club** sold a lot of plants, container gardens and garden accessories, netting over \$900 for their booth. Thank you GO Garden Club!

Other contributors of time and expertise were **Lauren Jensen Simpson of St. Julian's Crossing**, who talked about planting for pollinators, and our own



Kim Ellis of Habitats, who was available for gardening questions.

Joan Harmon did a fabulous job face painting! The kids waited patiently in line for one of her beautiful creations.

Garden Oaks resident Maria Aimone decorated the sidewalks and driveways with fanciful chalk art.

Jimmy Loyd of Jimmy Loyd Photography took lots of great photos to showcase how much fun everyone was having, including the ones with this article.

Cottonwood donated two \$50 gift certificates, one of which was given to the Fairy House Contest winner and one to a pre-April 22 event registrant.



The funds raised will be dedicated to non-routine maintenance of the Garden Oaks parks for the next two years, with a focus on improving the Art Park (W. 43rd at Sue Barnett) and the Rose Garden (W. 34th at Lawrence), both of which are highly visible parks in the neighborhood.

We do plan to host this event again in 2019 (alternating with the Garden Oaks Home & Garden Tour), with a new theme and ideas to raise even more money and participation. Thank you to everyone who contributed time, money, effort, and energy to this event. We had a blast and hope you did too!



Spring Fling photos by Jimmy Loyd Photography

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

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Garden Oaks Civic Club Meeting Minutes

Joe Casarez, Secretary

May 2, 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 7:00 p.m. A motion was made and passed to accept the April 2017 minutes as published in the *Gazette*.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Teresa Coleman was on vacation and a treasurer's report will be provided at the next meeting including an update on the previous month.

Guest Speaker: Sharon Moses, City of Houston Recycling program, was the guest speaker. Ms. Moses has been working for close to 10 years in the program and often takes her recycling presentation to various businesses to promote the benefits and importance of having a successful recycling program.

The City of Houston does not have a garbage fee. Only 1/10th of all garbage in the USA is recycled. Each person generates about 8 pounds of trash per day. So where does all this waste go? Landfills. Before a landfill can be used, a pit is dug and a plastic liner is laid down to protect the ground water. Then a layer of dirt is spread over the liner and then trash is spread over the dirt and then cycles of dirt and garbage are laid until the landfill is a small mountain.

Decomposition rates are estimated

as follows: paper (1 month), cloth (5 months), yarn (14 months), wood (13 years), batteries and steel (100 years) and aluminum, plastic and glass (500 years, although some scientists estimate that 500 years is too conservative and that 1000 years is more likely). Styrofoam never decomposes. 30-40% of what goes into a landfill is biodegradable recyclable waste.

You can visit the City of Houston Recycling websites for additional information.

<http://www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/recycling.html>

<http://www.greenhoustontx.gov/recycling.html>

Committee Reports

Constable Program: GOCC has signed contracts to provide two constables, and it is important to get as many households participating in this very beneficial program for the neighborhood, as these contracts are paid entirely by the residents of Garden Oaks. One can join the Constable Program at www.gardenoaks.org. There is also a list of current supporters on the website there as well.

Beautification: The Beautification committee is looking at revamping the neighborhood rose garden. Other ideas include resurrecting the GO Yard of the Month award and holding some of the Spring Fling proceeds for the 2018 GO Home and Garden Tour.

Website: The home page has information on fundraisers, construction projects and images of the newly refurbished GOMO signs. Information for Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization (GOMO) and the Garden Oaks Civic Club (GOCC) can be found at www.gardenoaks.org.

Garden Oaks Citizens' Patrol: Program Chair Carl Waters, Jr. indicated that eight crimes were reported in the neighborhood by the HPD website (www.crimereports.com). Four of those occurred on either North Durham or North Shepherd. Of the eight crimes, five were burglary of motor vehicles. Mr. Waters also reminded GO residents not to leave items in vehicles where they can easily be seen. Volunteers to help patrol the neighborhood are needed and if interested, 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: No report.

Gazette: Editor Joe Muscara reminded everyone that May 10th is the deadline to submit for the June *Gazette*.

Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet: No report.

Old Business:

Update on the 2018 Garden Oaks Home and Garden Tour: Sue Schmidt has resigned as chair of the

event and GO president, Matt Gannon is working to confirm a new home tour chairperson and will announce it in the June *Gazette*.

The Spring Fling on Sue Barnett Drive raised \$8500 for the Beautification Committee. Susan Kostelecky will provide a review of the event and it will be amended in the June meeting minutes.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 6th. The guest speaker will be from the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Speakers' Bureau.

The Garden Oaks Civic Club would like to thank Brother's Pizza for their generosity in donating the pizzas for the civic club meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

(Constable, continued from page 4)
supporter, please consider joining.

Donating to the Constable Program can be done via the form in this month's *Gazette*, or online at gardenoaks.org. You can pay in one lump sum or monthly. There are many options online if you want to pay beyond the suggested \$225 annual minimum, and many of you have been very generous with your additional contributions. Thank you!

The Precinct One Office recommends that you lock your car doors and remove valuables from your car. There have been several recent BMVs (burglary of motor vehicles). Some were in owners' driveways, but there also was a theft of a purse inside a car at Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet. Most of these vehicles were unlocked. As Capt. Hennessy remarked, "As long as residents continue to feed the animals, they will keep coming back."

Our annual Constable Program fundraiser, the **9th Annual Wine Walk**, is still scheduled for Saturday October 21, 2017 from 4 to 6:30 pm. The event will be a neighborhood/community wine and food tasting, with more details coming in the next several months as the plans unfold. If you are interesting in sponsoring, please email GOConstable@gmail.com or check out the event page at gardenoaks.org.

Constable Dispatch: 713-755-7628

Sign up for Precinct One Crime Alerts at <http://pct1constable.net/sign-up/crime-alerts/>



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

GOMO Update, April 2017

*Pam Parks, GOMO Office Manager***Plans were approved for:**

- 851 W 42nd ST
- 1067 Gardenia DR
- 718 W 30th ST

Revised plans were approved for:

- 851 W 42nd ST

Pending resubmission:

- 523 W 33rd

Deed Restriction Enforcement Activity for April (Year to Date)

New reported violations – 2 (4)

Resolved/cleared – 3 (6)

Unresolved/pending – 2 (N/A)

Litigation in progress – 1 (N/A): Two cases involving subdivision of a lot were concluded.

Of the 32 violations reported by members throughout 2016 through Q1 2017, 29 or over 90% were found not to be violations or were corrected after GOMO contacted the owner. The remaining 3 reported violations are under further review. No new litigation has been undertaken since 2012 and of the three cases currently active, two are in the final stage of resolution.

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

- Meeting minutes for March 2017
- Addition to Member Q & A:
Case Updates

Garden Oaks is a deed-restricted community of 1400 homes. The Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization is entrusted by home 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.

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 which 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.

Contact:

The Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization
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Citizens' Patrol Update

Carl Waters, Jr., Program Chair

As you may have heard recently, patrons of the nearby Union Kitchen restaurant had their dinner spoiled by two young criminals who quietly entered the restaurant and then demanded valuables and robbed the customers at gunpoint. If you find yourself in a situation like this, remain calm, call the authorities if you can, and try to remember what the criminals looked like, what they said, and how they left the area.

As typically happens every two to three years the station commanders of the Houston Police Department have been shuffled. The new commander for the North Division is Captain H. D. Harris. He replaces Captain L. Baimbridge who is now the commander for the Special Operations Division.

Crime Statistics (8)

Aggravated Robbery (1)

3200 block of N. Shepherd on Wed., Apr 13 at 8:13 p.m.

Burglary of a Motor Vehicle (5)

3000 block of N. Durham Dr. on Sun, Apr 2 at 2:49 p.m.
700 block of Sue Barnett Dr. on Mon, April 3 at 8:36 a.m.
1000 block of Althea Dr. on Wed, April 5 at 5:22 a.m.
800 block of W. 41st St. on Thur, April 20 at 8:40 a.m.
800 block of W. 41st St. on Thur, April 20 at 9:21 p.m.

Theft (2)

4000 block of N. Shepherd on Sat, April 1 at 2:00 p.m.
4000 block of N. Shepherd on Fri, April 21 at 6:18 a.m.

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

Emergency Numbers

Crimes in progress, fire, or ambulance	911
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Precinct One Constable Dispatch	713-755-7628
All Other City Services	311



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Fun in the Sun & Food for Thought on Sunscreen

Erin Thole, CNHP

Before you slather loads of sunscreen on yourself and your kids this summer, I want to give you some food for thought. There are two ways that sunscreen can protect you: via minerals like zinc oxide and titanium dioxide, or via chemicals like oxybenzone, avobenzone, octisalate, octocrylene, homosalate, and octinoxate.

New research from the Environmental Working Group (EWG) states that these chemicals commonly used in sunscreen are endocrine disruptors, estrogenic, and may interfere with thyroid and other hormone processes in the body.

The most common sunscreen chemical, oxybenzone, was found in 96% of the population by a recent study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This is especially alarming since oxybenzone is considered an endocrine disruptor, can reduce sperm count in men, and may contribute to endometriosis in women. The EWG warns against using oxybenzone, especially on children or on pregnant/breastfeeding women.

Even more alarming, of the 1,400+ sunscreens tested by the EWG, only 5% met their safety standards and over 40% were listed as potential contributors to skin cancer.

It is also important to note that most sunscreens completely block the body's ability to manufacture Vitamin D. Statistically, 75% of us are deficient in Vitamin D, and Vitamin D deficiency has been linked to a higher risk of cancer and heart disease (which kills more people than skin cancer per year).

Think about this: it wasn't too long ago that skin cancer was not that prevalent and people didn't wear sunscreen. They spent more time outdoors and they didn't burn as easily. So perhaps the issue does not lie with the sun, a part of this perfect universal design that we need to grow life, but actually lies within us and what we are doing to our bodies via diet, lack of stress management, and lack of exercise and outdoor time. After all, cancer is literally abnormal cell growth that the body is unable to detox fast enough due to many contributing factors (stress, poor diet, sugar

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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consumption, inflammation, hormonal imbalances, etc). We all have abnormal cells at this very moment in our bodies. What differentiates who gets cancer and who doesn't (in the majority of cases) is how healthy and efficient our detoxification organs and individual "normal" cells are. Health comes from the inside.

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 - erin@erinthebeast.com; *CrossFitters*- be sure to check out www.erinthebeast.com

Here is a list of sunscreens that are mineral based:

- Alba Botanical Mineral Sunscreen
- Badger Mineral Sunscreen
- Babyganics Sunscreen or spray sunscreen
- All Terrain KidSport SPF30 Oxybenzone-Free Natural Sunscreen
- Blue Lizard Australian Sunscreen
- Bull Frog Sunscreen
- Burt's Bees Sunscreen Stick
- California Baby Hypoallergenic Sunscreen
- JASON Mineral Sunscreen
- Naked Turtle Mineral Sunscreen with Aloe
- Sunology Natural Sunscreen
- Raw Elements Sunscreen
- The Honest Company Sunscreen
- Thinkbaby Safe Sunscreen
- Kiss My Face (my favorite)

A color version of the Gazette is published each month at the Garden Oaks web site, 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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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.

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 336 West 33rd 415 West 33rd
 215 West 34th 838 West 41st
 959 West 41st 947 West 42nd
 1070 West 42nd 915 West 43rd
 971 West 43rd

Happy Birthday

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

Out and About

Sandra O'Guynn visited Cozumel with girlfriends in April. The **Padons** enjoyed a Spring Break trip to Seattle, Washington and Vancouver, and Victoria, Canada. Home for only 4 days, **Allison Padon** traveled to Reykjavik, Iceland for a 12-day trip around the island. The **Jarvis clan** enjoyed time in Wimberley and a special day at the Blue Hole. **Brian O'Leary and George Appling** had another successful season at Sherwood Forest Faire. **Stacy Gross** and her girls enjoyed a trip to Sheldon Lake State Park & Environmental Learning Center.

Well wishes to **Tina Rowe** on her recent knee surgery.

Congratulations

Sarah Klein was accepted to HSPVA for the fall 2017.

Blake Woods was honored as one of the 2nd Quarter Audi Central Houston Leaders in Design.

Kudos to **Grady S.** for receiving the "gameball" at ODC's recent Bulldog ball game.

(Continued on page 23)



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Top Ten A/C Mistakes to Avoid - Part Two

Mitch Weigand

5. Installing an oversized system

Bigger is not better; installing the right size is better. Be aware that an over-sized A/C system will not automatically provide superior cooling. That's because in order to satisfy the temperature setting on your thermostat, the system will shut off before it can remove enough humidity from the air. The result is air that's cold but feels clammy to your skin. What's more, the stress of short cycling (too many stops and starts) will shorten the equipment's life plus increase your utility bills.

4. Waiting too long to replace your A/C system

Some homeowners want to squeeze every last ounce of life out of their outdated air conditioners, thinking they're getting the most for their money. But are they? As we discussed in the April column regarding the 50/50 replacement rule, when the cost of repairs nears or is greater than 50% of the replacement value of your A/C

system, it's time to replace it. In Houston, the average life expectancy of an air conditioner or heat pump is 10-12 years. If your unit is nearing its end, you'll need to weigh the repair cost against the real possibility that additional repairs will be needed soon or even a complete replacement.

Also, keep in mind the savings on your monthly energy bill. Consider the energy consumption of your old A/C system versus a new one and the potential savings over its lifetime. If your old system has a 10 SEER rating, you will see a 47% drop in your electric bill with a new 15 SEER system.

3. Ignoring problems

While all of us lead busy lives, especially during summer, find time to arrange a service call when there's an air conditioning issue. The longer you ignore a problem, the worse it could get and the more expensive the repair is likely to be. Call your A/C technician as soon as you suspect a problem. Get a professional opinion right away so a small problem won't end up being a big, expensive one.

(Continued on page 23)



Here's what our customers are saying about us:

“Mitch puts in the extra time.”

*Ben & Wenni S.
Briar Forest area*

We recently had our entire HVAC system replaced by the Air Wise team. The new system was a major upgrade from our aging one.

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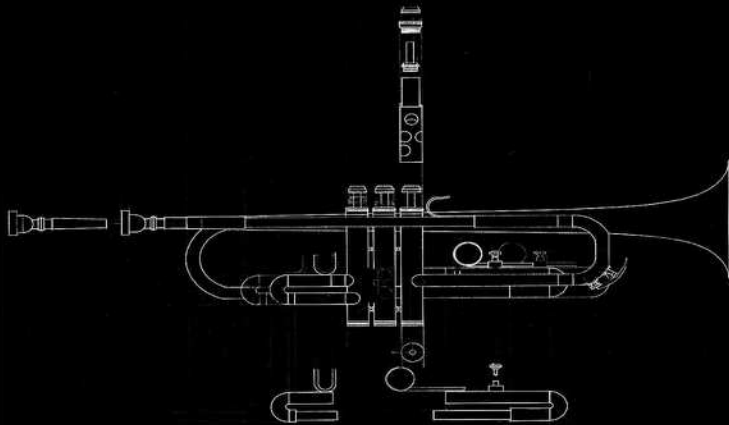
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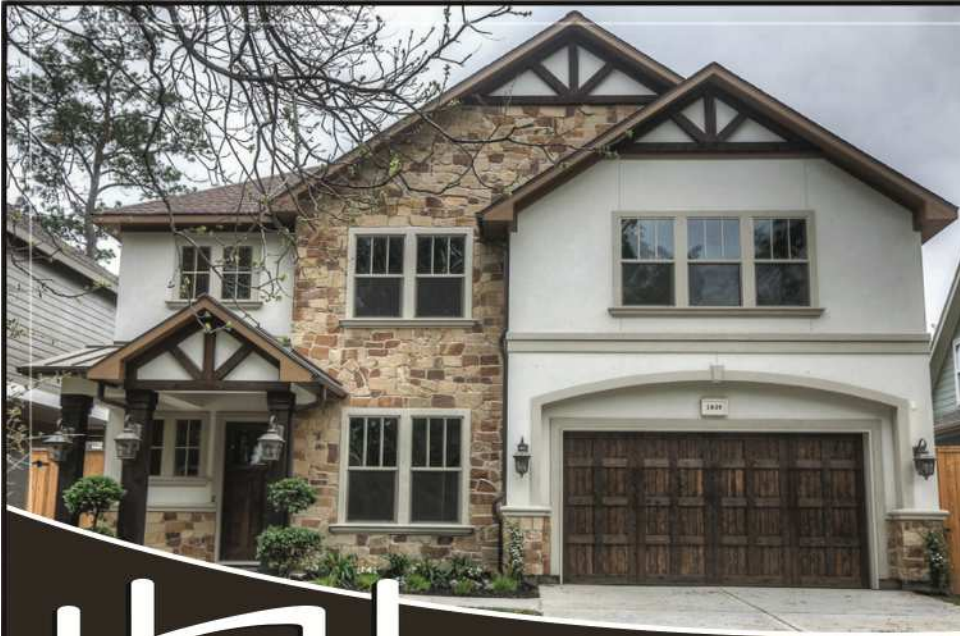


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(A/C Tips, continued from page 19)

2. Never replacing your air filter

I don't mean to sound like I'm nagging but I guess I am. Replace your air filter! Dirty filters are responsible for numerous A/C system problems. While the filter is designed to protect the system from dust and other airborne contaminants, a clogged one can do more harm than good. It forces your system to work much harder than it should and allows debris to build up on the components. This can shorten the air conditioner's lifespan and force you to replace it much sooner than necessary. Please check your air filter every month and change as needed.

1. Skipping A/C tune-ups

This is the single most important tip of all. During the tune-up, the technician will perform numerous maintenance tasks such as checking freon levels, adjusting belts, examining the wiring and connections, and so on. A tune-up will help catch most small problems before they become big ones and maintain your cooling system at its peak operating efficiency. If it's not done, you're at a much higher risk of a summer breakdown, and your cooling bills will likely be higher

than they should be had a tune-up been performed.

Mitch Weigand is the owner of Air Wise.

(Oak Tree, continued from page 16)

Carly Stender was recognized on Honors Day 2017 at the University of Texas–Austin for her academic achievement. Kudos to proud mom, **Caroline Stender**, too.

Rachel Driver had a special day graduating from TCU. Her proud parents are **Bob and Debbie Driver**.

Bryce C. won the Texas State Historical Association Texas Quiz show. Bryce attends Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet.

Special Thoughts

To **Phil Ramirez** and family in the loss of Phil's father.

To **Shreda Paire and Erin Donaho** on the loss of their pets, Baxter and Haley.

To **Sheila Briones** on the loss of her dog, Teddy.

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.




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sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
28 "A perfect summer day is when the sun is shining, the breeze is blowing, the birds are singing, and the lawn mower is broken." — James Dent	29	30	31	1	2	3 Farm Stand 9 AM - 1 PM 948 Wakefield
4	5	6 GOMO Plan Review 6:30 PM Civic Club Meeting 7 PM GO Montessori	7	8 Garden Club Meeting 7 PM Kroger Upstairs Meeting Room 1352 W 43rd	9	10 Farm Stand 9 AM - 1 PM 948 Wakefield Gazette Article Deadline
11	12	13 	14 Flag Day	15 Heavy Trash (Junk Waste)	16	17 Farm Stand 9 AM - 1 PM 948 Wakefield
18 Father's Day	19 Juneteenth	20	21 GOMO Meeting 7 PM GO Professional Building Suite 216 Summer Solstice	22	23	24 Farm Stand 9 AM - 1 PM 948 Wakefield
25	26	27 	28	29	30	1 Waste pickup information is provided as a convenience only and no guarantees are made to its accuracy. For detailed waste pickup information, visit houstonsolidwaste.org .

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