



September 2017

Volume 39 Issue 9

Garden Oaks Gazette

The newsletter of the Garden Oaks Civic Club

Wine Walk Tickets On Sale Now!

Dian Austin, Wine Walk Committee Chair

If you want to join us for Garden Oaks' most fun event, The Wine Walk, act fast! Tickets are now on sale, and only 200 tickets will be sold. We sell out quickly every year.

The Wine Walk is the premier annual fundraiser for our Constable Patrol Program and is a wine tasting held in the gorgeous backyard of Ed and Brenda de Alba here in Garden Oaks. This year's theme is "Top of the World", celebrating wines from the northern hemisphere. 13 generous neighborhood and area business groups will be hosting tables, each pouring a different wine and offering foods as well. It doesn't get much better than having a fun afternoon, sipping wines, visiting with friends and neighbors, strolling thru the lush landscaping, and raising money for our Constable program. We all benefit!

Tickets are \$85 each and all attendees must be 21 years of age or older. Tickets can be purchased via the order form in this month's *Gazette*, or online at <https://www.gowinewalk.eventbrite.com>. But act fast, as tickets are already rolling out the door. When the 200 tickets are gone, they are gone!

As this is a Constable Program Fundraiser, we will also be having a silent auction for a 4-hour Ride-Along with one of our constable patrols, courtesy of Constable Alan Rosen, Precinct One. And Garden Oaks' very own David Hardaker has painted some fabulous "Wine Monsters" that we will be auctioning off as well.

All monies raised go directly to the Garden Oaks Constable Program. The Garden Oaks Civic Club has signed contracts for two constable patrols and we do not have enough support to fund these, so an additional fundraiser is necessary. Please do your part to help! During the last 8 fundraisers, we have raised over \$130,000 for the Garden Oaks Constable Program!

The Wine Walk particulars:

The 9th Annual Garden Oaks Wine Walk
Saturday, October 21, 2015, 4 to 6:30 pm
744 West 43rd
(Rain Date Saturday November 4)
Adults Only

Garden Oaks Civic Club Meeting

Tuesday, September 5, 7 PM
Garden Oaks Montessori
901 Sue Barnett

Speaker: Harris County
Sheriff Ed Gonzalez

National Night Out

Tuesday, October 3
Your Block

Wine Walk Constable Fundraiser

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

More about the Wine Walk

Wine Walk Constable Fundraiser Sponsors

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Wine Walk Sponsor Benefits

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Wine Walk Tickets

Order form on Page 23 or
gowinewalk.eventbrite.com

President's Message

Matt Gannon, Civic Club President

For those of you who attended the August Civic Club meeting, I hope you all enjoyed it as much as I did. Judge Emmett was an excellent speaker and provided a lot of useful information about the role of the County Judge and how Harris County plays into our local government in general. It was an interesting presentation and we had a good turnout, including members of Candelight Oaks and Candlelight Place Civic Clubs.

As August wraps up and we get into September, many of us will be taking trips or vacations before the school year starts again. As a reminder, please be extra vigilant during this period when you and neighbors are away from home for several days at a time. Random crime continues to be a pain to all of us. As an example, a theft of lawn equipment occurred in Section 1 this weekend, while the crew was actually there working. This should serve as a reminder for several things:

- 1) Most crimes in our neighborhood are crimes of opportunity. Limit the temptation to steal by securing your home, adding cameras, alarm signage, alarm monitoring, being vigilant, etc. Keep vehicles locked and garaged (if possible), and keep valuables out of sight.
- 2) Now more than ever, the constable program is critical. We need more homes to support it. For only \$20 per month, every homeowner can have peace of mind. It seems like a small price to pay to keep our neighborhood safe and secure. There is always a form to join in the *Gazette* every month, and several online options are available at gardenoaks.org.
- 3) Finally, if you see any activity that is suspicious, please **call the constable**. They can be reached 24/7 at (713) 755-7628. Also don't forget to take advantage of the "Vacation Watch" where you can let the constable know about your travel plans and get an extra set of eyes to watch your property.

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

Civic Club Officers

President – Matt Gannon 832 646 4140
822 Azalea president@gardenoaks.org

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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 15th 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.

Houston's Three-Foot Rule

Joe Muscara, Gazette Editor

Many of you know that I am an avid walker and now runner on our Garden Oaks streets. One of the wonderful advantages of our neighborhood is that we have long blocks that give us work out areas without dealing with cross traffic, and we have big old trees and shade that give the entire neighborhood a park-like setting without having to venture to one of Houston's great parks.

Most of the time, there's plenty of space for everyone. Most passing cars give pedestrians plenty of room, often driving in the oncoming "lane" (do our streets have lanes? I suppose technically they do) to go around us. I always really appreciate this and make an effort to acknowledge drivers when they do so. However, sometimes, a driver decides that they need to get by the pedestrian while there's another car coming towards them. It seems they think they have slowed enough to not mess up the pedestrian, but miss it entirely and we're all trying to get through the same point on the road at the same time. As the one fleshy object in the mix, that's not exactly a comfortable situation.

You may remember back in 2013 that the City of Houston passed an ordinance that many touted as protecting cyclists on our roads by requiring drivers to give them three feet of clearance when passing (six feet for trucks). What a lot of people don't seem to realize is that the ordinance wasn't just for cyclists. It applies to what are called "vulnerable road users" — walkers or runners; the physically disabled, such as someone in a wheelchair; a stranded motorist or passengers; highway construction, utility or maintenance workers; tow truck operators; cyclists; moped, motor-driven cycle and scooter drivers; or horseback riders.

I've had too many instances when I could reach out and touch the passing car with my hand. My arm is shorter than three feet long. That car was too close! I'm sure they wouldn't like it if I had driven that closely to them or someone they cared about.

(Continued on page 17)

Citizens' Patrol Update

Carl Waters, Jr., Program Chair

You are cordially invited to join your Garden Oaks neighbors in celebration of the 36th annual National Night Out on Tuesday, October 3, 2017. The suggested time is between 7 and 10 pm, but choose what works best for you. How do you participate? Volunteer your front yard or driveway as a place for your neighbors to gather. Lock your door and turn on your porch light as you gather outside, meeting old friends and making new ones. Exchange contact information (home, work, and cell phone numbers along with email addresses) so you can contact each other if you see something suspicious.

National Night Out is sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch. It was started in 1981 in a Philadelphia suburb when neighbors became tired of increased criminal activity. The goal of the program is to promote police/community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie. Nationally 38 million neighbors participate in the program in over 16,000 communities.

If you are hosting a block party, please let Terry Jeanes or me know. We will try to have an officer stop by your event.

July Crime Statistics (12)

Burglary (4)

3400 block N. Shepherd Dr. on Mon, July 10 at 2:23 a.m.
800 block W. 34th St. on Mon, July 10 at 3:15 p.m.
800 block W. 34th St. on Tue, July 18 at 2:44 a.m.
800 block W. 34th St. on Wed, July 19 at 4:31 a.m.

Theft (8)

1000 block Althea Dr. on Sat, July 8 at 4:52 p.m.
800 block W. 42nd St. on Sat, July 8 at 5:40 p.m.
300 block W. 34th St. on Mon, July 10 at 5:48 p.m.
4200 block N. Shepherd Dr. on Thurs, July 13 at 9:58 a.m.
500 block W. 30th St. on Thurs, July 13 at 8:10 a.m.
800 block W. 41st St. on Fri July 21 at 9:01 p.m.
1000 block Lamonte Ln. on Tue, July 25 at 10:28 a.m.
4100 block N. Shepherd Dr. on Sat, July 29 at 6:14 p.m.

Inquiries about joining the Citizens' Patrol Program or other community safety issues may be directed to me via the neighborhood website (GardenOaks.org), the Citizen Patrol email account (gocop77018@aol.com) or by phone at 713-569-3153.



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The Wine Walk Is Looking for Sponsors!

Dian Austin, Committee Chair

Our premier Constable Program fundraiser, the Wine Walk, a wine and food tasting extravaganza, is scheduled for Saturday, October 21, 2017. You don't want to miss this one.

Meanwhile, we are actively seeking sponsors for the fundraiser. Last year we raised in excess of \$30,000 for the Constable Program, and the majority of that was from the sale of sponsorships.

Benefits are detailed at gardenoaks.org and on page 8 in this month's *Gazette*. Sponsorships can be purchased at gardenoaks.org.

Thanks to these committed sponsors to date for their support of our Constable Program:

Platinum Plus Photo Booth Sponsor (\$1500)

- Oak Forest Veterinary Hospital

Platinum Sponsor (\$1000)

- Central City Air

Gold Sponsors (\$500)

- CTC Contractors
- In Honor of the Purple Cat Resale Shop
- SCM Construction Services
- Terry Jeanes, ReMax/Metro
- The Bell Tower on 34th
- The Gobe Team – Waterstone Mortgage

Silver Sponsors (\$300)

- Heights Dermatology – Dr. Alpesh Desai
- In Honor of Dan's House of Hope
- Jennifer Klein Physical Therapy and AATB Pilates
- John Bartos, Attorney at Law
- Mayor Pro Tem Ellen Cohen, Council Member, District C
- Tonya L. Knauth, Attorney, PLLC

If you have any questions, please contact GOConstable@gmail.com.

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.

927 Gardenia 3303 Lawrence 3202 Randall 1578 Sue Barnett
714 West 38th 742 West 42nd 855 West 43rd

Happy Birthday

Rita Hartman - 9/8 Gretchen S. - 9/10 Sylvia Escobedo - 9/16
Jacopo W. - 9/20 John Beddow - 9/22 Candice Croker - 9/25

Happy Anniversary

Trent and Megan Salch - 9/5 Mike and Diane Heath - 9/7
Phil Ramirez and Gina Pecoraro - 9/7 Rick and Tonya Knauth - 9/29

Out and About

The **McLean family** traveled to Edinburgh and also enjoyed Pompeii.

Ron and Sheree' Peoples attended the Peoples' family reunion in Illinois and took in NYC on their anniversary.

The **Garden Oaks Bunco Gang** ventured to former Garden Oaks resident Ray Trantham's lovely home in Spring Branch for a night of fun and a wonderful yard and home tour.

John and Cindy Bartos soaked up the blues on Beale Street in Memphis.

Brooke Murphy enjoyed her 20th high school reunion at Langham Creek.

Tina Rowe, Jim Dicola, Ed and Brenda De Alba, Carol Smith and Gordon Yeatts had a grand adventure on a RCI Alaskan cruise/land tour.

The **Ganzes** enjoyed Waco.

Jason and Kim Ellis and family enjoyed Puerto Rico and a fabulous trip on their boat.

Seen in the Queen Concert Crowd: **Jaime and Celeste Zamora and Sandra O'Guynn**.

The **Reichles** enjoyed Oregon.

The **Seghers** had a great time in Scotland.

The **Roberts family** visited Rosedown Plantation and St. Francesville, La.

There was a **Bear** sighting at James Coney Island.

Thoughts and Condolences

To **Laura and Paul Kopecky** on the loss of their dog, Weezie. Laura had the pup for 17 years.

Also special thoughts to **Holly and Randy Pruitt** for the loss of their pet, Greta.

To highlight an event, celebration or other tidbit, please submit information no later than the 12th of the month to Terry Jeanes at terry@terryjeanes.com.

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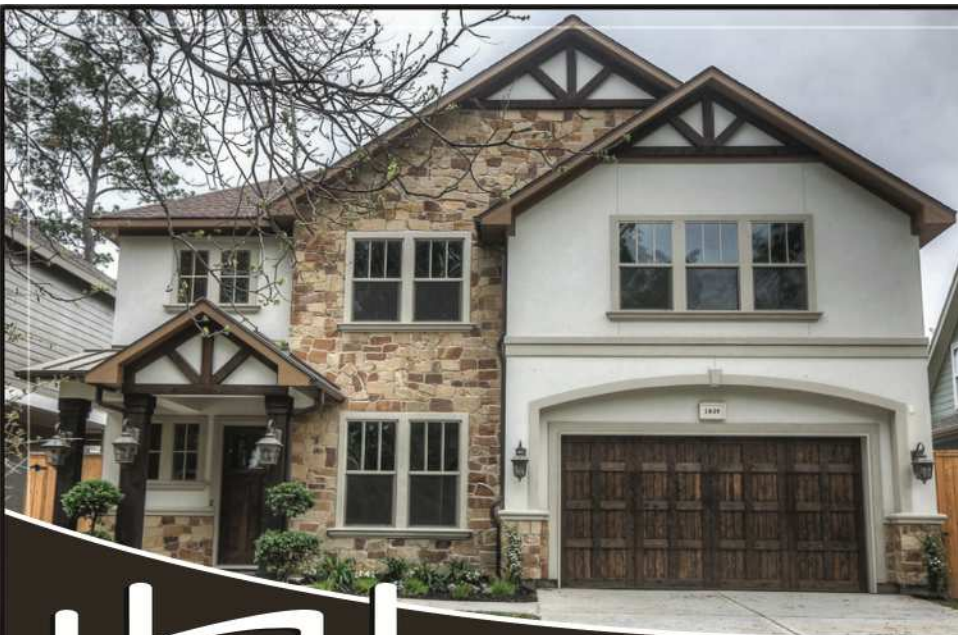


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2017 Garden Oaks Wine Walk Sponsorship Benefits:

Platinum Plus Photo Booth Sponsor (\$1500 Cash Contribution) – *only one Platinum Plus sponsorship available – SOLD OUT!!!*

- Sole sponsor of the Photo Booth
- Naming rights to the Photo Booth
- Recognition on the Photo Frame at the event (logo, name, you decide)
- As much involvement with the photo booth as you would like (committee can run the photo booth, or you can handle part or all of the booth)
- **Individual** sign on day of event at the entrance
- Six tickets to the Wine Walk (value \$510)
- Garden Oaks *Gazette* Ad – ½ page, 7 ½" X 4 ½" (value \$110)
- Recognition in the Garden Oaks *Gazette* through year-end 2017
- Recognition on Garden Oaks Facebook pages and Wine Walk Event page as sole Platinum Plus Sponsor, with link to sponsor's website
- Listed as Platinum Plus Sponsor on Garden Oaks Constable Facebook page, with link to website
- Listed as Platinum Plus Sponsor on the Tasting Notes distributed to the 275 Wine Walk attendees

Platinum Sponsor (\$1000 Cash Contribution)

- **Individual** sign on day of event at the entrance
- Four tickets to the Wine Walk (value \$340)
- Garden Oaks *Gazette* Ad – ½ page, 7 ½" X 4 ½" (value \$110)
- Recognition in the Garden Oaks *Gazette* through year-end 2017
- Recognition on Garden Oaks Facebook pages and Wine Walk Event page as Platinum Sponsor with link to sponsor's website
- Listed as Platinum Sponsor on Garden Oaks Constable Facebook page with link to sponsor's website
- Listed as Platinum Sponsor on the Tasting Notes distributed to the 275 Wine Walk attendees

Gold Sponsor (\$500 Cash Contribution)

- **Individual** sign on the day of the event at the entrance
- Garden Oaks *Gazette* Ad - 2 ¼" x 2 3/8" (value: \$60)
- Two tickets to the Wine Walk (value \$170)
- Recognition in the Garden Oaks *Gazette* through year-end 2017
- Recognition on Garden Oaks Facebook page(s) and Wine Walk Event page as Gold Sponsor with link to sponsor's website
- Listed as Gold Sponsor on Garden Oaks Constable Facebook page with link to sponsor's website
- Listed as Gold sponsor on the Tasting Notes distributed to the 275 attendees

Silver Sponsor (\$300 Cash Contribution)

- Shared signage with other Silver Sponsors on the day of the event at the entrance
- One ticket to the Wine Walk (value \$85)
- Recognition in the Garden Oaks *Gazette* through year-end 2017
- Recognition on the Garden Oaks Facebook page(s) and the Wine Walk Event page on the gardenoaks.org website as Silver Sponsor with link to sponsor's website
- Listed as Silver Sponsor on Garden Oaks Constable Facebook page with link to sponsor's website
- Listed as Silver Sponsor on the Tasting Notes distributed to the 275 Wine Walk attendees

If you are interested in finding out more or in sponsoring, please email GOConstable@gmail.com. All proceeds go to the Garden Oaks Constable Program.

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Civic Club Meeting Minutes

Joe Casarez, Secretary

August 1, 2017

Location: Grace Church, 3754 N. Shepherd Dr

Welcome and Introduction: President Matt Gannon called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m. Since this meeting also hosted attendees from surrounding neighborhoods, Mr. Gannon introduced the guest speaker prior to the business meeting.

Guest Speaker: Harris County Judge Ed Emmett has served as County Judge since March 2007. He provided a rough breakdown of the population density of Harris County. Roughly, 500,000 live inside the Loop 610 area, 1.5 million between Loop 610 and Beltway 8 and over 2 million live outside Beltway 8. There are 34 cities in the Harris County footprint. He joked that, as a County Judge, he is not an attorney and he works with four other county commissioners in a county court that is not a court. They have equal votes when setting county policy.

Judge Emmett stated that county government has focused largely on the outlying areas and he is now making an effort to visit different closer-in neighborhoods to educate them on how their office operates.

Nearly all of the finances utilized by the Commissioners Court come from property taxes and no sale taxes are available to them. Judge Emmett went on to explain what some of the line items in the property tax bill actually fund. Harris County has a AAA Bond rating and is in good financial shape. The first line item in the property tax bill is the HISD tax. It makes up the biggest percentage of the tax bill. Then comes the Harris County line item. Sixty percent or more goes towards criminal justice (jail, sheriff's office, courts); roads, bridges and parks make up the rest of the county tax expenditures. Harris County Toll Road system generates roughly two million dollars a day and that money has to go back into the toll road system to pay off the bond and for maintenance and expansion. Harris County Hospital District is the next item in the bill and is responsible for providing indigent healthcare. The district is trying to create more neighborhood clinics and teaming with groups to serve the population and focus on preventative care in order to lessen the use of emergency rooms. The greatest struggle for the county remains with how to handle mental health issues. Harris County Jail is the largest mental health facility in the state of Texas.

The Harris County Flood Control District was created in 1936 and is responsible for the main watersheds (bayous) in the county. The creation of MUDs (municipal utility districts) in the unincorporated areas of Harris County made it easier for developers to create the large neighborhoods that lie on the outskirts of the city without having to incorporate a flood control plan with the county. Therefore, when it rains heavily, that water is routed into the city and often overwhelms the existing drainage infrastructure.

Other jurisdictions include the Port of Houston Authority, the Harris County Dept. of Education and Houston Community College System. The Harris County Appraisal District has nothing to do with Harris County government. It is a political subdivision created by the State of Texas.

Judge Emmett spent some time answering questions from the meeting attendees to complete his presentation. More information can be found at www.judgeemmett.org.

Civic Club Meeting Continued: The business meeting portion of the agenda was called to order at 8 PM and a motion was made and passed to accept the June 2017 minutes as published in the *Gazette*.

Treasurer's Report: Teresa Coleman stated that the Spring Fling netted over \$10,000. Wine Walk sponsorship income is starting to come in and, at the time of the meeting almost \$5,000 has been received. The event is scheduled for October 21st and tickets will go on sale in a few weeks.

Committee Reports

Constable Program: Deputy Joe Bowden will be moving from the Garden Oaks contract to the Heights contract, after serving in Garden Oaks for four years. Deputy Bowden will still handle the investigations for the Garden Oaks area. Deputy McKinney will be his replacement. Save the date for the October 3rd National Night Out. A thread on the Garden Oaks Facebook page will be started to include a list of neighborhood gatherings so that the deputies can stop by.

Beautification: Automatic valve controllers are being investigated for the irrigation systems at all 5 areas and parks. An update will be provided at the next meeting.

Website: Pam Parks announced the website is now using .org instead of .net in the website URL. The 2017 Wine Walk fundraiser details have been added to the calendar

Membership: No report

Gazette: August 15th is the deadline to submit articles for the September *Gazette*.

Garden Oaks Citizens' Patrol: October 3rd will be National Night Out. If you are considering hosting a block party, let Terry Jeanes or Carl Waters know ahead of time so that they can have HPD and Constable Precinct One Deputies come by and visit.

Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet: No report.

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 next Garden Oaks Civic Club meeting is scheduled for September 5th at 7 PM at GOMM.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

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GOMO Board of Directors

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Mark Saranie (2018)

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Vacant (2019)

Section 2

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Rafael Pina (2018)

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Dea Larson (2018)

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Frances Schwartz (2019)

832-483-1546

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Section 5

Carol Terrett (2017)

713-557-8121

carol.terrett@gardenoaks.org

Kip Noser (2018)

281-846-5479

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.

GOMO Update, July 2017

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

- 219 W 33rd St
- 803 W 43rd St
- 3206 Lawrence St
- 761 W 42nd St

Revised plans were approved for:

- None

Pending resubmission:

- None

Deed Restriction Enforcement Activity for April (Year to Date)

New reported violations – 2 (11)

Resolved/cleared – 3 (11)

Unresolved/pending – 3 (N/A)

Litigation in progress – 1 (N/A)

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

- Member Q&A on subdivision of lots
- Revised Document Production Policy (Recorded)

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. Homeowners are invited to attend our meetings that 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.

Next month GOMO Members will receive the Annual Letter to Members which will contain information about the upcoming Annual Meeting. The letter will also provide information about open Director positions on the Board, and it will invite qualified Members to stand for election to the Board. Interested Members may step forward by contacting any current Board Members or the Office Manager and are welcome to do so now.

Contact:

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

713-561-3936

gardenoaks.org

manager@gardenoaksmaintenance.org

Celebrate Peace!

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

Dr. Maria Montessori developed her approach to education through hands-on experiential learning. Core to her philosophy of education was teaching children peaceful ways to negotiate differences in their interactions with one another. As part of her classroom, she developed a Peace Table that is a hallmark of Montessori classrooms around the world.

Peace tables are just that - a child-sized table with two seats for children to sit alone or with a classmate to discuss a situation in a peaceful manner. The peace table is decorated with a vase and flowers to draw a child's attention to the peace and beauty of nature and encourage them to calm down and refocus. Children may be sent to the peace table to reflect on their actions or children may independently go to the peace table to discuss a situation that is causing conflict. Other elements of a peace table might include a small zen "garden" or tray of sand, a sand timer or other silent timer and/or paper to draw or write down their thoughts about what happened and what they might do differently the next time. At Garden Oaks, many of our peace tables have photos of Dr. Montessori or other notable peace makers like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr and the Dalai Lama on them to remind us of leaders who made difficult choices to do the right thing.

You might find setting up a peace table in your home a useful alternative to "time out." We know that sometimes children become overwhelmed by the circumstances around them and may impulsively react in unacceptable ways. By helping them to visit a peaceful spot in your home, you can help them feel connected with you and supported in finding other alternatives to their automatic response. Debriefing with them and discussing different choices help children learn new strategies. You could use the acronym P.E.A.C.E.F.U.L. to discuss these strategies with your child:

P = Patience — Being patient helps us learn about others instead of focusing on ourselves.

E = Encouragement — Encourage others to try their ideas and try their best.

A = Acceptance — Accept that struggle and failure are part of our journey. We grow by trying.

C = Communication — Talk to other people and ask for help. Explain what you need.

E = Empathy — Show care and concern for others and they will reciprocate.

F = Fair — Be fair with others and have integrity. Stick up for others when you see injustice.

U = Understanding — Practice understanding by listening to other points of view.

L = Loving — Love the people around you unconditionally. We are all imperfect.

<https://iheartmontessori.wordpress.com/2012/11/27/setting-the-peace-table-children-conflict-resolution/>

We will be celebrating the International Day of Peace at Garden Oaks on Thursday, September 21st. This day is also referred to as World Peace Day and is always celebrated on the 21st of September. It was first celebrated in 1982, and continues to be observed worldwide by many nations. In 2013, then Secretary-General of the United Nations dedicated the day to peace education as the key preventive means to reducing war for future generations.

To inaugurate the day, each year the United Nations Peace Bell is rung at UN Headquarters (in New York City). The bell is cast from coins donated by children from all continents except Africa, and was a gift from the United Nations Association of Japan, as "a reminder of the human cost of war." The inscription on its side reads, "Long live absolute world peace." May you celebrate and enjoy a peaceful September 21st!

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peace_education

GO Kids Update

Lindsey Gabriel, Coordinator

GO Kids has had a fun year with the Mardi Gras Parade, Easter Egg Hunt, Spring Movie Night, and several Moms' Nights Out! We also had a great time hosting a table at the Spring Fling on Sue Barnett. GO Families are very thankful to have such wonderful community members to put on great events for our children!

Mark your calendars for the following events:

- Back to School Bash – September 9th at Speedy's
- Halloween Bash on Sue Barnett – October 28th
- Fall Fun Run – November (date TBD)
- Santa Night– November 28th
- Christmas Movie Night – date TBD

Leadership Team

The Leadership Team met on July 19th to plan for the rest of the year. We anticipate some openings in 2018. If you are interested in a position or helping in any capacity, please contact Lindsey Gabriel at lindsey.gabriel5@gmail.com. Details will be posted on the GO Kids Facebook page.

GO Kids Dinner Drops

Have you or someone you know welcomed home a new baby recently? GO Kids will coordinate and provide several meals to families. Please contact our Dinner Drop coordinator Nancy Perez-Vargas at nancyperez@mac.com to participate. We are always in need of volunteers for this program.

GO Babies

We are excited to welcome Katerina Benkowski, our new GO Babies Chair, to the Leadership Team. Be on the lookout for upcoming play dates for our tiny GO Kids on the GO Kids Facebook page. If you have any suggestions, please contact Katerina at I_katerina@hotmail.com.

Interested in becoming a member?

We welcome families to join our kid-focused group with annual events, new parent dinner drops, and a monthly Moms' Night Out as well as many other activities throughout the year. Please contact Lindsey Gabriel at lindsey.gabriel5@gmail.com.

Check out our calendar of events and obtain additional event details at www.bigtent.com.

If you have questions or would like more information about the GO Kids group, please contact the GO Kids Coordinator, Lindsey Gabriel at lindsey.gabriel5@gmail.com or any member of the Leadership team.

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HISD Magnet Application Information for 2018-19 School Year

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

There is a lot of information to consider for the 2018-2019 school year. Magnet applications will be available online September 22, 2017. Phase 1 deadline is December 8, 2017. Applications submitted after December 8 will not be considered for the lottery, but will be placed on a waitlist in the order received AFTER the Phase 1 lottery waitlist.

Choosing Schools

HISD Office of School Choice Fairs will be located at the following schools, and each fair is held from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

- September 30 at Milby HS
- October 14 at Westbury HS
- November 4 at Sterling HS
- December 2 at Key MS

Although hosted at various schools, **all** magnet schools are represented at each fair, so you really only need to attend one event. 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 will begin their tours Thursday, October 5. Elementary and K-8 school tours are for parents only and will be conducted at 9:00 a.m. each Thursday. 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.) Tours will continue each Thursday through December 7.

Applications

Applications will go live on September 22 with a deadline of December 8. This year, applicants can only apply to 5 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. 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 8 to be considered for the lottery (Phase 1).

Applications that come in after December 8, 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 31 and **all** Out of District Applicants are considered in Phase 3, and will be considered after Phase 1 and Phase 2 applicants have declined any remaining spots.

Notifications

Status of the Lottery (acceptance or waitlist number) will be both mailed and posted to parent dashboards at the online application on March 22. Parents must respond to offered seats no later than April 5 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, or have made arrangements to meet with the Magnet Coordinator from the school offering a seat to your child.

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.

Office of School Choice Definitions

"Offered" means that your child was offered a spot and you must accept or decline by the deadline.

"Waitlisted" means that your child is on the waitlist. Waitlists are created during the lottery after the number of seats available have been filled. Waitlist numbers move when students with offered spots decline their spot. Numbers can move down due to sibling preference. If a student accepts a seat and they have a sibling also on the waiting list, the waitlisted sibling moves to the top of the waitlist under any other siblings.

"Not Placed" means that your child's application was not part of the lottery. Perhaps you are zoned to the school you applied to, or your application was received after the deadline.

"Qualified" means that your child is qualified for our program and will be included in the lottery. (It does not mean that you are offered a spot.)

"Does Not Qualify" means that your child did not qualify for the program, most likely based on Vanguard testing.

(Note: Dual Language and Montessori programs have requirements for grades above grade 2. For the Dual Language program, it is a requirement that the students have the language in their background. For the Montessori program, students must have experience in a Montessori setting.)

The online application can be found at www.hisdchoice.com. You will need to create a user name and password; use an active email account as schools will contact you via email regarding applications and notifications. You will need to complete an application for any student who would be applying for a seat at any magnet school. Please make certain to include siblings on each of the applications.

If your family is zoned to Garden Oaks Montessori and you wish your child to attend in the 2018-19 school year, we kindly request you complete an online application. Our school zone includes Kindergarten – 5th grade. All Pre-Kindergarten and Middle School applicants must go through the lottery process. This will let us know how many spots to hold for our zoned students. Your child will not be placed in the lottery, but will receive an

acceptance. You will be notified via email to either accept or decline your offered seat. To see if your household is zoned to GOMM, please check here: http://www.houstonisd.org/_findAschool.

If you have any questions regarding the online applications, or any related issues, you may reach out to me at Garden Oaks Montessori via email at sdubroff@houstonisd.org or contact the Office of School Choice at Magnet@houstonisd.org.

(Three-Foot Rule—Continued from page 3)

Don't get me wrong - when I see the oncoming driver make the effort to give me time and or space, I am happy to make some effort/ on my part too. Sometimes, that is easier than others. For instance, if it has been raining, the easements are often wet and muddy, so it's hard for me to move over. Or there may be a big puddle limiting where I would prefer to go. But I do what I can.

That brings me to another point. Over the years, many have decided they want to protect the strip between the hard road top and their swale. Unfortunately, this gives pedestrians, bikes, and other vulnerable road users nowhere to go if a motor vehicle gets too close. There are properties that have plants, stones, or big rocks out front, and those make it tricky at best for someone who needs to quickly get out of the way of an inattentive driver. Personally, I would prefer if these were placed with consideration of people who might need to step or roll off the street for traffic.

Before you say it, I know that pedestrians need to obey the rules too. Just about all of the time, I do, and most people I see in the neighborhood do as well. However, as a person who has been on the "vulnerable" side of the equation, I want to remind our car-bound neighbors of that perspective. I'm not concerned about three feet or 35 inches, but that we remain aware and careful when passing vulnerable road users. By the time you read this, school will be back in session and we have many parents and children walking and riding bikes to school, as well as increased motor vehicle traffic. I hope that we all leave plenty of room for each other and share the road with a smile.

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Why Your Central Air Conditioner Leaks Water

Mitch Weigand

As we all know, Houston air is loaded with moisture. While it's normal for your home's HVAC system to create some water as it dehumidifies the indoor air, a leaky A/C can be very alarming and cause significant property damage.

Where does the water come from?

Water is a normal by-product of the cooling process. All air conditioning systems have an evaporator coil. It's basically a matrix of metal tubes that contain freon. As these tubes get cold, moist, hot air is blown across them; moisture collects just like it does on the outside of a cold can of soda. Eventually, enough water collects and then drips into the internal drain pan within the coil. Connected to the pan is the drain line that is made of PVC tubing that deposits the water into the plumbing or

outside of your home.

If something goes wrong with the drain pan or drain line, it can lead to water overflowing into the emergency safety pan located under the coil. So what causes this leaking water and what can you do to protect your A/C system and home from damage?

The most common cause for leaking water is a clogged drain line.

Over time, as water flows through the drain line, debris, algae and other particles begin to accumulate. Eventually enough of this gunk builds up so it completely clogs the drain line.

With no place to go, the water backs up and fills the evaporator coil's internal drain pan. If enough water is present, it fills the internal drain pan, then overflows into the emergency safety pan beneath the coil and spreads into your home's attic. Eventually, the water will soak through your ceiling. Now we're talking about serious water damage.

(Continued on page 21)

Here's what our customers say about us:

"We will definitely be repeat Air Wise customers." *Jennifer F. Richmond, TX*

Our A/C stopped working one night around 10:00pm. We have a baby who's 4-1/2 months old and didn't want to wait until the next day.

We called Air Wise and Reuben came out in less than an hour. He was awesome and really helped us out. He was so nice. We will definitely be repeat Air Wise customers.



Air Wise owner Mitch Weigand



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(Water Leaks—Continued from page 19)

Prevention is the key

(1) Have an annual maintenance check-up performed.

Make sure your A/C service technician clears the drain line as part of this check-up.

(2) Invest in an overflow shut-off device. Installed on the drain line, this clever gadget will turn off your A/C if the drain line becomes clogged and backs up. Most of the time, it will prevent water from overflowing the drain pan. Then call your service technician to clear out the clog.

(3) Fix it yourself. If you feel like tackling it yourself, pour a cup of bleach down the drain line's access port every couple of months to prevent a buildup of gunk. This is necessary only during peak summer months. Have your service technician show you where the access port is located.

Mitch Weigand is the owner of Air Wise.

Constable Program Update

Terry Jeanes, Committee Chair

Welcome to new Garden Oaks Deputy Patroller Michael McKinney.

Well wishes to Deputy Joseph Bowden who has moved to the Heights Patrol. Deputies Bowden and McKinney will complement both area patrols. Bowden will be working with Garden Oaks investigations.

Save the Date: National Night Out for Houston is October 3rd.

Please contact constable@gardenoaks.org with plans for your block party or neighbors' gathering no matter how large or small so Precinct One Deputies and HPD can stop by.

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

Vacation Watch – <http://pct1constable.net/sign-up/vacation-watch/>



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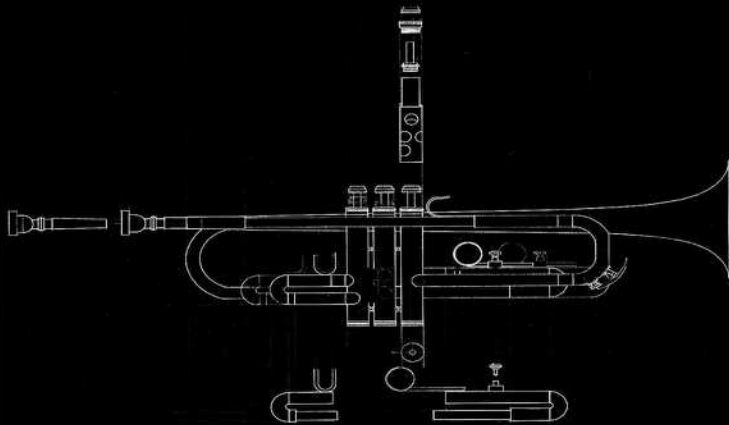
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Mickey's Minute

Mickey Morales

Whew! We survived another summer on the Gulf Coast of Texas, almost. We're not out of the woods yet but at least night time temperatures should have dropped into the seventies by now. And our friends at Great Heights Brewing Company should be open, keeping us refreshed until more moderate temperatures return. While we're on the subject of refreshing libations, a couple of residents new to the neighborhood, Ron and Kristina Tucker, have leased the property next door and are going to build Decant Urban Winery, which should make for an interesting mix in which to hold our weekly Farmer's Market. I'm already planning to split the market in two: Farmer Cathy, Green Dragon Coffee, Chocolate and Sweetness, and I will move across the way, expanding the café area with a larger seating area. Gus and company, Ranch to Table, Nisha's Quick 'N Easy, Naked Bath & Body, Geo's Tamales and Kristy's Kitchen will anchor the other corner.

We have just marked our third year in our most permanent of locations on Wakefield Drive and would

especially like to thank Justin and Hommie of the Texas Auto Group for being our original hosts and the above Great Heights Brewing Co. and Decant Urban Winery for allowing us to continue to serve you, our loyal customers here in the neighborhood. And I'm sad to say we don't say it enough, a special thank you to the Garden Oaks Gazette for publishing our article from the beginning.

I'd also like to thank everyone who braved the heat and came by to wish me Happy Birthday on the hottest day at the market so far this summer and in particular my little friend Bennet who brought me a birthday beer and Dian for the boots. Y'all made it a special day for me that I'll not soon forget.

As always, "Come soon, come often and raise a glass to your Local Farmer's Market".

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 Saturday October 21, 4 - 6:30 pm
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___ Yes! Reserve ___ tickets @ \$85 for a total of \$ ___

Name: _____

(Note: this is the name in which your tickets will be held at Will Call.)

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

___ No, I cannot attend, but enclosed is a donation of \$ ___ to be applied to the Constable Program

Please mail this completed form along with your check payable to:

Garden Oaks Civic Club
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 Houston, TX 77206

We will acknowledge your ticket order via email or phone. Rain date is November 4. Sorry, no refunds.



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Ticket sales limited to the first 200 to respond. This is an ADULTS only event (age 21 and older).

SEPTEMBER 2017

sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
	There is a difference between remembrance of history and reverence of it. – New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu					Farm Stand 9 AM - 1 PM 948 Wakefield
3	Labor Day	4	5	6	7	8
		GOMO Plan Review 6:30 PM Civic Club Meeting 7 PM GO Montessori				Farm Stand 9 AM - 1 PM 948 Wakefield
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
					Gazette Article Deadline	Farm Stand 9 AM - 1 PM 948 Wakefield Garden Club Field Trip (TBD)
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
			GOMO Meeting 7 PM GO Professional Building Suite 216	Heavy Trash (tree waste)		Farm Stand 9 AM - 1 PM 948 Wakefield
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
					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 .	Farm Stand 9 AM - 1 PM 948 Wakefield

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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



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:
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Pay online at www.gardenoaks.org
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