Here Comes Santa Claus!

Tina Sabuco

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

Monday, December 11th and Tuesday, December 12th
6:00 – 7:30 PM
in
Gazebo Park
(the intersection of Sue Barnett, W 42nd, and Lamonte)

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

Interested in being a Helper Elf?

- Do you like decorating? We would LOVE your help turning Gazebo Park into a magical wonderland for all Garden Oaks residents and nearby neighbors to enjoy.
- Do you like baking? We would appreciate any nut-free homemade goodies that you can bring with you on either event night. Or, if you are unable to attend the event, contact us to pick up your contribution.

If you would like to help and/or have any questions about the event, please contact Elf Tina at 713-819-9339 or tina@artsaliveinc.com.
Wine Walk Sponsors

Thanks to these sponsors for their tremendous support of our Constable Program. The people and businesses listed below are the main contributors to the success of our fundraiser. We are truly grateful for their support. Please thank these people and remember them when you need their services.

Platinum Plus Photo Booth Sponsor ($1500)
- Oak Forest Veterinary Hospital

Platinum Sponsors ($1000)
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- REVIVE Development

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- Katy Hall Wyly, John Daugherty Realtors
- Mathew Naftis, DDS
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- The Bell Tower on 34th
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- Village Liquor

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- Evers & Butler LLP
- In Honor of Dan’s House of Hope
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- John Bartos, Attorney at Law
- Mayor Pro Tem Ellen Cohen, Council Member, District C
- Merle Norman Cosmetics and Gift Boutique
- Mi Sombrero Mexican Restaurant
- Rehabilitation Management Services, Inc.
- The Barking Pig
- The Farmstand of Greater Heights
- Tonya L. Knauth, Attorney, PLLC

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

Vice President – Jim DiCola 281 627 4687
424 W. 32nd  vicepresident@gardenoaks.org

Treasurer – Teresa Coleman 713 686 7728
treasurer@gardenoaks.org

Secretary – Joe Casarez 713 398 7133
411 W. 34th  secretary@gardenoaks.org

Committee Chairs

Beautification – Joan Harmon 713 818 9682
827 Lamonte  beautification@gardenoaks.org

Citizen Patrol – Carl Waters, Jr. 713 569 3153
821 West 31st  gocop@gardenoaks.org

Constable Program – Terry Jeanes 713 812 9154
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Home & Garden Tour – Katy Hall Wyly 713 907 7652
hometour@gardenoaks.org

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

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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.
2018 Home and Garden Tour Update

Katy Hall Wyly, Committee Chair

The 2017 holiday season is upon us and a new year is on the horizon. With the new year comes our next Home and Garden Tour! We are excited to be working toward what we know will be another successful event. The tour will be held on Sunday, April 29th from 12:00 to 6:00 PM. The goal of the tour remains the same: to showcase this amazing neighborhood and the many styles of beautiful homes we have among us while raising funds for Garden Oaks.

The owner of one home that will be featured on the tour has been on the tour previously, but now with a different residence. She has built a beautiful new home at 207 W 32nd, and 2018 home tour visitors are in for a treat. The style is what she calls “modern lite.” Her always chic and eclectic design is sure to delight.

If you are interested in volunteering for the home and garden tour in any capacity, please email volunteers@gardenoaks.org.

Peace Through Pie

January 13, 2017
St. Matthew’s United Methodist Church
4300 North Shepherd
10:30 AM – 1:00 PM

It’s about love, unity, peace, and respect.

Every community adds a unique flavor to our society. Using culinary traditions, Peace Through Pie brings different people together. Join the celebration to honor Dr. King’s dream of uniting cultures. We will share our history and discover our commonalities. Free entry, free pie sampling, Music, Live Entertainment, Live and Silent Pie Auction.


For information contact Yvette at 832-910-8261 or beautysgarden1@gmail.com.

This event is in partnership with Beauty’s Community Garden, St. Matthew’s United Methodist Church, and Memorial Hermann-Greater Heights.
GOMO Board of Directors

Section 1
Mark Saranie - President (2018)
713-724-1271
mark.saranie@gardenoaks.org
Sheila Briones (2019)
281-685-8133
sheila.briones@gardenoaks.org
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vic.seghers@gardenoaks.org
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Section 3
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dea.larson@gardenoaks.org
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832-483-1546
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Susan Kostelecky - Secretary (2020)
713-697-4110
susan.kostelecky@gardenoaks.org

Section 5
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kip.noser@gardenoaks.org
Coley Groth (2019)
832-482-5896
coley.groth@gardenoaks.org
Wayne Womack - Treasurer (2020)
940-393-6536
wayne.womack@gardenoaks.org

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

GOMO Update, October 2017
Pam Parks, GOMO Office Manager

Plans were approved for:  Revised plans were approved for:
• 1035 W 43rd St  • 1314 Sue Barnett Dr

Pending (re)submission:
• none

Deed Restriction Enforcement Activity for Oct. (Year to Date)
New reported violations – 0 (17)
Resolved/cleared – 2 (16)
Unresolved/pending – 4 (N/A)
Litigation in progress – 1 (N/A)

Content additions to the website since last month are the following:
• Minutes of Board Meetings
• Annual Letter to Owners

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 PM on the first Tuesday prior to Civic Club meetings and at 7:00 PM on the third Wednesday of each month.

In October, GOMO Members received the Annual Letter that contained information about the upcoming Annual Meeting. The letter also provided information about open Director positions on the Board, and it invited qualified Members to stand for election to the Board.

Late Breaking News:
In Special Elections, Joe Casarez was elected to the three year term of Director in Section 1 and Vic Seghers was elected to the one year term of Director in Section 2.

The Fourteenth Court of Appeals has rendered an Opinion and Decision in the Section 3 Case. By the time this reaches you, GOMO will likely have released more information. Updates will be posted on the GOMO Member Questions page at gardenoaks.org.

Contact:
The Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization
4001 N Shepherd Dr., Suite 216
Houston, TX 77018
713-561-3936
gardenoaks.org
manager@gardenoaksmaintenance.org
Constable Program Update
Terry Jeanes, Program Chair

As this year has been tough on many, the Precinct One Constable’s Office Toy Drive has adopted even more families from area schools, including Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet, Durham Elementary, Oak Forest Elementary, and others. Let’s help with toys for our neighbors in need via the Constable Toy Drive.

Toy Collection Options To Date:

- Tuesday December 5th from 7 to 9 PM – Civic Club Holiday Party American Legion Post 560 on Alba
- Saturday December 9th, All day at 1018 Althea
- Monday December 11th from 7 to 9 PM at American Legion Post 560
- Collection Box at Great Heights Brewery, 938 Wakefield
- Drop off during school hours at Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet (office)
- Email constable@gardenoaks.org to arrange for a pick up

Calling All Garden Oaks Neighbors to Support the Constable Program

Mailers with dues forms were sent out to all residents in early November. Please return those promptly. We need your help in keeping our commitment for the two current patrol deputies.

You may pay online at gardenoaks.org or via the form in the Gazette.

Sign up for Precinct One Crime Alerts: http://pct1constable.net/sign-up/crime-alerts/
Vacation Watch Form: http://pct1constable.net/sign-up/vacation-watch/

Emergency Numbers

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<th>Number</th>
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<tr>
<td>Crimes in progress, fire, or ambulance</td>
<td>911</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HPD (Non-Emergency)</td>
<td>713-884-3131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Precinct One Constable Dispatch</td>
<td>713-755-7628</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Other City Services</td>
<td>311</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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Houston, TX 77056
nanproperties.com

Mention this ad and we will donate a percentage of proceeds to a charity of your choice!

*Terms & conditions apply.
Happy Holidays everyone!

Crime Reports.com (current source for HPD crime statistics) reported 10 crimes in the neighborhood in October. Six of the crimes occurred on either Shepherd or Durham Drive and five of the reported crimes were Burglary of Motor Vehicles or BMVs.

BMVs are one of the easiest crimes to prevent. All you should do is follow two simple steps: 1) hide or remove personal property from the vehicles and 2) lock the doors every time you leave the vehicle.

In a similar manner, there are some things you can do following Christmas to help keep your wonderful gifts instead of a criminal getting them. Please do not leave the packaging for your new electronics at the street between Christmas and the next trash pick up day. Take the time to cut up the boxes so they fit into your recycling container or cut them down and place them in black trash bags and into the garbage bin before placing them out for pick up. Also, please remember the City of Houston will only pick up items inside a designated pick up bin.

October Crime Statistics (10)

**Aggrevated Robbery (1)**
3400 block N. Shepherd Dr. on Monday, October 16 at 7:39 PM

**Burglary of Motor Vehicle (5)**
3900 block N. Shepherd Dr. on Tuesday, October 10 at 3:39 PM
1000 block Althea Dr. on Sunday, October 15 at 12:21 AM
3200 block N. Shepherd Dr. on Friday, October 20 at 11:15 PM
4300 block Apollo St. on Saturday, October 21 at 11:48 AM
900 block Gardenia Dr. on Sunday, October 29 at 5:35 PM

**Robbery (1)**
3200 block N. Durham Dr. on Monday, October 9 at 1:39 PM

**Theft (3)**
3000 block N. Durham Dr. on Sunday, October 7 at 11:27 AM
4100 block N. Shepherd Dr. on Sunday, October 15 at 8:55 AM
4100 block Apollo St. on Tuesday, October 24 at 11:17 AM

Inquiries about joining the Citizen 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.
Catch Up, Keep Up and Get Ahead!

Mathnasium of Oak Forest is under NEW OWNERSHIP!

The best way to see if we are a good fit for your child’s needs is to visit our center, meet the instructors and try out our new program. For the month of February, we are offering our Initial Assessment and a 2-week Trial (6 sessions) for FREE.

Give us a call to set up your FREE Trial today! We look forward to making math make sense for your child!

Mathnasium of Oak Forest
1214 W. 43rd Street #650
Houston, TX 77018
(by Sweet Frog & Starbucks)
(713) 965-4747
Oakforest@mathnasium.com

FREE 2-Week Trial Program!
Limited time offer.
Not for current customers.

We Make Math Make Sense
GO Kids Update  
Lindsey Gabriel, Coordinator

What a fun year we’ve had! Thank you to all our sponsors and friends for your support. We are so grateful to have put on the following events for our kids and build our community:

• Mardi Gras Parade
• Easter Egg Hunt
• Spring Movie Night
• Spring Fling on Sue Barnett (hosted a table)
• Monthly Moms’ Night Out
• Halloween Bash on Sue Barnett
• Fall Fun Run

Mark your calendars for our upcoming events:

• Santa Night – November 28th
• Christmas Movie Night – December 1st

Leadership Team

Congratulations to Kelly Davis for taking on the GO Kids Coordinator role starting in January 2018! Many thanks to Lindsey Gabriel for serving in the role for 3 years. We anticipate some openings on the Leadership Team 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.

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.

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

GO Kids was started by a group of parents who wanted to build a family-friendly neighborhood where children and parents know each other and grow together. We look forward to seeing you around the neighborhood!

If you have questions, would like to join, 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.
Garden Oaks Civic Club
Meeting Minutes

Joe Casarez, Secretary

November 7, 2017

Location: Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet School

Welcome and Introduction: President Matt Gannon welcomed those in attendance and called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM. Yvette Leno, Director of Beauty’s Community Garden in Independence Heights, spoke briefly about an upcoming community event called Peace Through Pie. This event is meant to link communities together like Garden Oaks, Oak Forest, and Acres Homes along with Independence Heights to continue the positive outreach of neighbors and organizations in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey. Pie bakers are welcome to participate and make pies honoring someone where they can tell their “pie story” and share in a communal gathering of neighbors during the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend. The date for the event is January 13, 2018 from 10:30 AM to 1 PM at St Matthew’s United Methodist church. More information can be found on Eventbrite.com. Search for “Peace through P.I.E.”

Guest Speaker: Our guest speaker was Garden Oaks resident Shellye Arnold. Ms. Arnold is the CEO of the Memorial Park Conservancy and has held this position for the past four years. She focused on the status of Memorial Park and what plans are underway for maintenance and improvements. The Memorial Park Conservancy is a private non-profit organization that manages a publicly held park. The park is one of the largest urban parks in the United States at about 1,500 acres, nearly twice the size of Central Park in New York. The land was originally a U.S. Army training camp during World War I named Camp Logan. The name Memorial Park is to honor those soldiers who trained there and later perished in World War I.

Keeping the park as both an “urban wild” element and as an active recreation element were the big takeaways from public comments they solicited.

Who comes to Memorial Park? A survey in 2015 identified 170 zip codes from across Houston whose residents access the trails and facilities at the park. The drought of 2011 and decades of deferred maintenance resulted in a loss of 50-90% of the tree canopy. Extensive ecology studies were conducted to determine the current state of the park. These results are being used to create the acre-by-acre plan that will convert the park to what it should be from an ecological process. In addition, a biological assessment was conducted to identify the kinds of birds, insects, fish, and animals that live in the park. This will help in creating habitats needed to attract or support the ecology of the park.

Improvement projects are already under way. One of the first projects is the
“Eastern Glades” project, which will eliminate the road that used to be the eastern boundary of the golf course and jogging loop. This road is now on the east most boundary of the park. The green space created will be a memorial to the soldiers who trained at Camp Logan and will also provide more public use spaces. A very detailed explanation of these projects along with artist renditions of future improvements can be found at http://www.memorialparkconservancy.org/master-plan.html.

GOCC Meeting Continued: A motion was made and passed to accept the September 2017 minutes as published in the Gazette.

Treasurer’s Report: Teresa Coleman provided an update on the proposed 2018 Civic Club budget. The 2018 budget will be voted on at the December meeting. The proposed budget allows for two constables but the budget will have to be reviewed towards the end of 2018, and might require a reduction to one constable if sufficient funds are not available.

Committee Reports

Constable Program: Terry Jeanes reported that during National Night Out in October the neighborhood hosted about 12 block parties and the constables attended many of them. The upcoming Constable Toy Drive will benefit families adopted by Precinct One. Toy drop off locations will be finalized and communicated to Garden Oaks residents. One can join the Constable Program at www.gardenoaks.org.

Beautification: Joan Harmon announced that Art Park improvement plans are almost completed and should be announced in January 2018.

Website: Pam Parks said the website security has been updated and is now stronger.

Membership: Dian Austin provided a final report for the Wine Walk that raised $32,000 for the Constable Program. Each constable contract costs $77,000 so Garden Oaks residents are encouraged to join the Constable Program. Letters for the annual constable and civic club membership drives are being mailed out. The raffle prize, a Lowes gift card, was won by Brenda de Alba.

Gazette: The 15th of every month is the deadline to submit for the Gazette.

Garden Oaks Citizen Patrol: Carl Waters Jr. reported that 10 crimes occurred, but many were on the perimeter of Garden Oaks. Mr. Waters announced that 2018 will be his last as the coordinator for this program and he is looking for someone to replace him after his 20 years of service to Garden Oaks.

Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet: Dr. Pollock discussed Magnet applications for the upcoming school year. Kindergarten through Fifth grade children zoned to Garden Oaks should be encouraged to apply to the Montessori program. The construction continues at GOMM and the kitchen area will have

(Continued on page 12)
President’s Message
Matt Gannon, Civic Club President

December is a time of year that most of us associate with family, friends and the holidays. As the holiday spirit descends upon our neighborhood, I’d like to share a few important updates.

Our annual Civic Club Holiday Potluck Dinner will be held at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, December 5th, at the American Legion Post 560 (3720 Alba Rd). If you haven’t attended a Civic Club event this year, this is your last chance to come along and meet your neighbors before 2018. The Civic Club will provide the main dish and iced tea. A full cash bar will also be available. Please feel free to bring a dish to share with your neighbors (last name A-H: dessert, I-Q: appetizer, R-Z: side dish).

The Civic Club Officer Elections will be held during our business meeting at the Holiday Dinner. It’s not too late to get involved. Although the Nominating Committee has proposed a slate of candidates, it is still possible to nominate anyone from the floor for any of the open positions during the December meeting. One must be a paid Civic Club member for 2017 to stand for office or vote.

The GO Constable Toy Drive will continue as usual this year with donations being accepted at the Holiday Dinner on Tuesday December 5th. The toy drive benefits families with children attending Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet (GOMM) and other nearby schools.

Finally, each Garden Oaks household should have recently received a packet in the mail with the 2018 Civic Club and Constable Supporter forms in it. Please support our neighborhood with contributions to both. Forms are also included in the Gazette each month, or you can sign up online at gardenoaks.org.

We must have increased levels of participation in the GO Constable Program if we are to keep our current two constable patrols on our streets, so your support is definitely needed and appreciated. We also hope you will join the Civic Club and attend meetings in 2018. Membership is open to any resident of Garden Oaks, whether you own or rent. Meetings are held at 7 PM on the first Tuesday of the month at GOMM and last about an hour. Hope to see you there!
Welcome, New Neighbors!

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

947 Althea 1055 Gardenia 943 Lamonte
1543 Sue Barnett 1563 Sue Barnett 802 West 30th
431 West 31st 826 West 31st 336 West 32nd
431 West 32nd 328 West 33rd 730 West 41st
706 West 42nd 927 West 42nd 1039 West 42nd

Happy Birthday

Joel E. – 12/1
Eric Jarvis – 12/2
Joshua M. – 12/2
Jane Ann Roberts – 12/2
Pierce E. – 12/4
Jason Espeseth – 12/9
Jayne Maltbie – 12/10
Terry Jeanes – 12/11
Ian Mc. – 12/12
Julia Mc. – 12/12
Chris Lindsay – 12/13
Sabrina Innocenti – 12/14
Jim McDaniel – 12/15
Cameron Elizabeth C. – 12/17
Brian O’Leary – 12/17
Sandy Altman – 12/24
Katie C. – 12/30

Happy Anniversary

John & Margaret Hesse – 12/29
Stacy & Mike Gross – 12/31
Troy & Jordan Allen – 12/31

Out and About

Lifelong Garden Oaks resident, soprano Maren Weinberger, performed as Pamina in Opera in the Heights production of Mozart’s The Magic Flute in November.

Blanche Ragsdale recently visited Pittsburgh, enjoyed a family wedding, and toured Fallingwater.

A few neighbors seen at the Astros World Series Parade included Carl Waters Jr. and Leslie Ryan, Sheree’ and Ron Peoples, Cat Theriot and kids, and Stacy Gross and kids.

Shelley Rogers and Pat Buron visited the Smithville Home Tour, the “Hope Floats” house and others, and the Airing of the Quilts.

Trent Salch along with other members of the St. Rose of Lima outreach team worked with the Kolbe Prison Retreat at the maximum security Coffield Unit of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

Congratulations

Kudos to Jones Bowman on his artwork showing featured at Art on the Boulevard.

Accolades to Georgia Lister who was honored at the 16th annual BIRTH Fair for her relentless efforts during Harvey recovery in the underserved northeast area of town, including demolition, temporary housing placement, collection and delivery of needed items.

Special Thoughts and Comforting Wishes

To Peri Mashburn whose mother passed away in late October.

To the family of Ola Mae Synnott, longtime GO neighbor, who passed away recently.

Garden Oaks lost another long-time neighbor on October 15th, Ola Mae Synnott (aged 94). Ola Mae and her husband, Dr. James Synnott, first moved to Section 1 in the 1940s on W. 31st and then built their home on W. 43rd in 1952 where they raised four children, James Jr., Sue, Roger, and Mary. Ola Mae worked as a nurse in her husband’s medical practice from the early sixties until their retirement in 1983 and then cared for James until his death in 2001. Ola Mae loved her church, Our Savior Lutheran, her family, her many friends and was always ready to help in any way she could. She was a wonderfully kind neighbor who will be remembered for her southern manners. She loved to play bridge, garden, and take gambling trips to Louisiana.

Ola Mae is survived by her four children, four grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be directed to the Our Savior Lutheran Church 500th Anniversary of the Reformation Fund.
There are many discussions around the need for magnet schools especially when it comes to funding special programs such as ours at Garden Oaks, which is a magnet school. Garden Oaks transitioned to a magnet school 6 years ago by the vote of the HISD School Board and funding from a federal grant. The grant was the Magnet School Assistance Program Grant that is awarded to support new magnet schools. What's so different about magnet schools? First, the school must offer a unique program that is innovative or distinct that would attract students (like a magnet). Magnet schools are found all over the country.

Below is a brief history of magnet schools in the United States.

The 1960s were full of great change — politically and socially. Along with those changes was the movement to desegregate school systems and offer equal opportunities and access to superior education to students of every socio-economic level.

Dr. Donald Waldrip described in his article on the history of magnet schools how the very first “super” high school came about in Dallas, Texas in 1971.

“Designed around the concept of career strands, Skyline High School attracted students of all kinds – rich, poor, Hispanic, African American, Asian, White – from all over the city. Some students came for a full-day program; others came for part-time; still others came after school.” Waldrip explained that around the same time in Houston, Texas, the effect of HISD’s Performing and Visual Arts School “worked like a ‘magnet’ in attracting students.” By 1975, the term “magnet” had caught on so well that the federal government, contemplating fiscal assistance, was using the term. Today, these schools have emerged as educational beacons in communities incorporating themed curricula, hands-on experiential learning, and a diverse tapestry of students and academic requirements.

Historical Highlights

1954 - Brown vs. Board of Education made explicit the goal of reducing school segregation while providing high-quality education programs to all students.

1968 - in Tacoma, Washington, the first school designed to reduce racial isolation by offering school choice opened.

1974 - research was released by Mario Fantini that showed all students do not learn the same way. A unifying theme or a different organizational structure for students of similar interests improved learning in all areas.

1985 - Federal Magnet Schools Assistance Program (MSAP) was authorized, providing grants to magnet schools.

2016 - magnet schools numbered 4340 in 46 states.

The campus-wide program at Garden Oaks Montessori transformed our small campus that was primarily traditional with six Montessori classrooms to a thriving PK3 – 8th grade campus. This was a direct result not only of an MSAP grant, but also due to the tireless efforts of community groups such as Friends of Montessori, parent volunteers, and teachers and staff who believed that a Montessori program would draw families from all over Houston. Sixty percent of our current students are magnet transfers who might otherwise attend other schools. Remember that magnet applications are due online by December 9th for the 2018-19 school year. To apply go to http://www.houstonisd.org/Page/120695. Campus tours are offered Thursdays at 9 AM.
Mickey’s Minute

Mickey Morales

Here we are winding down the year and what a year it’s been. We have seen the opening of Great Heights Brewing Company on our east flank and are looking forward to the build out of Decant Urban Winery in the coming year to our west. And let’s not forget surviving the worst natural disaster in our country’s history; what a mess Hurricane Harvey was. However, Houston and its citizens both new and old are a city of resilient folks who stepped up and helped one another. I couldn’t have been prouder to be a native of the great state of Texas. Although all the flooding does remind me of the skit from Monty Python and the Holy Grail when the lord tells the story about how people thought he was daft for building a castle in the middle of a swamp. Come by and I’ll recite the whole thing for you. But we built it just the same.

Thanksgiving has come and gone and Christmas and New Year’s are just around the corner. In farm news, one of Cathy’s goat mommas had an early birth of twin baby girls born in mid-November, and maybe just maybe weather permitting they will make a guest appearance around mid-December. Gus and company and Farmer Cathy are recovering from the flood; crops have been resown and the rebuilding of both their flocks and infrastructure are moving along slowly but surely. Let us keep them in our thoughts and prayers this holiday season.

In other Farmstand news, Joshua of Green Dragon Coffee continues the rebuilding of his family’s home and our neighbor Jonathan has stepped in to fill the gap with some fine tasting micro roasted coffee. In the course of the year, we’ve had vendors come and go and some new ones to replace them. As I look back over the years we’ve been doing this, I see us as kind of an incubator for small businesses. Some succeed and some fail; some decide it’s just too much work and others go on to brick and mortar affairs. We have been the start of two successful bakeries, a pasta maker, and several food establishments. I’d like to think that we have served the community well and we look forward to doing more in the coming years.

As always, “Come soon, come often, and Cheers to a New Year.”
Wine Walk Sets New Record!

*Dian Austin, Committee Chair*

The weather was a bit questionable, but it miraculously held out, and we had another truly successful sold-out Wine Walk. We raised almost $32,000 for the Constable Program. That is an all-time record, bringing the total raised to some $162,000 over the past nine fundraisers!

Thanks to all the very generous cash sponsors and the table hosts who made the event possible, along with everyone who purchased a ticket. Also, thanks to Smilebooth for their incredible photo booth opportunity that was sponsored by Oak Forest Veterinary Hospital, and to silent auction donors David Hardaker, Tina Rowe, and Precinct One Constable Alan Rosen. And a special thanks to Blake Woods Design for the donation of bottled water.

The Wine Walk Committee worked hard behind the scenes and definitely deserves recognition: Shelley Rogers, Brenda de Alba, Jessica Jarvis, Tina Rowe, Dea Larson, Susan Saranie, Sheila Briones, Terry Jeanes, Sherrey Rogers, and myself. We are a committed group of Constable Program supporters, and we paid for some $1100 of expenses ourselves. We are also indebted to our set-up/take-down crew: Ed de Alba and Jerry Butler, and appreciate the extra efforts of Pam Parks, Rafael Pina, Tony Padon, Susan Saranie, and Jim DiCola for their help as well. And what a perfect venue for the event – thanks to Ed and Brenda de Alba for their generous use of their fabulous back yard and all the work they do getting it ready for the Wine Walk and maintaining it.

We could use some more able-bodied people for next year’s Wine Walk. If you would like to join the set-up/take-down crew (preference given to those with muscles and a truck), email me at cavort2@gmail.com. And if you are a Really Good Helper, you will get a free ticket to the fundraiser.

While we raised record funds, please don’t get complacent about joining the Garden Oaks Constable Program. The Constable Program is supported entirely by residents’ contributions, and we have the annual Wine Walk because the program is woefully underfunded. Each of the two constable patrol contracts costs $77,000 annually. We still do not have enough funds to keep our two constable patrols in the neighborhood. Let me say that a different way: without increased participation, we will not be able to continue with our current two deputies. So, please seriously consider contributing the suggested $225 annual minimum to the 2018 Garden Oaks Constable Program. Thanks to all who do support the program.
Table Hosts for the Wine Walk

A huge thanks to the following people and businesses who volunteered to “host” a table at the recent Wine Walk. Each of these hosts provided wines and foods at their own expense for all attendees to sample. What an incredible group of generous folks!

- Aitu Pham Taube State Farm Agency
- “Aged to Perfection”
  Elisa Cuellar & Knox Wright
  Pamela Parks & Teresa Coleman
  Vicki Singer
- Danyel T. Ramelow, Financial Advisor, Edward Jones
  1415 N. Loop West
- Facundo Home Builders - Miguel Facundo
- Garden Oaks Vineyards - Lorie & John Reno
- “GO Red Hot Chili Peppers”
  Dru & Margie Neikirk
  Emilio & Patti Chemali
  Kip & Kari Noser
  Matt & Erica Gannon
  Ron & Sheree’ Peoples
- Harry James Building + Design
- Heidi & Stuart Arouty
- Karie & Alyn Goad
- Liberty Kitchen Garden Oaks
- Scott Miller
- Tina Rowe & Jim DiCola

SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 1964

OAK FOREST VETERINARY HOSPITAL

Monday - Friday
7:00 am - 6:00 pm
By Appointment Only

Saturday
7:30 am - 11:30 am
Walk-Ins Welcome

Closed Sunday

713.682.6351 OAKFORESTVET.COM
2120 West 34th Street, Between T.C. Jester and Ella

NEW CLIENTS RECEIVE 10% OFF FIRST VISIT
What do Food Sensitivities Really Look Like?

Erin Thole, CNHP

We are all unique; we have different personalities, different hair and eye color, and different body types. So wouldn’t it be safe to reason that we all have different needs when it comes to what we put into our bodies? After all, one man’s medicine is another man’s poison, right?

I know what you’re thinking, “but I don’t have any food sensitivities.” Well, sorry to tell you this, but 95 out of every 100 people have food sensitivities and don’t even know it. These sensitivities are the underlying cause of many conditions from the severe to the ones we “just live with.”

Often times people think of reactions to allergies or sensitivities as symptoms like anaphylaxis, diarrhea, bloating, tongue and throat swelling, or vomiting, but often symptoms of a reaction do not appear until 72 hours to 21 days after you eat an offending food!

Usually the day to day mild to moderate to severe symptoms we experience that are truly reactions to the food we eat are lessened once these foods are removed, and magic happens, literally. It is very common to see people sleep more soundly, handle stress better, lose weight, gain muscle, have improved workouts, get relief from chronic pain and fatigue, and reduce or eliminate bad moods and depression. Sounds pretty awesome, right?

Figuring out what foods work best for you will also help to balance out your hormones. Many hormones are made into their active form in the gut, so it makes sense that eating according to your biochemistry would alleviate these issues as well.

So what do food sensitivity symptoms look like?

• Digestive upset
• Bloating
• Heart burn/indigestion/acid reflux
• Fatigue

(Continued on page 23)
Home Heating Energy Myths Debunked - Part Two

Mitch Weigand

Closing off vents and registers will reduce your heating bill.

Assuming you have a modern A/C system, the pressure load of the air should be balanced throughout your home. Blocking vents will impact how the system takes in cool air through the return air register and releases warmed air through the vents. It can throw the system out of balance, causing it to work harder than needed and even break down. The rooms with closed vents will eventually become colder and pull heat from nearby halls and rooms. As a result, you still use the same amount of energy to heat your home but with potential stress and damage to your system.

Fireplaces can help heat your home while saving you money.

Wood-burning fireplaces do provide a warm and cozy experience during the chilly months. However, don’t expect them to save you money when it comes to heating bills. Not only is wood itself expensive, your fireplace doesn’t radiate as much heat within the room as it does up the chimney. Also, if you use it along with your furnace, the fireplace actually consumes furnace-warmed air for combustion and sends it up the chimney as smoke.

It’s cheaper to run space heaters in a few rooms than to run your home’s gas heating system.

Looking to save on energy bills, you switch off your gas furnace and use space heaters to warm a few select rooms instead. With less square footage to heat, you must be using less energy, right? This would be true if electricity weren’t so much more expensive than natural gas. Using electricity to heat your home can cost between three to five times what it costs to heat the same space using a gas furnace.

(Continued on page 23)
Dear Garden Oaks,
Thank you for another year of your continued patronage. It is greatly appreciated!
Please keep us in mind next year, and we’d love to be a part of all of your Building & Remodeling plans and projects in 2018. Have a Wonderful Holiday and a Safe & Prosperous New Year!
Harry James Building & Design

713.695.7007  HARRYJAMESBUILDER.COM
Food Sensitivities—Continued from page 19

- Skin conditions
- Joint pain/chronic pain
- Depression/anxiety
- Poor sleep
- Inability to gain strength
- Inability to change body composition (lose fat/gain muscle)
- Thyroid conditions
- Hormonal imbalances
- Depressed immune system/chronic or reoccurring infections or illness
- Mood swings
- Night sweats
- Dental issues
- Osteoporosis
- Autoimmune conditions
- ADD/ADHD

Erin Thole, CNHP, has been working in the health and wellness field for over 9 years. To learn more and request a free consultation: www.erinthole.com or thole.erin@gmail.com.

Myths—Continued from page 21

Ceiling fans are only good for the warm months.

While ceiling fans are a great way to cool your home during summer, they can make your home more energy efficient in the winter. Simply move the switch on the fan so it spins in a clockwise direction. The fan will now push down the warm air that has risen to the ceiling, making your home feel warmer without increasing your furnace’s output.

Energy efficiency increases the initial cost of a home.

There is little, if any, correlation between energy efficiency and a home’s purchase price. In some instances, efficiency can even reduce the initial cost when smaller, high-efficient furnaces are installed. Energy efficient appliances can also be a plus point when selling your home.

Mitch Weigand is the owner of Air Wise.

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Call the best, we’ll do the rest!

Gary Bloch
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Your Neighborhood Plumber!
Must present coupon at time of service. MPL 17021
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<td>GOMO Meeting 7 PM GO Professional Building, Suite 216</td>
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<td>“The main reason Santa is so jolly is because he knows where all the bad girls live.”</td>
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<td>— George Carlin</td>
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ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES STATEMENT
January – December 2018

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

Fill in Amount:

$_________  Crepe Myrtle (Basic Level) Household Membership  $25  ($5 for Seniors)

$_________  Red Oak (Patron Level) Household Membership  $75  ($15 for Seniors)

$_________  Community Household Membership  $100

$_________  Business Membership (Non-Voting Membership)  $50

$_________  Contribution to Beautification (all neighborhood green spaces)

$_________  Contribution to Garden Club (maintain Friendship Park, Section 1)

$_________  TOTAL

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

-OR-
Pay online at www.gardenoaks.org 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!
2018 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:

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

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<th>Emergency Contact Information</th>
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Payment Options

[ ] Enclosed find my payment for 2018 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