



December 2017

Volume 39 Issue 12

Garden Oaks Gazette

The newsletter of the Garden Oaks Civic Club

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.



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

**Annual Meeting & Holiday
Potluck**

Tuesday, December 5, 7 PM
American Legion Hall
3720 Alba

The Civic Club will provide
the main dish. Cash bar.

Potluck suggestions:

Last name begins with

A - H: desserts

I - Q: appetizer

R - Z: side dish

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.

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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
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Citizen Patrol – Carl Waters, Jr. 713 569 3153
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Constable Program – Terry Jeanes 713 812 9154
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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.



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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.**

Register at <https://peace-through-pie.eventbrite.com>.

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

Joe Casarez (2020)

713-398-7133

joe.casarez@gardenoaks.org

Section 2

Vic Seghers - Vice President (2018)

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Sue Schmidt (2019)

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Lori Kennedy (2020)

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Frances Schwartz (2019)

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Susan Kostelecky - Secretary (2020)

713-697-4110

susan.kostelecky@gardenoaks.org

Section 5

Kip Noser (2018)

281-846-5479

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:

- 1035 W 43rd St

Pending (re)submission:

- none

Revised plans were approved for:

- 1314 Sue Barnett Dr

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/>

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Citizen Patrol Update

Carl Waters, Jr., Program Chair

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)

Aggravated 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.

Terry Jeanes
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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 nancyperetz@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.

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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



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(Meeting Minutes—Continued from page 11)

to be worked on to address a plumbing issue. The kitchen should be available in January.

Nominating Committee: Mark Klein was unable to attend and his report was read by Kip Noser. Per the bylaws, a nominating committee was formed to provide a recommended slate of candidates for the 2018 Civic Club Board. The bylaws also allow any civic club member in good standing to nominate any other member in good standing or even themselves during the November and December civic club meetings. In fact, after this report, the president will open the floor for nominations. As a reminder, any candidate must be a current Garden Oaks Civic Club member. The five civic club members who served on the nominating committee were Frances Schwartz, Kip Noser, Susan Saranie, Jim DiCola, and Mark Klein (chair).

The majority of the committee recommended the following slate of candidates for the 2018 Civic Club Board: for President, the incumbent, Matt Gannon; for Vice President, Joe Casarez, now serving as Secretary; for Treasurer, the incumbent, Teresa Coleman; and for Secretary, Brenda de Alba.

President Matt Gannon opened the floor to nominations for the 2018 Civic Club Board. Brenda de Alba withdrew her nomination and nominated Helen Sestak (Section 5) for Civic Club Secretary. Helen Sestak accepted the nomination.

New Business:

The **Holiday Party** will be held at the American Legion Post 560 on Alba at 7 PM December 5th. The election of officers will be held after 7:30 PM.

2018 Garden Oaks Home and Garden Tour: The date of the home tour is April 29, 2018. If you are interested in volunteering, please check the tour page at www.gardenoaks.org and look under the Events tab.

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 December 5th at 7 PM.

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!

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.

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

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.



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.

Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet and the History of Magnet Schools

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

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."

Happy Holidays

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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



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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)

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!

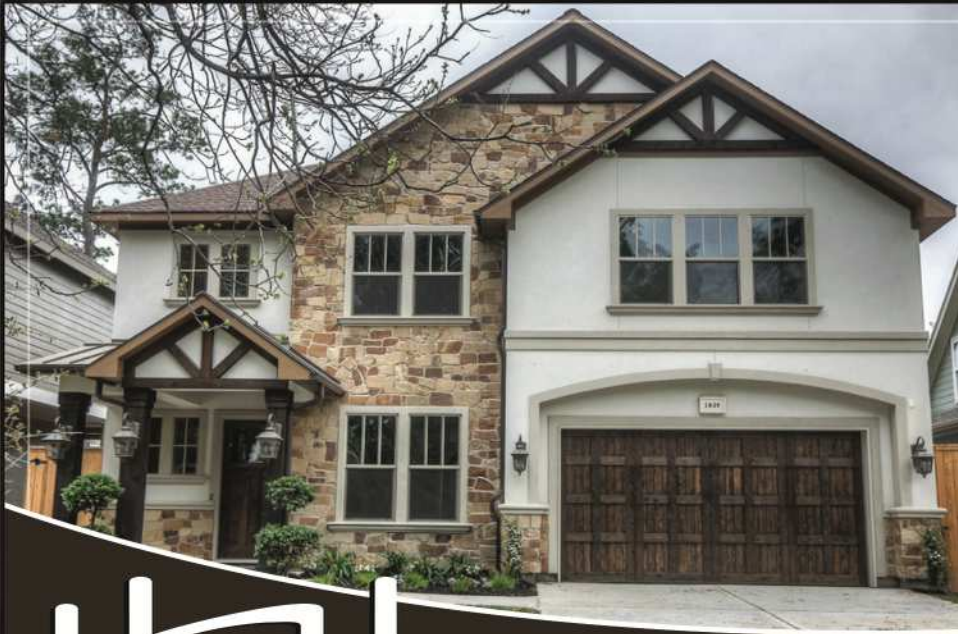


Erin has the resources and training to CHANGE YOUR LIFE!

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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)

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Sean E., Lakes on Eldridge

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Air Wise owner Mitch Weigand



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TX-HU-5616

(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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DECEMBER 2017

sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat	
Due to disaster debris collection efforts in the wake of Hurricane Harvey, the City of Houston has suspended all scheduled waste pickup except for garbage collection and recycling until further notice. For more information, visit houstonssolidwaste.org .			* GOMO Plan Review 6:30 PM, December 5 GO Professional Building, Suite 216	30	1	Farm Stand 9 AM - 1 PM Holiday Market 10 AM - 2 PM St. Rose of Lima	
3	4	Civic Club Annual Meeting & Holiday Potluck* 7 PM American Legion Hall 3720 Alba	5	6	7	8	Farm Stand 9 AM - 1 PM 948 Wakefield
10	Gazebo Santa 6 - 7:30 PM Gazebo Park	11	Start of Hanukkah Gazebo Santa 6 - 7:30 PM Gazebo Park	12	13	14	Gazette Article Deadline Farm Stand 9 AM - 1 PM 948 Wakefield Garden Club Christmas Party
17	18	19	GOMO Meeting 7 PM GO Professional Building, Suite 216	20	Winter Solstice 21	22	Festivus Farm Stand 9 AM - 1 PM 948 Wakefield
Christmas Eve 24	Christmas Day 25	Boxing Day Start of Kwanzaa 26	27	28	29	Farm Stand 9 AM - 1 PM 948 Wakefield	
New Years Eve 31	New Years Day 1	2	"The main reason Santa is so jolly is because he knows where all the bad girls live." — George Carlin			6	

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January – December 2018

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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: _____

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[] New Member or [] Renewal

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Please provide contact information for program member(s) at this address:

Member 1 Information	Member 2 Information
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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
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Work Phone: _____	Work Phone: _____
Cell Phone: _____	Cell Phone: _____

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).

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