



March 2018

Volume 40 Issue 3

# Garden Oaks Gazette

The newsletter of the Garden Oaks Civic Club

## Home Tour Sponsorship Update

*Danielle Villarreal, Committee Chair*

As we go to print, the following generous individuals and businesses have stepped up as cash sponsors for our upcoming Home and Garden Tour. We are very thankful for their willingness to support our community.

### Platinum Sponsors (\$2500)

- Deanna Zugheri – Keller Williams Metropolitan
- Katy Hall Wyly, John Daugherty, Realtors
- Oak Forest Veterinary Hospital

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- Shipley Donuts
- Tony's Mexican Restaurant
- Wyly & Cook, PLLC

### Bronze Sponsors (\$250)

- GO Kids
- Houghton's Jewelers
- Nautilus Ventures, Ltd.

If you are interested in sponsoring or need more information, please contact [htsponsorships@gardenoaks.org](mailto:htsponsorships@gardenoaks.org).

The Sponsor Form and benefits for each level of sponsorship are in this month's *Gazette* and can also be found at [gardenoaks.org](http://gardenoaks.org) under the "Home Tour" Events tab.

### Garden Oaks Civic Club Meeting

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

Topic: Alba Rd. Construction Update; Zeph Capo, HCC Board of Trustees

### 2018 Home and Garden Tour

Sunday, April 29  
12 – 6 PM

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# President's Message

*Matt Gannon, Civic Club President*

As we move into March, spring will be upon us and winter will finally be over. Let's hope we have seen the last of the cold weather for a while. I don't know about you, but I didn't move to Houston for weather in the 30s. This month, I have a handful of important topics to mention, and as always, encourage you to get involved with the neighborhood and come to Civic Club meetings and events.

First, we have two speakers for our March meeting. Bobby Vasek will be providing an update on the Garden Oaks Central Capital Improvement Project (the one that has been moving along Alba) and will be answering your questions and concerns. Bobby is the Project Manager for the effort and represents ARKK Engineers — the municipal engineering firm providing design and construction phase services for the project. Additionally, Zeph Capo will be coming to speak to us from the Houston Community College Board of Trustees. Zeph is currently Vice President and Legislative Director for the Houston Federation of Teachers, having previously worked as a science teacher in public schools.

Second, **we need more volunteers for the upcoming Garden Oaks Home and Garden Tour** on April 29th. If you are interested, please reach out to Allison Virgadamo at [allisonvirgadamo@yahoo.com](mailto:allisonvirgadamo@yahoo.com). There are multiple positions available, including volunteers for each home, garden, the command center, and transportation. There are two shifts, 11:45 am - 3 pm and 2:45 pm - 6 pm. No training or prior experience is needed, and it's a great way to volunteer for your community and experience the Home Tour for free!

And last, the Garden Oaks Constable Program needs you. **Please donate, donate, donate.** This month we are looking for underwriters to cover the cost (approximately \$1000) of Garden Oaks Constable supporter signs. If you are interested in helping this essential cause, please reach out to Terry Jeanes at [constable@gardenoaks.org](mailto:constable@gardenoaks.org).

I look forward to welcoming you to our next Civic Club meeting on March 6th, 7:00 pm at Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet School. Until then, stay safe and warm.

## Civic Club Officers

*President* – Matt Gannon 832 646 4140  
822 Azalea [president@gardenoaks.org](mailto:president@gardenoaks.org)

*Vice President* – Joe Casarez 713 398 7133  
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## Committee Chairs

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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.

# Home Tour Featured Homes

## *Katy Hall Wyly, Home Tour Chair*

As we get closer to our April 29th Home Tour, I want to share some details about the homes you will be able to see on the tour.

### **207 W 32nd Street**

This home is a recently built soft modern by Rob Ryan Construction and has been given the name "Casa Blanca." The sophisticated styling of the tuxedo kitchen is achieved with dark cabinetry against light counters and touches of gold in the finishes. The home delivers a glamorous feel throughout.

### **224 W 30th Street**

This recent construction by Harry James Building + Design has contemporary, clean lines, and a few rustic touches. The interior perfectly brings bright finishes and the owner's elegantly eclectic style together. The layout delivers a formal setting of living and dining spaces then leads to the back of the home and a more casual family room anchored by a warm fireplace.

### **874 W 42nd Street**

This beautiful Craftsman style home has a warm, inviting feel as soon as you step through the door. The well-appointed interior features recent renovations with classic style. The backyard is the ideal place to entertain with an exceptional covered patio facing the pool.

### **938 W 41st Street**

The owners of this incredible home are also the creative owners of Nautilus Ventures, Ltd., the company that actually completed the renovation. The unique lot and placement of the original structure on it paired perfectly with their vision as they planned to downsize. The design throughout the interior and exterior was inspired by that of the renowned architect, Frank Lloyd Wright.

### **1011 W 42nd Street**

With a nod to the charm of an original Garden Oaks residence, this superbly updated home has a dazzling kitchen with views of the lush backyard. The second floor includes a home office with access to the upper deck space and a serene master suite.

### **1435 Sue Barnett**

This home is a 2016 new construction completed by Alleanza Custom Homes. Attention has been paid to every detail in the home and the finishes are a complementary mix of old and new. The first floor boasts open spaces filled with natural light and a marvelous wine cellar. The exterior spaces are just as appealing with a beautifully bricked patio and garage apartment façade alongside the sparkling pool.



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## Home and Garden Tour Auction Update

*Stephanie Acosta and Heidi Lozano, Committee  
Co-Chairs*

The Auction Acquisition Team is hard at work securing amazing donations for the Silent and Live Auction to be held at the VIP Preview Tour and Dinner on Saturday, April 28th, 2018.

This year's auction will be chaired and staffed by the Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet Middle School with proceeds benefitting the Middle School's needs such as the 6th and 7th graders' community-building camp expedition and the 8th graders' educational adventure to Washington, DC.

Here's a sneak preview of a few items that will be available at the auction:

- Seven-night stay at a Chateau in France
- Delicious Desserts from Liberation GF Bakery
- Estate planning and will package
- Cabin rental at Crider's on the Frio
- Cooking classes
- Restaurant gift certificates
- Three-hour session to help clear and organize clutter

We're working on adding more adventures and experiences and would appreciate any donations from the Garden Oaks community. If you'd like to donate there is a donor form included in this month's *Gazette* or you can obtain the form online at [gardenoaks.org](http://gardenoaks.org).

We'll be using the Greater Giving software with mobile bidding via smart phone or iPads that will be provided on site. This software is also used during the Garden Oaks Montessori Pancake Breakfast Silent Auction. If you are already registered in the system, all you need to do is check in at the event. If you need to pre-register, please send contact information to [GOhometour.auction@gmail.com](mailto:GOhometour.auction@gmail.com) or text to 281-734-7693 with name, cell number, and address.

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Thank you to the following donors (as of February 15th):

- Another Place in Time
- Chronically Organized
- Crider's on the Frio
- HTown Restaurant Group
- Jennifer Klein Physical Therapy / AATB Pilates
- Katz Coffee
- Liberation Gluten-Free Bakery
- Main Street Theater
- Tonya L. Knauth, Attorney, PLLC
- Well Done Cooking Classes
- Whataburger

## Garden Oaks Home & Garden Tour VIP Preview Party

*Tina Rowe and Gina Greenslate, Co-Chairs*

This year's VIP Party promises to be a night of fun, while honoring our generous home and garden owners, thanking our many cash sponsors, and raising money for Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet at the auction.

The party kicks off on Saturday April 28th at 7 pm. We're keeping it local again this year, and have rented the entire Berryhill Baja Grill & Cantina on Ella at W. 43rd for our festivities.

Tickets will go on sale March 15th on the [gardenoaks.org](http://gardenoaks.org) website, and will be priced at \$75 each. Your ticket will include a self-guided tour of all the featured homes and gardens from 5:30 to 7 pm, and the party itself will be from 7 to 11 pm. Foods will include a queso station, plenty of passed heavy appetizers, and more. That will allow you time to peruse all the fabulous auction items available and keep those bids going! Each attendee gets 2 free drink tickets and there will be a cash bar as well.

Please join us for an evening of celebrating Garden Oaks and all the people who make it a great place to live while supporting the Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet!



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# Heard Under the Oak Tree

*Terry Jeanes*

## Welcome, New Neighbors!

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

|               |               |                                |
|---------------|---------------|--------------------------------|
| 946 Althea    | 3209 Lawrence | 1547 Sue Barnett               |
| 907 West 41st | 748 West 42nd | 918 West 43rd    934 West 43rd |

## Happy Birthday

|                        |                          |                          |
|------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Ollie H. - 3/3         | Sydney Grace N. - 3/3    | Lori Kennedy - 3/5       |
| Stephanie Acosta - 3/6 | Jennifer Garza - 3/7     | Dodie Davis - 3/11       |
| Jeff Martin - 3/11     | George Appling - 3/13    | Rob Bunge - 3/15         |
| Curtis Hall - 3/15     | Angelica Sullivan - 3/16 | Susan Kosteletzky - 3/26 |
| Sharron Sanborn - 3/26 | Nathan S. - 3/26         | Lindsey Bartlett - 3/27  |
| Olivia S. - 3/29       | Will Zugheri - 3/30      |                          |

## Happy Anniversary

|                             |                               |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| The Murphys - 3/15          | Jeff & Gaylynn Martin - 3/21  |
| Mark & Susan Saranie - 3/24 | Sean & Caroline McLean - 3/27 |

## Out and About

Kudos to **Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet** on a successful 24th Annual Pancake Breakfast.

The **de Albas** headed to Portland, TX to visit Brenda's sister.

**Cesar Maldonado** visited Vietnam.

**Caroline McLean** was in Georgetown, TX with the Bellaire High School Lacrosse Team and also in Mansfield and College Station with the St. Thomas Swim Team.

**Sheree' and Ron Peoples** has a busy month with Sheree's birthday trip to Belize and the Bacchus Ball in New Orleans at Mardi Gras.

The **Salches** took in the Knights of Momus at Mardi Gras! Galveston while **Missy Alwais** attended the Gambrinus Parade in Galveston.

It was the New Iberia, LA Mardi Gras for the **Theriotics**.

Havana Nights was a big gala fundraiser theme for both St. Rose and Black Middle School. The **Theriotics**, **Shaughnessys**, **Salches**, and **Cunninghams** all enjoyed a night Havana style at their respective schools.

A little Louisiana Super Bowl watching was an outing for **Terry Jeanes** and **Patrick Kelley**.

**Tina Rowe** and **Jim Dicola** admit that no road trip is complete without a stop at Buc-ee's.

**Georgia Lister** was surprised with a "Georgia's Gems" birthday party, organized by **Tina Sabuco and Shellye Arnold**. Café Arista and the "School of Rock" followed.

#### Congratulations

To **Josh Mc.**, finishing his last school swimming meet, holding all 7 current school records in his individual events.

To **Kim Ellis** on her last day in the corporate world.

#### Healing Wishes

To **Sandy Altman** on her recent surgery.

#### Special Thoughts

To the family of **Gloria Carle**, Garden Oaks resident since 1947, who passed away February 14th.

For the **Sherbers** in the loss of their family companion, Haley.

*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](mailto:terry@terryjeanes.com).*

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# Garden Oaks Civic Club Meeting Minutes

*Helen Sestak, Secretary*

February 6, 2018

**Location:** Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet

Civic Club Vice President Joe Casarez welcomed attendees and called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm. Matt Gannon, Civic Club President, was unable to attend.

**Guest Speaker:** Barry Ward of Trees For Houston was scheduled to speak, but had to cancel; he will speak at the May meeting.

A motion to approve the January minutes was made and seconded. The minutes were approved.

**GOMO:** Mark Saranie, GOMO President, gave an update on GOMO litigation. A December 2017 request for a review hearing was denied. GOMO directors will be meeting with the GOMO attorney tonight at 7:30 pm to determine their plan. Visit the Garden Oaks website ([www.gardenoaks.org](http://www.gardenoaks.org)) for more details.

**Treasurer's Report:** Teresa Coleman presented copies of the financials.

## Committee Reports

**Constable Program:** Terry Jeanes reported that Garden Oaks crime activity was relatively low. The daytime armed robbery of Candlelight Plaza residents who were walking their dogs on February 3rd mid-afternoon was discussed. The thieves' license plate was given to police, but it did not match the associated vehicle and was assumed to be stolen.

Terry and others are looking into purchasing or making neighborhood 'thermometer' boards that record Constable Patrol funding. Constable supporter signs are being researched; an underwriter is needed to cover the signage cost. It is critical that we see funding totals increase.

A question was asked about Constable Patrol ownership. In previous years, the neighborhood had three constable contracts, with two of them being signed by GOMO and funded by GOMO surplus funds as voted on by GOMO members. The third contract was signed by the Civic Club and funded by residents. Terry Jeanes coordinated the deputies' scheduling for all three contracts. For 2018, the Civic Club has signed two Constable contracts (March 1, 2018 through February 28, 2019). Each contract costs about \$77,000 annually. GOMO no longer funds any Constable patrols.

**Beautification:** Joan Harmon reported that it has been a slow month as we wait out the February freezes. There have been no reported broken pipe issues.

**Garden Oaks Website:** No report.

**Membership:** Dian Austin reported that currently there are 204 paid Civic Club members and 208 Constable Program supporters. By contrast, 2017 ended with 274 paid Civic Club members and 359 Constable Program supporters. We need many more supporters if we are to fund two constable contracts.

**Citizen Patrol:** Carl Waters reported (from [crimereports.com](http://crimereports.com)) that four crimes, all on N. Shepherd, occurred in January: two motor vehicle thefts, one building theft, and one robbery. Three crimes fell on Wednesdays, and one on a Tuesday. Carl reiterated that if something does not feel right, let someone know! Call 911 if you see a gun. Be truthful. Anyone who is 18 years or older, passes a criminal background check, and completes one hour of training can volunteer for the Citizen Patrol. Carl is stepping down as committee head at the end of 2018 and a replacement is needed.

**Gazette:** Deadline for the March *Gazette* articles is February 15. Two block delivery captains are still needed: one for the 4200 block of Apollo and a second for the 400-500 block of W. 31st. The section 2 block captain position has probably been filled, although not finalized.

Letters to the editor may be published if they are signed. No anonymous letters will be printed.

**Home Tour:** The tour is slated for Sunday, April 29, from noon–6 pm. Volunteers are still needed to fill some positions. No experience is necessary!

**New Business:**

**Beautification:** Joan Harmon reported that Spring Fling money will likely be used in three areas. Most funds will support upgrading the 43rd Street art park. Plans include installation of an irrigation system and planting new shrubs and flowers. This park is owned by the City and will not be adopted by the Garden Oaks community. The City will provide maintenance.

Secondly, some money will support clean up of the median along Garden Oaks Blvd. Shrubs will be removed and colorful flowers installed at the corners. The bollards will possibly be straightened or removed, but Joan did not have a cost quote.

Finally, some funds are allocated for the April Home Tour beautification efforts.

Joan clarified that the berm park on Randall and Shepherd will only be maintained, not upgraded. A redo would be expensive.

(Teresa Coleman, Civic Club treasurer, took over the meeting as Joe Casarez left to attend the GOMO meeting.)

The small Alba park will be reassessed after the drainage construction is completed, but Civic Club funds could possibly be used (with appropriate vote) for improvements. Some discussion ensued about the Alba construction project. Our narrow streets will be asphalt, not concrete. Check the Garden Oaks web site under Neighborhood for more information about the street work. Also, the March Civic Club meeting will feature an update on the project.

**Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet (GOMM):** Dr. Lindsey Pollock, school principal, stated that completion and move-in to the new three-story building is slated for Spring Break, with the possibility that the new building will be a stop on this year's home tour!

Budget issues dominated her presentation.

HISD has about a \$200 million deficit, due in part to Texas state 'recapture', homestead exemption for seniors, loss of property taxes due to Hurricane Harvey destruction, and loss of students to other school districts.

This deficit has potentially impacted magnet school funding. Currently GOMM receives \$400/child/year. Each class requires an assistant and specialized materials. HISD is considering a cut in magnet school funding.

Magnet programs are increasingly popular. Ten years ago, GOMM had about 400 students and was considered for closure. Currently GOMM has 813 enrolled students, with only 40% actually zoned to Garden Oaks. There are about 1100 applications for the upcoming school year. If you own a home in Garden Oaks, your child is guaranteed a spot in grades K-5.

Dr. Pollock stated that there are discussions, many questions, and unknown ramifications about the GOMM community in light of budget deficits and future funding. Share your opinions with HISD at school board meetings, 4400 W. 18th. Upcoming meetings are February 8 and March 8 ( [www.houstonisd.org](http://www.houstonisd.org) ). Elizabeth Santos is our HISD representative. Continue to monitor local and social media for updates. Know your zoned elementary, middle, and high schools.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for March 6 at 7 pm. The guest speaker will be Bobby Vasek, construction manager for ARKK Engineering, who will give an update on the Alba drainage project. In April, an HCAD rep will discuss property tax protests.

Twenty-five attendees enjoyed Brother's Pizza. Thanks once again to Brother's Pizzeria for providing pizzas for the meeting!

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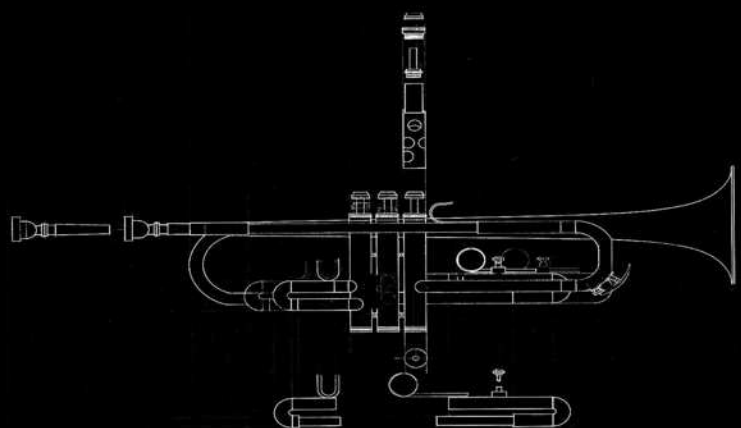
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## An Open letter to the owners of Garden Oaks Section 1:

As your neighbor and member of the Garden Oaks Baptist Church, I am excited to inform you that the church is under contract to sell its parking lot located on the west side of N. Shepherd between Chase Bank and Gabby's BBQ. The church has decided to sell these properties to Gulf Coast Commercial Group, Inc. Gulf Coast's desire is to construct a first-class commercial retail building that will provide the residents of Garden Oaks additional shopping and dining experiences. **To do this, we need your help.**

As you know, Garden Oaks is a deed restricted development outlined by the 1937 Instrument of Restrictions. Among the restrictions specifically applying to Garden Oaks, Section One include that all lots are to be used for residential purposes only, along with a prohibition on the sale of alcoholic beverages. Also included in the restrictions is a prohibition on the use of signs, billboards, posters or advertising devices of any character on any lot in Garden Oaks without prior consent. In 1973, the owners of Garden Oaks, Section One permitted the church to convert the property (Lots 8, 9, 10 & 11) from residential use to church and/or religious use. This property has maintained its status as land for religious use for 45 years but now we believe it is time for a change.

We are issuing this joint letter in conjunction with Gulf Coast in support of a change in the use of the property from church and/or religious use to commercial use. In addition, to provide the neighborhood with new sit-down restaurants, it is encouraged by both parties to have the prohibition of the sale of alcohol amended along with allowing approval of signage to be granted by the Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization. At the time of the sale, a new alcohol restriction will be placed on the property that will limit the sale of alcohol associated with a restaurant to not exceed 50% of total sales. This will allow Gulf Coast to lease to a trendy restaurant purveyor but prevent a bar or parlor establishment including a liquor package store or convenience store selling alcohol for offsite consumption. **We are confident that this new establishment would represent something of which we, in the Garden Oaks community, could be proud.**

To properly amend the restrictions and change the use, Gulf Coast must obtain approval from Garden Oaks, Section One residents. This is somewhat of a cumbersome task, but with your support we can help change this deed restriction to a more current and better use of the property.

Over the next couple of weeks, Gulf Coast will be reaching out to the owners of Garden Oaks, Section One, to give all residents an opportunity to review and approve the amendment. Gulf Coast will organize events in order to collect signatures from the residents of Garden Oaks, Section One. Using the Gazette, social media and additional mailings and flyers, you will be informed of these events.

Should you have any questions regarding the proposed development, the process or would like to participate in the events or suggest more creative ways to bring this development to Garden Oaks, please do not hesitate to reach out to Patrick Barry of Gulf Coast at [p.barry@gulfcoastcgc.com](mailto:p.barry@gulfcoastcgc.com) or by phone at 713-206-4016.

We appreciate your time regarding this matter and look forward to working toward a favorable addition to our community.

Sincerely,

James Coit, Church Clerk at Garden Oaks Baptist Church

Patrick Barry, Vice President of Development at Gulf Coast Commercial Group, Inc.

# Strategies to Help Your Child Feel Safe

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

Unfortunately, violence at schools has become all too common. In just the first two months of 2018 there have been at least 17 cases of gun violence in schools across the United States. This leaves adults reeling and children stressed about their safety both at home and especially at school. Here are some ideas to help you talk with your children and cope with the stress of these tragic events.

## Self-Care Routines and Support Systems

Be sure to take care of yourself so you can help those around you. Talk to your spouse, friend, or family member and work through your feelings before attempting to talk with your child. Be open and honest in your conversations with others so you can be prepared when you speak with your children. Take care of yourself physically to be sure that stress doesn't impact your overall well-being. Walking the dog, yoga, eating healthy, and drinking plenty of water are all strategies to support you.

## Listen to Your Children

Let your kids take the lead. Let them express their ideas and ask the questions on their minds. Sometimes we try to explain too much and we may end up inadvertently scaring them. Ask them if there is anything that they are worried about and then listen to the questions they generate. Children have many sources of information including their peers. Even if you don't allow your children to watch the news, they may very well have heard information at school or at after-school activities.

Remember that your child's feelings are authentic responses to the information they are receiving. Validate their feelings but help them recognize that there are things they can do to be safe. Reviewing your family's safety procedures at home such as your alarm system, evacuation plan, and stranger danger rules will help empower your child. Also remind your child to always report concerns to an adult. "If you see something, say

something" is our message to students at Garden Oaks. Reminding children that we are all working together can also help them feel safe.

Be sure to set aside time each day for screen-free communications with your children. When you are driving in the car, stay off the phone and engage in conversation with your family. When you are picking up your children at school, be sure that you take time to listen to them tell you about their day. Giving your children your undivided attention will make them feel important and open up lines of communication that will last the rest of your lives.

## Practice Positive Thinking and Gratitude Together

Take time each day to share the positive things in your life. Having a roof over your head, food to eat, and clean water are great starting points. Asking your child to acknowledge the positive helps them cope with the stress of current events. This is not in place of difficult discussions but in addition to the concerns. Keeping a daily journal of five positive things is a wonderful way to build a fun memory book for your child and a powerful tool to review on particularly difficult days.

## Provide Assurance

Daily routines are an excellent way to add structure and a sense of safety to your child's day. Planning ahead and arriving to commitments on time also add to a child's sense of safety, as well as staying calm in traffic, and modeling peaceful problem-solving.

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

Classified Ads are \$20 per run for residents, and are for personal services only, e.g. help wanted, items for sale, infant care needed, etc.

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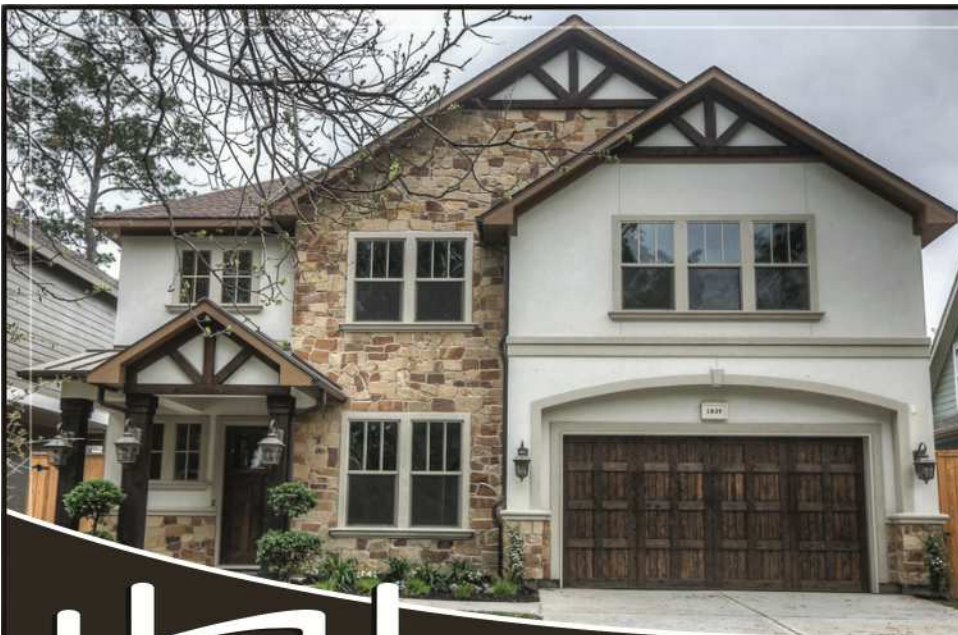
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# Constable Program Update

*Terry Jeanes, Program Chair*

The Civic Club and Constable Program are looking for one or more underwriters for Garden Oaks Constable supporter yard signs.

We are hoping to purchase yard signs to show visible support for the Constable Program. The signs would be 9 x 12 inches in size, like a small alarm company monitoring sign, with a simple "GO Constable" printed on them. Annual stickers would be provided to place on the signs for each yearly renewal. The signs would be distributed to all current supporters who want one and who have paid their \$225 minimum requested contribution for 2018. The signs would be the property of the Civic Club.

The cost is about \$1000 for the signs and annual stickers, and we need to raise those funds before ordering. In return for the underwriting, you/your company/your family would get much promotion in the *Gazette* and on social media as our Official Garden Oaks Constable

Supporter Sign Underwriter(s)! Once we secure the funds, the signs will be ordered and distributed.

Contact [constable@gardenoaks.org](mailto:constable@gardenoaks.org) if you would like to help with underwriting or for more information.

Stay tuned for an announcement coming on March 1st. The information was not available as went to print.

**Calling All Garden Oaks Residents to Support the Constable Program.** Your support is imperative in order to maintain the commitment for the March 1, 2018 – February 28, 2019 contract term for our current two Constable patrol contracts.

Mailers with dues forms were sent out in early November. Please return those promptly. You may pay online at [gardenoaks.org](http://gardenoaks.org) or via the form in the *Gazette*.

**Constable Dispatch:** 713-755-7628

**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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To learn how Erin has helped people *JUST LIKE YOU*, go to [www.erinthole.com](http://www.erinthole.com)

# Citizen Patrol Update

*Carl Waters, Jr., Program Chair*

2018 started on the same quiet note crime-wise with only 4 crimes being listed on the crime report website. Please continue to report suspicious persons or activities to local authorities for investigation.

Please contact me if you are interested in joining the Citizen Patrol program. Any Garden Oaks resident at least 18 years of age is eligible. Program participants must be able to pass a criminal background check conducted by the Houston Police Department. Participants must complete a one-hour training program before they can begin patrolling.

## January Crime Statistics (4)

### *Burglary (1)*

3200 block N. Shepherd Dr. on Wednesday, January 31 at 3:22 am.

### *Burglary Motor Vehicle (2)*

3900 block N. Shepherd Dr. on Wednesday, January 3 at 8:33 am.

3900 block N. Shepherd Dr. on Tuesday, January 23 at 8:16 pm.

### *Robbery (1)*

4100 block N. Shepherd Dr. on Wednesday, January 10 at 2:54 pm.

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.

## 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          |



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## Have you filed your Homestead Exemption?

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

<http://hcad.org/hcad-help/texas-first-time-property-owner/exemptions/>

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### Gazette Advertising Rates/Sizes/Submission Guidelines

| Size                           | Single   | Six Months | Twelve Months |
|--------------------------------|----------|------------|---------------|
| 2 1/4 W x 2 3/8 H              | \$60.00  | \$300.00   | \$580.00      |
| 2 1/4 W x 4 1/4 H              | \$90.00  | \$450.00   | \$870.00      |
| Half Page 7 1/2 W X 4 1/2 H    | \$110.00 | \$550.00   | \$1065.00     |
| Full Page 7 1/2 W x 9 1/2 H    | \$180.00 | \$900.00   | \$1745.00     |
| Half Page Back Cover           | \$150.00 | \$750.00   |               |
| Full Page Back Cover           | \$225.00 | \$1125.00  |               |
| Full-page insert, single-sided | \$280.00 |            |               |
| Full-page insert, double-sided | \$325.00 |            |               |

Please note:

1. Placement of ads is subject to the discretion of the editor.
2. Artwork must be e-mailed to [gazetteads@gardenoaks.org](mailto:gazetteads@gardenoaks.org) by the 15th of each month for publication the following month.
3. Artwork may be submitted in one of the following formats: JPEG (.jpg), PDF (.pdf), GIF (.gif) or TIF (.tif).

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**Christina Gobe**  
Sr. Mortgage Banker  
NMLS #179895  
CGobe@WaterstoneMortgage.com



*Garden Oaks Resident*



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## 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)

832-488-4545

vic.seghers@gardenoaks.org

**Vacant** (2019)**Lori Kennedy** (2020)

713-691-6833

lori.kennedy@gardenoaks.org

## Section 3

**Dea Larson** (2018)

713-695-3634

dea.larson@gardenoaks.org

**Frances Schwartz** (2019)

832-483-1546

frances.schwartz@gardenoaks.org

**Vacant** (2020)

## Section 5

**Kip Noser** (2018)

281-846-5479

kip.noser@gardenoaks.org

**Vacant** (2019)**Vacant** (2020)

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

# Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization (GOMO) 2017 Year End Review

*Pam Parks, GOMO Office Manager*

In 2017 the Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization:

Conducted a total of 53 Plan Reviews for 43 Projects. This represents a modest decline in reviews from 55 in 2015 and an increase from 48 in 2016.

- 28 were approved at first review
- 10 were approved on review after revision
- 2 were not subject to approval
- 3 were informal review only

Reviewed a total of 22 Member Reported Deed Restriction Violations. This reflected a sharp decline from 28 and 27 in 2015 and 2016, respectively.

- 11 were determined not to be violations
- 7 were removed by homeowners at GOMO's request
- 4 are receiving further review

Ended all active Litigation.

- A case involving the subdivision of a Section 1 lot. This case in part ended in 2016 and completed in 2017. This case spanned over 10 years, costing approximately \$30,000.
- Block 40 Section 3. Active litigation in this case ended in the Appeals court January 30, 2018. In six years GOMO spending exceeded \$100,000.

Fiscal Year (11/1/2016-10/30/2017) Financials:

Gross Income \$286,942.73

Expenses \$72,179.72.

The top 4 expenditures in 2017 were:

|              |           |       |
|--------------|-----------|-------|
| Constable    | 25,584.00 | 35.4% |
| Professional | 14,476.50 | 20.0% |
| Legal        | 13,674.74 | 18.9% |
| Rent         | 11,400.00 | 15.8% |
| Total        | 72,179.72 | 90.0% |

Revised Policy on Document Production to exclude:

- Building Plans. This is done to mitigate privacy/security concerns and to protect intellectual property.
- Privileged portions of Attorney Invoices.

# GOMO Ends Court Case

## *GOMO Board of Directors*

As was previously communicated on the website and via social media, the GOMO Board's request for a rehearing before the Fourteenth Court of Appeals in Houston, Texas was denied. The Board had the option to pursue an appeal to the Texas Supreme Court but voted to end the court case rather than spend additional time and funds on legal proceedings with a small chance for success. As stated in the update on the website, "The decision not to seek an appeal to the Texas Supreme Court will result in the Court of Appeals decision... [regarding GOMO's status]... becoming final."

We know you have a lot of questions about the path forward and so do we. As of now, we do not have answers. We are working through some of these questions with Counsel and will update the neighborhood as soon as we are able.

In the meantime, the deed restrictions for all Sections of Garden Oaks remain in place and enforceable other than the 1 or 2 garage limitation in Section 3. That one restriction was declared waived by the courts in 2016.

# GOMO Update, January 2018

## *Pam Parks, GOMO Office Manager*

**Plans were approved for:**  
722 W 30th St

**Revised plans were approved for:**  
1306 Sue Barnett Dr  
805 W 32nd St

### **Deed Restriction Enforcement Activity for January (Year to Date)**

New reported violations – 1(1)

Resolved/cleared – 1(1)

Unresolved/pending – 4 (N/A)

Litigation in progress – 0\* (N/A): \*ruling in Section 3 case becomes final March 16, 2018

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

Minutes of Board Meetings

Litigation Updates

2017 Summary

### **Violations**

3 Number of Violation Actions in progress at start of year.

19 New Violations reported

18 Violations resolved

4 Violation Actions carry over into 2018

### **Board Positions Vacant**

Director positions are currently open in Sections 2 (2 yr. term), 3 (3 yr. term) and 5 (2 yr. & 3 yr. terms). If you are interested in serving, please contact one of your Section Directors or the Office Manager by phone or email (below). We can answer questions and provide proxies to get you started. Elections will be scheduled and notice sent to members only if candidates step forward.

### **GOMO Updates to be Presented at GOCC Monthly Meetings**

Starting in December, GOMO reinstated a regular update to be given at Civic Club meetings. These updates will be short but will provide members the opportunity to ask a few questions and meet some of our GOMO Directors. Homeowners are also invited to attend GOMO Business meetings that take place at **7:00 pm** on the **third Wednesday** of each month.

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](http://gardenoaks.org), residents can find deed restrictions, plan approval information, bylaws, policies, 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, financial reports and audits are also posted for residents who register on the site.

### **Contact:**

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

713-561-3936

[gardenoaks.org](http://gardenoaks.org)

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



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*Julia Wang & Nan and Company Properties /  
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Nancy Almodovar*

# Why Spring Check Ups Can Save You Money

*Mitch Weigand*

One of the most important ways a homeowner can contribute to extending the life of his or her A/C system is to have a yearly inspection done prior to summer. This will help ensure that the unit is prepared to work properly and at maximum efficiency.

Spring inspections can reveal problems while they're still small, enabling your A/C service technician to fix them promptly. This prevents them from becoming bigger, more expensive problems down the road. Did you know if your system is short just one pound of freon (that's about 10% overall), your electrical bill can increase nearly \$50 per month? A well-maintained A/C unit uses less energy to cool your house, and lower energy usage can mean big savings on your monthly utility bill.

Replacing the missing freon and repairing the leak that caused it will cost around \$200-\$350. That's a lot cheaper than buying a new compressor to replace the old one that burned out because of low freon levels. A new compressor can cost 10 times that, around \$3,000 or more. That's a big difference.

Besides looking at freon levels, here's what else needs to be inspected:

## Outside

Check start capacitor and potential relay  
Check compressor contactor  
Check all wiring and connections  
Check condensing coils

## Inside

Check voltage and amperage to all motors with meters  
Check air temperature drop across the evaporator coil  
Check secondary drain pan  
Lubricate all moving parts  
Check and adjust thermostat  
Check filters

Finally, if your A/C check up takes place in the spring, you'll beat the long waits and higher prices that always come with peak-season summer inspections.

*Mitch is the owner of Air Wise.*

Here's what our customers say about us:

**"Within 48 hours, I was chilling again."** *Rick R., River Oaks*

Your Air Wise crew did a spectacular install under really difficult conditions. I appreciate how thorough they were, not to mention the quick response. Within 48 hours, I was chilling out again. Your guys did you proud!



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# Mickey's Minute

*Mickey Morales*

The countdown has started. On March 24th we will be moving across the street to 959 Wakefield Drive with a new setup and look. We will all have white tents and there will be an expanded café area with more tables and chairs. This move will allow us and our customers to park in the spaces surrounding the future Urban Decant Winery on the north side of the street. The Winery build-out should start sometime this late spring or summer. It will also put us in a nicely shaded area before the heat of our Gulf Coast climate comes home to roost.

As I stated last month, this move was not at the request of the winery or Great Heights Brewing Company. I'm restating this because I don't want the neighborhood to get up in arms (think pitchforks and torches) over us being forced to move. Both tenants have said from the beginning that they wanted us to be part of the complex. We believe this is the best for all concerned and guarantees our continued presence on Wakefield. The joke has always been if we kept moving east we

would eventually wind up somewhere on N. Shepherd.

The other advantage of the move is that we may be able to add another vendor or two to our mix. I haven't quite figured out what those new stalls would contain, but it will now be a possibility and most likely be food-related. From the beginning we have strived to remain a farmer's market and not devolve into something that resembles a flea market.

As always, "Come soon, come often and check out our new digs."

## The Farmstand of Greater Heights

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Every Saturday, Rain or Shine

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## 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:**

| <b>Member 1 Information</b> | <b>Member 2 Information</b> |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Name: _____                 | Name: _____                 |
| Email: _____                | Email: _____                |
| Work Phone: _____           | Work Phone: _____           |
| Cell Phone: _____           | Cell Phone: _____           |

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

| <b>Emergency Contact Information</b> | <b>Emergency Contact Information</b> |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Name: _____                          | Name: _____                          |
| Home Phone: _____                    | Home Phone: _____                    |
| 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).

**Mail this form to**

**Garden Oaks Constable Program  
PO Box 10273  
Houston TX 77206**

**or pay online at**

**[www.gardenoaks.org](http://www.gardenoaks.org)**

# MARCH 2018

| sun   | mon | tue  | wed   | thu                            | fri | sat  |
|---|-----|--|---|--------------------------------|-----|--|
| 25 Spring is nature's way of saying, "Let's party!"<br>– Robin Williams | 26  | 27   | 28  | 1                              | 2   | 3 Farm Stand<br>9 AM - 1 PM<br>948 Wakefield   |
| 4   | 5   | 6 GOMO Plan Review<br>6:30 PM<br>Civic Club Meeting<br>7 PM<br>GO Montessori | 7   | 8                              | 9   | 10 Farm Stand<br>9 AM - 1 PM<br>948 Wakefield<br>Garden Club Work Day<br>Friendship Park<br>9 AM |
| 11 Daylight Savings<br>Time Starts                                      | 12  | 13   | 14  | 15 Gazette Article<br>Deadline | 16  | 17 Farm Stand<br>9 AM - 1 PM<br>948 Wakefield<br><br>St. Patrick's Day                           |
| 18  | 19  | 20   | 21 GOMO Meeting<br>7 PM<br>GO Professional<br>Building<br>Suite 216 | 22                             | 23  | 24 Farm Stand<br>9 AM - 1 PM<br>948 Wakefield  |
| 25  | 26  | 27   | 28  | 29                             | 30  | 31 Farm Stand<br>9 AM - 1 PM<br>948 Wakefield  |

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## Garden Oaks 2018 Home & Garden Tour

### Auction Acquisition Form - Deadline April 2, 2018

*The Silent and Live Auction will be held April 28<sup>th</sup>. This year's proceeds benefit the Garden Oaks Montessori Middle School through the Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet PTO, a non-profit organization, EIN: 45-2133035.*

Please return form to [GOhometour.auction@gmail.com](mailto:GOhometour.auction@gmail.com) or mail to Garden Oaks Civic Club, P.O. Box 10273, Houston, TX 77206. **Thank you for your support!**

Donor or Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Donor Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Website: \_\_\_\_\_

Name to Appear in Listing: \_\_\_\_\_

Donor Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Item: \_\_\_\_\_ Retail Value: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of Item: \_\_\_\_\_

Restrictions and/or Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

If donation is a gift certificate: \_\_\_\_\_ Gift Certificate enclosed

\_\_\_\_\_ Please prepare certificate

Item to be delivered: \_\_\_\_\_ When: \_\_\_\_\_ Where: \_\_\_\_\_

Item to be picked up: \_\_\_\_\_ When: \_\_\_\_\_ Where: \_\_\_\_\_

Display Items Available: \_\_\_\_\_

Donor's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Silent Auction Representative: \_\_\_\_\_

Items must be received by April 2, 2018 for recognition in printed materials.

**Thank you for your generous support!**

*We reserve the right to group items unless we receive a specific request from donor.*



## Garden Oaks 2018 Home & Garden Tour

### Donor Benefits

#### \$25 - \$249 Supporter Level

- **Your Company Name** printed as an Auction Supporter in the Garden Oaks *Gazette* (circulation 1400+) through June 2018. The *Gazette* is also posted online at [www.gardenoaks.org](http://www.gardenoaks.org).
- **Your Company Name**, information and web link posted on the **2018 Garden Oaks Home Tour Auction Webpage and the Garden Oaks Tour Facebook page**.

#### \$250 - \$499 Supporter Level

All of the above \$25 - \$249 Donor benefits PLUS:

- **Your Company Name** on a large sign on an easel at the VIP Preview Dinner Party and in front of the Command Center on Tour Day.
- **Two tickets** to the 2018 Home & Garden Tour on April 29, 2018.

#### \$500 - \$999 Supporter Level

All of the above \$250 - \$499 Donor benefits PLUS:

- Your Company Name printed on the 2018 Garden Oaks Home Tour tickets (approximately 1,000).
- Two additional tickets to the 2018 Home & Garden Tour on April 29, 2018.

#### \$1000+ Supporter Level

All of the above \$500 - \$999 Donor benefits PLUS:

- 2 1/4 W x 4 1/4 H advertisement in The Garden Oaks *Gazette* (\$90 value) - - issue to be mutually agreed upon
- Your company's link (in color and w/logo) on the Garden Oaks website through YE 2018

Contribution must be received by April 2, 2018 to make printing deadline. Donations received after printing deadline are still appreciated and every effort will be made to include in printing.

Questions? Email to Auction Chairs: [GOhometour.Auction@gmail.com](mailto:GOhometour.Auction@gmail.com)

*We appreciate all of the support from our many friends in and around the Garden Oaks Community. Thank you for your participation!*

*Stephanie Acosta & Heidi Lozano, Co-Chairs 2018 Silent and Live Auction*



# Garden Oaks 2018 Home & Garden Tour

## SPONSORSHIP RESPONSE FORM

|                          |                        |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Business Name:</b>    |                        |
| <b>Address:</b>          |                        |
| <b>Phone:</b>            | <b>Contact Person:</b> |
| <b>Business website:</b> | <b>Email:</b>          |

**Yes! We look forward to partnering in the 2018  
Garden Oaks Home and Garden Tour at the following level:**

\_\_\_ Platinum \$2,500

\_\_\_ Gold \$1,000

\_\_\_ Silver \$500

\_\_\_ Bronze \$250

### **Payment Options:**

- \_\_\_ Check made payable to Garden Oaks Civic Club is enclosed, attention GOHGT Sponsorship, mail to Garden Oaks Civic Club P.O. Box 10273, Houston TX 77206
- \_\_\_ Pay by Paypal: Enter [www.gardenoaks.org/hometour](http://www.gardenoaks.org/hometour) then click "sponsors" on the side of the page
- \_\_\_ Please send us an invoice to the address above

*Attention: Printing deadline March 15<sup>th</sup>, Please reply soon!* You will receive email confirmation of your gift and information about next steps for advertising from Underwriting Chair. Advertising opportunities begin as soon as payment is received.

To contact the Underwriting Chair, please email [htsponsorships@gardenoaks.org](mailto:htsponsorships@gardenoaks.org).

Thank you for your support!



# Garden Oaks 2018 Home & Garden Tour

**\$2,500**

**Website** - Sponsorship recognition through 12/2018 with link to your website

**Facebook** – Sponsorship recognition on GO 2018 Home & Garden Tour FB Page

**Gazette** – Sponsorship listed in printed Gazette newsletter (circ. 1400 homes) as sponsor through June 2018  
Half page Ad (Value \$110)

**Tickets** – 6 Tickets to Tour (Value \$150)  
4 Tickets to VIP Preview & Sponsor Party (Value \$300)

**Signage** – Single sign at Home/Garden day of tour  
Company handouts & listing on banner at Command Center

**Promotional**- Name printed on Day of Tour Tickets  
Name printed on tour poster (150 distribution)  
Name printed on tour T-shirt (220 distribution)

**\$1,000**

**Website** - Sponsorship recognition through 12/2018 with link to your website

**Facebook** – Sponsorship recognition on GO 2018 Home & Garden Tour FB Page

**Gazette** – Sponsorship listed in printed Gazette newsletter (circ. 1400 homes) as sponsor through June 2018  
2 1/4" W x 4 1/4" H Ad (Value \$90)

**Tickets** – 4 Tickets to Tour (Value \$100)  
2 Tickets to VIP Preview & Sponsor Party (Value \$150)

**Signage** – Shared sign at Home/Garden day of tour  
Company handouts & listing on banner at Command Center

**Promotional**- Name printed on Day of Tour Tickets  
Name printed on tour poster (150 distribution)

**\$500**

**Website** - Sponsorship recognition through 12/2018 with link to your website

**Facebook** – Sponsorship recognition on GO 2018 Home & Garden Tour FB Page

**Gazette** – Sponsorship listed in printed Gazette newsletter (circ. 1400 homes) as sponsor through June 2018  
2 1/4 "W x 2 3/8" H Ad (Value \$60)

**Tickets** – 4 Tickets to Tour (Value \$100)

**Signage** – Shared sign at Home/Garden day of tour

**Promotional**- Name printed on Day of Tour Tickets

**\$250**

**Website** - Sponsorship recognition through 12/2018 with link to your website

**Facebook** – Sponsorship recognition on GO 2018 Home & Garden Tour FB Page

**Gazette** – Sponsorship listed in printed Gazette newsletter (circ. 1400 homes) as sponsor through June 2018

**Tickets** – 2 Tickets to Tour (Value \$50)