



June 2018

Volume 40 Issue 6

Garden Oaks Gazette

The newsletter of the Garden Oaks Civic Club

Update for Ad Hoc Section 1 Commercial Development Committee

*Carrie Arnett and Andrea Joseph, Committee
Co-Chairs*

The Section 1 Commercial Development Committee was formed to address the proposed release of the Section 1 deed restrictions for commercial development of the Garden Oaks Baptist Church's parking lot, which is located in Section 1 on the west side of Shepherd between Chase Bank and Gabby's. The co-chairs of the Committee are Carrie Arnett, a nine-month Section 1 resident on Randall Street, and Andrea Joseph, a five-year resident on W. 31st Street.

The objectives of the Committee include (1) working to deliver information to the neighborhood to decide if the Section 1 homeowners want to release the parking lot from the Section 1 deed restrictions and allow commercial development; (2) outlining a fair process and timeline to make that decision; and (3) if the homeowners agree to the release, identifying what concerns and desires the homeowners have for those lots.

Until the Committee has sufficient time to reach out to the neighborhood, the Committee has asked the developer to stop petitioning for signatures to lift the deed restrictions and has asked homeowners to withhold signing. Our early finding in talking to neighbors is that while commercial development of the land is likely inevitable, the current plans from the developer are not sufficient to enable the homeowners to make a fully informed decision.

On May 10, the Committee met with the developer and a church representative. The developer's representative was Patrick Barry with Gulf Coast Commercial Group (713-292-0948, p.barry@gulfcoastcg.com), and the Church's representative was Jim Coit. At that meeting, the Committee asked for an additional 90 to 120 days to continue reaching out to homeowners; to consult with experts in commercial development; and to engage an independent attorney to craft amendments to the current version of the proposed Declaration of Restrictions, which are intended to run with the land and be enforceable by individual Section 1 homeowners, GOMO (or new re-organized HOA entity that is formed during or after GOMO's bankruptcy), or

(Continued on page 11)

Garden Oaks Civic Club Meeting

Tuesday, June 5, 7 pm
Garden Oaks Montessori
901 Sue Barnett

Topic: City of Houston Deed
Restriction Enforcement

Fourth of July Bicycle Parade

Wednesday, July 4, 9 am
Rick Englert SPARK Park

Citizen Patrol Chair Needed

The program will need a
new chair for 2019. See the
article on page 7 for more
information.

Gazette Volunteer Opportunities

New delivery persons are
needed for several blocks.
See page 9 for blocks that
do not have a deliverer. If no
one volunteers, deliveries
will be delayed for those
blocks.

Please contact Lori Kennedy at
GazetteDelivery@gardenoaks
.org if you are interested in
delivering the *Gazette*.

It's Funny

Joe Muscara, Gazette Editor

Being *Gazette* editor is a funny thing. I often meet people in the neighborhood who don't know who I am, and they'll talk or ask about something that's been in the *Gazette*, sometimes several times. They either didn't read the *Gazette*, they didn't read that part of the *Gazette*, or they just forgot.

I could take that as, "people don't read the *Gazette*, why bother?" But I also get people telling me that they do read and enjoy the *Gazette* and that they appreciate the hard work that goes into it by all the contributors. That means I could assume lots of people or everyone reads the *Gazette*.

The reality is, I can't assume anything. Without really knowing how many of you are reading this, it doesn't do me any good to assume no one is reading it. That's just a good way to get in a bad mood. On the other hand, assuming everyone reads it might get me disappointed when I find out someone doesn't read it.

I prefer to keep at it and not concern myself about who reads it. I hope you do read and like it, but there's only so much I can do about that.

Meanwhile, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our many contributors without whom this would be a much less interesting newsletter, and would probably not have any ads, either. Thanks to our advertisers as well for supporting the *Gazette* and our neighborhood.

Whether you recognize me or not, I'm...

Still the editor

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

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



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Garden Oaks Civic Club Meeting Minutes

Helen Sestak, Secretary

May 1, 2018

Location: Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet (GOMM)

Matt Gannon, Civic Club President, welcomed attendees and called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm.

Guest Speaker

Barry Ward, trained arborist and executive director of Trees for Houston, was the guest speaker. Trees for Houston, founded in 1983, is a private, non-profit organization whose mission is to plant, protect and promote trees throughout the Houston metropolitan area. They plant 20,000–30,000 trees annually. The organization gives trees (sometimes free, sometimes heavily underwritten) to Spark Parks, churches, libraries, and neighborhood organizations that are willing to help plant and water them.

Trees for Houston provided the red buds, cypress, and pines that were planted in Graham Park in Section One about 20 years ago.

GOMM Spark Park trees will be replanted as part of the overall renovation and construction. The Triangle Park right of way on Alba will need major work once the drainage project is complete. Barry will donate trees and labor if Garden Oaks provides irrigation. Trees are guaranteed for two years.

Trees for Houston has recently replaced trees that were impacted by silt/compaction/standing water of Hurricane Harvey. To date, they have donated about \$100,000 toward that effort and will remain active in the fall.

The budget for Trees for Houston is provided by philanthropic, corporate, and private donations.

Business Meeting

A motion to approve the April minutes was made and seconded. New attendees introduced themselves.

Committee Reports

Treasurer's Report: Teresa Coleman provided financial reports and said that Constable Program funding was significantly up compared to this time last year. The GO Constable Supporter yard signs seem to be effective and publicize our endorsement of this good effort.

Preliminary Home Tour financials showed a gross of about \$27,000, with an



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estimated net of \$10,000 to the Civic Club, with some expenses still outstanding. Teresa estimated auction proceeds of about \$11,000 that will support important GOMM middle school programs, including trips to Camp Cullen and Washington, DC.

GOMO: Vic Seghers said that GOMO sponsored two town hall meetings concerning GOMO bankruptcy and the proposed GOBC parking lot sale. Anyone who has paid a transfer fee to GOMO may apply for reimbursement. The bankruptcy court will determine what is valid and will determine a time frame for reimbursement.

Constable Program: No report. There was some discussion about outside security options and the question was raised as to whether we should evaluate the cost/benefits of a security company (such as SEAL) versus the Constable Program. Any paid Constable Program supporter (\$225+) may request a supporter sign at goconstable@gmail.com.

Beautification: Joan Harmon reported that dead plants have been removed and mulch spread in all parks except the Triangle park at Alba and 43rd. Colorful plants and signs were added in many areas prior to the Home Tour. Additionally, the rose garden was cleaned out.

Irrigation systems are not operable in many parks. Ed de Alba and Jim Dicola have initiated an audit on the sprinkler heads. Joan will contact an irrigation company for an estimate to repair or replace systems. Matt reported that we have budgeted money for non-routine beautification items.

Some Spring Fling proceeds were used to clean up the Art Park. Cherry laurel trees were removed, and pervasive poison ivy has been sprayed several times. Nothing will be planted until the poison ivy is killed. This park has no water meter and the City parks department has not been very responsive to requests to provide one.

Garden Oaks Website: Pam Parks reported that the website is stable.

Citizen Patrol: No report.

Membership: No report.

Gazette: Joe Muscara reported the deadline for June *Gazette* articles is May 15. Lori Kennedy asked for delivery captains for specific routes: 200-300 and 400-600 blocks of W 30th, 700 block of W 38th, 700 block of W 43rd, and the 4100-4200 blocks of Apollo. Please volunteer! It is possible that Boy Scouts may help this distribution effort.

Home Tour: No report.

GOMM: Dr. Lindsay Pollock, school principal, said that 21 people toured the school during the home tour. She thanked the GO community for supporting the auction, which has generated some \$12,000 for the middle school.



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Construction is still on schedule. The Wakefield parking lot is slated for a mid-September completion. The Spark Park will be restored to its original condition or better. Trees for Houston may provide trees and services.

Currently, Dr. Pollock must be present to allow use of GOMM facilities.

New Business

HOA Reform Committee

Matthew Houston, section one resident, will lead the new HOA Reform Committee. They plan to review past legal documents and ultimately provide a future HOA-type plan, with bylaws. The committee will be transparent, providing notes from the meetings and making them publicly available.

Currently the group has 2-3 representatives per section, with one person from section 4. They are all volunteers and will be identified in the first public document. The committee plans to give monthly updates at the Civic Club meetings.

Many believe it is critical for this group to be successful and timely, so that deed restrictions can be enforced with minimal violations. During the time period some 18-20 years ago that Garden Oaks did not have an enforcement body, more violations came about because residents were either not willing to report them or did not realize violations were happening. The City typically was not responsive.

Gulf Coast/GOBC parking lot sale

Carrie Arnett reported that the committee is still in the developing stage. She will provide monthly updates at Civic Club meetings. GOMO strives to be neutral and will enforce the deed restrictions if they have the right to do so. Council Member Ellen Cohen and her staff are supporting the neighborhood effort to understand repercussions of development on this lot.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 pm. Next month's meeting is scheduled for June 5 at 7pm. Guest speaker will be Heather Cook, an attorney for the city, who will discuss how deed restriction violations in Garden Oaks are processed.

Twenty-six attendees enjoyed great pizza, generously donated again by Brother's Pizzeria!

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

Citizen Patrol Update

Carl Waters, Jr., Program Chair

As noted below there was a rash of thefts in the 200 block of W. 34th Street in April. In addition to these thefts, the Precinct One Constable's Office sent out an alert with information on a theft that occurred in the 700 block of Sue Barnett Drive in early May. The owner of a property under construction arrived to find two unauthorized vehicles in his driveway. The vehicles fled upon his arrival and the owner discovered chains to a gas line had been cut and 3 pallets of plywood were missing.

Please remain vigilant and report any suspicious behavior to law enforcement.

As I mentioned earlier, this is the last year I will chair the Citizen Patrol. I am looking for someone to step up and head the program starting in January of 2019. You do not have to be a current member of the patrol program, but I would strongly encourage the new person to become one. The position requires a few minutes a month to collect the patrollers' hours. Additional duties are collecting crime statistics from the Houston Police Department's website and preparing a monthly article for the Gazette. Please contact me or a member of the Civic Club Executive Board if you interested in this position.

April Crime Statistics (10)

Burglary (2)

4100 block N. Shepherd Dr. on Thursday, April 5 at 1:20 am
 4100 block N. Shepherd Dr. on Tuesday, April 24 at 4:31 am

Burglary Motor Vehicle (3)

3900 block N. Shepherd Dr. on Sunday, April 1 at 8:40 pm
 3100 block N. Shepherd Dr. on Friday, April 6 at 1:12 pm
 3300 block N. Shepherd Dr. on Monday, April 16 at 1:30 pm

Theft (5)

200 block W. 34th St. on Tuesday, April 3 at 1:50 pm
 200 block W. 34th St. on Wednesday, April 11 at 9:07 pm (Mail)
 200 block W. 34th St. on Sunday, April 22 at 8:43 pm
 200 block W. 34th St. on Monday, April 23 at 10:06 am
 200 block W. 34th St. on Thursday, April 26 at 2:12 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.



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Job Seekers: Are you Maximizing your Job Search?

Brandi R. Muñoz, PHR, SHRM-CP, CPRW

Many job seekers feel they have a good grasp on what they “think” they need to do to find a new job – write a résumé and apply online to job boards. Easy, right? Think again! Finding a new job is an art and very time consuming. The average job seeker will spend over 11 hours a week looking and applying for jobs. Did you know that applying online is only 10%-15% effective in finding your next role? This is because Applicant Tracking Systems (ATS) have smart filters that decline a candidate if they do not meet certain criteria or have a specified number of key words from the job posting in their résumé before a human is able to review the application.

There are many free job seeker resources available on

the internet, if you have time to search and sift through the information. However, I have put together a top 5 list of what you can do to help maximize your job search and start seeing better results now:

1) Customize your résumé for each job posting. Key words from each job posting must be listed in your résumé to get through the application process. On the flip side, do not put anything on your résumé that you don't have experience doing or can't justify why it is listed.

2) Key skills need to be listed at the top of your résumé. Recruiters and hiring managers spend an average of 6 seconds or less skimming a résumé. The most important information needs to be focused on the top half, so they can easily review it.

3) Submit a customized cover letter. There are mixed schools of thought on the importance of a cover letter, but you never know who is going to read it and what impact it could have on your application. Especially if you don't have a strong résumé, your cover letter could be the tipping point to get an interview.



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4) Network, network, network! 51% of recruiters say social media has changed how they do recruiting. This means that having connections on LinkedIn, Facebook, and other social media sites can help boost your presence to recruiters. Start with friends, family, and current/former colleagues and begin adding those connections to your profiles. Make sure you customize your message and let them know why you want to connect. Remember to thank anyone that gives you a referral for a job and pay it forward if you get hired!

5) Develop an exit and positioning statement. Your "exit" statement is why you left your last role or why you want to leave. Your "positioning" statement is who you are as a professional and what value you bring to the table. Prepare both statements in advance and be able to recite these seamlessly in writing or verbally. Be careful not to be negative or bad mouth prior employers, as this will automatically get you rejected from the process.

Brandi Munoz is a Professional Résumé Writer and Career Coach for People Culture Consulting.

Gazette Volunteer Opportunities

New delivery persons are needed for the following blocks. If no one volunteers, deliveries will be delayed for those blocks.

Section 1:
200-300 blocks West 30th
400-600 blocks West 30th

Section 2:
700 block West 38th
700 block West 43rd

Section 3:
800 block West 43rd

Section 5:
4100-4200 blocks Apollo

Please contact Lori Kennedy at
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Home Tour Auction Wrap-Up

Stephanie Acosta and Heidi Lozano, Co-Chairs

The Silent Auction held in conjunction with the Garden Oaks Home and Garden Tour VIP Preview Party was a huge success! We raised over \$12,000. Thank you to all the donors, auction item buyers, and many volunteers. Proceeds of the auction will benefit the 2018-2019 class of the Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet Middle School and will be used for much needed classroom materials and community building events, as well as providing scholarships for end of year field trips to 6th and 7th grade overnight camp and 8th grade to Washington DC. The following is our final list of all auction donors. Be sure to frequent these businesses and let them know we appreciate their support.

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- Harriet & Joe Foster YMCA
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\$500 - \$999 Supporter Level

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- Lost Forest Tennis Club

\$250 - \$499 Supporter Level

- Ace Tree Specialist
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- Discover Gymnastics
- Ed & Brenda de Alba
- Experimac – The Heights
- Language Kids World
- Lindsey & Bobby Pollock
- Montessori Consulting Services
- Omniverse VR (A Virtual Reality Arcade)
- Sheila Briones
- The House Manager
- The Law Office of Tony E. Parada

\$25 - \$249 Supporter Level

- 6 Degrees
- AATB Pilates
- Another Place in Time and Mike Lowery
- Backstreet Café, Caracol, Hugo's and Xochi
- Becks Prime Restaurants
- Berryhill Baja Grill & Cantina Oak Forest and in the Heights
- Big Blue Whale Toys
- Buchanan's Native Plants
- Cathy Crawford
- Constable Alan Rosen, Harris County Precinct One
- Devin Hunter of Upgrade Your Happy

- Edible Arrangements Oak Forest
- Emma Moon, Ranch to Kitchen and Cake and Bacon
- Eureka Heights Brewing Company
- Fat Cat Creamery
- Garden Oaks 4th of July Parade Committee
- Garden Oaks Wine Walk Committee
- Gelazzi Gelato + Pizza
- Great Heights Brewing Company
- Green Chiropractic
- Hai Hospitality, Uchi and Uchiko
- Houston Polo Club
- Hunter Dance Center
- Joshua's Native Plants
- Juice Girl
- Karbach Brewing Company
- Karen Stokes Dance
- Katz Coffee
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- Liberation Gluten-Free Bakery
- Lozano Family
- Mad Science of Houston
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- Proud Garden Oaks Resident Maria Aimone of Mapowatercolors.com
- Rainbow Lodge
- Rockin 'R' River Rides
- Saint Arnold Brewing Company
- Sign Gypsies
- Stages Repertory Theatre

- Statesman Beverage Co.
- Sweet Frog
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- The Spaghetti Western Italian Café
- University of Houston College of the Arts School of Theatre & Dance
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property lines; specified pick-up times and location of dumpsters; erection of a sound-barrier wall and landscaping between the commercial development and adjacent residential property; and no drive-thru or pick-up windows. Additional concerns presented were increased traffic without road improvements and the process for verification of signatures, if the homeowners agree to go forward.

We have asked the developer for detailed renderings of the proposed commercial development. We envision that the next step will be for the developer to provide the Committee with (1) proposed renderings that we can present to Section 1 homeowners and (2) an initial response to the neighborhood’s concerns and considerations.

If you are a Section 1 homeowner or resident and would like to be included on e-mail updates of the Committee, please e-mail your contact information to GOSec1Neighbors@gmail.com or call Carrie Arnett at 281-686-3272 or Andrea Joseph at 832-324-9903. The Committee also welcomes any ideas or concerns that you may have for the proposed release of deed restrictions and commercial development.



(Section 1 Commercial Development Committee—Continued from page 1)

the Church. The Committee also presented the neighborhood’s initial concerns and considerations for the development itself such as height, light, and noise restrictions; setbacks from the adjacent residential



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Constable Program Update

Terry Jeanes, Program Chair

Thank you to the neighbors who have stepped up with their 2018 Constable Supporter contributions.

More and more GO Constable Supporter signs are being displayed all around the neighborhood, and we're glad to see such support! You too can display a supporter sign by contributing the minimum requested donation of \$225 for this year. The signs are 9 X 12 in size. Displaying them is purely voluntary, but it seems to be helpful in getting new supporters to join the program.

Thanks again to Section 4 resident Patrick Murphy of Murphy & Vickers PC for underwriting the signs. If you are paid and haven't yet received a sign but would like one, please email goconstable@gmail.com and one will be delivered. It's never too late to join the program.

As we go to press, we have some 290 constable supporters. That's an increase of 66 supporters just since March 1!

Please do your part and help us raise funds to cover our two contracts with Harris County Precinct One. Each contract provides 40 hours of professional law enforcement patrolling in our neighborhood. But, each contract also costs about \$77,000, and these are paid entirely by contributions from Garden Oaks residents. We definitely need more supporters to keep the Constable Program funded.

Don't know if you've paid for this year or not? The current list is posted at gardenoaks.org.

Wish list: An individual or business to construct Membership Thermometer Signs to be displayed in the neighborhood. Email constable@gardenoaks.org for information.

Become a Constable Program supporter:
www.gardenoaks.org

Constable Dispatch: 713-755-7628

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

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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: _____
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Payment Options

- [] Enclosed find my payment for 2018 of \$225. (Make checks payable to **Garden Oaks Civic Club**.)
- [] I/We cannot contribute \$225 now; however, enclosed please find my/our check for \$ _____.
- [] I/We will pay online (see below).

Many of our neighbors live on limited, fixed incomes. Are you willing to sponsor a neighbor?

- [] Yes! Please accept my additional gift of \$ _____ for the year (enclosed).

Mail this form to

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or pay online at

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Home Tour 2018 Photos





Your neighborhood lender can guide you through the mortgage loan process.



CONTACT ME TO GET STARTED

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Sr. Mortgage Banker
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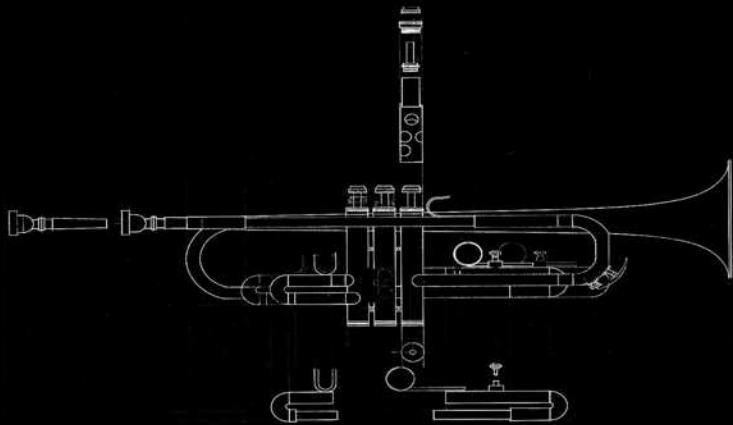
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Success – Talent or Hard Work?

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

Futurists predict that in twenty years, many of today's jobs and current technology will be obsolete. Educators, legislators, economists, and business leaders are concerned that we are not preparing children for the demands of tomorrow, not just with the foundational skills, but also with the social and emotional skills to think creatively and to be willing to take risks and bounce back from "failure." In the words of Piaget (president of Switzerland's first Montessori society), "... education means making creators... You have to make inventors, innovators, not conformists." Therefore, embedding opportunities to create and innovate are new focus areas for schools and parents. Research on talent versus hard work is showing that people who persevere and who are willing to take the road less traveled may have an edge on the types of jobs we will see in the future. What we can do to foster perseverance and creativity in our children?

Makerspaces are relatively new in schools across the country. In fact, when I visited schools in China, this was one of the most popular ideas they were attributing to American educators. A makerspace is an area in a school that is designed to encourage students to tinker, explore and create. It is not solely a science lab, woodshop, computer lab, or art room, but it may contain some elements found in all of these familiar spaces. They are designed to accommodate a wide range of activities, tools, and materials. Diversity and cross-pollination of activities are key to the design, in order to make the exploration process the core activity. This is what sets makerspaces and Science Technology Engineering Art and Math (STEAM) labs apart from single-use spaces. In the new spaces of our Garden Oaks' rebuild, we have areas designated to incorporate makerspace elements into our robotics and science labs.

Bounce, by Matthew Syed (2010) outlined the science of success and the notion that talent is a myth. Instead, the author reviews the complexities of talent with practice and perseverance being the most important factors of

excellence. While he contended that there are some individuals who seemingly have predispositions from an early age, these tendencies soon fade without encouragement, coaching and practice. Syed referenced Malcom Gladwell's *Outliers* (2008) and Colvin in *Talent is Overrated* (2008) in which the authors described the culmination of practice is usually realized as excellence after 10,000 hours of specialized practice. This is usually a rate of 1,000 hours per year over 10 years. Of course there are exceptions, such as fields that are emerging or where there are few people competing or implementing a technique. The most important take away in this book is the importance of encouraging your child to practice to realize their full potential in an area. Whether is it reading, math, an instrument, or sport, practice really does make perfect (or at least a lot better)! This is one reason teachers see students struggle each year after summer "vacation" and spend the beginning of each year reviewing where we left off the year before. Think about taking a two month break from your job and returning — I have heard adults complain they forget a password on the computer after a long weekend!

In *The Learning Brain: Memory and Brain Development in Children* by Torkel Klingberg, MD, PhD (2013), Klingberg and his colleagues at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden studied Cognitive Neuroscience in children around the world. He had found that just as physical exercise is good for our bodies, so is mental exercise beneficial to brain function. His research has spanned the increased ability to memorize and recall information by practicing these skills as well as improving children's ability to self-regulate which is especially promising for children diagnosed with ADHD. Some of the techniques they cited to improve memory and impulsivity included playing games with others (board games and interactive/team sports) and learning to play an instrument or learning a new language. All of these involved practice, immediate feedback and perseverance.

How to Think Like Leonardo da Vinci: Seven Steps to Genius Every Day by Michael Gelb (1998) offers additional insight. Most of us can subscribe to the idea that practice can support academic knowledge, but can you learn or practice creativity and why is it important? Klingberg's book ended with his summary of "X prizes" in various industries — prizes for innovation and creativity to take fields of science and business beyond the current limits

to an even greater efficiency and profit. Gelb provided a series of exercises and techniques to support creative thinking through daily practice to support enhanced brain-body connections and functioning. He advised that da Vinci focused on seven elements for his success. They included a sense of curiosity and wonder, a willingness to receive feedback and review personal performance, daily practice to sharpen the five senses, seeing opportunity to embrace and explore uncertainty, a balance of art and science, a balance of body and mind, and finally a desire to “put it all together” by continually asking “why” about the world around him. These strategies can support a plan of personal development through implementation in daily activities. For a family, setting goals and practicing these da Vinci techniques can strengthen family routines and relationships. Everyone, young and mature, can benefit from practicing the techniques mentioned in these books. Remember, practice makes better!

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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.

974 Althea	906 Gardenia	1411 Sue Barnett
307 West 31st	805 West 31st	212 West 32nd
813 West 32nd	806 West 41st	951 West 41st
1027 West 41st	1063 West 41st	931 West 42nd
1070 West 42nd		

Happy Birthday

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

Out and About

Al Thomas and **Dea Larson** enjoyed a Baltic cruise.

There were several GO Moms in the Astros crowd on Mother's Day including **Marissa Zindler** with family, and **Deanna Zugheri** with family.

Hamilton fit the bill for many in recent weeks including **Amy and Claire Shaughnessy**, **Jayne Maltbie** and **Kari Noser** and daughters, **Marissa Zindler**, and **Gina Greenslate**.

Congratulations

To **Connor O'Guynn** on his 2nd Degree Black Belt.

To **Evan Weltin** on his recent induction into the National Junior Honor Society.

To **Shellye Arnold** on her new ride.

Special thoughts for the Odinet family on the loss of their pup Molly.

Well wishes and continued recovery to both **Sandy Altman** and **Terry Jeanes** from their recent surgeries.

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

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A/C Facts - True or False? Part One

Mitch Weigand

It's more efficient to let your A/C run throughout the day at a higher temperature than to turn it off and then re-cool your home once you arrive in the evening.

True. Turning your A/C off when you leave home during the day will cost you more and take longer to cool once you return in the evening. Keep the system on, but raise the temperature no higher than five degrees above your normal setting.

Installing any size energy-efficient air conditioner will save you money.

False. Installing an energy-efficient A/C helps, but only if sized correctly. If your A/C is too big for your home, it will not remove humidity effectively and you wind up with air that's cool but also damp and clammy. If the A/C is too small, it will struggle to keep your room cool and never really cycle off.

Change your filter when you feel like it. Once a month, once a year, whatever.

False. The A/C system depends on unimpeded air flow to cool your home efficiently. A clean filter removes dust and pollutants before they reach the evaporator unit in your attic. A dirty filter restricts air flow, which also stresses the compressor in the outside condensing unit. The number one reason for premature failure of compressors is a dirty filter. Use pleated filters, which are now the industry standard, and change your filter once a month during the summer.

Leaving a ceiling fan on while you're gone will help cool a room.

False. Ceiling fans cool people, not rooms. They circulate the air, thus creating a draft that makes you feel cooler by evaporating the moisture on your skin. During the summer, make sure your fan is set to run counter-clockwise so it directs air downward to create a breeze.

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GOMO Board of Directors

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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.

GOMO Update, April 2018

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

- 871 W 42nd St
- 428 W 34th St

Revised plans were approved for:

- 871 W 42nd St

Pending (re) submission:

- None

Deed Restriction Enforcement Activity for April (Year to Date)

New reported violations – 0(1)

Resolved/cleared – 0(1)

Unresolved/pending – 4 (N/A)

Litigation in progress – 0 (N/A)

Special Meeting/Election Section 5

A special Meeting of Section 5 members has been called for June 20 at 7:00 pm for the election of Director(s) for the vacant 3 and/or 2 year term positions. Douglas Rude has stepped up to run for one of the two open positions. Any other section 5 members interested can declare their candidacy; contact section 5 director, Kip Noser, Pam Parks (GOMO office manager), or Mark Saranie.

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 interested, please contact one of your Section Directors or the Office Manager by phone or email (below). We can answer questions and provide proxies. Elections will be scheduled and notices sent to members only if candidates step forward.

GOMO Bankruptcy Information is posted on the home page of gardenoaks.org.**Contact:**

The Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization

4001 N Shepherd Dr, Suite 216

Houston, TX 77018

713-561-3936

manager@gardenoaks.org

HOA Reform Committee Meeting

Matthew Houston, Chair

May 10, 2018, 7-9 pm

Victor Seghers began the meeting shortly after 7 o'clock and said that he believed it was in the best interest of the group for this committee to be run by new neighbors so as to avoid past biases of what has transpired with GOMO. Victor introduced Matthew Houston to lead the meeting and the group going forward.

Matthew introduced himself and explained that the focus will be to define a vision/mission of the Home Owners Association (HOA) to be formed that will best represent the owners of the Garden Oaks neighborhood. In order to better understand what other Houston HOAs look like, Kathy Chang agreed to meet with attorney Casey Lambright to discuss average HOA fees as well as the cost associated with reforming an HOA. Casey is of the opinion that most HOAs need an average cash balance of \$30,000 to sustain themselves if they are not offering amenities such as a pool or community center. He said it would cost roughly \$2-3K to draft a new set of deed restrictions and \$15-20K to re-do the whole HOA. Casey does not think the judge will give us money to reform. He suggested we amend our current documents and keep each section's deed restrictions separate, which would require 67-75% agreement for this to be approved. There needs to be a solid understanding of the actual percentages required for approval in each section.

Matthew discussed the option of using a survey to gather input from GO property owners before we begin drafting. It was also mentioned that GOMO may know soon if they have budget approval from the judge to resume quarterly mailings. If so, this committee may have access to these funds for mailing out the survey. Pam Parks (GOMO Office Manager) has a directory but it does not have email addresses so we will have a hard time doing an online survey.

Cathy Land said that she does not understand why the HOA has to be separate from the Civic Club and many people agreed. One solution discussed may be to have a sub-committee of the Civic Club called the Architectural Committee that will focus on deed restriction enforcement.

There was no agreement as to what a fair assessment fee should be for the newly formed HOA, but everyone seemed in favor of much lower fees than those currently imposed, as long as the fees were enough to cover legal funds for enforcing deed restrictions.

Possible survey questions included:

1. Does the neighborhood want separate entities as it is now or do they want the HOA to join with the Civic Club?
2. Should assessment fees cover only deed restriction enforcement or should they also cover additional amenities (such as the Constable Program, neighborhood beautification, etc.?)
3. With changing economic times would you be in favor of amending the by-laws of the HOA to allow for changing assessment fees as necessary to represent what is deemed fair by the members of the neighborhood through a vote by the neighborhood with 75% approval needed?
4. How long should terms be on the Architectural Committee? 1,2, or 3 years? Should there be term limits?
5. Should the new HOA accept money from GOMO in order to pay for the legal cost to reform?

More discussion of what a fair assessment fee would be was discussed and the range was from \$500 to roughly \$2000.

In closing the meeting, Matthew said the next step will be meeting with the Civic Club and discussing a possible collaboration and also gathering their input. We will be working on the survey via chain email between now and the next meeting in two weeks. Matthew thanked everyone for attending and the meeting was adjourned.

JUNE 2018

sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
27 My father gave me the greatest gift anyone could give another person, he believed in me. — Jim Valvano	28	29	30	31	1	2 Farm Stand 9 AM - 1 PM 949 Wakefield
3	4	5 GOMO Plan Review 6:30 PM Civic Club Meeting 7 PM GO Montessori	6	7 Garden Club Meeting 7 PM Kroger Upstairs Meeting Room 1352 W 43rd	8	9 Farm Stand 9 AM - 1 PM 949 Wakefield
10	11	12	13	14 Flag Day	15 Gazette Article Deadline	16 Farm Stand 9 AM - 1 PM 949 Wakefield
17 Father's Day	18	19 Juneteenth	20 GOMO Meeting 7 PM GO Professional Building Suite 216	21	22	23 Farm Stand 9 AM - 1 PM 949 Wakefield
24	25	26	27	28	29	30 Farm Stand 9 AM - 1 PM 949 Wakefield



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