## Garden Oaks Gazette

The newsletter of the Garden Oaks Civic Club

# Constable Program Update

Terry Jeanes, Program Chair

With the recent robbery at gunpoint at Apollo and Lamonte of two neighbors walking in the evening, along with an increase in overall crime in the neighborhood per HPD crime reports, supporting the Constable Program is more important now than ever. If your name is not on the list of current Constable Program supporters, what are you waiting for? Do not wait until you become a victim in order to join. (Current subscribers as of 6/4/18 can be found listed at gardenoaks.org.)

Thank you to the neighbors who have stepped up with their 2018 Constable Supporter Contributions. Our current roster shows 306 supporters and 7 people have joined since the list was posted. That's a total of 313 residents or only 22% of the neighborhood paying for the Constable Program. It's up to you!

Constable Program At Risk: Each contract with Harris County Precinct 1 Constable's Office provides 40 hours weekly of professional law enforcement patrolling in our neighborhood. But, each contract costs some \$77,000 annually. The Civic Club has contracted for 2 constables, which provides 80 hours of patrolling a week.

The current two deputy contracts expire at the end of February 2019. **Unless** we get additional supporters, the Civic Club will only have funds to pay for one constable contract next year, rather than the 2 contracts we currently have.

The Constable Program benefits every one of us living in Garden Oaks. It doesn't matter if you own or rent nor what section in which you live. The deputies patrol all areas of Garden Oaks and provide fast response time when situations arise. We all should care about the safety and security of the neighborhood. If your name is missing from the supporter list, please join via gardenoaks.org/constable. Anyone can pay online or mail in a check with the form in this month's *Gazette*.

**New Opportunity to Pledge**: For GOMO transfer fee claimants as well as section 4 residents. You now have an opportunity to pledge your funds back to the Garden Oaks Civic Club for the purposes of the Constable Program via http://www.go-pledge.org/. Please, if you paid a transfer fee since 2002, and benefitted from the Constable Program that GOMO surplus funds were able to support, make your claim and pledge it back to the community Constable

### Garden Oaks Civic Club Meeting

Tuesday, July 10, 7 PM Garden Oaks Montessori 901 Sue Barnett

Topic: GOMO Bankruptcy Update

(Note this meeting is being held on the second Tuesday)

# Fourth of July Bicycle Parade

Wednesday, July 4, 9 AM Rick Englert SPARK Park

### Wine Walk Constable Program Fundraiser

Saturday, October 20 4 - 6:30 PM 744 W 43rd

#### Citizen Patrol Chair Needed

The program will need a new chair for 2019. See the article on page 6 for more information.

# Gazette Volunteer Opportunities

New delivery persons are still needed for three blocks. See page 8 for blocks that do not have a deliverer.

# GO Reform Committee Update

### Matthew Houston, Ad Hoc Committee Chair

The Garden Oaks Reformation Committee (GO Reform) has been working the past two months to devise a plan for a new home owners' association (HOA) that will better serve the neighborhood. Careful consideration has been taken to provide full transparency of our efforts and to ensure that anyone interested in contributing has a voice and is heard.

The group currently consists of eight to ten active members. We are in the draft stages of creating a survey to send to all homeowners to get input on the preferred direction and structure of the formation of a new HOA. Current goals are to keep the survey questions to a minimum, focus on process and not individual deed restriction issues, and create a survey text that will ensure sufficient detail to make an informed decision and encompass relevant topics. We strongly encourage input from the neighborhood to improve the survey's quality and content prior to mailing. So again, your comments are encouraged and welcomed. Comments or questions can be sent to mhouston@wundernet.com.

At a minimum we ask for your support by responding to the survey. Both your answers and a representative response rate are critical to determining if we are addressing the foremost topics. Your opinions and concerns will guide us going forward. We intend to mail out the survey via USPS by mid-summer and hope to share results by late summer.

In parallel, our group is soliciting names for attorneys who can assist in the formation of a new HOA. We plan to interview attorneys over the summer, with possible retention pending results of the survey. Funding is an obvious issue, but the objective is to do as much work now to be prepared when funding becomes available.

#### Civic Club Officers

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

Vice President – Joe Casarez 713 398 7133 411 W. 34th vicepresident@gardenoaks.org

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

Secretary – Helen Sestak 832 212 4555 1026 Althea secretary@gardenoaks.org

#### Committee Chairs

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

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

Constable Program – Terry Jeanes 713 812 9154 922 West 41st constable@gardenoaks.org

Home & Garden Tour – Katy Hall Wyly 713 907 7652 hometour@gardenoaks.org

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

#### **Gazette** Contacts

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Delivery Coordinator – Lori Kennedy 713 691 6833 750 Sue Barnett gazettedelivery@gardenoaks.org

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.

## Save the Date for the Wine Walk!

### Dian Austin, Committee Chair

Be sure to save Saturday, October 20, 2018 for our premier Constable Program fundraiser, the Wine Walk, a wine and food tasting extravaganza. You don't want to miss this one! We will have 12-13 table hosts stationed throughout the huge and lavishly landscaped backyard of Ed and Brenda de Alba at 744 W. 43rd. Only 200 tickets will be sold, and we sell out every year. All funds raised will go to the Garden Oaks Civic Club to help pay for our two Constable Program contracts. Tickets will go on sale September 1 on Eventbrite, and via a form in the *Gazette*.

Our theme this year is "Cheers to Ten Years" as this will be the 10th Annual Garden Oaks Wine Walk. We will be celebrating Wines of the World and honoring those sponsors and table hosts who have made the ten-year journey with us. And this year, we are adding a Wine Pull!

#### Why we have the Wine Walk

The short answer is that we have a fundraiser each year because the Constable Patrol Program is woefully underfunded. The GO Civic Club currently has two contracts with Harris County Precinct One Constable's office. Each contract provides 40 hours weekly of a deputy patrolling our neighborhood. Each contract costs about \$77,000 annually. The contracts are paid for entirely from contributions from Garden Oaks residents. Currently there are only 312 residents who pay the minimum requested \$225 to support the program, out of some 1430+ homes. The Wine Walk is necessary to help raise additional funds.

#### Want to Sponsor?

Meanwhile, we are actively seeking sponsors for this year's event. Over the past nine years, we have raised more than \$160,000 for the Constable Program, and the majority of that was from cash sponsorships. Sponsorships will be available at the \$300, \$500, \$1000, and \$1500 levels. Each level has different benefits, including signage, Wine Walk tickets, free *Gazette* ads, and other PR perks. Benefits are detailed at gardenoaks.org/wine-walk. Sponsorships can currently be purchased online as well, so please sign up soon and advertise your support for our Constable Program!

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













# Garden Oaks Civic Club Meeting Minutes

Joe Casarez, Vice-President

June 12, 2018

Location: Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet School (GOMM) 901 Sue Barnett

Vice-President Joe Casarez welcomed attendees and called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

**Guest Speaker**: Heather Cook, Assistant City Attorney, City of Houston, discussed how the City of Houston approaches deed restriction enforcement. She started off with a definition of what makes up a deed restriction. It is a covenant. It runs with the property. It affects the owners or tenants of real property and it limits the use of properties within the subdivision. Commonly, deed restrictions may be enforced by property owners within the subdivision, a homeowners' association or a civic club, or the City Attorney may enforce some deed restrictions.

The filing of a complaint with the City is the first step: either calling in (832-393-6333) or emailing (drcomplaints@houstontx.gov) or via the City's website (http://houstontx.gov). Once a complaint is filed, the City Attorney begins an investigation. After validating the complaint and gathering supporting information, the City sends a warning letter explaining the violation, deadline for compliance and liability for civil penalties. If compliance does not occur, then evidence is gathered to support the non-compliance and the process moves into the final phase which is litigation unless settlement negotiations are ongoing. Ms. Cook stated that most violations cease with a warning letter. She emphasized that not every investigation will result in litigation. A round of questions and answers ended the speaker's time.

#### Approval of Minutes from May 2018 Meeting

A motion to approve the minutes of the May 2018 meeting was made by Ed de Alba and seconded by Vic Seghers. The minutes were approved.

#### **Committee Reports**

**Treasurer's report**: Teresa Coleman presented copies of the May 2018 Treasurer's report. It did not include the results of the GO Home Tour but Teresa said that the event netted \$10,495.43. The Home Tour committee will report to the Civic Club board on recommendations on ways to improve future events.

Constable Program: Terry Jeanes reported that officer Bowden has switched positions with Heights deputy Chris Byrd. The incident about the GO neighbors held up at gunpoint while walking the neighborhood (Lamonte/Apollo) was mentioned. Terry reminded residents to use vacation watches when you are going out of town. Pledges to build "thermometer" signs for

Constable Program membership are being gathered. Four signs are being sought to place around the neighborhood. Terry encouraged us to speak to our neighbors about supporting the Constable Program to keep our two current patrols.

**Beautification**: Joan Harmon said the City of Houston has shut off the water at two parks and that the irrigation system needs to be repaired. She will talk with the Spring Fling committee to make recommendations for the Civic Club members to vote on regarding use of Spring Fling funds.

Garden Oaks website: Pam Parks reported that the website is continuously updated with information on the GOMO bankruptcy. If you cannot find something regarding the bankruptcy, send an email to webmaster@gardenoaks.org. A pledge board has been posted on the site for those residents who wish to pledge a refund of possible transfer fee monies they might receive to be utilized for the Civic Club, Constable Program, Beautification or a future HOA.

**Citizen Patrol**: Carl Waters, Jr. said that 22 crimes have been reported in the last month, which is the highest on record in a long time. Carl is retiring as head of the Citizen Patrol at the end of the year and is looking for a volunteer to take on the position.

**Membership**: Brenda de Alba (for Dian Austin) reported that out of some 1400 homes in GO, Civic Club membership is currently at 254 (274 in 2017) and Constable Program membership is at 309 (359 in 2017). The 2018 Wine Walk, the annual Constable Program fundraiser, will be held October 20th with tickets going on sale September 1st. This is the 10th year of the Wine Walk. Only 200 tickets will be sold and all proceeds support the Constable Program.

*Gazette*: Joe Muscara stated that the deadline for submissions to the *Gazette* is the 15th of every month. Volunteers are still needed to deliver the *Gazette* on W. 43rd and W. 30th. Email gazettedelivery@gardenoaks.org if you are interested in volunteering.

**GO Reform**: Matthew Houston said the committee will be generating survey questions to determine if the neighborhood wants an HOA. The survey questions will be both mailed and available online when it is rolled out.

Section 1 Commercial Development: Carrie Arnett and Andrea Joseph provided an update on the GO Baptist Church parking lot sale that requires the removal of the existing deed restrictions from the property. The group met with the developer (Gulf Coast Commercial Group) on May 10th where they presented preliminary concerns and discussed those specifics (height restrictions, hours of operation, etc.) and also included the idea of contributions to the Constable Program. Initial concessions by the developer include paying to verify signatures that are collected and that there will not be a drive-thru business in this location. They are waiting to hear back from the developer regarding renderings for the site. The committee has also met with an attorney to review the proposed declaration of restrictions created between Gulf Coast and GO Baptist Church. An urban planner was also consulted for input on how to lessen the impact of the development on the neighborhood.



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### **Emergency Numbers**

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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 in the month of May. These thefts along with the other reported crimes resulted in one of the busiest months I can remember in the 24 years I have been involved with the Citizen Patrol Program. In fact, there have been entire years where we have not had this much reported crime. If you have time to volunteer, I strongly encourage you to join this program. And, please contribute to the Constable Patrol program to help keep our neighborhood safer.

As always please remain vigilant and report any suspicious behavior to law enforcement.

As I mentioned last month, this is the last year I will chair this program. I am looking for someone to become program chair 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 volunteers' patrolling 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 civic club officer if you are interested in this position.

#### May Crime Statistics (22)

Aggravated Assault (1)

3400 block N. Shepherd Dr. on Tuesday, May 15 at 5:57 a.m.

Auto Theft (3)

3400 block N. Shepherd Dr. on Saturday, May 19 at 6:29 a.m. 700 block W. 32nd St. on Thursday, May 24 at 9:04 a.m. 3800 block N. Shepherd Dr. on Friday, May 24 at 7:07 p.m.

Burglary (1)

1500 block Sue Barnett Dr. on Saturday, May 19 at 12:30 p.m.

Burglary Motor Vehicle (1)

3900 block N. Shepherd Dr. on Monday, May 7 at 2:54 p.m.

Robbery (2)

4100 block N. Shepherd Dr. on Friday, May 4 at 7:24 a.m. 4000 block N. Shepherd Dr. on Wednesday, May 23 at 5:35 p.m.

Theft (14)

200 block W. 34th St. on Wednesday, May 2 at 4:37 p.m.

1000 block of Althea Dr. on Thursday, May 3 at 2:25 p.m. 1000 block of Lamonte Ln. on Thursday, May 3 at 3:56 p.m.

3400 block of N. Shepherd Dr. on Friday, May 4 at 6:41 p.m.

700 block of Sue Barnett Dr. on Saturday, May 5 at 7:55 a.m.

200 block W. 34th St. on Saturday, May 12 at 8:01 p.m. 200 block W. 34th St. on Thursday, May 17 at 9:15 p.m. 200 block W. 34th St. on Wednesday May 23 at 6:03 a.m. 4000 block N. Shepherd Dr. on Monday, May 28 at 6:49 p.m.

200 block W. 34th St. on Monday, May 28 at 7:18 p.m. 200 block of W. 34th St. on Tuesday, May 29 at 5:15 a.m. 4000 block of N. Shepherd Dr. on Thursday, May 31 at 3:05 a.m.

200 block of W. 34th St. on Thursday May 31 at 5:16 a.m. 200 block of W. 34th St. on Thursday May 31 at 2:28 p.m.

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.

# Can You See Your House Numbers?

Constable Alan Rosen, Harris County Constable Precinct 1

When you have lived at the same address for a number of years, you rarely pay any attention to your house numbers (address).

For Police, EMS, and Fire personnel who may be responding to your house in the event of an emergency, your house numbers are what they are looking for.

Make it a point, to **look** at your house numbers to see if:

- · All of the numbers are still there
- They are large enough to be seen easily from the street
- Any landscape vegetation has grown over them, limiting their visibility

If you can see them, so can we. Thank you!

### SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 1964



Monday - Friday

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

Saturday

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

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**NEW CLIENTS RECEIVE 10% OFF FIRST VISIT** 

(Minutes—continued from page 5)

Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet: Stephanie Dubroff-Acosta (for Dr. Pollock) reported that construction continues at GOMM. For the summer, Civic Club meetings will be held in a flex classroom on the 2nd floor. Signs will be posted to guide meeting attendees to the room.

#### **New Business:**

Teresa Coleman provided information on the formation of a Creditors' Committee based on filings for the GOMO bankruptcy proceedings. This committee is to represent the interests of the claimants in the bankruptcy.

With the July Civic Club meeting date falling on Tuesday, July 3rd and the possibility of having low attendance due to the July 4th holiday, a motion was made and seconded to move the meeting from Tuesday, July 3rd to Tuesday, July 10th, 2018. The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 10th at 7 pm. The guest speaker will be the GOMO bankruptcy attorney, Johnnie Patterson. He will provide an update on the proceedings and take any questions from the attendees.

## Gazette Delivery Volunteers Needed

Lori Kennedy, Gazette Delivery Coordinator

Thanks to the new volunteers who have recently stepped up to deliver the 4100-4200 blocks of Apollo, 700 block of W. 43rd, and the 700 block of W. 38th, as well as the new captains for Sections 2 and 5. Fear not — positions are still open! Block deliverers are still needed for the 800 block of W. 43rd and the 200-300 and 400-600 blocks of W. 30th. Currently substitute deliverers are handling these blocks but a regular delivery person is needed to deliver the *Gazettes* on time to these blocks. Otherwise, your deliveries will be delayed.

Please contact Lori Kennedy at GazetteDelivery@gardenoaks.org if you are interested.

# Say bye-bye to food cravings, excess weight, mood swings, aches and pains, fatigue, hormonal imbalances, poor sleep, bad skin and digestive issues!

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### To Cover Letter or Not?

Brandi R. Muńoz, PHR, SHRM-CP, CPRW

Never send a résumé to a potential employer or recruiter without a good cover letter. The letter underscores how your skills and accomplishments, along with your career goals, make you an outstanding candidate for that particular position.

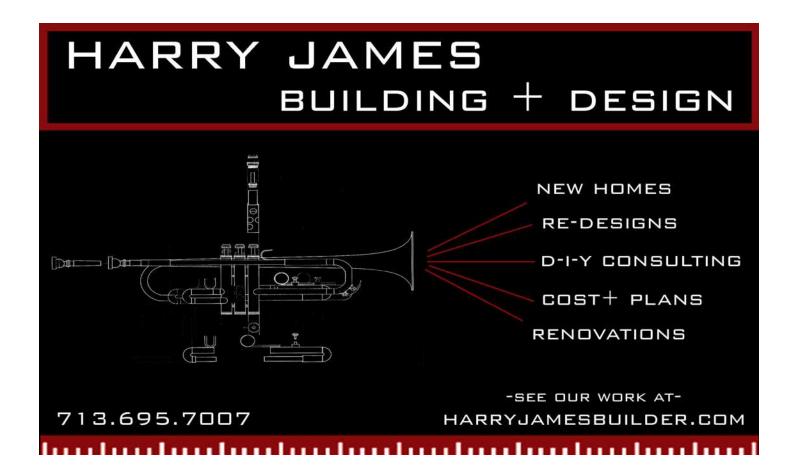
General cover letter dos and don'ts:

- Don't just restate the accomplishments verbatim from the résumé. The purpose of the letter is to arouse the interest of the reader and make them want to read the résumé.
- 2. Start with a brief statement that describes who you are and what role you are referencing at their company.
- 3. Use the next few sentences for your "sales" pitch, based upon your strengths and achievements.

- Use your SOAR (Scenario, Obstacle, Action, Result) stories.
- 4. Conclude with an action statement, such as saying you are available for an interview and looking forward to answering further questions about your skills in person.
- 5. Don't say more than you have to. Stay away from boxing yourself in on salary requirements by indicating "my salary requirements are negotiable" or commenting on them at all for that matter.

Even if you are sending a résumé electronically via an Applicant Tracking System (ATS), there is likely the chance to copy and paste your cover letter on the application or to send as an attachment. If this option is provided, take advantage of it. You'll set yourself apart from the rest!

Brandi Munoz is the owner of People Culture Consulting.



## 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.

| 1002 Althea   | 1519 Sue Barnett | 203 West 31st |
|---------------|------------------|---------------|
| 235 West 31st | 202 West 32nd    | 216 West 32nd |
| 223 West 32nd | 336 West 32nd    | 327 West 33rd |
| 408 West 33rd | 971 West 41st    | 846 West 42nd |
| 935 West 42nd | 951 West 42nd    | 963 West 42nd |

#### **Happy Birthday**

| Caroline McLean – 7/1      | Claire B. – 7/2         |  |  |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|--|--|
| Matthew K. – 7/2           | Alexander Zugheri – 7/2 |  |  |
| Jane E. – 7/3              | Mike Heath – 7/5        |  |  |
| Jessica Jarvis – 7/7       | Alison Tucker – 7/10    |  |  |
| Kaplan M . – 7/12          | Jenny Espeseth – 7/17   |  |  |
| Mary Sharon Komarek – 7/18 | Deanna Zugheri – 7/23   |  |  |
| Barbara Smith – 7/26       | Akira B. – 7/27         |  |  |

Sally McDaniel – 7/27

Jason Cunningham - 7/27

#### **Happy Anniversary**

Jason and Jenny Espeseth - 7/7

#### Congratulations

To **Allison Padon** who graduated from UT (McCombs School of Business) with a Master of Professional Accountancy (MPA) degree and starts her new job at Deloitte soon.

Also kudos to **Carly Stender** for graduating with highest honors from UT with a BS degree in Biology, Microbiology & Infectious Diseases.

#### **Out and About**

The **Theriot clan** kicked off the summer with fun at the family camp in Louisiana.

**Tony and Debbie Padon** visited the OBX and the Kitty Hawk First Flight Museum.

The Zindler-Feit family enjoyed a Disney cruise and

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Universal Studios.

John and Margie Hesse visited Ireland.

**Linda Sparks** and some high school friends toured New Orleans.

Phil Ramirez and Gina Pecoraro visited NOLA also.

Angela Welton went hiking in Colorado.

**The Seghers** visited Jamaica, Cayman Island, and Mexico.

The McLeans made a trip to California.

**Julie Sherber and Devin Hunter** plus kids had a staycation at the Woodlands Resort.

**Terry Jeanes** had a Smithville stay and granddaughter's dance recital Memorial Day weekend.

The Knauths vacationed in Germany.

**Ed and Brenda de Alba** spent a week in New York, both West Point and NYC.

**Caroline Stender** had an amazing travel adventure to the UK, Portugal, Spain and Croatia.

The Beddows were in the crowd for Chris Stapleton and the Eagles.

**Alisha Cunningham** and daughters participated in the RAD self defense class.

**Cameron Carlin** handed out free books to kids with the Astros Foundation Literacy Bus.

**Get Well Wishes** to Randy Pruitt on his broken knee and torn ACL.

#### **Special Thoughts**

To **Suzanne Debien** on the recent loss of her mother. Also to the **Seghers family** on the recent passing of Vic's mother. To the **Dilley family** on the loss of their beloved pup, Toula.

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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Program we so wish to maintain. Without your support and pledge, the bad guys could stand a better chance, thus increasing your opportunity to be a victim. Let's not look back and say, "woulda, coulda, shoulda..."

Welcome to new to Garden Oaks Patrol Deputy Chris Byrd who joined us in May, moving from the Houston Heights Patrol. Deputy Chris is a native Houstonian and grew up in Acres Homes. Deputy Joe Bowden has a broader patrol now in the Heights and is still assisting with investigations for the area.

Wish List: We currently have a commitment for one thermometer sign to place in the neighborhood to track our progress in gaining more Constable Program supporters. We are getting estimates for others and seeking underwriters. The goal is for a minimum of 4 thermometer signs. If you are interested in underwriting a sign, please 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/

Vacation Watch: http://pct1constable.net/sign-up/

vacation-watch/

# Constable Statistics May 2018

Data are provided monthly for the 2 contracts with the Harris County Precinct 1 Constable deputies who patrol Garden Oaks. The number of responses is shown for each category.

Alarm Calls - 8

Arson/Fire - 1

Check Business - 1

Check Park/Check School - 7

Contract Check - 172

Disturbance/Loud Noise/Other - 4

**DWI - 1** 

Indecent Exposure – 1

Information Call – 1

Meet the Citizen - 45

Meet the Officer - 1

Neighborhood Check - 1

Open Door/Window - 1

Robbery/Individual - 1

Solicitors - 10

Suspicious Person/Vehicle - 10

Theft/Other - 1

Traffic Initiative – 9

Traffic Stops - 22

Vacation Watch - 3

Welfare Check - 1

Writ - 7





### 2018 Constable Patrol Contributor Application & Contact Information

| [ ] New Membe   | er or [ ] Renewal                                       |
|---|---|
| Property Address :  |   |
| Phone at this address:  |   |
| Please provide contact information for p  | rogram member(s) at this address:                       |
| Member 1 Information  | Member 2 Information                                    |
| Name:   | Name:   |
| Email:  |   |
|   | Work Phone:   |
| Cell Phone:   | Cell Phone:   |
| You may provide information for person  |   |
| Emergency Contact Information   | Emergency Contact Information                           |
| Name:   | Name:   |
| Home Phone:   |   |
| Work Phone:   |   |
| Cell Phone:   | Cell Phone:   |
| Payment   | Options   |
| [ ] Enclosed find my payment for 2018 of \$225. ( [ ] I/We cannot contribute \$225 now; however, et [ ] I/We will pay online (see below). | Make checks payable to <b>Garden Oaks Civic Club</b> .) |
| Many of our neighbors live on limited, fixed inco   | mes. Are you willing to sponsor a neighbor?             |
| [ ] Yes! Please accept my additional gift of \$   | for the year (enclosed).                                |
| Mail this   | form to   |
| PO Box<br>Houston   | nstable Program<br>k 10273<br>TX 77206<br>online at     |

www.gardenoaks.org

# Mickey's Minute

Mickey Morales

And so it begins. As I write this post in mid-June, the average daily temperatures are hovering above ninety degrees, and by the time you read this we'll be approaching the high nineties and beyond. July is always the part of the year when you'll hear me griping the most about being hot, but by the end of the month I will have accepted what I can't change anyhow. We can be thankful for the shade provided by the beautiful oak trees surrounding the new market location. Thank you to Rick Russell!

Also by now I should have purchased a few more tents to put the larger dining tables under and installed the umbrellas on the small bistro tables. We are also adding a rotating crafts booth featuring Kit the potter, the guys down the street from Walking Stick Brewing, and perhaps Matt of Stormware Creations. All in all, we couldn't be happier with our new digs and the look of our little market that contains almost everything you need to make clean food meals for you and your family. Now if we could just get the legislature to pass a bill to allow the sale of raw milk without having to travel to get

it yourselves, we would be just like a truly local grocery. We'll have a chance to change that in the next legislative session. I'll keep y'all posted.

Thanks again for your continued support of our neighborhood farmer's market. We couldn't have done it without y'all. Sometimes it's hard for me to believe that we've been doing this for over six and a half years. I've heard that if you do what you love, you'll never work a day in your life. By my reckoning, it must be true.

As always, "Come soon, come often and bask in the shade of your farmers market."

### The Farmstand of Greater Heights

9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Every Saturday Rain or Shine

949 Wakefield

Sustainably-grown produce, eggs, goat cheese, freerange meat, prepared Indian dishes, jams, and jellies





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# A/C Facts - True or False? Part Two

Mitch Weigand

Your A/C system will perform more efficiently depending on where it's located.

True. you can save money if your condenser (located outside) is shaded by trees or shrubs. Be sure to leave 24-30 inches of clearance all around the unit and at least five feet above it.

Setting your A/C's thermostat drastically lower than the temperature you really want will cool your house faster.

False. The A/C delivers cool air at the same rate no matter how low you set the thermostat.

Opening the registers in all rooms and leaving the interior doors open will circulate cold air throughout the house more efficiently.

False. Closing doors, vents, and ductwork to unused

rooms makes more efficient use of an A/C. If there is a hot unused room, the A/C will work to cool it off. By closing that room off to the rest of the house, your home will stay cooler more efficiently.

Having a yearly A/C inspection done is a total waste of money.

False. One of the most important ways to extend the life of an A/C is to have a yearly inspection prior to each cooling season. This will guarantee that the unit is prepared to work properly and at maximum efficiency.

Your A/C's thermostat can definitely influence energy consumption.

True. A programmable thermostat keeps energy usage to a minimum. You can set it to begin cooling right before your arrival so it's comfortable when you get home. Avoid placing heat-generating devices (such as a lamp or TV) near your thermostat as they can cause your A/C to run more than needed.

Mitch is the owner of Air Wise<sup>TM</sup>.

Here's what our customers say about us:

"You have the 'workingest bunch of guys' I've seen in a long time."

Lanny B., Houston Heights

During our initial meeting, I told Mitch's technician that I needed him to make me <u>want</u> to come back to Air Wise in the future.

He certainly did that very thing. I've passed his card to my neighbors and told them to call when they have an A/C or heating problem. They won't be disappointed.



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# Bankruptcy Unsecured Creditors' Committee Formed

Teresa Coleman, Civic Club Treasurer

At the June 12th Civic Club meeting, a member of the Unsecured Creditors' Committee was asked to update homeowners about the new Committee. When the Creditors' Committee member declined, a Civic Club Board member stepped in to explain the purpose of the Creditors' Committee, how it was formed, and who is representing the GOMO Creditors.

The Creditors' committee has two main responsibilities:

1) A fiduciary responsibility to represent all creditors, and

2) To preserve as much GOMO money as possible for the creditors who file a Proof of Claim form.

A Creditors' Committee is typically made up of the top seven creditors. In GOMO's case, the top 20 creditors were each sent a letter to apply to be on the Creditors' Committee with a 10-day response deadline. None of top 20 creditors responded but four other creditors did apply and subsequent to the deadline four additional applications were made. The trustee selected five people on May 31st for the Creditors' Committee: Peter Chang, Cheryl Luck, Trish Mehrkam, Sue Schmidt and Gary Ingram. The application had to state the member's claim amount and it has to be more than \$0.

By the Civic Club's June 12th meeting, the Creditors' Committee had been in existence for 11 days, had two meetings, hired their own attorney, and submitted a request for GOMO financial information. All fees the committee incurs are paid out of remaining GOMO funds.

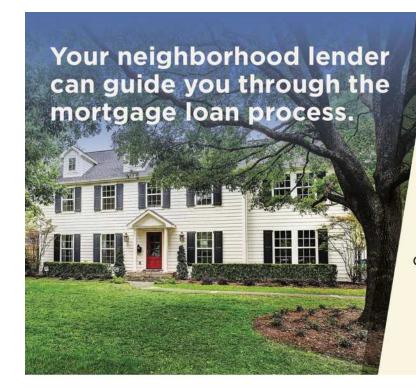
Only one committee member, as of June 12th, has filed a Proof of Claim form. It is unknown how much the other four members claim. The deadline to file a Proof of Claim is August 27th.

Based on what the GOMO Bankruptcy attorney said at the town hall and the Creditors' Meeting May 29th, there are probably four plans to consider. It is up to the Creditors' Committee, with input from all potential Creditors and the Bankruptcy attorneys, to negotiate which plan is best for all concerned creditors. The four plans are: 1) Refund creditors using the common 4-year statute of limitations, 2) Refund creditors since GOMO's inception in 2002, 3) Refund creditors since the lower court decision June 2016 when GOMO was found to be improperly formed, or 4) No creditor refund and the money passes to a newly formed HOA. In the first three scenarios, only creditors that submit a Proof of Claim form are eligible to receive a refund. The fewer Proof of Claims submitted, the higher the potential refund to each claimant.

The Proof of Claim form can be accessed at www.gardenoaks.com. Even if you believe you were well compensated with the extra Constable patrols and Beautification projects paid out of GOMO surplus funds in recent years, file the Proof of Claim. If you are inclined, please go to www.GO-pledge.org and pledge back to the community either 25%, 50%, 75% or 100% of any refund you are eligible to receive. It can be earmarked to HOA reformation, Civic Club general fund, Constable Program or Beautification.

To hear more about the GOMO Bankruptcy, attend the July 10th GOCC meeting when Johnnie Patterson, GOMO Bankruptcy attorney, will provide an update.

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#### **CONTACT ME TO GET STARTED**

Christina Gobe
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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.

# GOMO Update, May 2018

Pam Parks, GOMO Office Manager

#### Plans were approved for:

- 831 Lamonte Ln
- 834 W 42nd St
- 1530 Sue Barnett Dr
- 722 Sue Barnett Dr
- 435 W 30th St

#### Revised plans were approved for:

None

#### Pending (re) submission:

None

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

- New reported violations 0(1)
- Resolved/cleared 0(1)
- Unresolved/pending 4 (N/A)
- Litigation in progress 0 (N/A):

#### **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 notices sent to members only if candidates step forward.

#### GOMO Bankruptcy Information posted at gardenoaks.org

Court rulings and information are posted on the gardenoaks.org website.

#### **Contact:**

The Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization 4001 N Shepherd Dr, Suite 216 Houston, TX 77018 713-561-3936 manager@gardenoaks.org





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# Troop 21 Cooks Up \$3000+

### Tina Sabuco and Shellye Arnold

Thank you Garden Oaks neighbors for the loving support provided to Girl Scout Troop 21 for our annual bake sale. Garden Oaks, Oak Forest, Shepherd Park Plaza and surrounding neighborhoods, local organizations and businesses once again generously supported the only Girl Scout troop in the U.S. comprised of women with special needs. The sale brought in over \$3,000, which is more than double last year's sales! Unable to fundraise through traditional cookie sales, Troop 21 relies on the annual bake sale held in Garden Oaks to provide the funds to cover special outings and activities, art supplies, snacks, prizes, uniform sashes, holiday celebrations and visits by Santa complete with many presents from the scouts' wish lists!

We usually do not meet in the summer, but because of everyone's generosity through our bake sale, we are taking the scouts on a special field trip in July to a restaurant and a movie theatre. The scouts are beyond excited for this extra outing.

Troop 21 was founded in 1976 and some of the original members, who were young women at the time, remain members today. The Troop has 23 members who range in age from 20s to 60s, 6 leaders, and a variety of volunteers who help us throughout the year.

This is the 5th year of this bake sale in Garden Oaks. The opportunity for Troop 21 Scouts to interact with our neighbors is very special to Troop members, who love to sell and socialize. This year we were joined by some younger scouts from Troop 122037 who set up a lemonade stand and then donated their proceeds directly to our troop.

In addition to the members of Troop 122037 and their families, a big thank you to all of the neighborhood folks who supported us by baking goods to sell, volunteering, spreading the word, donating, helping with logistics, and so much more:

- Angela Winston & Liberation Gluten-Free Bakery
- Barbara and Abigail Ballance
- · Becky Minton

- · Bill Spear
- Bowman-Lister Family
- Carol Etzel
- Catherine Bernelle
- Christina Kuhlmann
- Cindy, John and Buddy Bartos
- Claire Foley Bell
- Debbie Johnson Weirich
- Dian Austin
- Elizabeth Jackson
- · Elizabeth Villarreal & The Leader
- · Emma Dyer
- · Heather and Heights Mobil Care Care
- · Hugs & Donuts
- Joanne Jones
- Joe Casarez
- Judy Tuttle Wurth & Urban Bike Gallery
- Juliet & Paul Mellenger
- Karen & Mark Benson
- · Kat Mims
- Kathy & Peter Chang
- Kathy Horlander
- Kelsey & Gustavo Salcedo
- Marlene Caldwell
- Margaret Hesse
- Norma Serrato
- Pat Thomas
- Ronda Kelly
- Sally Jozwiak
- Sheila Briones
- Sheree' & Ron Peoples
- Stacy Gross
- Stephanie & Matilda Acosta
- Terry Jeanes & Patrick Kelly
- Tina Rowe & Jim DiCola
- · Tom Gall
- And everyone else!!!!!!!!!!!!



Thank you so much to our Troop 21 co-leaders: Carol Wiggs, Rita Loden, Rebecca Weiner, Katie McKellar and Nancy Abercrombie.

If anyone is interested in volunteering or helping us in any way throughout the year, we would love to hear from you. You can contact us at: tina@artsaliveinc.com or 713-819-9339.

Thank you all!











Top Producer

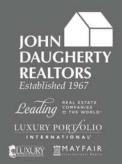
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SOCIETY



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| JULY 2018 |                             |     |   |   |  |  |   |
|-----------|-----------------------------|-----|---|---|--|--|---|
|           | sun                         | mon | tue   | wed   | thu  | fri                                      | sat                                       |
| 1         |                             | 2   | 3   | 4 Independence Day  | 5  | 6  | 7 Farm Star<br>9 AM - 1 F<br>949 Wakefie  |
| 8         |                             | 9   | 1 OGOMO Plan Review<br>6:30 PM<br>Civic Club Meeting<br>7 PM<br>GO Montessori |   | Garden Club Meeting 7 PM Kroger Upstairs Meeting Room 1352 W 43rd                          | 13                                       | 14 Farm Star<br>9 AM - 1 F<br>949 Wakefie |
| 15        | Gazette Article<br>Deadline | 16  | 17  | 18 GOMO Meeting<br>7 PM<br>GO Professional<br>Building<br>Suite 216 | 19   | 20                                       | 21 Farm Star<br>9 AM - 1 F<br>949 Wakefie |
| 22        |                             | 23  | 24  | 25  | 26   | 27                                       | 28 Farm Star<br>9 AM - 1 F<br>949 Wakefia |
| 29        |                             | 30  | 31  | Whenever they sl<br>exercise their cor                              | its institutions, be<br>hall grow weary of<br>istitutional right of<br>ht to overthrow it. | the existing gover<br>amending it, or ex | nment, they can<br>ercise their           |

