



October 2018

Volume 40 Issue 10

Garden Oaks Gazette

The newsletter of the Garden Oaks Civic Club

The Wine Walk is Here!

Dian Austin, Wine Walk Chair

Garden Oaks' most fun event is set to take place in a few weeks, Saturday October 20th to be exact. And, thanks to all the ticket purchasers, table hosts, and cash sponsors to date, we are expecting to net at least \$28,000 for the Constable Program. Raising funds is absolutely necessary if we are to continue with our constable patrols in 2019 as the program is very under-funded.

We currently have 12 generous neighbor groups and area businesses to serve as table hosts. 11 of these will be servings various wines (and foods) for you to sample. Plonk! will host the 12th table with a special beer tasting event this year.

Also, we are having a Wine Pull. We have some great wines donated by Plonk!, Village Liquor, the Barking Pig, and Bell Tower, some in excess of \$100 retail value. Everyone is guaranteed to be a winner.

Tickets for the Wine Walk are \$85 while tickets for the Wine Pull are \$20. We only offer 200 tickets to the Wine Walk for sale and we sell out every year.

You can buy tickets for both the Wine Walk and the Wine Pull via the form in the *Gazette* or online at <https://2018gowinewalk.eventbrite.com>. Either way, please join us and support the Constable Program if you want to keep the good guys in Garden Oaks!

What: Garden Oaks 10th Annual Wine Walk, with "Cheers to 10 Years", celebrating wines of the world and all the folks who have been on this journey with us, raising funds for the Constable Patrol Program

When: Saturday, October 20 from 4:00-6:30 p.m. (rain date November 3rd)

Where: 744 West 43rd, the gorgeous backyard of Ed and Brenda de Alba

Why: To mingle with your neighbors, have some fun, and most importantly... Support the Constable Program!

Note: This is an adults-only, non-smoking gathering, and attendees must be at least 21 years of age. No pets are allowed. There will be limited parking on W. 43rd, so please try to "walk the walk" and either walk, bike, or Uber over for the event. Please arrive no earlier than 4:00 p.m. (unless you are a table host and setting up your table). Low-heeled shoes are best to navigate the flagstone pathways.

If you have purchased tickets, you should have received a confirmation email. If you did not receive such, please email cavort2@gmail.com or call 713-691-6505.

Tickets will be held in the purchaser's name at the check-in table. Thanks to everyone for their support of the Constable Program.

National Night Out

Tuesday, October 2
Your Block

If you are hosting a block party, please inform Terry Jeanes (Constable@gardenoaks.org) or Carl Waters (gocop@gardenoaks.org). They will try to have an officer stop by your event.

Wine Walk Constable Fundraiser

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

GOMO/HOA Town Halls

Several meetings are occurring for Garden Oaks homeowners regarding the future of GOMO and HOA in September and October. See pages 18-19 for more information.

Bryan Smothers Remembrance

Garden Oaks lost a long-time neighbor and Vietnam war hero on August 19th.

Bryan Smothers and his wife, Maria, moved to Garden Oaks 45 years ago raising their daughter, Bianca, in the local Catholic school system.

Bryan was a proud husband, father, Vietnam veteran (101st Airborne Screaming Eagle), 8th generation American, 6th generation Texan, award-winning photographer, native Houstonian and loyal friend with an uncanny ability to make people laugh.

As a patriot, he served 16 months in Vietnam. For his bravery, he earned **four** purple hearts, the Silver Star, and the Bronze Star along with other medals and military honors. The Silver Star is the third-highest military combat decoration that can be awarded to a member of the United States Armed Forces.

As a Veteran, he suffered from PTSD. He battled the "beast", as he called it, for 50 years. He turned his story into a self-published book, *1968: Year of the Monkey*. When he finally began to write his story down, something he did so his daughter could better understand her father, it began his road to healing. Through his book and talks to veteran groups, Bryan was able to help countless veterans suffering from PTSD move forward and begin to enjoy life again.

Bryan is survived by his wife of 48 years, Maria, and his daughter Bianca Braiotta (husband Gino).

Donations in Bryan's honor can be made to the Wounded Warrior Project and Honor Flight.

City of Houston Hazardous Material Recycling

The City of Houston collects materials such as paints, chemicals, tires, batteries, and even foam at the Environmental Service Centers (ESC). One location is at 5614 Neches near 610 and 69 and is open the second Thursday of each month from 9 am to 3 pm. See <http://www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/> for more information.

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

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Committee Chairs

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827 Lamonte beautification@gardenoaks.org

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

Constable Program – Terry Jeanes 713 812 9154
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Publication of any article or letter does not imply endorsement by the Garden Oaks Civic Club and is solely the opinion of the author.

Why Join the Garden Oaks Civic Club?

Dian Austin, Membership Chair

The 2019 Garden Oaks Civic Club (GOCC) Membership Form is included in this month's *Gazette*, as we are gearing up for the 2019 membership drive and annual mail out for both the 2019 GOCC and Constable Program dues statements.

So, what exactly does the Garden Oaks Civic Club do?

The Civic Club provides a monthly forum to bring residents together and to discuss topics of interest. Benefits of membership include meeting other GO residents, learning firsthand about opportunities, issues, and challenges in the neighborhood and surrounding areas, and the option of giving back to the community through time, skills, and/or funds.

The Civic Club sponsors the biennial Home and Garden Tour, which is the neighborhood's primary fundraiser, as well as the annual Wine Walk (Constable Program fundraiser) and the Spring Fling. Civic Club funds are used for beautification projects throughout the neighborhood, maintenance of all our green spaces, and any other neighborhood expenses, such as contributions to Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet (GOMM) or the Waltrip Ram Band, maintenance of entry signs, etc.

The Civic Club contracts with Harris County Precinct One Constable's Office for our constable patrols, and administers these contracts, but the funds are paid by area residents. The Civic Club sponsors the Citizen Patrol, our volunteer group of resident patrollers, and also publishes and delivers the monthly Garden Oaks *Gazette* to all residents in the neighborhood. The Civic Club keeps all the neighborhood green spaces mowed and trimmed.

Civic Club membership is open to anyone in the neighborhood, whether you own, rent or have a business here. You don't even have to be a member to attend the monthly meeting, but you do have to be a member to vote. The Civic Club meets on the first Tuesday of the month, 7 pm, at GOMM. (The Civic Club doesn't meet in October, opting to support National Night Out on that evening.)

Each meeting typically has a guest speaker and lasts about an hour. Brother's Pizza provides free pizzas, and there is often a raffle for a \$25 gift card.

I urge you to support your Civic Club by joining and becoming more involved in the neighborhood. We need new ideas and new people to bring fresh perspectives!

If you have a topic you'd like to see on the agenda, email membership@gardenoaks.org and we'll pass that along.

Note: For clarity – The Garden Oaks Civic Club (GOCC) is NOT the Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization (GOMO) and has nothing to do with deed restriction enforcement; that is GOMO's purpose. GOCC and GOMO are two totally separate entities.



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Garden Oaks Civic Club Meeting Minutes

Helen Sestak, Secretary

September 4, 2018

Location: Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet (GOMM)

Matt Gannon, GOCC President, welcomed attendees and called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Guest Speakers

GOCC hosted a candidate's forum in anticipation of the upcoming November elections.

18th Congressional District: Libertarian Luke Spencer is running for the seat currently held by Sheila Jackson Lee. He stated that a typical Libertarian is economically conservative and socially liberal and that theirs is a party of peace. Spencer would vote for term limits and a return of some broad-reaching powers, such as education reform, to the state and local levels. He supports decriminalizing narcotics and returning some military forces home. www.lukespencerforcongress.com

State Representative District 148: Democrat Jessica Farrar, a Lindale Park resident, is an attorney who has represented district 148 for 23 years. She is ranked 8th in seniority and has strongly supported LGBT and women's social and health issues. Additionally, she has advocated legislation for low income citizens to get easier access to courts. Farrar has supported simpler 'transfer on death' deeds for those heirs where no wills were filed. www.jessicafarrar.org

Harris County Judge: Republican incumbent Ed Emmett stated that this position is not actually a judicial role. The County Judge works with county commissioners to oversee Homeland Security, emergency management, transportation, hospitalization and mental health issues of residents in Harris County, the third largest county in the U.S. Collaborative and bipartisan work with full-time professional staffs and Mayor Turner have enabled Judge Emmett to make tough calls under tough conditions. www.edemmett.com

Harris County Judge: Democrat Lina Hidalgo, who was born in Colombia and worked in SE Asia, hopes to build an accountable government with cost-effective criminal justice policies. She wants to see a smarter Harris County and will prioritize investments and values that affect all families, such as flood control and transportation. www.linahidalgo.com

City Council: At-large member Amanda Edwards also spoke. She is not currently up for re-election, but wanted to mention several issues that will also be on the November ballot. The first is firefighter parity, where voters in

November will choose whether to grant firefighters pay parity with police officers of corresponding seniority and rank. The second is the Rebuild Houston initiative, an eight-year-old program, in which over 900 miles of city drainage and street infrastructure have been rebuilt or restored. Funding issues are a concern.

www.rebuildhouston.org

There was a short Q/A session after the presentations.

Business Meeting

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

New attendees introduced themselves.

Committee Reports

Treasurer: Teresa Coleman reported that the bank accounts are getting smaller and the Civic Club continues with deficit spending.

GOMO: No report.

Constable: National Night Out is October 2. Please contact Terry Jeanes or Carl Waters if you are hosting a block party so they can arrange for HPD or Constable deputies to drop by. Constable dues for 2019 will increase to \$250, up from \$225 currently.

Beautification: No report.

Garden Oaks Website: No report.

Citizen Patrol: Carl Waters reported that there were 20 August crimes, nine of which were in the 200 block of West 34th. There is an ongoing investigation to understand this recent crime spree. Currently, we have six patrollers and need more. You will qualify if you train one hour with HPD, ride-along once with Carl, and pass a background check. Carl will resign in January 2019 from this leadership role and still needs a replacement.

Membership: Dian Austin stated that we have 275 paid Civic Club supporters. Mail outs for the 2019 membership year will start in late October/early November. Cathy Wahren won the gift card drawing.

Wine Walk: Proceeds will directly support the Constable Patrol program. Ticket sales for the October 20, 2018

Wine Walk are brisk. Tickets are available on Eventbrite (see gardenoaks.org). Cost is \$85. To date, 20 sponsors have stepped up. This year's festivities will feature a \$20 wine pull and a Plonk-sponsored beer tent. Increasing the ticket price for future fundraisers is a possibility.

Gazette: Joe Muscara reported that the deadline for October *Gazette* articles is September 15.

GOMM: Dr. Pollock said the school year is off to a smooth start, with current enrollment at 860 students. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee and Superintendent Latham visited the first day of school. The Wakefield parking lot is almost complete. The resident chickens have returned home. The Constables responded to two separate intruder events during the school day. HISD police also arrested a 15-year-old trespasser over the Labor Day weekend.

GO Reform: Matt Houston reported that survey results are compiled and detailed at www.gardenoaks.org.

Government Affairs / GO CIP: Matt Gannon repeated that the capital improvement program for Sue Barnett is on hold, the Golf project will follow the original design, and the Alba project is almost completed.

Section 1 Commercial Development: Carrie Arnett reported that a revised declaration of restrictions has been sent to the developer.

New Business: Dian Austin moved that we restructure GOCC dues: for 2019, Basic membership would be \$40, Senior membership would be \$20 (defined as age 65+), Business membership would be \$100 and a Household membership would be \$100. The motion was seconded and approved. Look for 2019 membership forms in the October *Gazette*.

Teresa and Matt clarified that GOCC and GOMO are separate entities, with separate bank accounts.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm. There will be no October GOCC meeting due to National Night Out. Our next meeting is slated for November 6 at 7pm. The guest speaker will be Alice Bongers, director of the Heights Interfaith Ministries Food Pantry. In the spirit of giving, please bring non-perishable food items for the pantry.

Thirty attendees enjoyed great pizza, generously donated again by Brother's Pizzeria!

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GOCC Ad Hoc Section 1 Commercial Development Committee

Carrie Arnett, Co-Chair

There has been some more activity around the potential development in our neighborhood.

As noted previously, Garden Oaks Baptist Church (GOBC) wants to sell its parking lot on the west side of Shepherd between Gabby's and Chase Bank to Gulf Coast Commercial Group for commercial development. For the sale to happen, those lots must be released from the Section 1 Deed Restrictions. The Church and Gulf Coast have proposed a Declaration of Restrictions to replace the current Deed Restrictions for those lots. The Section 1 Commercial Development Committee's (the Committee or CDC) primary goal is to work with the homeowners, the Church, and Gulf Coast to determine if the neighborhood is willing to release the lots from the current Deed Restrictions. We also have a secondary goal to lay out a reasonable template if other homeowners or commercial-lot owners seek to be released from the Section 1 deed restrictions.

Recently, the CDC met with Patrick Barry of Gulf Coast and two of his associates. At the meeting, Mr. Barry presented a revised Declaration of Restrictions. Gulf Coast was receptive to many of the CDC's concerns. Gulf Coast agreed to some of the CDC's requests, while disagreeing with or modifying others. But the parties are coming close to an agreement.

The revised Declaration includes provisions for no drive through (but instead a pick-up service window with no audio box), a sight and sound wall, and a height restriction, among other provisions. The CDC will continue to consult with the urban planner/architect and attorney to review this revised Declaration and address some concerns about a few specific provisions.

The CDC and Gulf Coast have a scheduled meeting in late September when the CDC will present its response to the remaining concerns.

After that, the CDC anticipates that Gulf Coast and GOBC will be reaching out to the Section 1 homeowners, but the CDC does not yet know the specifics for that outreach.

Please let us know your thoughts. As always, if you have questions or concerns, we'd like to hear them. You can reach out to Andrea Joseph, gosec1neighbors@gmail.com, or Carrie Arnett, 281-686-3272.

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Early Voting: Oct. 22 - Nov. 2 Election Day: Nov. 6

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Constable Program

Terry Jeanes, Program Chair

How can you help support our community crime prevention efforts?

- Contribute to the Constable Program annually. The new 2019 form is in this month's *Gazette*. Note that the minimum requested annual contribution is now \$250. We really need your support to keep the deputies patrolling in our neighborhood. www.gardenoaks.org
- Buy a ticket to the Wine Walk, our October 20th Constable Program fundraiser: <https://2018gowinewalk.eventbrite.com>
- Sponsor the Wine Walk: <https://www.gardenoaks.org/gocc-home/events/wine-walk-2/>
- Host a National Night Out Party on Tuesday October 2nd. Contact constable@gardenoaks.org so your location can be added to the list for law enforcement to stop by and visit.

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 August 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 – 9

Burglary of Motor Vehicle - 3

Check Park/Check School – 11

Contract Check – 173

Criminal Mischief - 1

Disturbance/Loud /Other/Firearm
Discharge – 3

Follow Up – 1

Information Call – 3

K9 Deployment - 1

Meet the Citizen – 224

Meet the Officer – 2

Open Door/Window – 1

Property Found/Lost - 1

Solicitors – 1

Subject Stop - 2

Suspicious Person/Vehicle – 18

Traffic Hazard – 1

Traffic Stops – 27

Vacation Watch - 34

Vehicle Stolen – 1

Save the Date for Santa's Visit

Terry Jeanes

Santa and Mrs. Claus will be visiting area families and neighbors in Gazebo Park from 6 to 7:30 pm on both Wednesday December 12, and Thursday December 13.

Elves Georgia Lister, Terry Jeanes, and Jim & Sally McDaniel are happy to welcome extra hands for decorating Gazebo Park for all the neighborhood to enjoy. To volunteer, or if you have questions, email terry@terryjeanes.com.



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BOO! Developmentally Appropriate Halloween Practices for Young People

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

Halloween traditions are full of excitement for our children. Treats, night time fun and dressing up in costumes are many of the highlights. Whatever your position is on Halloween, there are a few strategies to help children navigate the holiday and stay safe.

For children up to 3 years of age, Halloween may be overwhelming and very stimulating. Loud, strange noises such as recordings of howling, screaming and creaky doors are unfamiliar and may trigger fear and a need to be closer to you. Help your child understand that you are nearby and that the sounds they hear are manufactured for the entertainment of others' "play". Be careful to monitor for choking hazards in costumes such as decorative buttons, trim or accessories. Also, masks should not be used for very young children as they could pose a suffocation hazard. Instead, use non-toxic face paint if your child expresses a desire to participate with older siblings. Very young children should be closely monitored by an adult, not an older child who might become distracted with excitement.

The age group of 3 – 6 years old is exhibiting a great capacity for imaginative play (think children playing for hours with dolls and trucks) and may have difficulty understanding the difference between real and pretend. Talk to your children in the weeks leading up to Halloween and discuss what they would feel comfortable with as a costume and whether or not they want to participate in any celebrations. Encourage your child to share any concerns or anxieties they may have with you. Telling a child "not to be afraid" diminishes the feelings they are having at that time. Instead you might reply with "That does look/sound really scary. Let's look at it together to be sure that everything is safe." Don't force a child to go to a house or participate in something that makes them uncomfortable. Also, remember that this age group needs 10 – 12 hours of sleep each night, so go out early and retire early to be sure your little one gets plenty of sleep.

Six to nine-year olds are starting to move into rational thought and are more accurately discriminating between real and pretend. The older children in this developmental stage are starting to assert more

independence and may ridicule younger children for being "babies". They may know that witches and ghosts are pretend but may be very sensitive to more "realistic" displays that include zombies, or dismembered body parts. While children this age may want to assert their independence and walk far ahead of you, they are very vulnerable and need your close supervision. Review the importance of safety when examining any "treats" they receive and make sure that costumes have reflective surfaces if you're out after dark. Remember to carry flashlights and remind your children of stranger danger.

The tweens are 10 – 13 year-olds who are convinced they are ready for anything and may try to convince you that they are ready to venture out without any adult supervision. Be aware that according to the Center for Missing and Exploited Children, this age group is especially vulnerable to strangers. Check the Texas Department of Public Safety Sex Offender Registry <https://records.txdps.state.tx.us/SexOffenderRegistry> and guide your children of all ages away from addresses of registered sex offenders.

Teens fourteen and up have usually lost interest in trick or treating door-to-door but may wish to join in social fun with their friends. Review your expectations for safe and legal behaviors including a reminder that stealing pumpkins or decorations is not only illegal, it is disrespectful to others and may create long-term problems. Affirm their contributions at home and review the importance of staying with a group and limiting the amount of information shared online.

Be safe and enjoy your time with family and friends. If you'd like to read more about parenting tips, check out these resources:

Living Montessori <https://livingmontessori.com/halloweens-surprising-impacts/>

National Association for the Education of Young Children <https://www.naeyc.org/our-work/families/whats-too-scary>

Medicine Net https://www.medicinenet.com/age_appropriate_halloween_tips_for_kids/views.htm

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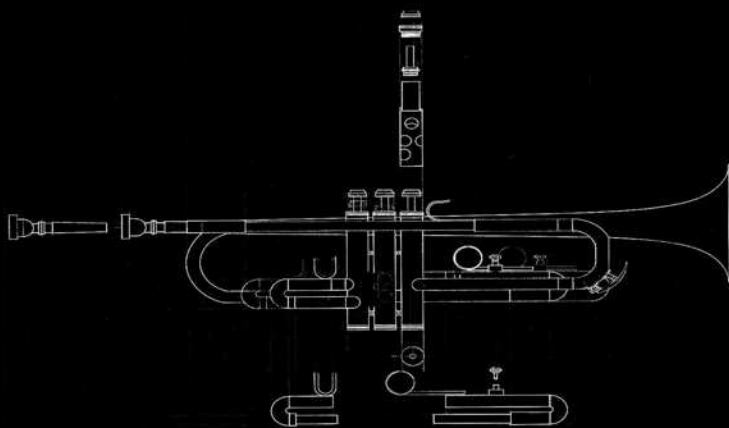
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1. Placement of ads is subject to the discretion of the editor.
2. Artwork must be e-mailed to gazetteads@gardenoaks.org by the 15th of each month for publication the following month.
3. Artwork may be submitted in one of the following formats: JPEG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

2018 Garden Oaks Wine Walk Sponsorship Benefits

Platinum Plus Wine Pull Sponsor (\$1500 Cash Contribution) – Sold!

Platinum Sponsor (\$1000 Cash Contribution)

- **Individual** sign on day of event at the entrance
- Four tickets to the Wine Walk (value \$340)
- Garden Oaks *Gazette* Ad – ½ page, 7 ½" X 4 ½" (value \$110)
- Recognition in the *Gazette* through year-end 2018
- Recognition on GO Facebook pages and the Garden Oaks Civic Club website with link to sponsor's website
- Listed as Platinum Sponsor on the Tasting Notes distributed to the 275 Wine Walk attendees

Gold Sponsor (\$500 Cash Contribution)

- **Individual** sign on the day of the event at the entrance
- Garden Oaks *Gazette* Ad - 2 ¼" x 2 3/8" (value: \$60)
- Two tickets to the Wine Walk (value \$170)
- Recognition in the *Gazette* through year-end 2018
- Recognition on GO Facebook pages and the Civic Club website with link to sponsor's website
- Listed as Gold sponsor on the Tasting Notes distributed to the 275 attendees

Silver Sponsor (\$300 Cash Contribution)

- Shared signage with other Silver Sponsors on the day of the event at the entrance
- One ticket to the Wine Walk (value \$85)
- Recognition in the *Gazette* through year-end 2018
- Recognition on the GO Facebook pages and the Civic Club website with link to sponsor's website
- Listed as Silver Sponsor on the Tasting Notes distributed to the 275 Wine Walk attendees

Sponsorships can be purchased online at gardenoaks.org. All proceeds go to the Garden Oaks Constable Program for payment of the Civic Club's contracts with Harris County Constable Precinct One.

2018 Wine Walk Sponsors

We are grateful to the following sponsors for supporting our community and the Constable Program. Many of these people/businesses have supported us for multiple years. We also have some brand-new sponsors this year as well. Please thank these folks and patronize the businesses who support Garden Oaks.

Platinum Plus Wine Pull Sponsor (\$1500)

- Oak Forest Veterinary Hospital

Platinum Sponsors (\$1000)

- Central City Air
- Deanna Zugheri, Keller Williams Metropolitan
- Optimus
- Revive Development

Gold Sponsors (\$500)

- Chart Wealth Management, LLC
- Chase M. Baker, DDS
- CTC Contractors
- Frost Bank
- Geordie Hrdlicka, President & Principal Advisor, Verde Wealth Group
- IndyQuest Properties
- In Honor of Dan's House of Hope
- In Honor of Purple Cat Resale
- In Memory of Bryan Smothers
- Joe Danna, Candidate for Harris County Sheriff, #2020
- Mathew Naftis, DDS
- Terry Jeanes – ReMax/Metro
- Shipley Donuts

Silver Sponsors (\$300)

- Abundance Retreat
- Forever Young by Sandee
- Heights Dermatology – Dr. Alpesh Desai
- In Honor of Animal Justice League
- Jennifer Klein, AATB Pilates
- John Bartos, Attorney at Law
- Merle Norman Cosmetics & Unique Gift Boutique
- Mi Sombrero Mexican Restaurant

- The Farmstand of Greater Heights
- Tonya L. Knauth, Attorney, PLLC

In-Kind Donors

- Blake Woods Design
- iRecycle Glass
- Plonk!
- The Barking Pig
- The Bell Tower on 34th
- Village Liquor

Sponsorship benefits are detailed in this month’s *Gazette*. Sponsorships can be purchased at gardenoaks.org. Questions? Email GOconstable@gmail.com.

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.

4323 Apollo	950 Lamonte	1030 Lamonte
1321 Sue Barnett	1543 Sue Barnett	219 West 30th
331 West 30th	420 West 30th	805 ½ West 30th
407 West 31st	503 West 33rd	730 West 38th
931 West 42nd	934 West 42nd	939 West 42nd
748 West 43rd	838 West 43rd	903 West 43rd

Happy Birthday

Dian Austin – 10/1	Sue Schmidt – 10/3
Julian S. - 10/5	Tina Sabuco – 10/9
Michael Padon - 10/12	Rita D. - 10/15
Alice Sarmiento – 10/24	Benjamin B. – 10/24
Pene Carter – 10/25	Linda Reichle – 10/25
Mark Saranie – 10/25	Fitz Westover – 10/25
Jack Runge – 10/28	Eden Craig – 10/30

Happy Anniversary

- Debbie & Tony Padon – 10/6
- Elizabeth & Mark Klein – 10/7
- Betsy & Gig Runge – 10/9
- Sally & Jim McDaniel – 10/12

- Tina & John Beddow – 10/21
- Lori Kennedy & Joe Muscara – 10/23 (25th Anniversary this year)
- Jayne & Mike Maltbie – 10/28

Congratulations to Missy Alwais, whose pup, Payton, is featured on the Natural Pawz 2019 calendar.

Out and About

Linda Sparks and sister visited **Terry Jeanes** in Smithville. **Brenda de Alba** attended her 45th high school reunion. **Jim Dicola and Tina Rowe** enjoyed Arkansas sightseeing and the Ozarks after hosting a Labor Day gathering here in Garden Oaks. **Stacy Gross** got to enjoy some time away at her mom’s. For **Terry Jeanes** and her sister, it was a cruise from Miami to Havana. **Georgia Lister, Hal Bowman and family** visited Maine. **Kip Noser** journeyed to Alaska. **Pam Parks and Teresa Coleman** enjoyed a trip to Belgium and a canal boat charter puttering up and down the waterways.

Get Well Wishes for a speedy recovery for **Erin Donaho** on her recent hip surgery.

Special thoughts for **Maria and Bianca Smothers** in the passing of husband and father Bryan Smothers on August 19th. Bryan was a long time Garden Oaks resident who will be missed by many friends and family. Also condolences to **Dea Larson and Al Thomas**, with the loss of Dea’s mother, Rosemary, on August 24th.

To highlight an event, celebration or other tidbit, please submit information no later than the 13th of the month to Terry Jeanes at terry@terryjeanes.com.

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.

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.

Citizen Patrol

Carl Waters, Jr., Program Chair

You are cordially invited to join your Garden Oaks neighbors in celebration of the 37th annual National Night Out on Tuesday, October 2, 2018. Volunteer your front yard or driveway as a place for your neighbors to gather. The suggested time is between 7 and 10 pm. Lock your door and turn on your porch light as you gather outside meeting old friends and making new ones. Exchange contact information (home, work and cell phone number along with email addresses) so you can contact each other if you see something suspicious.

National Night Out is sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch. It was started in 1981 in a Philadelphia suburb when neighbors became tired of increased criminal activity. The goal of the program is to promote police/community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie. Nationally 38 million neighbors participate in the program in over 16,000 communities.

If you are hosting a block party, please let Terry Jeanes

(Constable@gardenoaks.org) or me know (gocop@gardenoaks.org). We will try to have an officer stop by your event.

August Crime Statistics (20)

Auto Theft (2)

3400 block N. Shepherd Dr. on Thursday, August 23 at 12:36 p.m.

200 W. 31st St. on Wednesday, August 29 at 9:13 a.m.

Burglary Motor Vehicle (7)

3400 block N. Shepherd Dr on Sunday, August 5 at 12:59 p.m.

900 block Lamonte Ln. on Friday, August 17 at 2:13 p.m.

1000 block W. 41st St. on Sunday, August 18 at 5:33 a.m.

4100 block N. Shepherd Dr. on Wednesday, August 22 at 12:00 p.m.

4200 block N. Shepherd Dr. on Tuesday, August 28 at 8:40 a.m.

3900 block N. Shepherd Dr. on Wednesday, August 29 at 9:22 a.m.

3000 block N. Shepherd Dr. on Saturday, August 31 at 8:58 a.m.



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Burglary (1)

1000 block Althea Dr. on Monday, August 20 at 8:11 a.m.

Theft (10)

200 block W. 34th St. on Monday, August 6 at 6:35 a.m.

200 block W. 34th St. on Tuesday, August 7 at 5:22 a.m.

200 block W. 34th St. on Tuesday, August 7 at 6:21 a.m.

3800 block N. Shepherd Dr. on Friday, August 10 at 2:36 p.m.

200 block W. 34th St. on Saturday, August 11 at 6:53 a.m.

200 block W. 34th St. on Monday, August 13 at 11:04 a.m.

200 block W. 34th St. on Monday, August 13 at 7:27 p.m.

200 block W. 34th St. on Thursday, August 23 at 12:12 p.m.

200 block W. 34th St. on Thursday, August 30 at 7:25 p.m.

200 block W. 34th St. on Friday, August 31 at 9:03 a.m.

Inquiries about joining the Citizen Patrol Program, taking over as program chair starting in January 2019, 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 713-569-3153.

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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Houston, TX 77043




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 Annual Meeting

Although GOMO is currently in bankruptcy (see below), the courts have instructed that business continues as usual with respect to ongoing operation of the organization. **Therefore, the Annual Meeting of the Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization (GOMO) will be held at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, October 17 at Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet (GOMM) located at 901 Sue Barnett Drive.** All Section 1, 2, 3, and 5 homeowners ("Members") are welcome to attend.

Election of several Directors is on the agenda. If you are interested in serving as a section Director, please contact any of the current GOMO Directors listed in the *Gazette* or under GOMO at GardenOaks.org.

Director Positions Open

The following eight Director positions are up for election at the Annual Meeting; the current term of each ends October 31, 2018 (or is open) and the new term of each will end in October 31, 2021 unless otherwise noted.

Section 1

The director position currently held by Mark Saranie ends October 31, 2018. The new term for this position runs through October 31, 2021.

Section 2

The director position currently held by Vic Seghers ends October 31, 2018. The new term for this position runs through October 2021.

There is also an open position that ends October 2019.

Section 3

The director position currently held by Dea Larson ends October 31, 2018. The new term for this position runs through October 2021.

There is also an open position that ends October 2020.

Section 5

The director position currently held by Kip Noser ends October 31, 2018. The new term for this position runs through October 2021.

There are two additional open positions, ending in October 2019 and October 2020, respectively.

To serve as a Director, a Member must satisfy the following requirements:

- Must be 18 years or older.
- Must own property and live within the Garden Oaks Section corresponding to the position for which the Member is standing for election.
- If no Member residing in the Section stands for election, then a Member who owns property in that Section but lives in another Section may stand

for election as a “Non-Section Director” whose term is one year.

Invitation to GOMO Meetings

All GOMO Members are invited to attend our meetings. Democracy works best in an open environment – and that is as true at the neighborhood level as it is at the Federal and State levels. There is no better way for the people of our community to see for themselves how we evaluate the building plans brought to us and how we make decisions than by attending the meetings. The executive session portions of GOMO meetings (for personnel, litigation, contract negotiation, enforcement actions and attorney-client privileged issues) are closed to members. Occasionally, the Board comes out of executive session and votes on issues discussed in executive session. Members are welcome to attend the post-executive session voting and discussion, if any.

The GOMO Board is made up of up to 12 people and the Board doesn’t have an “opinion” about a topic unless a majority of a quorum forms a consensus view. So, no single Board Member is able to tell you what GOMO “thinks” about an issue or idea until we have an opportunity to deliberate and form a collective opinion. GOMO Directors have a plan review/business meeting on the 3rd Wednesday of the month and a plan review/special meeting (as needed) prior to the regular Civic Club meeting on the first Tuesday of the month. The third Wednesday meeting is held at 7:00 pm at the GOMO Office located in the Garden Oaks Professional Building at 4001 N. Shepherd, Suite 216. The first Tuesday meeting is held at 6:30 pm at GOMM. You are very welcome to attend.

Current GOMO Finances (as of 7/31/2018)

Total Assets: \$708,944.17

Net Income All Accounts for Current Fiscal Year*: \$162,375.04

*November 2017 - July 2018; after operating expenses

Status of the Bankruptcy Proceedings (as of 9/15/2018)

GOMO filed Chapter 11 on April 11, 2018. The purpose of the filing was to address the issue of unknown liabilities resulting from the final outcome of Section 3 lawsuit.

More detailed information, such as court filings and the upcoming hearing date, is available under GOMO at GardenOaks.org. Currently, GOMO and the Creditors’ Committee are developing a plan for the bankruptcy and the post bankruptcy status of our Home Owners Association. A series of Town Hall Meetings and Executive Sessions are scheduled to obtain input from the Membership and strive to reach mutual agreement on a plan. Members, especially those who did not send in a survey response, are encouraged to attend one of the Town Halls and participate in the process.

Meeting Schedule (Proposed as of 9/15/2018)

- September 17, 7:00 pm Executive Session Location TBA
- September 19, 7:30 pm Executive Session, Garden Oaks Professional Building
- September 22, 1:00 pm Town Hall followed by Executive Session, Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet
- October TBA, 7:00 pm Town Hall followed by Executive Session, Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet

GOMO Review Meetings

take place at **6:30 p.m.** on the **first Tuesday** prior to Civic Club meetings and at **7:00 p.m.** on the **third Wednesday** of each month.

Meetings are open to anyone interested in attending.

Additional information about the **Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization (GOMO)** is available online at GardenOaks.org.

Property owners in Sections 1, 2, 3, and 5 are all members of GOMO.

Mickey's Minute

Mickey Morales

Yippee! We've survived yet another summer on the Gulf Coast of Texas and can now look forward to what passes for fall and winter here, which is much more tolerable than 90% humidity and 100 degree heat. October also ushers in the holiday season beginning with Halloween. That reminds me to let y'all know that your slightly-used pumpkins are always most welcome to the egg producers (the hens) and goats at Farmer Cathy's and Gus' farms. Just place them in the trailer and we'll do the rest.

Unfortunately, I won't be able to pull off my idea of doing a farm to table dinner series starting this month. There has been a small tremor in the force that I may be able to overcome by November. And there will then be a larger variety of local vegetables available along with even cooler weather. I'll keep y'all posted on any future changes.

The Market has also been blessed with a few new vendors. In September I created a rotating booth for community organizations and craft vendors. So far we

have the Master Gardeners on the first Saturday of the month, Rachel Radford of Bark and Bandanas on the third, and Tanya of Third Coast Cacti on the fourth. We have also had catering chef Tiffany Ainsworth take over the Farm to Ranch meat operations, and Geo's Tamales is back. And most excitedly, Joshua of Green Dragon coffee has returned after recovering from the devastation of Hurricane Harvey. So, everything is looking up except the temperatures.

As always, "Come soon, come often and bring those pumpkins."

The Farmstand of Greater Heights

9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Every Saturday Rain or Shine

949 Wakefield

Sustainably-grown produce, eggs, goat cheese, free-range meat, tamales, coffee, jams, and jellies

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To learn how Erin has helped people *JUST LIKE YOU*, go to www.erinthole.com

Home Heating Energy Myths Debunked

Mitch Weigand

Fiberglass insulation in your attic alone keeps cold air out of your home.

False. Fiberglass does a better job at keeping heat in than keeping cold out. Cracks and air leaks anywhere in your house will allow the cold to seep in no matter how much insulation you have. Air sealing is the most important thing you can do to plug holes and keep out the chill.

Having an energy efficient furnace installed will automatically reduce your energy bill.

False. Even the highest efficiency-rated heaters can cost you more money than necessary if they are improperly sized or installed. According to the Department of Energy, shoddy installation and improper sized equipment can waste as much as one-third of your energy consumption.

The higher you set your thermostat, the faster the

furnace will heat up your home.

False. Furnaces deliver heat at the same rate no matter how high the thermostat is set. A thermostat set at the desired temperature will reach that point just as quickly as if you set it higher than you truly want.


Setting the thermostat lower at night or when nobody's home can save you money.


True. Heating cost depends mostly on the difference between indoor and outdoor temperatures. When you lower the temperature inside, you are reducing this temperature difference. Setting the temperature back ten or more degrees for eight hours while you sleep or go to work can reduce your energy bill by five to fifteen percent. A programmable thermostat can do this for you.

Energy efficiency increases the initial cost of a home.

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

Mitch is the owner of Air Wise™






Here's what our customers say about us:

“What other company would make a 1:00am service call on Memorial Day weekend?”

Juan M., Garden Oaks

After Air Wise replaced one of my A/C's, I noticed a water stain on the bathroom ceiling. Although the leak was not A/C related, Mitch arrived at 1:00am, put a pan under the leaky pipe and returned the next morning with his plumber to repair it.

What other company would do that on Memorial Day weekend?



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Nancy Almodovar*

OCTOBER 2018

sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
30	1	2 GOMO Plan Review 6:30 PM National Night Out Your Block	3	4	5	6 Farm Stand 9 AM - 1 PM 949 Wakefield
7	8	9	10	11 Garden Club Meeting 7 PM 971 Gardenia	12	13 Farm Stand 9 AM - 1 PM 949 Wakefield
14	15 Gazette Article Deadline	16	17 GOMO Annual Meeting 7 PM GOMM	18	19	20 Farm Stand 9 AM - 1 PM 949 Wakefield Wine Walk 4 - 6:30 PM 744 W 43rd
21	22	23	24	25	26	27 Farm Stand 9 AM - 1 PM 949 Wakefield
28	29	30	31	Empathy is really important. Only when our clever brain and our human heart work together in harmony can we achieve our full potential. — Jane Goodall		

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GO Re-Form Survey Results 8/27/2018

Here are the results of the survey. It is being provided to the neighborhood without commentary or interpretation. If a question was phrased to only allow for an either/or answer, the answer receiving the largest votes has been highlighted. Thank you to those of you responded. At the direction of the Judge in the GOMO bankruptcy case, the neighborhood will be hosting townhall meetings within the next month to further discuss the survey results and the way forward for Garden Oaks.

1. *As a Garden Oaks homeowner do you wish to create a newly formed HOA to enforce deed restrictions?*

309 responses

81% a) Yes

19% b) No

2. *Should the HOA be under the scope of a Civic Club as an architectural, deed restriction enforcement committee or as a separate, stand-alone entity?*

272 responses

50% a) Yes, create a single entity that combines the functions of a deed restriction enforcement entity and civic club.

50% b) No, create a stand-alone HOA to enforce deed restrictions and leave the Civic Club to function in its current capacity.

3. *Do you believe that the deed restrictions for your section are outdated or need to be modified?*

290 responses

60% a) YES

40% b) NO

4. *If yes to question 3, what sections of the deed restrictions do you believe are outdated or need to be modified? (Circle all that apply)*

% of total surveys submitted	Answers
17%	Enforcement Organization Structure
3%	Number of Board Positions
10%	Frequency of transfer fee
25%	Amount of Transfer fee

12%	Building lines
13%	Acceptable Dwelling Types
19%	Height of Dwellings
23%	Garage apartment restrictions
30%	Garage Size
12%	Paint Colors
12%	Write-in/ Other

These results are percentages based on the total surveys submitted for each item that was circled.

5. *Should a new HOA have a mandatory funding mechanism or should it be voluntary?*

280 responses

76% a) Mandatory one-time fee paid at sale of a property

24% b) Annual Fee

6. *What is the scope of services that the mandatory or voluntary funding mechanism should support as part of a future HOA?*

280 responses

35% a) Only deed restriction enforcement

65% b) Deed restriction enforcement plus other services currently supported by fundraisers or the civic club, such as security, neighborhood beautification, holiday events, etc.

7. *What should happen to any remaining funds from GOMO after their bankruptcy is finalized and all approved claims have been paid? (Circle all that apply)*

252 responses

16% a) Remain with GOMO

50% b) Transfer to the Re-formation effort for a new neighborhood HOA

23% c) Transfer to the Garden Oaks Civic Club

6% Split between new HOA and Garden Oaks Civic Club

3% Split between GOMO and new HOA

1% Split between GOMO and Garden Oaks Civic Club

1% Split evenly amongst all three options



2019 MEMBERSHIP DUES STATEMENT

January – December

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

Fill in Amount:

\$ _____ Basic Membership **\$40** (\$20 for Seniors 65+)

\$ _____ Community Household Membership **\$100**

\$ _____ Business Membership (Non-Voting) **\$100**

\$ _____ Contribution to Beautification (all neighborhood green spaces)

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

\$ _____ **TOTAL**

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

-OR-

Pay online at www.gardenoaks.org/membership;
upon completion, you will receive e-mail confirmation of payment.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF OUR GREAT NEIGHBORHOOD!



Constable Patrol Dues Statement for 2019

[] New Member or [] Renewal

Property Address : _____

Do you want a GO Constable Supporter sign (must pay the \$250 minimum)? _____

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

Member 1 Information

Name: _____

Email: _____

Work Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Member 2 Information

Name: _____

Email: _____

Work Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Emergency Contact Information

Name: _____

Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Emergency Contact Information

Name: _____

Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Payment Options (Checks made payable to GOCC)

[] Enclosed is the minimum requested payment of \$250 for 2019.

[] I/We cannot contribute \$250 but are enclosing a check for \$ _____.

[] I/We will pay online (see below).

[] Please accept my additional gift of \$ _____ for the year to help a neighbor on fixed income.

Mail this form to

Garden Oaks Constable Program

PO Box 10273

Houston TX 77206

or pay online at

www.gardenoaks.org