



February 2019

Volume 41 Issue 2

Garden Oaks Gazette

The newsletter of the Garden Oaks Civic Club

Volunteer Opportunities

GOCC Committees

Volunteering in the neighborhood is a great way to meet new people and to learn more about Garden Oaks. There are a lot of solid talents out there and we'd like to find them. As we move into 2019, there are several ways to be involved in the neighborhood. Below are a few where we could use some help.

The **Membership Committee** of the Garden Oaks Civic Club is looking for several volunteers to help new residents feel more welcomed to the neighborhood. Specifically, we'd like to develop and provide useful information for newcomers (and for any residents) to access easily online.

Additionally, the committee wants to form a New Neighbor Outreach group to meet briefly in person with new residents and officially welcome them to the neighborhood, and answer any questions, etc.

If you are an enthusiastic Garden Oaks resident (own or rent, it doesn't matter) and interested in helping out in any capacity, please email membership@gardenoaks.org. You don't need magic computer skills, just some ideas as to what information new residents (or you) might like to have access to, and maybe some ideas about how the Civic Club could connect better with residents, increasing our sense of community.

Membership in the committee wouldn't require exhaustive meetings. We are mainly looking for new ideas, a diverse assortment of folks, and some friendly souls to welcome new people to the neighborhood. We would love to have new residents as well as long-time neighbors on the committee.

The **Beautification Committee** handles the upkeep of all the green spaces in the neighborhood. They are looking for some volunteers to help maintain and improve various areas. The gardens at the entrance of Section 1 at W. 34th and N. Shepherd could really use some hands-on help from residents to replant the old beds, which are now empty and waiting for some love! The same thing is true of the berm area on the west side along N. Shepherd, adjacent to Section 1A.

We would also like to bring back the "neighborhood work days" from the past and get these green areas looking well-loved, now that most of the irrigation systems are back in operation. These work groups help foster the community spirit and are actually a lot of fun and a good way to meet your neighbors. If you are interested in helping out, please contact beautification@gardenoaks.org. No major skills required!!

Our neighborhood newsletter, the Garden Oaks *Gazette*, is hand-delivered to all homes in the neighborhood by volunteers each month. The committee needs a couple of back-up people to substitute for block captains as needed periodically. You would receive a bundle of newsletters to deliver door to door on a specific block. Or you could help distribute bundles to several drop-off locations in the neighborhood, if needed. Email gazettedelivery@gardenoaks.org if you are interested in helping out on an as-needed basis.

Garden Oaks Civic Club Meeting

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

Topic: TBA, but there's always free pizza!

25th Annual Garden Oaks Montessori Pancake Breakfast and Silent Auction

Saturday, February 2
8 am - 12 pm

Continued on page 16

Trees for Garden Oaks

Joe Muscara, Gazette Editor

I should have taken a screen shot of that satellite view.

One time years ago, we were flying into IAH and I was looking at the highways headed south towards downtown Houston, trying to determine which road was which. From the height we were flying, I could see all the way to the North Loop. That's when I spotted it. I realized I could see Garden Oaks from up there. It was clear as day. I could spot the shape of our neighborhood because of the height and density of the trees.

After I got home, I pulled up the satellite view of the map online. Once again, I could see how Garden Oaks was much greener than anything around it because of the trees. While there were some other small clusters of similar "tree density" around Houston, I didn't find anything else in town like it on the satellite view, except Memorial Park.

(One time I was chatting with someone online in England and got to talking about where we each lived. He pulled up my address in a street view and said, "you live in the woods!!!")

More recently, I have looked at the satellite view of Houston, and Garden Oaks no longer stands out like it used to. It is still one of the greener areas on the satellite view but it's more of an "oh, I guess I can see it" difference as opposed to a "wow! That really stands out" difference. Hurricanes, droughts, storms, age, and new construction have taken out many of the trees we had not too many years ago. I never like to lose a tree around here. But, I have seen lots of new trees planted and have been watching some of them fill in over the years. We still live in a neighborhood that has lots of trees compared to other places and I have realized that is one of the things that drew me here. I am looking forward to seeing the new trees mature.

Until next month, I'm...

still the editor.

Civic Club Officers

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

Vice President – Tonya Knauth 713 396 0876
742 W. 41st 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

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827 Lamonte beautification@gardenoaks.org

Citizen Patrol – Mark Saranie 713 724 1271
235 West 33rd gocop@gardenoaks.org

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922 West 41st constable@gardenoaks.org

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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.

Kindness

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

Did you know there is an official kindness organization in the world? Being kind to others has been researched and the results are enough to put a smile on your face! Being kind can improve your health (physically and mentally), improve your relationships with others, and has been shown to increase performance both in the work place and at school. Being kind can also improve your chances of finding a mate! People who tracked their efforts to be kind also reported outcomes such as advances in their careers and increased opportunities in life.

During the months of January and February, we will be working with our students at Garden Oaks with an emphasis on kindness. Why would a school emphasize a "soft skill" like kindness? One of the core components of the Montessori philosophy is Peace Education with the hope that by preparing our children to work with one another, we can impact the future of the world: a world without war and hatred, but instead a world in which people listen to one another and work together to overcome challenges they may encounter.

We are preparing to celebrate Random Acts of Kindness Day on Saturday, February 17th. In preparation for this, we will have many "challenges" ahead to help our students focus on the positive and show their appreciation for others. We will be celebrating Random Acts of Kindness Week (Feb 18 – 22) at school. If you are interested in implementing RAK, here are a few ideas for you and your family:

- Help a neighbor by rolling in their trash bin.
- Bake cookies and take them to a neighbor.
- Facetime with a family member you haven't seen for awhile.
- Write a letter and include artwork and send it to a friend or family member.
- Offer to hold the door open at the store.
- Return your shopping cart to the store.
- Pick up trash.
- Pay for someone behind you in line.
- Write a supportive note and put it in your child's backpack/jacket pocket/ lunch.
- Tell someone what you admire about them.
- **Smile!**

Go to this website to find ideas to use at home:
<https://www.randomactsofkindness.org/>

Check out this kindness video:

<https://www.randomactsofkindness.org/kindness-videos/19-kindness-can-be-the-norm>

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GOMO Bankruptcy

Vic Seghers, GOMO President

As you may recall regarding the GOMO bankruptcy, the bulk of 2018 was spent gathering input from the neighborhood through a series of town hall meetings and a mailed survey to assess the desired outcome of the GOMO bankruptcy, whether or not to replace GOMO with a properly formed HOA (Home Owners Association), and what scope of services a new HOA should provide.

During the October 25, 2018 hearing, the bankruptcy court judge expanded his vision of the scope of the bankruptcy plan beyond GOMO's formation issue and Creditor's claims, now requesting updated Deed Restrictions for Sections 1,2,3, and 5, new HOA Bylaws, and replacement of the current transfer fee with an annual mandatory fee be included in the plan. At the most recent January 8, 2019 hearing, Judge Jones directed the GOMO and Creditor Committee legal counsels to create a summary document to highlight the major points of change that will be sent to the neighborhood along with the bankruptcy plan, disclosure statement and ballots for use in subsequent voting on the plan.

Thank you to all who chose to participate in the 2018 town halls and represent yourselves and your fellow neighbors by offering opinions and suggestions.

A more in-depth summary of the changes and rationale for the changes to the Deed Restrictions and Bylaws is on our neighborhood website, gardenoaks.org. In general, the following principles were used to guide the Deed Restriction changes:

- A. Removal of unenforceable restrictions that are not needed or are not wanted.
- B. Repair of unenforceable restrictions that are still needed by using modern language, definitions of key words and including a statement of intent.
- C. Where it could be done without increasing restrictions on a Section or Sections, converge on common restrictions and language in all sections.
- D. Preserve or enhance owner rights.
- E. Restore selected responsibilities of the prior Garden Oaks Co. and Board of Trustees that were not given to GOMO, in an effort to give the newly constituted

HOA enough flexibility to allow small variances to Restriction requirements that would be essentially unnoticeable to the community at large to avoid friction within the community over what should be minor, immaterial matters.

- F. Respond to Texas statutory changes, or to the stated strong preferences of the Bankruptcy Judge.

With those principles in mind, here is a summary of the current bankruptcy plan:

- 1) Updated HOA, renamed Garden Oaks Homeowners Association
- 2) The current GOMO Board will immediately be designated as "Interim" representatives and new elections for 100% of all Director positions will be held within a few months of passage of the bankruptcy plan.
 - a. All prior GOMO Directors with involvement with prior Section 3 litigation or bankruptcy from 2012 through October 1, 2018 are asked to voluntarily refrain from running for election in order to grant the neighborhood opportunity for new leadership.
- 3) Updated Deed Restrictions for Sections 1,2,3, and 5
 - a. Remove divisive racial restrictions from the 1930s.
 - b. Overall, maintain existing restrictions from current DRs; where statutory changes or court decisions have made the original DR language unclear/unenforceable, modify the language to return to enforceability of the original intent.
 - c. Create amendment process to allow the neighborhood to more easily adjust deed restrictions and the mandatory fee so they always remain current with neighborhood needs.
 - d. Create defined and limited waiver granting ability for the new HOA (believe this may have alleviated prior litigation over DRs).
 - e. Replace expensive transfer fee that lacked a feasible adjustment mechanism with an inexpensive and equitable mandatory fee.

- 4) \$80 Annual Mandatory Fee (equivalent to \$6.67/month)
- Based on feedback from the neighborhood, it was decided to not pursue an immediate merger of the new HOA with the Garden Oaks Civic Club which means the new HOA mandatory fee only funds Deed Restriction enforcement. Constable Patrol and Beautification will not be funded by the HOA annual mandatory fee as per the bankruptcy plan. Financial support for Constable Patrol and Beautification will continue to rely upon voluntary support under the umbrella of the Civic Club.
 - Application for a waiver of the \$80 annual mandatory fee for current residents who file an Over 65 years old Homestead Exemption with the Harris County Appraisal District. This addresses concerns raised at the town hall meetings regarding older residents on fixed income. This waiver will remain in effect for as long as these neighbors own their Garden Oaks homes. Future neighbors who are over 65 and purchase/move into the neighborhood after passage of the bankruptcy plan will pay the mandatory fee, as will current neighbors who turn 65 after the new fee takes effect.
- 5) Outsourced Deed Restriction Enforcement
- A professional management company will be retained to manage DR enforcement and annual fee collection. Not hiring a management company would allow the annual fee to be even lower than \$80, but it was determined this was a necessary and important step to allow the neighborhood to move forward with confidence.
 - Current GOMO office space lease will not be renewed upon expiration of current term and the current office manager position will be eliminated.
- 6) New HOA Bylaws
- Although the Civic Club and the new HOA will not immediately merge as part of the bankruptcy plan, the HOA Bylaws are written to allow a future merger should the neighborhood

desire. Having two voluntary elected organizations representing the neighborhood (GOMO and Garden Oaks Civic Club) is viewed as a continuing problem as it requires greater leadership participation than what is often available. This issue is not fully resolved via GOMO's bankruptcy plan, and this lack of participation is felt to be why similar like-minded individuals often lead both organizations. If the bankruptcy plan is approved by the neighborhood, it is hoped that the Civic Club will subsequently engage the neighborhood and receive guidance whether they should allow a single organization to represent the neighborhood.

- 7) New HOA attorney; New Leadership.
- Post special election, the newly elected HOA Directors will choose both the Deed Restriction Enforcement Management company and its new HOA attorney.

In return for acceptance and passage of the above plan by the neighborhood, we believe the bankruptcy judge will sign an order barring Creditor's claims due to an 18-month statute of limitations, and sign an order effectively curing GOMO's formation issue.

Thank you for reading, and we ask you to vote in support of the bankruptcy plan after reviewing all the materials that will be mailed to you over the next weeks. Please note that the next bankruptcy court hearing is January 28, 2019 at 4 pm in Court Room #400, 515 Rusk Ave, Houston, TX 77002.

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Have A Gardening Question?

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 713-274-0950 – phonehcmga@gmail.com

Consider these possibilities when trying to diagnose a plant problem

- Insects and diseases are frequently a symptom, not a cause.
- Environmental stress is often the cause.
 1. Planted in the wrong place
 - Too big for space
 - Soil too poor, too sandy
 - Too much sun, too little sun
 2. Plant may be "loved to death"
 - Overwatering is common
- At times you may be able to narrow the possibilities.
 1. Something is eating my leaves
 - Chewing insect
 - Snails (leave mucus trails)
 - Rodents
 2. Leaves have turned black
 - Sooty mold
 - Piercing, sucking insects
 - Fire blight
 - Frost
 3. Grey moss on tree trunks
 - Lichens
 4. White fluffy material on stems
 - Scale
 - Mealybugs
 - Spittle bug (if white & foamy)
 5. Curly leaves
 - Aphids, thrips, leaf miners, damage from hormone-type herbicides
 6. Webbing on leaves
 - Spider mite
 7. Webbing on tree trunk
 - Bark lice

To research problems yourself go to eXtension at <https://search.extension.org/>.

eXtension is an interactive learning environment delivering the best, most researched knowledge from the smartest university minds across America. This service allows you to search the resources provided by your Cooperative Extension Service using a Google Custom Search Engine that includes many of the Cooperative Extension web sites provided by your Land-Grant institutions.



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We appreciate the care and integrity that you and Matt have demonstrated throughout the process of building our home. This is the home where we hope to raise our children, gather with family and friends, and provide respite to those in need. You both have been a pleasure to work with, and we value the relationship we have built. The Bergs

GOMO Board of Directors

Section 1

Sheila Briones (2019)

281-685-8133

sheila.briones@gardenoaks.org

Joe Casarez (2020)

713-398-7133

joe.casarez@gardenoaks.org

Mark Saranie (2021)

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mark.saranie@gardenoaks.org

Section 2

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832-488-4545

vic.seghers@gardenoaks.org

Lori Kennedy (2020)

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lori.kennedy@gardenoaks.org

Brenda de Alba (2021)

713-705-0886

brenda.dealba@gardenoaks.org

Section 3

Frances Schwartz (2019)

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frances.schwartz@gardenoaks.org

Al Thomas - Vice President (2020)

713-695-3634

al.thomas@gardenoaks.org

Stuart Arouty (2021)

281-469-6656

stuart.arouty@gardenoaks.org

Section 5

Vacant (2019)**Vacant** (2020)**Kip Noser** (2021)

281-846-5479

kip.noser@gardenoaks.org

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

GOMO Update, December 2018

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

- 1086 W 43rd
- 328 W 33rd

Revised plans were approved for:

- 825 W 30th

Pending (re) submission:

- 819 Azalea
- 866 W 41st

Deed Restriction Enforcement Activity for November (Year to Date)

- New reported violations – 0(8)
- Resolved/cleared – 0(8)
- Unresolved/pending – 4 (N/A)
- Litigation in progress – 0 (N/A)

Website Updates:

- Proposed Deed Restrictions and Bylaws
- Bankruptcy Filings including Disclosure

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

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.

Citizen Patrol

Mark Saranie, Program Chair

This is my first article as Citizen Patrol Coordinator, and once again I extend heartfelt thanks to Carl Waters for the years he invested in this program.

Our neighborhood watch is an important link in the overall safety and property protection in our neighborhood, and while those of us who patrol are not crime fighters, we are definitely deterrents to crime and serve as extra eyes for the neighborhood constables. Just the mere sight of a vehicle with the neighborhood watch signs on it will cause people up to no good to get back in their car and leave. I have experienced this several times during my years as a patroller.

The program is in serious need of more volunteers.

If interested, visit the neighborhood website, gardenoaks.org, click on the Security tab in the GOCC ribbon, print both applications, fill them out and send them to me at gocop@gardenoaks.org. I will get those off to the HPD coordinator and once everything goes through, you will be notified of your certification class options. In the event you have any inquiries about joining the Citizen Patrol Program or other community safety issues, I can be reached at the same email address or 713-724-1271. (Leave a voice mail please.)

December Crime Incidents (17)

Assault with Deadly Weapon (1)

12/22, 1200 Block W 43rd St

Breaking and Entering (3)

12/31, 800 Block W 41st St (2)

12/31, 1200 Block W 43rd St

Theft (8)

12/2, 1200 Block W 43rd St

(multiple dates) 200 Block W 34th St (7) – construction site

Theft from Vehicle (5)

12/7, 900 Block W 30th St

12/9, 1200 Block W 43rd St

12/11, 900 Block Wakefield Dr

12/12, 900 Block Wakefield Dr

12/17, 400 Block W 33rd St

January recorded patrol hours – 5



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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

Constable Program

Terry Jeanes, Program Chair

If a safe community for you, your family, and your friends is important, please help out with efforts to maintain and grow our Garden Oaks Constable Program. Volunteers are needed for follow-up with past supporters, distribution of GO Constable Supporter signs and 2019 stickers for the signs, and brainstorming ways to increase participation in the program. We will be holding Mix & Mingle events shortly (perhaps quarterly) and if socializing sounds fun, then this could be the place for you. We welcome your talents and energy. Contact constable@gardenoaks.org if you are interested in helping out with our committee.

There is additional info in a separate Volunteer Opportunities article this month.

How can you help?

Contribute to the Constable Program annually. The 2019 form is in this month's *Gazette*. Note that the minimum requested annual contribution is \$250. You may also pay

online at www.gardenoaks.org. You can pay monthly or annually. We make it simple for you to support the program. If you want a GO Constable Supporter sign for your yard or a 2019 sticker for your current sign, please email goconstable@gmail.com.

Become a Constable Program supporter:
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/>

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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

Garden Club News

Cathy Wahren, President

Judith Brocklehurst, a recent Garden Oaks arrival and a Master Gardener, will present information regarding "Tried and True Selections for Houston Gardens" on February 13, 2019 at our meeting at the Kroger upstairs meeting room on W. 43rd. Note that this is one day before our normally scheduled "second Thursday" meeting date, which fell on Valentine's Day.

We next will gather for our spring-time workday at Friendship Park on Saturday, March 16th. After a field trip in April (tbd), we will hold our annual Plant Swap at the 42nd Gazebo Park on Thursday, May 9th.

The GO Garden Club is open to all residents and friends of Garden Oaks. Our regular meetings are held the 2nd Thursday of each month, from 7:00 – 8:30 pm, except for months with weekend activities, typically organized for the following Saturday. Annual membership dues are \$25, but there is no obligation to join. Additional information can be found on GardenOaks.org under the Green Thumb tab. Feel free to contact us at gardenclub@gardenoaks.org, or me at 713-686-8686 with any questions. We'd also like to take this opportunity to thank Kroger for providing their upstairs meeting room for our use!



Constable Statistics December 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
- Animal Humane – 1
- Burglary of Motor Vehicle – 1
- Check Park/Check School/Neighborhood – 12
- Contract Check – 119
- Disturbance/Loud Noises – 2
- Domestic Prevention – 1
- DWI – 1
- Follow Up – 2
- Information Call – 1
- Meet the Citizen – 182
- Meet the Officer – 2
- Special Assignment – 4
- Stranded Vehicle – 1
- Suspicious Person/Vehicle – 17
- Traffic Hazard – 1
- Traffic Stops – 19
- Vacation Watch – 59
- Warrant Served – 1
- Writ – 3
- 911 Hang Up – 2



Glass flowers assembled during the Garden Club Crafts Day in October.

Garden Oaks Civic Club Meeting Minutes

Helen Sestak, Secretary

January 8, 2019

Location: Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet (GOMM)

Joe Casarez, GOCC President, called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

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

Guest Speaker: Shana Ross of Shana Ross Fitness was the guest speaker. Shana emphasized three important habits that enable us to maintain good health throughout the year: good food choices, exercise, and a positive attitude. She suggested that we eat in moderation, steer clear of starchy carbohydrates, and that exercise was vital for everyone. Shana stressed that a positive attitude enables us to eat and exercise well, thus leading to good health. Q&A followed. For more information, visit Shana at her studio, 629 W 22nd Street, or www.shanarossfitness.com.

Business Meeting

Joe Casarez presented a Union Kitchen gift card to Carl Waters as thanks for his 22+ years of heading up the Citizen Patrol. Joe also recognized Matt Gannon, outgoing GOCC president, for his fair, dedicated, and outstanding service to Garden Oaks.

5 new attendees introduced themselves.

Treasurers Report: Teresa Coleman had hard copies of the 2018 full year financials, which separated the GOCC assets/liabilities from that of the Constable Program. Both areas continue to be in deficit spending (revenues do not cover all expenses). The GOCC will be signing contracts with Harris County Precinct One for two Constable Patrols, beginning in March. Whether or not we can continue with both patrols for the full year will depend on the financial support from the neighborhood. If you want them to continue, please contribute to the Constable Program. Full year financials are available at gardenoaks.org.

GOMO: Joe Casarez reported that the Debtor's (GOMO) Disclosure Statement and Bankruptcy Plan are posted at www.gardenoaks.org. The next court hearing date is January 28th.

Committee Reports

Constable Patrol: Terry Jeanes reiterated Teresa's statement that we hope to fund two 2019 constable patrols for the full year. Contracts should be signed before the next meeting, and the annual contract price should increase slightly. The contracts are funded entirely by residents' contributions. Terry also offered the idea of erecting thermometer-type signs around the neighborhood to show neighborhood participation numbers. If you are willing to help construct and/or paint these, please contact Terry. Constable Patrol contributions can be made online at gardenoaks.org or via the insert in each month's *Gazette*.

Beautification: In Joan Harmon's absence, Teresa Coleman gave an update. Trees in the Gazebo and Art Parks were pruned and irrigation problems on Garden Oaks Blvd, in the Rose Garden and Triangle Park have been resolved. Funds to support these repairs and maintenance came from the Spring Fling and GOCC. The berm at Randall and Shepherd needs attention.

Garden Oaks Website: No report.

Citizen Patrol: Mark Saranie has stepped up to be the head of the Citizen Patrol. He reiterated the need for patrollers. Requirements are that you must be at least 18 years old, train one hour with HPD, ride-along with a current volunteer, and pass a vigorous background check. Thirteen incidents, noted on crimereports.com, were reported in December. The Citizen Patrol volunteers are another set of eyes, not enforcers, and have the leeway to patrol when it is convenient for them. If interested, please contact Mark at gocop@gardenoaks.org. Some discussion followed as to when/where the Constables patrol. The two Constable shifts have different schedules, which are not publicly posted.

Membership: Dian Austin reported that 160 civic club members and 176 constable supporters have signed up to date in 2019. Mary Margaret Hamilton won a \$25 gift certificate to a new neighborhood restaurant, BB's Tex-Orleans, generously donated by the restaurant.

Gazette: Joe Muscara said that the deadline for February Gazette article submission will be Tuesday, January 15.

Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet School: The annual Pancake Breakfast, celebrating 25 years of Montessori education, is scheduled for February 2, 2019. Dr. Pollock said last year's event raised about \$40,000 for the school.

She mentioned that the GOMM campus dedication is slated for the end of March, at which time the pond will hopefully be restored. To date, about 1000 applications have been received for the 30 spots available for non-zoned students.

Government Affairs / GO CIP: Tonya Knauth and Dr. Pollock will meet with a city engineer Thursday, January 10, regarding the Sue Barnett CIP. Whether or not the project is funded still remains unclear. The Golf CIP will move forward, with no sidewalks. Sue Barnett CIP will have sidewalks, as per ADA requirements.

There was a discussion on speed deterrents, with speed bumps getting mixed reviews. Recycling pick-up has been inconsistent, due to equipment failures and the holiday schedule; those issues should be reported to 311.

Section 1 Commercial Development: Carrie Arnett reported that the Gulf Coast Development Group continues to gather signatures in Section 1, in support of lifting the deed restrictions on the lots between Chase Bank and Gabby's on N. Shepherd.

New Business: Several neighbors voiced concerns about vehicle speeds and subsequent accidents on 43rd between Shepherd and Ella. New signal lights are up at Alba and 43rd and the surrounding trees have been trimmed.

The next GOCC meeting will be held on February 5, 7 pm, at Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet School.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 pm.

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



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.

4203 Apollo	934 Gardenia	
1354 Sue Barnett	1423 Sue Barnett	1551 Sue Barnett
219 West 30th	825 West 30th	527 West 33rd
1043 West 42nd	819 West 43rd	1027 West 43rd

Happy Birthday

Ann Best – 2nd	Georgia Lister – 5th
Tonya Knauth – 9th	Alisha Cunningham – 12th
Lela C. – 12th	Brenda de Alba – 17th
Terry Williams – 17th	M'lissa Dilley – 22nd
Grady S. – 22nd	Maya Rahman – 23rd
Elan Britt – 28th	Eddie Battenfield
Belated to Kevin Klotz – 12/23	

Happy Anniversary

Will & Deanna Zugheri – 23rd

Congratulations

Allison Padon has passed all 4 parts of the CPA exam!! Proud parents, **Debbie & Tony Padon**, will accompany her to Austin for acceptance of her certificate and to visit daughter **Caroline** who attends UT.

Congratulations to **Miranda Leonard Mitchell**, Garden Oaks native, who recently graduated from UH nursing school. Proud Mom is **Blanche Ragsdale** and sis is **Adelaide Leonard**.

Congratulations also to **Jennifer Hesse Garcia**, Garden Oaks native, on her recent Masters in Education Leadership and Principalship from the University of St. Thomas. Proud parents are **John and Margie Hesse**.

Congratulations to **Michelle Reyna** on her recent marriage to Patrick Wymes in Breckenridge, Colorado.

Out and About

The **Theriot** and **Zindler** gals enjoyed Mr. McKinney's Houston Historic Bus tour to view the River Oaks Christmas lights. The **Carlin clan** enjoyed a trip to New York. It was a holiday visit to daughter and family in Tuscany for **Gail Bell**. **Carl Waters and Leslie Ryan** enjoyed a trip to Vegas. It was Keystone over the New Year's break for the **Odinot family**. The **Hesses** enjoyed a trip to Germany, including the holiday with the whole family.

Special Thoughts

To the **Maltbie family** on the the recent passing of Mike's dad.

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.

Volunteer opportunities—Continued from front page

The **Citizen Patrol** volunteers are another set of eyes as they drive slowly throughout the neighborhood periodically to see if anything suspicious is apparent. If so, they alert the Constable. They could definitely use more volunteers. As a patroller, you could decide when you wanted to patrol; you are not required to patrol X hours a day, week, or a month. Pick your available time, and patrol as much (or as little) as you have time for. The requirements are that you live in Garden Oaks, be at least 18 years of age, have a valid driver's license, and pass a background check. Then, you must attend a 1 hour training session with HPD. If interested, contact gocop@gardenoaks.org.

The **Constable Patrol Committee** needs volunteers to assist with getting more supporters for the program, distributing GO Constable Supporter signs and current year stickers for the signs, following up with past supporters who have not yet contributed, and helping out with our planned quarterly social events.

In addition, for anyone with **carpentry skills**, the Committee needs some handyman ability to make thermometer/gauge signs for tracking our \$\$ progress in meeting our obligation for 2 Constable Deputy Patrols. Anyone who believes in community crime prevention, we need you! Contact constable@gardenoaks.org.

Gazette Advertising Rates/Sizes/Submission Guidelines

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

Please note:

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

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How to Have More Security on a Budget

*Adapted from Braeswood
Neighborhood Newsletter*

This new year, resolve to make the safety of your home and family a priority.

You can spend thousands of dollars on alarm systems, cameras, trained dogs, unpickable locks and weapons. All of those are important. But personal safety and home protection do not have to be difficult or expensive.

In that spirit, here are some suggestions to get the most from your budget.

For next to nothing: When you leave the house, turn on several lights and a TV or radio turned up loud. It's low-tech, but will cost you little, and it's better than nothing at all.

For \$5: Do all of the above and buy a package of metal screws with a thumbturn for quick removal in an emergency. Drill a small hole in each window frame and install the screw such that the window cannot be opened more than about 4 inches. Even if a thief breaks the window, it will be difficult for him to get inside quietly without breaking the frame.

For \$25: Buy a loud, motion-activated alarm for \$20 that you can place in a central spot, well-hidden so that an intruder can't see that you went cheap and that it's not being monitored. For \$5, buy a 2x4 to prop under the knobs of your weakest exterior doors.

For \$50: Buy a stand-alone, Wi-Fi camera that can send a text and an image to your cell phone when motion is detected. There is no monthly service fee.

For \$100: Install a Ring brand doorbell. When someone steps on your front porch, you will receive a text and an image. You can speak to the person from anywhere in the world. It is easy to install. Later you can add a wireless Ring camera for a broader field of vision.

For \$250: Shop for a low-priced alarm system such as SimpliSafe. A small package will include door and

window contacts and a motion detector. It is mostly a wireless system that can be mounted on a wall or placed on a counter top. For the same \$250, you can buy a hard-wired, 4-camera system that will cover the most vulnerable areas of your home. It can be connected to a hidden DVD recorder and set up to send you an alert that motion has been detected. Ario makes some very good, affordable systems, widely available.

For \$500: Buy a professionally installed alarm system that covers every part of your home. And then finish the job and pay \$25 to \$40 a month for 24/7 monitoring. The peace of mind of having a panic button and keeping your home perimeter covered at night is priceless.

For \$1,000: Invest \$1,000 in a monitored alarm system **with cameras.** Nothing works better than cameras to deter a burglar from attempting to enter your home. Cameras are cheap, easy to install yourself and expandable. Check at frys.com.

Finally, the most effective crime-fighting device is actually free. It's you watching out for your neighbors and reporting any suspicious activity.

Get Online!

The following online locations are where your Garden Oaks neighbors gather. Please note that none of these are official groups and are not moderated nor controlled by any of the Garden Oaks organizations you know and love, though sometimes they will post announcements in order to reach neighborhood residents.

<http://nextdoor.com> (requires registration and verification of address. You will be added to Garden Oaks when verified)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/564126170368309/> (you will be asked for your address to join)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/35914307130/>

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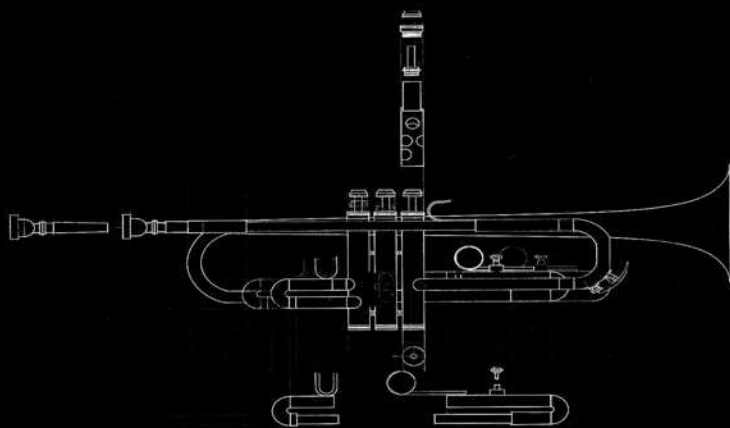
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2019 Master Gardener February Fruit Tree and Tomato Sale

If you missed the January 26th Fruit Tree Sale, you have another great opportunity on February 23rd from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm. Tomatoes will also be available at this sale along with citrus, apples, peaches, pears, berries, figs, and avocados suitable for our area.

The sale is located at Campbell Hall Pasadena Fairgrounds, 7601 Red Bluff Rd Pasadena, TX 77505.

Brought to residents of Harris County by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and the Harris County Master Gardeners.

2019 Master Gardener Green Thumb February Lectures

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and the Harris County Master Gardeners **free** Green Thumb Gardening Series is Tuesday, February 19th from 6:30 – 8:30 pm at Spring Branch Memorial Library, 930 Corbindale, Houston 77024. February's topic is Spring Vegetable Gardening. No reservation needed.

Learn what vegetables grow well in Harris County, when to plant the different types, and when to harvest.

To get current updates on the City's trash and recycling schedules, check the City's website:
<https://www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/>



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Conquering Springtime Allergies

Mitch Weigand

With mild winter temperatures and plentiful rainfall, 2019 may be a record year for pollen and other allergy-provoking particulates. Here are some tips to help nip those springtime allergies in the bud.

- Stay indoors on windy days. The best time to go outside is after a good rain because it clears the air of pollen.
- If possible, delegate lawn mowing and other gardening chores that stir up allergens. If this is not possible, wear a dust mask when doing outdoor chores.
- Shower more frequently to remove pollen from your skin and hair.
- Check local sites for current and future pollen levels.

- Avoid outdoor activity in the early morning when pollen counts are highest, and close doors and windows at night.
- Be sure to use the air conditioning in both your home and car.
- Clean floors frequently with a vacuum cleaner that has a high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter.
- Finally, keep indoor air clean in your home by using HEPA filters and replace them every month. Air Wise offers a nice filter to help with all airborne allergens.

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Irene P., Timbergrove Manor

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FEBRUARY 2019

sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
27	28 All you need is love. But a little chocolate now and then doesn't hurt. — Charles M. Schulz	29	30	31	1	2 Montessori Pancake Breakfast Ground 8:10:30 AM Grou GO Montessori Ground Farm Stand Ground 9 AM - 1 PM
3	4	5 GOMO Plan Review 6:30 PM Civic Club Meeting 7 PM GO Montessori	6	7	8	9 Farm Stand 9 AM - 1 PM 949 Wakefield
10	11	12	13 Garden Club Meeting 7 PM Kroger Upstairs Meeting Room 1352 W 43rd	14 Valentine's Day	15 Gazette Article Deadline	16 Farm Stand 9 AM - 1 PM 949 Wakefield
17	18 President's Day	19	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	1	2

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