



June 2019

Volume 41 Issue 6

Garden Oaks Gazette

The newsletter of the Garden Oaks Civic Club

2019 Constable Program Campaign Progress

Terry Jeanes, Program Chair

Hopefully by now you have seen one of our recently installed “thermometer” signs that shows the progress of reaching our goal of having funds donated by residents to cover two constable patrols.

Signs have been installed at five different entrances to the neighborhood to raise awareness that our Constable Patrol Program is still underfunded. Whether we continue with one, two, or no deputies depends entirely on contributions from Garden Oaks residents and neighbors.

Each contract with Harris County Precinct One Constable’s Office provides a professional law enforcement deputy who patrols our neighborhood and its perimeter 40 hours per week. Each contract costs about \$75,000 annually.

There are two “milestones” noted on the signs: one deputy contract (approximately \$75,000) and the second deputy contract (\$150,000 total). Currently, the “red” level on the signs indicates that we are just short of having enough funds to pay for one constable deputy for this year.

As additional funds come in and we get closer to our goal, the signs will be updated to show the progress.

Thanks to Elizabeth Fryer Cardner at Houston Yard Art for making the signs and to Terry Jeanes, neighbor and realtor, who underwrote the signs and initiated the project.

Please do your part and help that red level on the thermometers go higher! If you’re not a current Constable Program supporter, please sign up at gardenoaks.org or use the form in the *Gazette*. Every dollar donated to the Constable Program gets us closer to our goal.

Garden Oaks Civic Club Meeting

Tuesday, June 4, 7 PM
Garden Oaks Montessori
901 Sue Barnett

Fourth of July Parade

Thursday, July 4
9 AM
Registration begins 8:30 AM
Rick Englert SPARK Park



GOCC Social Hour

Dian Austin, Committee Chair

The Social Hour planned by the Garden Oaks Civic Club was cancelled for May. Due to the impending rains, El Tiempo Cantina wanted to reschedule our planned event for another time. The rains did not impact our neighborhood, but the forecast was fairly ominous.

We will be setting up a new social hour in the coming weeks and will notify the neighborhood via a Facebook Event page.

Thanks to those of you who had planned to attend!

Citizen Patrol

Mark Saranie, Program Chair

April Crime statistics

Sunday, April 21st - 800 Block W. 41st - Breaking and entering

Fortunately, the above event was the only one for April, despite the many incidents near and around our neighborhood. To continue this trend and bring the incidents to zero, I urge you to support the Constable Patrol Program if you don't already.

Also helpful is the visibility of our neighborhood patrollers. If you wish to become part of our group, download the application from gardenoaks.org and email it to me. Currently the program is being revamped and should be ready to continue in June.

My wife and I were out of the country in April and had submitted a vacation watch to the constable. Every evening our Ring device revealed the constable coming down our street. Using the vacation watch is a great way to protect your property, as is putting a stop to your paper and mail deliveries while away, leaving your vehicle in the garage if possible (leaf covered cars are a dead giveaway no one is home), cutting up electronics boxes and putting them in your bin, and if they are too big, taking the cardboard to the city recycling location on N. Main just north of Crosstimbers. An ounce of prevention...

8 patrol hours reported for April.

Civic Club Officers

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Vice President – Tonya Knauth 713 396 0876
742 W. 41st vicepresident@gardenoaks.org

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treasurer@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.

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.

963 Althea	4212 Apollo	4227 Apollo	4311 Apollo
906 Gardenia	3209 Lawrence	232 West 30th	228 West 32nd
235 West 32nd	1006 West 41st	1079 West 41st	954 West 43rd

Happy Birthday

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

Happy Anniversary

Alex & Evin Dunn - 6/11

Out and About

George Appling and Brian O'Leary took a 2 week tour of King Richard's holdings in western France for George's birthday. It was a Friday Funday for **Julie Sherber** who got a tour of KPRC and got to hang out with Houston Life's Host Courtney Zavala.

Carl Waters and Leslie Ryan celebrated Leslie's birthday in Seattle with an Astros - Mariners game. **Brian O'Leary** was excited to see fellow Boston Latin School classmates for their 25th reunion. **Jenny and Randy Odinet** enjoyed a parent trip to New York City with some great dining and even walking the Brooklyn Bridge. **Terry Jeanes**, along with her sister, visited Cozumel and Belize, sailing from Galveston. **Heather McKeown** made a trip to Malabo, Equatorial Guinea. At the recent St. Rose volleyball banquet, **Trent Salch** was recognized for coaching and daughter **Kylie** was recognized as Most Valuable JV volleyball player.

Congratulations

To **Kylie Salch** for winning 2nd place western forms at the Galveston-Houston Archdiocesan Poetry Festival. Also to **Lily Bowman** who will be attending Texas State University ~ Honors College, in their BFA Theatre program, studying Performance and Production.

Special thoughts for Randy Kissling and Mary Tipton on the recent passing of Randy's father.

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.

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GOMO's Revised Bankruptcy Plan Update

Vic Seghers, GOMO President

Below is a summary of the revised GOMO bankruptcy plan (subject to continued negotiation with the Creditors' Committee):

- 1) Revise Deed Restrictions to provide for a flat, simple transfer fee of \$1500. This transfer fee will be levied only on future homeowners, just like the current fee. Also provide a reasonable adjustment mechanism which is lacking in the current Deed Restrictions to ensure the amount of the transfer fee remains responsive to the needs of the neighborhood.
- 2) Maximize money returned to the creditors. After attorney's fees are paid, post-petition fees returned, and a one-year reserve of operating expenses for the future HOA is set aside, 100% of remaining funds will be returned to the creditors. It is not possible to estimate with much accuracy what this total will be as attorney's fees remain a significant unknown factor. The longer the bankruptcy continues, the less money is available for return to creditors. But our goal is to maximize the amount of money returned, and to be greater than any potential competing plan.
- 3) Revise current Deed Restrictions to remove the obsolete racial restriction.
- 4) Revise Deed Restrictions to ensure enforceability per 2019 standards. Our goal in revising the 1930s era Deed Restrictions is to clarify and improve enforceability of the restrictions, but overall maintain the original intent. A copy of each section's proposed Deed Restrictions are available on gardenoaks.org, including redlined copies to show the limited extent of proposed changes.
- 5) Address and resolve GOMO formation defect.
- 6) GOMO leadership resigns upon plan confirmation.

The following points summarize a few updates since last month's *Gazette* article. The GOMO and Creditors' Committee attorneys have been in frequent contact in an attempt to create a joint compromise plan acceptable to both parties. There has been some progress, but frankly it has been minimal. A sticking point seems to be GOMO's proposal to revise the Deed Restrictions through the bankruptcy process, and specifically whether this is a viable pathway. During the hearing on May 9, Judge Jones offered clear indications that the Court has the power to confirm neighborhood approved, revised and restated Deed Restrictions. It is GOMO's position that this is a settled issue and

we hope this allows both parties to move forward in pursuit of substantive discussion on revising and updating the deed restrictions.

Both GOMO and the Creditors' Committee have hired separate Bankruptcy attorneys and HOA attorneys. As has occurred during prior bankruptcy court hearings, members of the Creditors' Committee and its supporters addressed Judge Jones and the Court. Regardless of the bankruptcy's ultimate outcome, between neighborhood town hall meetings and public bankruptcy court hearings, the neighborhood should be assured both sides have had ample opportunities to publicly advocate for their position.

A few clarifications are offered regarding recent discussions on social media:

Lowering the transfer fee to a flat \$1500 requires an amendment of the Deed Restrictions, as the current fee mechanism is contained within the existing Deed Restrictions. Removing the obsolete racial restriction language also requires an amendment to the Deed Restrictions, as it is contained within the original documents.

Concern has been expressed regarding the speed with which GOMO's proposed Deed Restriction revisions were formulated, referencing that this process normally takes 1-2 years. That assumption is anecdotal, but it demonstrates that these efforts are lengthy processes. The recent effort to modify the deed restrictions for the church parking lots that border Shepherd in Garden Oaks Section 1 demonstrates that the greatest time-consuming process was actually the door to door campaign to obtain signatures and approvals, not the writing of the new deed restrictions themselves.

GOMO's formal process of deed restriction review began 8 months ago in October 2018, with informal discussion commencing even earlier during the summer of 2018 when GO Reform was active. Input from the Creditors' Committee was solicited throughout the formal process, although they declined to participate. The time and effort spent by GOMO and other interested homeowners was no less comprehensive than other groups who have also used the Texas statutory process to create deed restrictions. Ultimately, it was determined the bankruptcy process would be a more efficient vehicle through which to amend the Deed Restrictions, but regardless the actual timeline is in line with what has been referenced as the norm.

The next bankruptcy court hearing is Thursday, June 6 at 2 pm in the Federal Courthouse, 515 Rusk. GOMO hopes a jointly supported GOMO/Creditors' Committee plan will ultimately be submitted to the neighborhood for approval. However, should common ground remain elusive, GOMO expects to submit its revised plan for approval by both creditors and the neighborhood by late June/July 2019.

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Garden Oaks Civic Club Meeting Minutes

Helen Sestak, Secretary

May 7, 2019

Location: Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet (GOMM)

Tonya Knauth, GOCC Vice President, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. We welcomed three new attendees: Duke, Jenny, and Fernanda.

Guest Speaker: Lauren Simpson, founder of St. Julian's Wildlife Habitat, was guest speaker. Lauren discussed pollinators, why we should care about them, and provided tips for starting pollinator-friendly gardens.

Lauren emphasized that each person's garden, no matter what size, can help improve and restore insect habitats. One should use hardy, native plants, as they encourage insects, save and purify water, and prevent erosion. Plant a variety of species specific to our ecozone to support multiple types of pollinators. Remember that many non-native plants are invasive and squeeze out natives. Plant natives in masses. Avoid pesticides. Remember that mosquito sprays and mist systems kill beneficial insects too.

Thanks to Lauren for a very informative, interactive presentation and Q&A session, sharing photos and seed packets as well. For more information, see "St. Julian's Crossing – wildlife habitat" Facebook page. A resource list is available on gardenoaks.org.

Business Meeting

A motion to approve last month's minutes was made and seconded. The minutes were approved.

Committee Reports

GOMO: Brenda de Alba reported that the next hearing will be Thursday, May 9 at 3pm. Attorneys for both GOMO and the Creditors' Committee have met. GOMO will present a revised plan on Thursday.

Treasurer's Report: Teresa Coleman provided hardcopy balance sheets for March and April for both the Civic

Club and Constable Program.

Constable Patrol: Tonya Knauth reported via an email from Terry Jeanes that there are five thermometer-type signs that show current fund-raising levels for the 2019 Constable Program. Anticipated installation is imminent. A big thanks to Terry, who underwrote the cost of the signs.

Beautification: No report.

Garden Oaks Website: Teresa Coleman stated that the www.gardenoaks.org website was hacked. Pam Parks is working with the security company to bring it back up.

Citizen Patrol: No report. Volunteers are always needed.

Membership: Dian Austin reported that 229 Civic Club members and 250 Constable Program supporters have signed up to date in 2019. Fernanda Quezadas won a \$25 Starbuck's gift card in the raffle.

Gazette: Joe Muscara emphasized the May 15th deadline for the June newsletter. Send submissions to gazette@gardenoaks.org. Please send interesting neighborhood stories for possible submission.

Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet: Tonya Knauth reported that an accreditation team is on campus. Some campus renovation will continue into the summer. The school is at capacity, with a full waiting list. Dr. Pollock has opened the Wakefield drop off in the mornings, hopefully to alleviate traffic. The Spark Park has completely reopened.

Government Affairs / GO CIP: Tonya Knauth attended the super neighborhood meeting last week. She and Mark Klein (SN President) discussed the possibility of combining September candidate forums, due to the large number of candidates for local offices.

Observers with the Sue Barnett CIP expansion and drainage program will observe the traffic flow around GOMM soon. They are reconsidering a request for a three-way stop and the need for a wider street near the school.

The Golf CIP is slated to start soon.

The city has rented garbage trucks in an attempt to get pickup back on schedule.

Section 1 Commercial Development: Carrie Arnett attended the April public meeting, part of the re-platting and closing process. Carrie re-iterated at the hearing that the deed restrictions had been replaced by the declaration of restrictions. The closing will be in approximately six weeks, followed by permitting, with possible ground-breaking in August.

Old Business: A neighborhood mix-and-mingle will be held on Wednesday, May 8, 5:30-7 pm, at El Tiempo Cantina on Hwy 290. El Tiempo has generously agreed to donate appetizers. Meet your neighbors and enjoy good food and beverages!

New Business

The next GOCC meeting will be held on June 4, 7 pm, at Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet School.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 pm.

Seventeen attendees enjoyed great pizza, generously donated again by Brother's Pizzeria on North Shepherd!

GOCC Ad Hoc Section 1 Commercial Development Committee

Carrie Arnett, Co-Chair

There has been more activity around the commercial development in Section 1. As many homeowners in Section 1 are aware, the Garden Oaks Baptist Church's (GOBC) parking lot that had a religious-use-only designation is now going to be replaced with restrictions laid out in the Declaration of Restrictions (see Declaration of Restrictions on the GOCC+ page under Church Parking Lot - November 7, 2018 Update).

For background, 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. Since about April 2018, the Section 1 Commercial

Development Committee (the Committee or CDC) has worked with an urban planner and consulted with an attorney about the parking lot. The Committee negotiated changes to the original Declaration of Restrictions proposed by GOBC and Gulf Coast. The Committee considered the final version of the Declaration of Restrictions to be palatable for the neighborhood, considering the unique circumstances and realistic inevitability of commercial development of the parking lot.

Recently, you may have noticed a sign in the parking lot providing notice of a public hearing date before the Houston Planning and Development Department. The public hearing was held on April 11, and I attended. Replatting allowed for the four lots to become one, which is required for commercial development and as part of Gulf Coast's closing on the lots. Gulf Coast did not request any variances (e.g., smaller setback from Shepherd). The public hearing allowed for public comment. I opted to speak at the hearing; I spoke on the history of the lots and how the release of the residential/religious-use restrictions was contingent on the Declaration of Restrictions. Because the Declaration of Restrictions is a part of the private sale, it could not affect the Department's vote, but my comments are part of the public record on replatting.

Closing will take place after the replatting is recorded. The civil plans are completed, and architectural plans will be completed soon. Permitting will be the developer's next step. Construction may start as soon as mid-August.

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.

Terry Jeanes
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Al Thomas - Vice President (2020)

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Stuart Arouty (2021)

281-469-6656

stuart.arouty@gardenoaks.org

Section 5

Vacant (2019)**Vacant** (2020)**Vacant** (2021)

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

GOMO Update, April 2019

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

- 1574 Sue Barnett

Revised plans were approved for:

- none

Pending (re) submission:

- none

Deed Restriction Enforcement Activity for April (Year to Date)

- New reported violations – 1(6)
- Resolved/cleared – 1(3)
- Unresolved/pending – 7 (N/A)
- Litigation in progress – 0 (N/A):

GOMO Bankruptcy Information posted at gardenoaks.org

Coming soon: revised Amended DRs and Bylaws

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.

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Summer Fun

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

Summer is here! There are all kinds of fun activities offered to children and families in the Houston area. Here are a few of the highlights.

Get out with the family and explore Houston with the Summer of Fun pass. This is a unique fare card offering K-12 (and college) students free rides on all METRO light-rail, local bus, and Park & Ride service from June 1 through August 31, 2019.

There are four ways to get your Summer of Fun pass:

- Apply online at RideMETRO.org
- Apply by mail by filling out the registration form
- Apply by mail by calling 713-635-4000 to request a form
- Apply in person at METRO RideStores, 1900 Main St. or 1001 Travis St. (weekdays 8 a.m.-5 p.m.)

Applicants must provide one of the following: current student ID, report card, or class schedule.

All you do to ride for free is tap your Summer of Fun pass on the Q Box to pay for your trip. The Q Box is located at the front of the bus, next to the operator, and on all METRO Rail platforms.

The Summer of Fun pass is a unique version of the Student METRO Q Fare Card, and you use it the same way. The only difference is that your Summer of Fun pass is programmed to provide **free** rides until August 31, 2019. The card then reverts to a standard Student METRO Q Fare Card, requiring you to pay for all future trips. You then load money on the card and ride for half price. METRO requires all Summer of Fun pass users to register their card before using it. If your pass is lost or stolen, METRO will provide one **free** replacement pass — all future replacements will require a fee of \$10.

HISD is also encouraging students to join the Houston Public Library's summer reading program for kids and teens called "Explore the Unknown," which kicks off June 1 and runs through Aug. 1. Students can receive a free book and lanyard simply by registering. At each prize

level, students earn another book and pins to decorate their lanyards and show off their success. They can earn pins by reaching their reading goals, attending library activities, and being an active member in their communities.

Earn even more prizes for visiting a Houston Public Library location and participating in a number of exciting programs geared just for kids and teens. There also are prizes to be earned for the whole family, so get everyone reading this summer.

Register, log in, and win with a few easy steps:

- Visit houstonlibrary.org/summer.
- Click the registration button and follow the prompts.
- Log in anytime to track your reading goals and activity participation.
- Unlock badges by logging 20 minutes a day, attending library programs, and more.
- Anything you read counts! It's easy to unlock badges and earn books and pins by reading just 20 minutes a day.

Most area schools are also offering **free** meals (breakfast and lunch) during the month of June for children 0 – 18 yrs. You may go to the closest public school and inquire about times.

Enjoy your summer break!!!

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/>



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



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.

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF OUR GREAT NEIGHBORHOOD!

Constable Program

Terry Jeanes, Program Chair

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/>

Connect Your Alarm Company with Constable Dispatch

Be sure your alarm monitoring company has Constable Dispatch (713-755-7628) as the first responder on your call list when your home's alarm is triggered. Please also program this number into your cell phone for ready access when you or a neighbor may need it.

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

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.

Constable Statistics April 2019

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.

- Accident Fleet/Minor – 2
- Alarm Calls – 8
- Arson Fire - 2
- Burglary Habitation – 2
- Check Park/ School/Neighborhood/Business – 24
- Contract Check – 240
- Disturbance/Loud Noise/Other – 4
- Follow Up – 2
- Information Call - 4
- Meet the Citizen – 121
- Open Door/Window – 6
- Property Found Lost - 1
- Solicitors - 1
- Suspicious Person/Vehicle – 32
- Theft Other - 1
- Traffic Hazard – 2
- Traffic Initiative – 5
- Traffic Stops – 92
- Vacation Watch – 32
- Vehicle Abandoned - 3
- Welfare Check - 1
- Writ - 4

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Ask a Master Gardener

Brenda de Alba

Ask a Master Gardener is a volunteer program offered by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. Volunteers staff booths and tables to provide free, research-based horticulture education to the public throughout Harris County.

Come See Us every 1st Saturday, 9:00 am - 1 pm at The Farmstand of Greater Heights, 949 Wakefield.

Follow Us On Facebook, Twitter & Instagram

The Harris County Master Gardeners as well as Texas A&M AgriLife Extension - Harris County Horticulture are actively participating on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram offering tips, lists, news and plant advice almost daily. The best part, instead of locating planting guides or insect documents, and sale dates for individuals, you can add the HCMG site to your account and easily share information with others. This is a definitely a timesaver for these busy garden days and helps promote our organization.

www.facebook.com/HarrisCountyMasterGardeners
www.facebook.com/HarrisCountyHorticulture
<https://twitter.com/pharrishort>
<https://www.instagram.com/harriscountymastergardeners>

2019 Master Gardener Green Thumb June Lecture

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and the Harris County Master Gardeners **free** Green Thumb Gardening Series is Tuesday, June 18th from 6:30-8:30pm at Spring Branch Memorial Library, 930 Corbindale, Houston 77024. June's topic is Propagation and Seed Saving. No reservation needed.

Learn how to save money by propagating your own plants through a variety of methods and sharing them with friends. Saving seeds for starting new plants next year is easy and also saves money. Learn how and when to harvest seeds and store them correctly for planting in the future.

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

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AC Tips for Hurricane Season

Mitch Weigand

Preparing for hurricane season means stocking up on supplies and securing your home. Don't forget to protect one of your home's most valuable assets, your air conditioning system. Here are some easy steps to follow to protect it from hurricanes and other extremes in weather.

Turn the A/C system off. Make sure it's turned completely off during the storm, both at the thermostat and at the circuit breaker in your electric panel. In the event of flooding, power to the A/C can create a fire hazard or electrical shock.

Secure your A/C system's condenser. That's the A/C system's outside unit. Powerful hurricane gusts can move loose equipment and cause significant damage. Make sure the condenser is completely secured to its base or your home by using hurricane straps, bolts, or strong rope.

Remove loose items near the condenser. Remove patio furniture and other items that can potentially become airborne and cause damage, such as flower pots and bicycles.

Clear away residual trash and debris. Once the hurricane is over and electrical power has been properly restored, be sure to clear all trash and leaves that have gathered around the condenser. Also, use a garden hose to remove debris from its fins so proper airflow can be restored.

How to handle a flooded A/C system. If flooding occurs in any part of the A/C system inside or outside your home, call your service technician for a thorough inspection. **Never** restore power or turn on the thermostat until you are absolutely sure it's safe to do so.

As always, schedule regular maintenance for your A/C system to make sure it's running safely and at peak efficiency.

Mitch Weigand is the owner of Air Wise™.

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Air Wise owner Mitch Weigand



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Mickey's Minute

Mickey Morales

And so it begins. The dog days of summer are upon us once more. Actually at the time of this writing, daily temperatures are currently in the mid to high 80s, and by the time you read this, we'll look back fondly on those numbers. Regardless of temperature, our farmers and ranchers are outside day after day, planting and harvesting crops, while raising and caring for their animals. All this brings you the cleanest and purest food available in season. Folks ask me all the time why our growers don't have foods that can be found at a grocery store or sometimes at other farmers markets. The answer is that we have rules and standards that other groups don't have or don't adhere to.

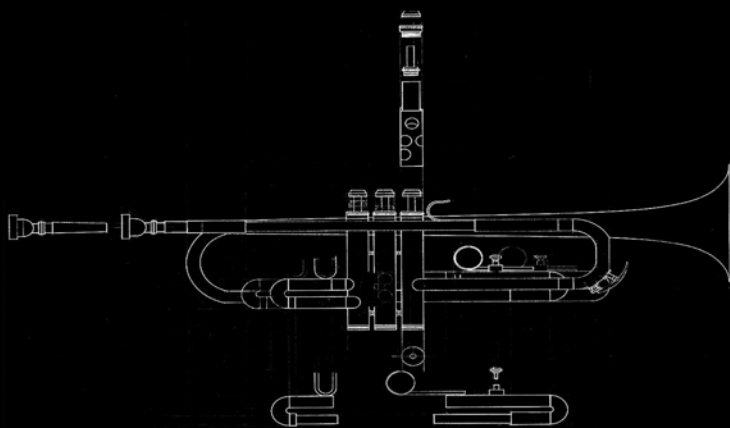
When Farmer Cathy first had the idea of creating an independent market run by and populated by people whom you know and trust, we knew we would never be the biggest, most popular market, or the one with the highest attendance. I was asked recently if we would consider becoming part of another market or if we would consider moving to a more happening venue.

Let me take this one question at a time. First, the participation fees at other markets are quite high which fosters a tendency to sell products vendors don't produce in order to raise their margins to pay the higher fees. Secondly, by being a lone entity, we are beholden to no one, save perhaps our land owner Rick Russell, who graciously allows us to use his property with few restrictions. Thank you very much, Rick.

We come from what is now the big show on the other side of town. Farmer Cathy was one of the original vendors and I came along three months later. And after years of helping to build it into the biggest and best, we were encouraged to go elsewhere, mainly for voicing our opinions concerning the purity of the products being sold. We happily moved on when I was asked to organize and manage the Highland Village Farmer's Market and subsequently the City Centre Market as well. And we encountered the same problem of working with land owners who were more interested in putting on a big show and having vendors sell items they didn't produce.

That brings me back to why you should support your local, sustainable farmer's market. At the end of the day, our producers have three choices if they don't sell all or

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most of what they have to offer. They can eat it themselves, feed it to their animals, or compost it. Most people ask why the excess doesn't get sold to a restaurant. The reason is that most chefs can't plan a menu around the dribs and drabs of what's left. It may seem plentiful, but chefs are feeding masses, not just a family. On the other hand, because of the relatively small venues and crowds where my pop-ups occur, I can incorporate some but not all that's left over. By the way the same goes for the baked goods available every Saturday. So please come support your neighborhood farmer's market.

As always, "Come soon, come often, no matter the temperature."

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sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
26	27	28	29	30	31	1 Farm Stand 9 AM - 1 PM 949 Wakefield
2	3 Eid al-Fitr	4 GOMO Plan Review 6:30 PM Civic Club Meeting 7 PM GO Montessori	5	6	7	8 Farm Stand 9 AM - 1 PM 949 Wakefield
9	10	11	12	13 Garden Club 7 PM Kroger Upstairs Meeting Room 1352 W 43rd	14 Flag Day	15 Farm Stand 9 AM - 1 PM 949 Wakefield Gazette Article Deadline
16 Father's Day	17	18	19 Juneteenth GOMO Meeting 7 PM GO Professional Bldg Suite 216	20	21	22 Farm Stand 9 AM - 1 PM 949 Wakefield
23	24	25	26	27	28	29 Farm Stand 9 AM - 1 PM 949 Wakefield
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
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