

Garden Oaks Gazette

The newsletter of the Garden Oaks Civic Club

President's Message

Joe Casarez, GOCC President

Hello neighbors. The Garden Oaks Civic Club (GOCC) will be electing officers at the upcoming December Annual Meeting and Holiday Party, Tuesday, December 3rd at the American Legion Post on Alba. Every year, a nominating committee made up of GOCC members is created to seek out neighbors who will serve our community by filling any open officer position on the civic club board.

Sometimes the committee's job is easy because the current officers will decide to stay for another year. This year, however, we have three officers who will be leaving. So the nominating committee will need to find neighbors who are willing to serve our community. This slate of candidates will then be presented at the December meeting and voted upon by the civic club members in attendance.

My message is twofold: First, to ask for volunteers to serve on the nominating committee. It is a pretty straightforward process that usually requires few meetings. The committee uses the current civic club member list to search for volunteers to serve on the civic club board and then presents that list to the current board for an election to take place.

Secondly, I'm asking for residents willing to serve in the positions of secretary, treasurer, and vice-president for 2020. I will be stepping down as President as will Teresa Coleman as Treasurer and Helen Sestak as Secretary. Current Vice-President, Tonya Knauth, will run for the President position.

This is a great opportunity for our community to have some new faces on the board and to have an opportunity to hear new ideas and perspectives for the benefit of our neighborhood. I have served as secretary, vice-president, and now president and it has been a great experience. I have met neighbors from every section of GO and have made many new friends. I hope that you give some thought to volunteering to serve on the nominating committee or to fill one of the officer positions on the GOCC board.

If you are interested in either group, please contact me or any of the other officers. Our contact information can be found on the inside page of the *Gazette* or at gardenoaks.org.

Thank you all for your time and consideration.

Garden Oaks Civic Club Meeting

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

Garden Oaks Civic Club Annual Meeting and Holiday Party

Tuesday, December 3, 7 pm American Legion Post 560, 3720 Alba

Bring a potluck dish to share and bring a new, unwrapped toy for the annual Constables' Toy Drive

There will be votes for the 2020 Civic Club Budget and Officers

Wine Walk Constable Fundraiser

Watch for the December issue for the full report

Santa at the Gazebo

Wednesday, December 11, Thursday, December 12, 6 - 7:30 pm (Decorate Sunday, December 1. See page 4 for information on how to help)

PTO Pancake Breakfast and Silent Auction a Big Success!

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

Did you drive by the school on October 5th and see the enormous corn maze, the booths, the train, and people everywhere? Our annual Pancake Breakfast and Silent Auction moved to the fall. Thank you to all the parents, GOMM staff, and community volunteers, including Heights High School's National Honor Society students, who helped to make this year's event an amazing success!

Families came out Friday night to help us unload the Pumpkin Patch which was a spectacular addition to our annual event. Dads flipped pancakes in the kitchen and served nearly 1,000 plates. Katz's coffee was flowing too as we packed the tables in the cafeteria and pavilion with folks at breakfast. Entertainment throughout the morning included Waltrip and Garden Oaks' cheerleading squads and a special performance by the Houston Show Choir.

Many dignitaries stopped by for a plate of steaming hot breakfast including HISD School Board trustees Elizabeth Santos and Holly Vilaseca, Rep Jarvis Johnson, and Pct. 1 Constable Alan Rosen. Thanks to the efforts of our parents and teachers who together assembled fantastic baskets and offered special experiences by teachers and staff, we raised over \$22,000 in just three hours of online bidding! A very special thanks to co-chairs Amabelle Cowan and Michelle Ray who coordinated a starstudded team of exceptional volunteers. In fact, one of our parents, Alison Kaspar, has already volunteered to chair next year, with the caveat that the team and more must return!

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

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

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

Constable Program – Terry Jeanes 281 236 8033 922 West 41st constable@gardenoaks.org

Home & Garden Tour – vacant hometour@gardenoaks.org

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

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The Garden Oaks *Gazette* is the official publication of the Garden Oaks Civic Club and is published monthly. The submission deadline to the editor is 11:59 PM of the 15th of each month for publication the next month unless otherwise noted.

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

Pocket Prairies

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

Are you wondering what we're doing in front of the school? We're planting a pocket prairie! Our school has partnered with the Katy Prairie Conservancy (KPC) to build a pocket prairie in front of GOMM. Pocket prairies are small areas dedicated to plantings native to the threatened coastal prairie ecosystems in Texas and Louisiana. These native plants, which we obtained from the Audubon Society, provide food and shelter to native pollinators and birds. Pocket prairies are wonderful ways to help our area regain the lost flora native to our area. A vital part of our Montessori curriculum focuses on the needs of humans and the interconnectedness of our actions with the care and wellbeing of our environment. This fragile balance is evident in the disappearing coastal prairies of Texas. In fact only 1% of coastal prairies remain due to development.

In a recent article published in *Houstonia* magazine, Emmanuella Aina shared the history of the evolution of yards and why it is in our collective best interests to start pocket prairies. Some of the benefits include mitigating the impact of flooding, since the deep roots of native grasses evolved to absorb large quantities of water and prevent erosion. Other benefits include support of butterflies and other living things dependent on these grasses. Even better though, native grasses only rarely require cutting! To read more about the importance of saving this ecosystem go to https://www.houstoniamag.com/ articles/2019/4/8/why-you-should-start-a-prairie-yard-flooding-help.

On November 2, KPC experts will be on site to lead the planting and teach participants about the Pocket Prairie Program. Science teacher Mr. Walters, will teach children how to make seed bombs, which they can then cast into the pocket prairie. If you'd like to learn more about KPC go to http:// www.katyprairie.org/.

Our pocket prairie is an amazing opportunity to participate in the creation of an ecosystem that the children can then study as it evolves. Stop by and see for yourself. If you are interested in being a volunteer in our prairie, pond, or gardens, we'd love to have you partner with us. You must first go to Houston ISD website at www.houstonisd.org and register in the Volunteers In Public Schools site. Once you've completed the information, call the school and ask to speak with Ms. Acosta or email her at sdubroff@houstonisd.org. She can help you complete the final steps and get you scheduled with our PTO Environmental Science Chair, Mira Balakrishnan. I look forward to meeting you in person!





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Constable Program

Terry Jeanes, Program Chair

Join the Constable Program to keep both deputies patrolling Garden Oaks!

Thank you to all who held National Night Out Gatherings in October, as strength comes from the added eyes and ears of the residents and getting to know your neighbors.

With recent crime activity including the theft of Halloween decorations from area yards to auto theft from a Section 3 driveway, it is very important to keep two Constable Deputy Patrollers on the beat and patrolling the streets of Garden Oaks. As of this writing, about 315 residents have contributed some \$87,000 for this year's Constable Program. Each deputy contract costs \$75,000 annually, so you can see that we are way underfunded to cover two deputies.

Mailouts for the 2020 Constable Program will begin in the next several weeks. Your Constable Supporter donation is crucial in having funds for two patrollers. Each contract provides a professional law enforcement deputy who patrols our neighborhood and its perimeter 40 hours per week.

Events such as the Garden Oaks Wine Walk help put funds in the coffers, but it is not enough to keep a second deputy paid in full. We are also awaiting the funds from Gulf Coast Development Group on their promised donation to our program. Residents supporting the Constable Program are essential.

Benefits from the program include a faster response time to your alarm or any situation that needs law enforcement, a check of your property while you are on vacation, and a visible presence in the neighborhood.

Reminder: our Deputies are Corporal Santos Torres and Deputy Desiree Pesina. A special thank you to Anita Torres who joined as a volunteer at the October Wine Walk event.

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/

Save the Date for Santa

Santa and Mrs. Claus will visit Gazebo Park (W. 42nd at Lamonte/Sue Barnett)

Wednesday, December 11th (6 to 7:30 pm) Thursday, December 12th (6 to 7:30 pm)

Anyone who wants to help decorate on Sunday December 1st, please contact either of the elves: Terry Jeanes (terry@terryjeanes.com) or Georgia Lister (gvlister@yahoo.com).

Constable Statistics September 2019

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

Abandoned Vehicle - 1

Alarm Calls – 4

Assault - 1

Check Park/School/Business - 7

Contract Check - 127

Criminal Mischief – 1

Disturbance Loud Noise/Family - 3

Fraudulent Use ID - 1

Illegal Dumping - 1

Information Call - 2

Meet the Citizen - 32

Meet the Officer - 1

Open Door/Window - 1

Solicitors - 3

Special Assignment – 2

Suspicious Person/Vehicle –13

Theft Bicycle – 1

Traffic Hazard – 1 Traffic Initiative – 2 Traffic Stops – 64 Vacation Watch – 5 Welfare Check – 1

Writ – 2





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Information for Zoned to Garden Oaks Montessori Families and HISD Magnet Application Information for 2020-21 School Year

Stephanie Dubroff-Acosta, Parent Engagement Representative, Garden Oaks Montessori

Choosing Schools

HISD School Choice Fairs will be at the following schools:

- November 2 at Sharpstown HS, 9:00 am 12:00 pm
- November 16 at Milby HS, 9:00 am 12:00 pm

Although hosted at various schools, all magnet schools are represented at each fair. This is a great way to explore schools when deciding which would be a good fit for your child and which you'd like to tour.

Tours

All HISD magnet schools will have tours each Thursday through December 5, 2019, except for Halloween and Thanksgiving.

- Elementary and K-8 school tours are at 9:00 am.
- Middle High School tours for parents and students are at 1:00 pm.

*You do not need to RSVP but bring a state issued ID so the school can make you a visitor badge.

*Garden Oaks Montessori will also host tours this Spring at 9:00 am on January 16, February 20, and March 26.

Applications – available online at hisdchoice.com

K-12 PHASES

- Phase 1 (Sept. 27 Dec. 6, 2019) Qualified in-district applications received during this phase will be entered into lotteries or be offered auditions.
- Phase 2 (Dec. 7, 2019 Feb. 28, 2020) Qualified indistrict applications received during this phase will be offered auditions or seats on a space available basis.
- Phase 3 (March 1, 2020 onward) In-district applicants new to HISD and out-of-district applications will be considered on a space available basis.

PK PHASES

- Phase 1 (Sept. 27 Feb. 28, 2020) Qualified indistrict, TEA Eligible applications received during this phase will be entered into lotteries.
- Phase 2 (Feb. 29 onward) Qualified in-district, TEA Eligible applications will be considered on a space available basis.
- Phase 3 (June 1, 2020 onward) TEA Non-Eligible (tuition-based) PK 4 and TEA Eligible PK 3 applications will be considered on a space available basis.

Considering your zoned school - Garden Oaks Montessori

The school zone for Garden Oaks Montessori is K-5. If you are considering GOMM for your K-5th grade child, please submit the online application. Your application will not be in the lottery; this will just ensure you have a seat for the upcoming school year.

There is no zone for PK in HISD. If you have a child who will be either 3 or 4 by September 1, 2020, and you are considering GOMM, you must complete the online application. (Please choose "Magnet/Vanguard", not "PK enrollment" for our program.)

If you qualify for the district's free PK program, you must upload requested documentation and submit the application no later than February 28, 2020 to be considered in the lottery.

If you do not qualify for the district's free PK program, you may also apply but will not be notified of space available until after June 1, 2020.

All PK applicants, who submit the application prior to February 28, 2020 will be notified of application status via email and viewable online May 1, 2020 (offered or wait-listed).



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2019 Wine Walk Sponsors

Thanks to these cash sponsors, we will be setting a new record for the Wine Walk this year! Please thank these folks and patronize the businesses who support Garden Oaks.

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- · The Law Offices of Hilda Sibrian

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- Chris & Ashley Hotze (33 1/3@34th, The Shops at Oak Forest, 34th @ Ella)
- · Fencemaster of Houston
- Oak Forest Veterinary Hospital
- Optimus

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Geordie M. Hrdlicka, J.D., LL.M., CFP®, Garden Oaks Resident

Patricia A. Moore, MBA, CFP®, AEP®

- Shelley Kennedy, for Houston City Council District C
- Spencer Law, Alison K. Spencer, Attorney
- Terry Jeanes ReMax/Metro

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- Frost Bank
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- · In Support of Friends For Life
- John R. Bartos, Attorney at Law
- Mathew Naftis, DDS
- Shipley Donuts
- Tonya L. Knauth, Attorney, PLLC
- The Bell Tower on 34th

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- Candelario for Houston
- Chase M. Baker, DDS
- Jennifer Klein, Physical Therapy & AATB Pilates
- Mary Jane Smith for Houston City Council, District C

- Mayor Pro Tem/Council Member Ellen Cohen, District C
- Merle Norman Cosmetics & Unique Gift Boutique
- Mi Sombrero Mexican Restaurant
- The Farmstand of Greater Heights

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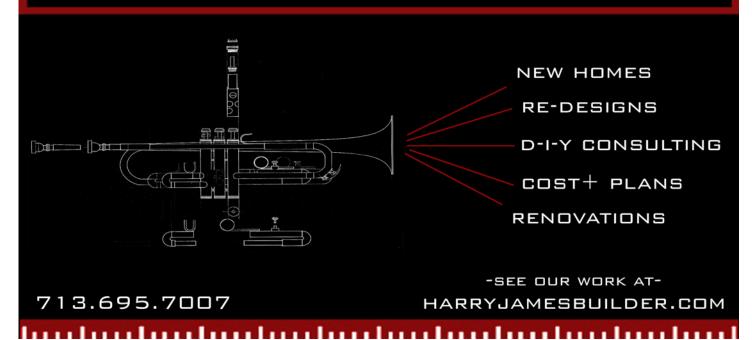








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Garden Oaks Civic Club October Event

Helen Sestak, Secretary

The Civic Club did not hold an official October business meeting per se in lieu of taking the night off for National Night Out. However, in coordination with Mark Klein and Super Neighborhood 12, the GOCC hosted a Houston City Council District C Forum on Wednesday, October 2nd, at 7 pm in the GOMM gym.

Eleven candidates running for Houston City Council District C participated: Candelario Cervantez, Michelle Ganz, Rodney Hill, Gladys House, Abbie Kamin, Shelley Kennedy, Sean Marshall, Greg Meyers, Bob Nowak, Daphne Scarborough and Mary Jane Smith.

Jonathan McElvy, publisher of the *Leader* newspaper, moderated the event. About 60 people attended from many different neighborhoods. Candidates addressed multiple topics, including the budget, affordable housing, flooding, drainage and infrastructure improvements, Interstate 45 expansion, urban revitalization, and other city services.

Citizen Patrol

Mark Saranie, Program Chair

As of this writing the two reporting agencies had no crimes listed for our neighborhood. There is a lot going on outside our garden of oaks, however, and with the holidays fast approaching it is always good policy to review your and your family's safety awareness. Paying attention to your surroundings as you leave your home, work, shopping areas, etc., will aid greatly in your overall safety. Getting caught off guard can happen in an instant. Have your keys in hand, and remember where you parked and walk confidently to that place. Be aware of potential followers on your way home or to your next destination; jugging is not funny. Keep the constable phone number in your contacts: 713-755-7628.

Our patrol group is always in need of volunteers. If interested, visit the neighborhood website at www.gardenoaks.org, click on the Security tab, download and complete the application, and send it off to the noted department. Send me a copy as well at gocop@gardenoaks.org. You qualify if you live in Garden Oaks, are at least 18 years old, and can pass a background check. Stay safe!

4 reported patrol hours for September.

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November 2019 13

Mickey's Minute

Mickey Morales

It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown! Well, that was just the other day. But you know what's great about pumpkins? They can have a second life. That's definitely true if you bring your pumpkins to the market on Saturdays once y'all are done with them. Used pumpkins come back to life as free range eggs and fresh chèvre, and baby goats come late winter and early spring. So don't send those old pumpkins off to the land fill. The girls (hens and mama goats) love them. And Farmer Cathy and Gus may give a few to the boys (roosters, smelly boy goats, and the pig if he hasn't gone off to freezer camp by then).

This also means we're closing in on Thanksgiving celebrations as well. This year, Marguerite of Dutch Fika and I will be teaming up to make your dinner plans less stressful. In case you've missed the sign-up sheets at the market, she'll be offering various baked goods for the table and I'll be making cranberry orange chutney, my pecan tarts, and quiches made to order. I have even developed a chocolate pecan tart that is Mom-approved.

As in the past, we'll set up in the parking lot the Wednesday afternoon before Thanksgiving, so y'all can pick up your orders fresh for the table the next day. If you ask nicely, I'll even make the gravy and dressing for you.

The Saturday after Thanksgiving we'll be hosting a few special vendors. Kit and company will be there selling handmade pottery. Jeremy will have spice rubs and various kitchen items. My friend Steve will have cutting boards, salt wells, and custom writing pens, and my own mom will have handmade holiday pillows. Of course we'll have the usual but special assortment of eggs, veggies, plants, baked goods, and jams and jellies.

So as always, "Come soon, come often, and meet my Mom."

The Farmstand of Greater Heights

9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Every Saturday Rain or Shine

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



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
 1074 Gardenia
 839 Lamonte

 1070 Lamonte
 1539 Sue Barnett
 886 West 41st

 1043 West 41st
 1050 West 41st
 818 West 43rd

 843 West 43rd
 847 West 43rd

Happy Birthday

Adelaide Leonard – 11/1 Deborah Seghers – 11/4 Frank C.– 11/7 Anthony Neiser – 11/10 Julia Kramp – 11/13 Emma M. – 11/14 Susan Saranie – 11/19 Jay McKeown – 11/21 Lucy Mc. – 11/25 Megan Salch – 11/29 Gina Pecoraro – 11/4 Mike Maltbie – 11/5 Angela Winston – 11/7 Caroline Padon – 11/12 Sheila Briones – 11/14 Dianne Murata – 11/18 Hannah M. – 11/120 Kit Schoenfield – 11/23 Cheryl Cohorn – 11/28 Hal Bowman and Georgia Lister – 11/11

Out and About

Leslie Ryan and Carl Waters visited San Francisco, attending the Giants and Dodgers game for Fan Appreciation Day. Lucinda Kurtas had an amazing trip to Jordan and the Dead Sea. The Singers visited the Corvette Museum in Bowling Green KY. Jane Ann Roberts, Shana Tatum, and Jessica Modad enjoyed a trip with former GOMM mom Mary Zimmermann to Hawaii. Tina Sabuco had a great birthday celebration in Wimberley.

Congratulations

To **Audie C.**, getting the Game Ball at her softball game at the Timbergrove Sports Association. And to **Cameron Carlin** for his well–received keynote address to donors and honored guests at Trinity University.

Special Thoughts

For the **Lister–Bowman family** for the loss of their beloved Sammy. Well wishes for recovery for **Karen McKinney**, after recent eye surgery.

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.

Happy Anniversary

Bob and Debbie Driver - 11/4

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November 2019 15

How to Properly Size Your Air Conditioning System

Mitch Weigand

Because of better technology and the hope of reducing utility bills, many are looking to replace a deteriorating central air conditioning system. When choosing the correctly sized system for your home, bigger isn't always better, nor will smaller be more economical.

Air conditioners — central A/C systems, mini-splits, and window units — are rated by the number of British Thermal Units (BTU) of heat they can remove per hour. Another common rating term is ton which is the equivalent of 12,000 BTU/hour. With Houston's heat and humidity, a good rule of thumb is one ton per 400 square feet. For example, a 2,000 square-foot house will require a five-ton central A/C system.

In addition to your home's square footage, there are many factors to consider including the number of windows, the ceiling height, how airtight your home is, the number of skylights or fireplaces, the amount of insulation in the ceiling and walls, the number of shade trees around your home, the type of building materials

and roof construction, the number of heat sources, and your ideal indoor temperature.

An incorrectly sized system can cost you

An oversized A/C system will not automatically provide superior cooling. That's because in order to satisfy the thermostat's temperature setting, the system will shut off before it can remove sufficient humidity from the air, resulting in air that's cold but feels clammy to your skin. What's more, the stress of short cycling (too many stops and starts) will shorten the equipment's life and increase your utility bills.

Also, a system that's too small cannot get the job done either. It will run nonstop, trying to keep up with the demands of heat and humidity. This overtaxes your system, resulting in shortened life span and increased energy consumption.

Your A/C service technician can help by doing a roomby-room load calculation. This heat loss/heat gain analysis takes into consideration all of the above factors and is the best indicator for the correct system size.

Mitch is the owner of Air Wise™

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Chris S., Oak Forest

"When I came home Friday after work to find my A/C was out, I expected a long, hot weekend. However, within an hour, your technician was at my house, diagnosing and fixing the problem.

Thanks so much for saving my weekend!"



Air Wise owner Mitch Weigand



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NOVEMBER 2019							
	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
mo	ore. If you cor	what you have; you ncentrate on what y ever have enough.	you don't have,	30	31	1	2 Farm Stand 9 am - 1 pm 949 Wakefield
3	Daylight Savings Time Ends	4	5 Civic Club Meeting 7 pm GO Montessori	6	7	8	9 Farm Stand 9 am - 1 pm 949 Wakefield
10		11 Veterans Day	12	13	14	15 Gazette Article Deadline	Farm Stand 9 am - 1 pm 949 Wakefield Garden Club Workday Friendship Park 9 am
17		18	19	20	21	22	Farm Stand 9 am - 1 pm 949 Wakefield
24		25	26	27	28 Thanksgiving	29	Farm Stand 9 am - 1 pm 949 Wakefield





Constable Patrol Dues Statement for 2020

[] New Member or [] Renewal

Property Address :						
Please provide contact information for program member(s) at this address:						
Member 1 Information	Member 2 Information					
Name:	Name:					
Email:	Email:					
Work Phone:	Work Phone:					
Cell Phone:	Cell Phone:					
Emergency Contact Information Name: Home Phone: Work Phone:	Emergency Contact Information Name: Home Phone: Work Phone:					
Cell Phone:	Cell Phone:					
Payment Options (Checks made payable to GOCC) [] Enclosed is the minimum requested payment of \$250 for 2020. [] 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



2020 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				
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