



March 2020

Volume 42 Issue 3

# Garden Oaks Gazette

The newsletter of the Garden Oaks Civic Club

## Beautification

*Pam Parks, Brenda de Alba, Tina Nieto*

Park Captains are scrambling to raise funds and get work plans in place while the cool weather holds. Cooler weather is ideal for getting larger plants established and it is far kinder to our volunteers.

So, what's up?

At Gazebo Park (between Sections 2 and 3) the new Co-Captains Rayford Irvin and Ahren Lacy have hit the road running by collecting over \$2450 in contributions from neighbors for a major clearing out of undesirable invasive plants. The Civic Club voted to kick in \$300 towards the project. Once the jungle is tamed, the plan is to fill gaps with new plantings. A second round of work would make repairs to the irrigation system, power wash the gazebo, prune crepe myrtles, and re-mulch. Fundraising for the Gazebo Park project will be suspended when \$3000 is reached. Fundraising for the other park projects continues.



At the Memorial Rose Garden in Section 1, the new Co-Captains, Sheila Briones and Brenda de Alba, with assistance from Ed de Alba, have been working to get water service restored to the park. A winter freeze damaged the backflow preventor and, even though it was repaired, water to the irrigation system was shut off by the City for reasons unknown, and the mature antique roses were lost.

*(Continued on page 4)*

### Garden Oaks Civic Club Meeting

Tuesday, March 3, 7 pm  
Garden Oaks Montessori  
901 Sue Barnett

Topic: The Principal and/or The Magnet coordinator for our five area schools will be at the March meeting.

There will be a brief introduction from each school's representative along with a short Q&A session. Afterwards you will be free to visit any of the tables we will have set up to gather more information from the one or all of the schools.

Frank Black Middle School  
(Grades 6-8)

Waltrip High School (Grades 9-12)

Booker T. Washington High School (Grades 9-12)

Durham Elementary (Pre K-5)

Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet (Pre K-8)

# Constable Statistics

## January 2020

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

Accident – 1

Alarm Calls – 5

Burglary Motor Vehicle – 6

Check Park/School – 19

Check Parking Lot/Business – 4

Close Park – 1

Contract Check – 101

Discharge Firearms – 1

Disturbance Loud Noise/Fireworks – 2

Follow Up – 1

Incident Report – 1

In Progress – Life in Danger – 1

Meet the Citizen – 29

Meet the Officer – 1

Missing Person – 1

Property Found Lost – 1

Solicitors – 2

Stranded Motor Vehicle – 1

Suspicious Person/Vehicle – 14

Theft Other – 2

Traffic Hazard – 2

Traffic Stops – 22

Vacation Watch – 61

Vehicle Stickered – 1

### Civic Club Officers

*President* – Tonya Knauth 713 396 0876  
742 W. 41st president@gardenoaks.org

*Vice President* – Keith David 713 686 5903  
826 Azalea vicepresident@gardenoaks.org

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*Citizen Patrol* – Mark Saranie 713 724 1271  
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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.

# Constable Program

*Terry Jeanes, Program Chair*

Congratulations to Jeffrey Heinrichs, winner of the \$100 gift certificate drawing at the February GOCC meeting for paid Constable supporters!

**A huge special thank you** to Section 4 resident Patrick Murphy of Murphy & Vickers law firm for their generous donation for the second time in underwriting our GO Constable Supporter yard signs.

**Let's get the red to rise!** Each of you can make a difference. Please pay your supporter dues promptly. Also reach out to your neighbors and ask them to join. For the \$250 annual donation you get a nifty GO CONSTABLE sign in your yard showing your support.

There will be another \$100 gift card drawing at the March GOCC meeting for Constable Program Supporters at the \$250 and up levels.

**New Deputy Update:** Welcome Deputy Derrion Yates to the Garden Oaks Patrol. He was introduced at our February GOCC meeting, along with Deputy Santos Torres. Deputy Yates was with the Houston Port Authority Police prior to joining Precinct One.

**Gulf Coast Development Co. Constable Donation:** As of this writing (2/15), we are still awaiting the promised contribution to the Constable Program from Gulf Coast Development Co. (the new owner of the former Garden Oaks Baptist Church parking lot). Per Patrick Barry of Gulf Coast, the request for funds was to be made in February. An update will be made to social media and also at the March GOCC meeting.

**Pay your dues today. Why wait until you become of crime victim before contributing?**

**Become a Constable Program Supporter:** [gardenoaks.org](http://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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(Parks — Continued from page 1)

Ed de Alba has met with City workers several times and is working to have the water turned back on and get the back-flow device retested. A preliminary estimate for parts to replace the drip system in the rose bed, install a new drip system in the Garden Oaks sign bed, add a 4-zone controller, and install new plantings is \$1500 plus \$500 for labor (total = \$2000).

The Randall Berm (Section 1A) and the Garden Oaks Blvd Esplanade (Section 2) still lack Captains and a core of volunteers to plan work and see that investments are made wisely. GOCC leadership has shown interest in providing partial financial support to volunteers who raise funding, develop work plans and who designate a lead person (Park Captain).

Triangle Park (Section 3) is recovering nicely from the Alba drainage project. One might even say that it is looking spiffy these days with its new swing and recently spruced up beds. Not as visible are the significant repairs that were needed to get the irrigation working after the street work on Alba. Several new species of butterfly and bee-friendly plants (porterweed, American beautyberry, salvia, firecracker) have been added and there are plans to further reduce the mowing needs of the park. Park Captain Tina Nieto is looking forward to mulching and adding more plants!

The Garden Club continues to maintain Friendship Garden in Section 1. A broken sprinkler head was repaired and several cement donuts have been added to protect the sprinkler heads. Saturday March 14th is the Garden Club's scheduled workday for weeding, trimming, and mulching.

Donors wishing to contribute to the Park Projects are urged to Pick a (Pocket) Park on this page: <https://www.gardenoaks.org/gocc-home/payments/beautification-projects/>. Or you can use the QR code on the bottom left of this page.

Map of nearby parks:



# 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.

207 West 33rd    835 West 41st    927 West 41st    842 West 43rd

## Happy Birthday

Ollie H. – 3/3	Sydney Grace N. – 3/3	Lori Kennedy – 3/5
Dodie Davis – 3/11	Jeff Martin – 3/11	Robb Bunge – 3/15
Curtis Hall – 3/15	Angelica Sullivan – 3/16	Susan Kostelecky – 3/26
Sharron Sanborn – 3/26	Nathan S. – 3/26	Lindsey Bartlett – 3/27
Olivia S. – 3/29	Will Zugheri – 3/30	

## Happy Anniversary

The Murphys – 3/15    Jeff & Gaylynn Martin – 3/21

## Congratulations

**Julian Seghers** performed at the 2020 HMTA Music Festival, earning highest honors and has been invited to perform in the State All Star Music Festival in June. Also, congratulations to **Lucy McLean and Kate Mischlich**, members of the St. Agnes Academy Swim Team for winning their 4th TAPPS Div 1 State Championship – winning a State Championship all their years in High School. For the second year in a row, **Josh McLean**/St. Thomas High School took 1st place in TAPPS Div. 1.

## Out and About

**Cat and Jason Theriot** enjoyed the Iberian Mardi Gras Ball with the Mystic Krewe of Iberians in New Iberia. It was Mardi Gras time in Galveston for the **Salches**, and also for **Missy Alwais** and **Sandra O’Guynn**.

**Brenda de Alba and Terry Jeanes** traveled from Galveston for a Panama Canal cruise. While in the Panama Canal, they had a 1st time meeting with Garden Oaks neighbors **Mark and Katie Riddle**, who were on their honeymoon. Also on board were fellow Garden Oaks residents **Denise Hinojosa** and **Cynthia Higgins**.

**Julie and Jason Sherber** vacationed in Cancun. **Tina Sabuco and Shellye Arnold** along with goddaughter **Lily Bowman** toured New York City Valentine’s Weekend.

*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](mailto:terry@terryjeanes.com).*



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# Garden Oaks Civic Club Meeting Minutes

*Adam Pryor, Secretary*

February 4, 2020

**Location:** Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet (GOMM)

Tonya Knauth, GOCC President, called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm. The meeting was streamed via Facebook Live to the Houston\_GO Facebook group for those who could not attend in person.

## Business Meeting

Guest speaker Danyel Ramelow, financial advisor with Edward Jones, gave a talk around his "Rules of the Road" for financial management.

A motion to approve January's meeting minutes was made and seconded. The minutes were approved.

## President's Announcements

President Tonya Knauth welcomed all new visitors and members. New Section 5 resident John Alvar introduced himself. Tonya also welcomed visitor Anna Eastman, newly elected State Representative for District 148.

## Treasurer's Report

Jeff Martin informed the meeting that contributions in all GOCC areas, including the constable program, are ahead of February 2019 levels. He presented the updated financial statements to the meeting, noting that we are ahead on expenses largely in part to the timing of certain payments.

## Committee Reports

**Constable Program:** Terry Jeanes reported that she and Pam Parks met with the North Shepherd Business Alliance to promote the constable program. She thanked Section 4 resident Patrick Murphy of Murphy & Vickers law firm for funding additional constable signs again this year.

The \$25,000 donation promised by Gulf Coast Commercial Group remains outstanding; however Terry

said she was expecting to receive the funds in February based on correspondence and will continue to follow up.

2020 Constable Supporter sign stickers are now available and can be picked up at GOCC meetings if your contributions are current. If your sign is damaged, email [constable@gardenoaks.org](mailto:constable@gardenoaks.org) to receive a replacement.

She also thanked Dylan Kincaid of Stone's Throw Realty for his assistance in repairing the Constable thermometer signs. A \$100 gift certificate for Lorenzo's, provided by Missy Alwais, was drawn by new nighttime deputy, Deputy Yates, for those who had paid their dues ahead of the meeting. The winner was Section 3 resident, Jeff Heinrichs. Additional funds are still needed so please consider contributing to help get that red to rise!

**Beautification:** Pam Parks reported that the two new park captains for Gazebo Park, Rayford Irvin and Ahren Lacey, have raised over \$1,100 for maintenance on the park. She mentioned that bids are currently being conducted for the work. She also motioned for the GOCC to commit \$300 to the project. The motion was seconded and approved. She additionally proposed a process to secure GOCC funds for future beautification projects based on certain criteria. The proposal was tabled for further discussion at a later date.

Discussions with the city are still ongoing trying to get the water turned back on at the Rose Garden in Section 1.

The Randall Berm and Garden Oaks Boulevard parks are still in need of park captains. If you are interested in championing a park/community space, please contact Pam at [pamelaparks@mac.com](mailto:pamelaparks@mac.com).

**Garden Oaks.org Website:** Pam Parks reported the website redesign is currently still in progress, with links to local political representation and GOCC archived documentation being recently added to the home page. A separate page to contribute funds to specific parks and greenspaces has been created. Design work is also being done to provide listings for business members.

The GOCC survey posted on the website received 113 submissions and the data are currently being processed. Summary results will be provided at a later date.

**Citizen Patrol:** Tonya read Mark Saranie’s report. If anyone who had an application submission recently kicked back, please resubmit as the technical issues have been corrected. Submissions can be sent to [gocop@gardenoaks.org](mailto:gocop@gardenoaks.org). The current group is represented by seven individuals and are always looking for more recruits. A certification session is scheduled for March 3rd, and more information can be found on the Garden Oaks website. The team patrolled for 14 hours in January.

**Membership:** Dian Austin reported a neighborhood Meet & Greet is scheduled for February 12th at Wakefield Crowbar. Crowbar is under new ownership and is providing complimentary light bites and a meeting space.

Dian and Pam Parks manned the GOCC table at the most recent Farm Stand on Wakefield. GOCC will continue to have a presence there once a month to provide information about the neighborhood and sign up new members, so please come by and say hello!

Civic Club membership is up to 204 members, up from 151 in January. Paid constable membership is up to 234, up from 176 in January. Several businesses have also donated gift cards to be given away at GOCC meetings. This month’s raffle prize, a \$25 gift card provided by Wakefield Crowbar, was won by Section 1 resident, Lorri Hearn. If other businesses are interested in sponsoring a gift card to be given away at monthly meetings, please email [membership@gardenoaks.org](mailto:membership@gardenoaks.org).

**GO Gazette:** Joe Muscara reiterated that the deadline for all *Gazette* articles is February 15th. Please email all articles to [gazette@gardenoaks.org](mailto:gazette@gardenoaks.org).

**Government Affairs / GO CIP:** No report. Please reach out to Tonya Knauth with any related questions.

**Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet:** Dr. Pollock reported that they are still accepting pre-K applications, reiterating that no zones exist in HISD until kindergarten. Lottery notifications for K-8 have already gone out and deadline for acceptance is February 14th.

The school is currently selling mattresses as a fundraiser and interested neighbors should visit the school on February 29th to see the “showroom”.

North Shepherd Business Alliance will be displaying their vision for the neighborhood in the GOMM front lobby. Residents are encouraged to come view the display and provide comments by the end of February.

**Old Business:** Tonya mentioned the continued need for a GOCC Social Media chair, one who would monitor various social media for appropriate content and ensure factual data are posted. If you are interested, please contact Tonya at [president@gardenoaks.org](mailto:president@gardenoaks.org).

**New Business:** The next GOCC meeting will be Tuesday, March 3rd, 7 pm. Plans are underway for a Neighborhood Feeder School Forum presentation at the meeting, with principals and magnet coordinators of all Garden Oaks feeder schools in attendance.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 pm.

Attendees enjoyed pizza generously donated by Brother’s Pizzeria.

## 2020 Master Gardener Green Thumb March Lecture

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and the Harris County Master Gardeners **free** Green Thumb Gardening Series is Tuesday, March 17th from 6:30-8:30 pm at Spring Branch Memorial Library, 930 Corbindale, Houston 77024. March’s topic is Herbs. No reservation needed.

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

### Get Online!

<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. Civic Club Meetings are being streamed live on this page every month and are available for later viewing as well.)

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



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## 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**

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**Constable Patrol Dues Statement for 2020**

[ ] New Member or [ ] Renewal

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

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

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Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Member 2 Information**

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Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Emergency Contact Information**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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**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 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.

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**Garden Oaks Constable Program**

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**Houston TX 77206**

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The History of the Bell Tower on 34th  
by Roger C Igo, CEO The Bell Tower

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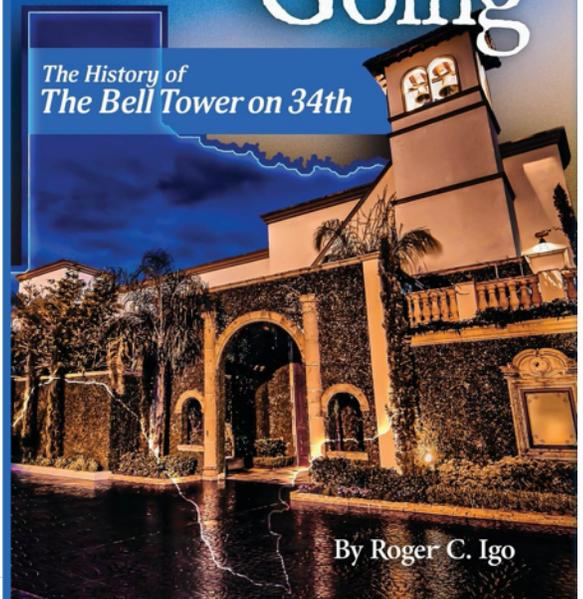


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## Keep On Going

*The History of  
The Bell Tower on 34th*



By Roger C. Igo

# Mickey's Minute

*Mickey Morales*

Saddle up! It's rodeo time, or as I like to refer to it, it's my rodeo marathon. This year it all starts on Monday March 2nd, with Steak Night at Sassafra, followed by my first day onsite at the rodeo from 6 am until 1 pm Monday through Thursday for three weeks. Within those twenty days I'll continue to work my regular schedule of pop-ups on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday, throw in an offsite dinner on the 14th after the market, and a murder mystery dinner the night of the 20th. Whew! Mind you, I'm not complaining, just putting it out there so you understand that if I appear tired or confused and maybe a little irritable, there's a good reason why.

Meanwhile in market news, Karen should be back soon after recovering from back surgery. I received an interesting call from a gentleman who produces fermented foods, like sauerkraut, kimchi, hot sauces, and the like. With a little luck he may be joining our merry band and help round out the market offerings. Farmer Cathy should have various cuts of pork available from her free ranged pig, and if they haven't made a guest appearance already there will be baby goats to love on.

We have also added a monthly visit from folks at the Garden Oaks Civic Club to answer questions, take dues payments, and provide on-site notary services. We would offer the Oak Forest group a monthly booth as well.

I have to say all in all things are looking up for our little market and y'all should come out and enjoy the best days of the year this month because unfortunately summer will be here before you know it.

So as always, "Come soon, come often, and hug a baby goat."

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# Seven A/C Maintenance Tips to Do Before Summer Begins

*Mitch Weigand*

Before the demand for cool air kicks into serious overdrive, follow these maintenance tips. Doing so now will help keep your system running smoothly and efficiently all summer long.

(1) Schedule a spring tune-up. This is the single most important tip of all. During the tune-up, your A/C service technician will perform numerous maintenance tasks such as checking freon levels, adjusting belts, examining the wiring and connections, etc.

(2) Check your filter every month and replace as needed. A clogged filter makes your air handler work harder and allows particles to build up on your system's components. This can shorten its lifespan, often forcing you to replace it much sooner than necessary.

(3) Be realistic regarding your thermostat settings. The lower you set your thermostat, the harder your A/C system will have to work. Set the thermostat to the highest temperature at which you are comfortable, and

use ceiling fans and programmable thermostats to help you keep cool.

(4) Keep your thermostat at a normal setting. Some people turn down the thermostat as low as possible when they first arrive home. This puts undue stress on the air conditioner. Instead, keep your thermostat at a normal setting whenever you turn it on.

(5) Change your thermostat's batteries. Spring is the perfect time to replace the batteries in your digital thermostat so it functions properly throughout the year.

(6) Keep the area surrounding the outside condenser free of debris. For optimum airflow, your outside condenser needs approximately three to five feet surrounding it to be clear. Also, take your garden hose and wash away the accumulated dirt and grime coating the condenser's fins.

(7) Call your A/C technician as soon as you suspect a problem.

*Mitch is the owner of Air Wise™.*

**Garden Oaks homeowner  
for over 24 years**



**Air Wise owner Mitch Weigand**

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“For over 23 years, I have used the air-conditioning and heating services provided by Mitch and his Air Wise crew and could not be happier. As a longtime homeowner, I have deep appreciation for them providing unparalleled peace of mind in an industry rife with dishonesty and incompetence.

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# MARCH 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 <b>Texas Independence Day</b>	3 <b>Civic Club Meeting</b> 7 pm GO Montessori	4	5	6	7 <b>Farm Stand</b> 9 am - 1 pm 949 Wakefield
8	9	10 <b>Holi</b>	11	12	13	14 <b>Farm Stand</b> 9 am - 1 pm 949 Wakefield <b>Garden Club Workday</b> 9 am Friendship Garden
15 <b>Gazette Article Deadline</b>	16	17 <b>St. Patrick's Day</b>	18	19	20	21 <b>Farm Stand</b> 9 am - 1 pm 949 Wakefield
22	23	24	25	26	27	28 <b>Farm Stand</b> 9 am - 1 pm 949 Wakefield
29	30	31 <b>Cesar Chavez Day</b>	1	Suburbia is where the developer bulldozes out the trees, then names the streets after them. — Bill Vaughan		



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