



April 2020

Volume 42 Issue 4

Garden Oaks Gazette

The newsletter of the Garden Oaks Civic Club

President's Letter

Tonya Knauth, GOCC President

As I write this before the *Gazette* goes to print, it is a time of great uncertainty. I don't know what the status of the COVID-19 situation will be when you read this. Many of us are anxious about much — our health, our families, our jobs, and the welfare of the rest of the people in our city, state, nation, and the world. I don't expect that will all be resolved by April 1.

I once knew a woman who had lived in places all over the world, many of them exotic and beautiful, the places the rest of us seek on a vacation. I was curious — what was her favorite place to live? "Idaho," she said, without hesitation. She smiled and said, "You want to know why? Because Idaho winters are so harsh, you know you must rely on your neighbors, and they must rely on you. Everyone does everything they can to prepare by stocking food and fuel, but once you're snowed in, you're in. And if something breaks, or you run out of fuel or food, you need the people around you. As a result, you get to know all your neighbors really well. And a real community develops among the people who live in this harsh adversity."

Garden Oaks is an amazing community. In just the few days since our lives have started to be disrupted, with schools closing and grocery stores running out of, of all things, toilet paper — I have seen many neighbors stepping up for each other. I have seen small groups of people visiting in the streets. Neighbors are asking others whether the stores are too busy and where to find supplies on social media. My favorite social media post thus far: a GO resident offering her help running errands, picking up food or medicine, to anyone who needs it. I expect there will be much more of that. I hope that you all know the people who live around you, and will give special attention to those who are older, live alone, or are otherwise vulnerable. Help as you can. And ask for help when you need it. In this time of uncertainty and harsh adversity, your community is here.

Garden Oaks Civic Club Meeting

Tuesday, April 7, 7 pm
Garden Oaks Montessori
901 Sue Barnett

Topic: We are working on a guest speaker from a local health care facility on the current status of the novel coronavirus in our community. We will post updates on the speaker and the meeting itself on social media.

Due to the fluid nature of the novel coronavirus and the associated COVID-19 along with the time between the *Gazette* deadline and date of the events, Civic Club events and activities mentioned herein may change. Please keep an eye on social media or contact a Civic Club officer if you have any questions.

Constable Statistics February 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.

Alarm Calls – 6
 Arson Fire – 1
 Check Park/School – 4
 Check Business – 1
 Contract Check – 116
 Criminal Mischief – 1
 Disturbance Loud Noise – 1
 Information Call – 2
 Meet the Citizen – 27
 Meet the Officer – 1
 Open Door/Window – 1
 Open Park – 2
 Property Found Lost – 1
 Solicitors – 2
 Special Assignment – 2
 Suspicious Person/Vehicle – 10
 Theft Other – 2
 Traffic Hazard – 2
 Traffic Stops – 9
 Vacation Watch – 13
 Vehicle Speeding – 1
 Welfare Check – 1
 Writ – 2
 911 Hang Up – 1

Civic Club Officers

President – Tonya Knauth 713 396 0876
 986 Gardenia president@gardenoaks.org

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

Treasurer – Jeff Martin 713 825 1768
 710 West 39th treasurer@gardenoaks.org

Secretary – Adam Pryor 281 682 0061
 1554 Sue Barnett secretary@gardenoaks.org

Committee Chairs

Beautification – Pam Parks 713 686 7728
 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

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

Webmaster – Pam Parks 713 686 7728
 webmaster@gardenoaks.org

Gazette Contacts

Editor – Joe Muscara 713 691 6833
 750 Sue Barnett gazette@gardenoaks.org

Advertising Director – Brenda de Alba 713 705 0886
 744 West 43rd gazetteads@gardenoaks.org

Delivery Coordinator – Lori Kennedy 713 691 6833
 750 Sue Barnett gazzettedelivery@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.

Constable Program

Terry Jeanes, Program Chair

**Constable Contracts Have Increased... Lets Get the Red to Rise...
April Drawing ... Gulf Coast Development Donation**

We are now subject to the increased contract cost for 2020 thru February 2021. As per notice there will also be an increase 2021 thru 2022. This is all the more reason to get those Constable Program contributions in. The current contract cost has risen to \$83,000 annually.

Let's Get The Red To Rise! Each of you can make a difference. Please pay your supporter dues promptly. For the \$250 annual minimum requested donation you get a nifty GO Constable Supporter sign in your yard showing your support. Pay your supporter dues at the minimum level or higher and you could be the next winner of the \$100 gift certificate drawing for *Laurenzo's*, *Tony Mandola's*, or *El Tiempo Cantina*. The drawing will be in April.

I am happy to report that the Garden Oaks Civic Club has received the \$25,000 donation to the Constable Program from Gulf Coast Development Co. (the developer of the former Garden Oaks Baptist church parking lot on N. Shepherd). Thankfully, this will help pay for the two deputies but this contribution will not cover the program entirely. Residents' support is essential to maintaining the Constable Program.

Harris County Commissioners Court was a hot spot following the motion by Commissioner Adrian Garcia calling for a feasibility study for Harris County Constable Contract program. The motion included the word "elimination." Thankfully over 100 speakers flooded Commissioners Court. Commissioner Garcia pulled his motion. Commissioner Cagle motioned, "We move that we affirm the Constable contract program, and will not seek to study to eliminate or terminate the Constable or Sheriff contract program." Commissioners unanimously voted to accept Cagle's motion.

Become a Constable Program Supporter: <https://www.gardenoaks.org/gocc-home/payments/go-constable/>

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/>

Emergency Numbers

Crimes in progress, fire, or ambulance	911
HPD (Non-Emergency)	713-884-3131
Precinct One Constable Dispatch	713-755-7628
All Other City Services	311



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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.

939 Althea	934 Althea	963 Althea	951 Lamonte	959 Lamonte
979 Lamonte	1022 Lamonte	1070 Lamonte	3309 Lawrence #2	
3114 Randall	728 West 30th	235 West 34th	1011 West 41st	
1054 West 41st	859 West 43rd			

Happy Birthday

Kiran B. 2nd	Devin Hunter 6th	Kylie S. 7th
Keith Kostelecky 9th	Reid S. 9th	Melissa Neiser 10th
Mansi Patel 12th	Daniel Sanborn 12th	Anna M. 15th
Lily Bowman 18th	Leyton C. 21st	Leslie Ryan 21st
Diane Morish 22nd	Nicholas M 26th	Jim Tucker 28th
Wade M. 30th		

Happy Anniversary

Tina Sabuco & Shellye Arnold – 4/6

Congratulations

Emily Roberts has been chosen from all applicants worldwide to be one of 13 undergraduate students for this summer's prestigious internship at NASA's Lunar and Planetary Institute. **Cameron Carlin** is now a Youth Sports Coordinator within the Community Engagement Department for the San Antonio Spurs.

Correction from March — **Lucy McLean** swam for St Thomas Episcopal in Div 3 TAPPS, and her school placed 3rd. **Josh McLean** swam for St Thomas High in Div 1 TAPPS and they placed first.

Out and About

The Salches visited Port Aransas. **The Odinet**s enjoyed Lake Louise Canada. **Jan Garver** visited Seattle and Puget Sound. **Caroline Stender** enjoyed Sedona. **Elisa Cuellar** had an amazing adventure in Morocco. Additional Mardi Gras attendees in New Orleans included the **Odinets** and the **Taylor** families. **Caroline Stender** and former GO resident Janna Alsobrook cruised to Honduras and Belize. **Terry Jeanes** enjoyed family time with the christening of her two youngest granddaughters as well as some added time in Smithville.

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.

Citizen Patrol

Mark Saranie, Program Chair

As seen below, fortunately not much transpired in the first two months of 2020. But, how many incidents went unreported? While unknown, the probability is good that more did take place. It is very important to contact the constable if you witness something out of the ordinary. A pain? Yeah maybe, but if a potential crime is interrupted, it's a win-win. Out of caution I have called upon the constables several times while patrolling. Those contacts were all discovered to be legitimate. Again a win-win.

As always, more patrollers are needed so that we can canvass our oasis more frequently. Download the form at https://www.houstontx.gov/police/vip/images/vip_app.pdf or get it from gardenoaks.org under the "security" tab. Scan and email your completed form to gocop@gardenoaks.org and I will forward to the coordinating officer. Qualifications are that you reside in Garden Oaks, are at least 18 years old, and can pass a background check.

Certifications and recertifications are planned to be held every other month. The next class is scheduled for this coming May 4th, 6 pm, at the North Division, 9455 West Montgomery, Houston, TX 77088

Incidents

January 2020

- 3rd – 5 pm – Breaking and entering — 4200 block Apollo
- 15th – 6 pm – Breaking and entering — 700 block W 43rd
- 27th – 8 am – Motor vehicle theft — 800 block W 42nd

February 2020

- 9th – 10 pm – Vandalism — 1100 block Sue Barnett
- 10th – 9 am – Theft from motor vehicle — 700 block W 31st
- 24th – 12 am – Theft from motor vehicle — 900 block W 41st

Reported Patrol Hours

- January — 14
- February — 11.5

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Garden Oaks Civic Club Meeting Minutes

Adam Pryor, Secretary

March 3, 2020

Location: Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet (GOMM)

Tonya Knauth, GOCC President, called the meeting to order at 7:03 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 speakers from each of the Garden Oaks area schools participated in the an information session with each representative delivering a short presentation on their respective schools:

- Durham Elementary – no presenter due to scheduling conflict
- Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet – Principal Dr. Lindsey Pollock
- Frank Black Middle School – Tim Weltin

- Booker T. Washington High School – Assistant Principal Hines
- Waltrip High School – Principal Michael Niggli

President's Announcements

President Knauth welcomed all new visitors and members. A motion to approve February's meeting minutes was made and seconded. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Tonya Knauth (standing in for Jeff Martin) reported an across the board increase in revenues for both the GOCC and the Constable program. GOCC dues are up 4%, Beautification contributions are up more than 700% (largely driven by contributions for Gazebo Park), Constable program contributions are up 33% and Garden Club donations are up 34%, all compared to this time last year.

Committee Reports

Constable Program: Tonya Knauth (standing in for Terry Jeanes) reported that Constable Supporter signs and 2020 stickers are available. Thanks to Murphy & Vickers



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law firm for underwriting our new supply of Constable Supporter signs. If you need a new sign, please email constable@gardenoaks.org to receive a replacement.

A drawing will be held in April for people who have paid their 2020 constable dues, with a \$100 gift card being awarded to the winner.

Beautification: Pam Parks said that the two new park captains for Gazebo park, Rayford Irvin and Ahren Lacey, brought in significant funds for maintenance on the park.

Pam reported discussions with the City on getting the water fixed at the Rose Garden continue.

Garden Oaks.org Website: No report.

Citizen Patrol: Tonya Knauth (standing in for Mark Saranie) said that if anyone is interested in volunteering, submissions should be sent to gocop@gardenoaks.org.

Membership: Dian Austin reported the neighborhood Meet & Greet at Wakefield Crowbar had a great turnout. Another social gathering is planned for April, date and venue to be determined.

Dian and Pam Parks have also been hosting a GOCC table monthly at the Farmer’s Market on Wakefield, so please come by and say hello! Pam will also be offering notary services free to GOCC members and also to non-members for a small fee.

Civic Club memberships are at 225 members, up from 207 in February. Paid constable supporters are up to 265, up from 236 in January. The updated supporter rosters have been posted to the website. This month’s raffle prize, a \$25 gift card to Raising Cane’s, was provided by Section 1 resident Julie Sherber, independent travel consultant with Frosch Travel. If other area businesses or residents want to sponsor a gift card to be given away at monthly meetings, please email membership@gardenoaks.org.

GO Gazette: Joe Muscara reported that the deadline for all Gazette articles is March 15th. Please email all submissions to gazette@gardenoaks.org. If you have graphics/photos with your submission, please send them as a separate attachment in the highest resolution possible.

Government Affairs / GO CIP: No report. Citywide capital



improvement meetings will resume in March. Please reach out to Tonya Knauth with any related questions.

Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet: Dr. Pollock reported that the recent mattress fundraiser raised approximately \$2,000 and thanked all neighbors that participated.

Dr. Pollock also reported that this Saturday will be the Greater Heights Chamber of Commerce Crawfish Festival, with tickets being sold through the school.

Old Business: Tonya reported that John Alvar stepped up to be the GOCC's Social Media chair for 2020. John reported that the Garden Oaks Instagram page will go live once verified.

New Business: None.

The next GOCC meeting will be Tuesday, April 7th, 7 pm. The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 pm.

Attendees enjoyed pizza generously donated by Brother's Pizzeria.

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. 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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Random Acts of Kindness

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

This month at Garden Oaks, we continue our acts of kindness with a special emphasis on random acts of kindness. These include the unexpected gestures of thoughtfulness that we can extend to others – a smile, opening a door, picking up a dropped item, thanking the teller in the grocery store, or telling someone that they look nice. All examples of kindnesses we can extend in our daily lives that cost absolutely nothing! Kindness not only benefits other people, but it also benefits the giver. In the words of Harold Kushner (rabbi and author of *When Bad Things Happen to Good People*), "When you carry out acts of kindness, you get a wonderful feeling inside. It is as though something inside your body responds and says, yes, this is how I ought to feel."

We don't have to interact face-to-face with other people to extend kindness. Increasingly, our interactions with others are electronic. Have you ever opened an email and experienced a dreadful feeling in the pit of your stomach or read a message that brings you down?

Remember that when we send an email, we are impacting the people with whom we are communicating. I was reading tips for effective (and kind) emails, and ran across a letter to the editor that appeared in Harvard Business Review OnPoint (Fall 2010; hbr.org). Rita Gunther McGrath shared "Rita's Golden Rules for E-mail". Even ten years later, these tips can help to effectively communicate your message and still extend a feeling of care and consideration for the people reading your message. I've added a few notes to her recommendations:

- Use succinct and non-threatening subject lines that tell the reader what to expect. Ask your reader for help instead of assigning blame. You're more likely to get a helpful response.
- Keep your message short and to the point. Don't point fingers and give extraneous emotions. Stick to the objective facts. No e-mail should be longer than one screen of information.
- Limit it to one subject per e-mail. Keep your message about the main concern instead of overwhelming your reader with things that happened months or years ago.
- E-mail is the wrong place for emotional outbursts.





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Don't use all caps – that is like screaming at the person and be aware that bold, red messages may cause your reader to simply hit delete.

- E-mail is the wrong place for communications of a personal nature. Pick up the phone if you need to speak with someone.
- Assume that everything you put in an e-mail could end up on the front page of the Houston Chronicle (or on Channel 2) and be accordingly discreet.
- Because you sent it doesn't mean it made it through to your recipient. Spam blockers and junk mail filters routinely stop messages. If you don't hear from the recipient, call them on the phone (don't assume they are ignoring you).
- Because your reader received it doesn't mean they read it. People are inundated with emails. If you need immediate help call them on the phone.
- Because your reader read your message doesn't mean they understood it. You may be on two different pages when it comes to the issue based on your backgrounds. If this is something new, best to talk face-to-face first and then follow-up with email.
- Because your reader understood the message doesn't mean they will agree with you or are able

to do something to change the situation. Ask about options and/or others who can support you in your idea. Collaborate and find win-win solutions. Seek first to understand – you will get much farther.

- Don't send an e-mail when a short phone call would be better.
- Remember to assume good intent when communicating with others. I recommend the book *The Four Agreements*. I've changed the four agreements slightly to focus on the positive and think they are a great way to frame opportunities to extend kindness to others and myself:
 - Be impeccable with your word.
 - Assume good intent (Don't take anything personally).
 - Keep an open mind (Don't make assumptions).
 - Always do your best.

Whether in person or email, operate from a place of kindness and opportunity. You'll be glad you did. It may take a little longer to get where you're going, but you'll be able to look back at a road paved with positive relationships and lasting friendships instead of potholes and regrets!

Keep On Going

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

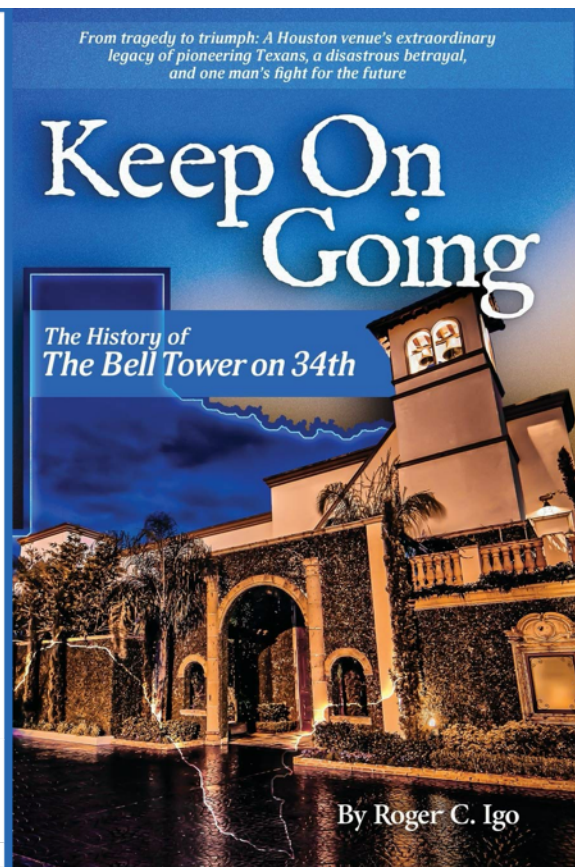
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Owls of Houston

Excerpted from an article by Amy Barton

Owls are not common backyard birds, but they are very desirable guests that can provide lovely nighttime sounds and excellent pest control. If you've seen owls in your backyard here in the Houston area, you most likely have one of the two owl species below.

The **Great Horned Owl** is a large owl native to the Americas. This owl is extremely adaptable and has a vast range through many different environments. They are the most common and widespread owl in North America.

Description: The Great Horned Owl has a body length 18-25" with a wingspan of 36-60". They have large ear tufts called "horns" and rusty facial disks with yellow eyes. Both the males and females have a white chin and throat and mottled barred brownish gray feathers. Despite their large size, they are only about 3 lbs.

Interesting facts: The Great Horned Owl is very powerful and can prey on animals larger than itself including cats, skunks, and possums.

Behavior and diet: Although many owls are known for being exclusively nocturnal, this owl is not, and is active at dusk, sometimes even during the day. The Great Horned Owl preys on terrestrial vertebrates including mammals, other birds, reptiles and amphibians.

Breeding and nesting: These love birds are monogamous, staying with their partner throughout the mating season. They have 1-5 dull whitish eggs laid in winter. You will find these guys in large tree cavities, broken-off snags, buildings, ledges, and open platforms. They are typically found 20-60' above ground.

The **Eastern Screech Owl** is the smallest owl found here in Texas. They occupy a variety of habitats from wooded lots to urban gardens. Unfortunately, their population is in decline due to habitat loss and rodent poisons.

Description: The Eastern Screech Owl is a small owl with a body length of just 8-10" with a wingspan of 18-24". They have small ear tufts which they flatten at will, and

bright yellow eyes with a pale bill. They are very tiny owls, weighing just 5.9 ounces!

Behavior and diet: Unlike the Great Horned Owl, the Eastern Screech Owl is exclusively nocturnal. They begin their nighttime hunting at dusk, where they prey on a wide variety of invertebrates like insects, spiders, and crayfish, and vertebrates such as small mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fish.

Breeding and nesting: Like the Great Horned Owl, the Screech Owl is monogamous. They lay 2-8 small white eggs. The baby Screech Owls are fed by both sexes. You will find their nests in tree cavities, nest boxes 8"x8"x16" with a small 3" opening. They prefer to be 10-30' above ground.

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A color version of the *Gazette* is published each month at the Garden Oaks web site, gardenoaks.org. You can download past issues as well as find contact information and pay for ads.

Classified Ads are \$20 per run for residents, and are for personal services only, e.g. help wanted, items for sale, infant care needed, etc.



Constable Patrol Dues Statement for 2020

[] New Member or [] Renewal

Property Address: _____

Do you need a GO Constable Supporter sign or a 2020 sticker (indicate which)? _____

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: _____

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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

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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**

Please mail this completed form along with your check payable to:
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-OR-

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Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF OUR GREAT NEIGHBORHOOD!

Mickey's Minute

Mickey Morales

And so it has come to pass that we have once again lost another vendor who has gone on to setup in a brick and mortar space. Alas, Marguerite of Dutch Fika has joined the list of several others like Rose Marie of Artisana and Slow Dough Bread Company, to name a few. As they say this isn't my first rodeo, and over the past ten years or so I've organized and managed The Highland Village Farmer's Market, The Market at City Centre, and now the Farmstand of Greater Heights. The one thing that I've learned to live with in the past few years is change, not something that I enjoy but quite a part of this business.

We've come to understand that a farmer's market is the perfect place to take an idea and flesh it out — to work out the kinks so to speak, develop your brand, and create a logo and marketing strategy. Basically you figure out what works and what doesn't via an opportunity that involves very little cash, just the price of a tent and tables, a banner, a few marketing fixtures to display your wares, your time, and in our case a very low application and weekly booth fee. I once overheard my father's boss say "Bill, there's no one's labor cheaper than your own"

to which my father turned and looked at me and said "or your son's."

In our current footprint and market format we are never going to be a place to sell large quantities of inventory with the exception of this past weekend when the stores were sold out due to the coronavirus scare. So it's not surprising that vendors with bigger dreams move on to the next level. In reality Farmer Cathy and I started this market so she and Gus and company would have a place to sell their wares with the least amount of hassle from major property management groups and land owners. The rest of our vendors help to round out the market and provide what I like to refer to as window dressing. Our goal has been and always will be about sustainable farmers and ranchers providing the cleanest and most honest meats, produce, and eggs possible.

A quick note: I won't be at the market on the 11th or the 25th of this month but fear not, I'm not quitting. I'll just be off doing a few other events on those days. I'm also working on some ideas on how to stabilize the market so we won't be without bread and dessert items.

As always "Come soon, come often, and Happy Easter."



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Size	Single	Six Months	Twelve Months
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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		

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Mitch Weigand

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APRIL 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
All will concede that in order to have good neighbors, we must also be good neighbors. That applies in every field of human endeavor. — Harry S. Truman			1 April Fools' Day	2	3	4 Farm Stand 9 am - 1 pm 949 Wakefield
5 Palm Sunday	6	7 Civic Club Meeting 7 pm GO Montessori	8 Passover	9 Garden Club Meeting 7 pm Kroger Upstairs Meeting Room 1352 W 43rd	10 Good Friday	11 Farm Stand 9 am - 1 pm 949 Wakefield
12 Easter	13	14	15 Gazette Article Deadline Tax Day	16	17	18 Farm Stand 9 am - 1 pm 949 Wakefield
19 Orthodox Easter	20	21	22 Earth Day	23	24 Beginning of Ramadan	25 Farm Stand 9 am - 1 pm 949 Wakefield
26	27	28	29	30	1	2

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