

## Garden Oaks Gazette

The newsletter of the Garden Oaks Civic Club

## Tips to Parents for Online Learning Success

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

The following information was adapted from:

https://amshq.org/Families/Montessori-and-Your-Child/Montessori-at-Home https://www.methodschools.org/blog/parent-tips-for-online-learning-success https://primarymontessori.com/7-back-school-tips-montessori-student/

This fall will look very different for students and families returning to a virtual/online school environment. First, grades and attendance will count! Two grades per week will be entered for each student in every content area (science, social studies, reading, and math). Additionally, teachers are required to take attendance every day to ensure that students are attending class. What can parents do to help ensure that their child is successful in this new learning environment? Here are some tips that I've gathered to support your back to school efforts.

### 1. Setting up for Success

It is crucial that you create a working environment that will ensure your student's success and one that allows them to complete their daily coursework and feel confident in their learning. Encourage a sense of order.

All children, especially those who are in preschool and elementary school, thrive in environments that allow them freedom within well-defined boundaries. Offer them structure. At home, that means establishing routines that are consistent from day to day. You might develop a good morning ritual such as a song or other regular activities to help him or her transition to school. Your schedule at home should provide enough time for breakfast before classes begin.

Take time to explore the websites and online platforms prior to the first session of school. Make sure that their workspace is designed for productivity and to avoid distractions. Your student should have a workspace with room for their computer and anything else they might need such as pens, pencils, notepads, calculator, etc. The workspace should lay flat, such as a desk or table. Students should not attempt schoolwork while lounging on the couch or while lying in bed. At Garden Oaks, we expect students to be present in the

### Garden Oaks Civic Club Meeting Goes Live (Virtually)

Tuesday, September 1, 7 pm

Join us from the comfort of your home to reconnect and catch up on neighborhood business.

Our featured speaker will be someone from the City of Houston's Waste Management Department who will discuss recycling.

We will meet by Zoom.

Meeting ID: 853 8370 1841

Passcode: 505892

We are entering into new territory (seems like that's the norm these days!) so we will all be patient with each other and some of us will be learning as we go.

We are looking forward to gathering in the way that we safely can!

(For a fully authentic Civic Club Meeting Experience, buy a pizza from Brother's Pizzeria that night. They have been supporting us with free pizza for years so we can return the favor!)

## Constable Statistics July 2020

Data are provided monthly for the contract with the Harris County Precinct One Constable deputy who patrols Garden Oaks. The number of responses is shown for each category.

Our deputies are following CDC guidelines and social distancing on the street as well as in the office. The deputies are equipped with PPE so you may see them wearing masks. They need to avoid exposure and then a forced 14-day quarantine. Please help keep our deputies safe.

Alarm - 4

Check Park/School/Parking Lot/Church - 24

Close Park - 1

Contract Check - 138

Disturbance Other/Fireworks - 3

Follow Up - 2

Information Call – 2

Meet the Citizen - 46

Meet the Officer - 2

Natural Disaster - 1

Neighborhood Check - 1

Solicitors - 4

Suspicious Person/Vehicle – 3

Theft Other - 5

Theft Residence - 1

Vacation Watch - 9

Vehicle Abandoned - 1

Vehicle Speeding - 1

Writ - 2

### Civic Club Officers

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

Vice President – Kevin 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 gazettedelivery@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.

## Beautification

### Pam Parks

Work continues on our irrigation systems. At the start of this year only one of six systems (Gazebo Park) was functioning. As of this writing, the Friendship Park irrigation system has been fully restored and work at Garden Oaks Boulevard Esplanade and Triangle Park is waiting on an infusion of about \$300 for parts. Two of our area parks, the Section 1 Rose Garden and the Randall Berm will either be restored this fall as major park reworks or left unirrigated.

The other interesting task last month was to get a large dead tree removed from the public space located at Durham and the North Loop. Calling it "public space" is a way of describing the "Durham Wedge" that avoids speaking to its ownership and who is responsible for it. As it turns out, like other public right of ways, the owner is not necessarily responsible for its upkeep. For example, each of us owning a lot in Garden Oaks do not own the grassy strip of land between our water meters and the street. The City owns it but property owners are responsible for upkeep.

About 3 years ago GOCC added the Durham Wedge to the list of Pocket Parks that we mow and do light trash pickup on. Leaving the trash to pile up and weeds to grow knee high was not something we wanted to see right next to our neighborhood sign and the "Berm" pocket park right across the street. It mattered some that it was not technically a park but not enough to ignore it.

The Durham Wedge is what remains of an original Garden Oaks lot after the Durham/Shepherd one- way conversion was done back in 1954. Since Shepherd is Spur 261 of I-45, the property is TxDOT Right of Way. Removal of dead trees, mowing and other maintenance on TxDOT Right of Way falls to the City of Houston, and they will take care of it if you can figure out who to contact. It took several calls to TxDOT, Councilman Kamin's office, and finally Senator John Whitmire to get results.

All of this commotion is way too much effort just to sort out a tree, no matter how large it was. The bigger reason for working this so hard is that without clear ownership and stewardship it isn't possible to advance improvements to the property. The "Durham Wedge", as it turns out, is a very nice shady spot near restaurants, a Metro stop, and the north terminus of the planned \$100 million Shepherd/Durham Bikeway planned for 2022. That project, which already has funding, will cause Shepherd and Durham to gain wider sidewalks, bike lanes and improved drainage.

Volunteers wishing to pitch in on work projects in the parks are invited to contact Pam at beautification@gardenoaks.org.

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/



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Precinct One Constable
Dispatch 713-755-7628
All Other City Services 311

## Constable Program

Terry Jeanes, Program Chair

Who will be having a Socially Distanced Neighbors' Night Out Gathering Tuesday October 6th?

If you plan to host a neighborhood event, please email constable@gardenoaks.org so we may have a list to forward to law enforcement who generally like to stop by.

With the start of September and only a single deputy patroller for his dedicated 40 hours per week, it is important to remind everyone to pay attention to what is happening around you. Yes, everyone has more on their mind, new school routines, work routines, etc. Recently three armed robberies occurred nearby in one evening: two incidents in Shady Acres, and one in the Heights. If you see something that catches your attention, dial Constable Dispatch at 713-755-7628. (Program this number in your phone now if you haven't already.)

The Constable Program is a program supported by volunteer payments. We need the support of as many households as possible. Fully paid supporter dues are \$250 for the year.

As noted in the Wine Walk article in this issue, please consider an added donation if you value the Constable Program. **Volunteer contributions are more important than ever.** 

Thank you to the Constable Program Supporters. As of August 15th, there are 332 paid constable program supporters of \$250 or more annually. If your name is missing, please consider contributing.

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

**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/

Mark your calendars for National Night Out – Tuesday, October 6, 2020.

If you are interested in assisting with some alternate smaller scale fundraising options for the Constable Program this year, please email Constable@gardenoaks.org.

## Citizen Patrol

## Mark Saranie, Program Chair

Back in the September 2002 issue of the Gazette when I was contributing a gardening article, I concocted a fictional history of our 1938 home.

Fast forward to 2020, and despite the searing heat of June, I was out front taking care of our very neglected beds around the house. Up drove our Gazette section captain with my packet of newsletters to deliver. I have filled in for her from time to time and have rarely come face to face with any of the Gazette block captains. During the course of our conversation I learned that her grandparents were the first to live in our house (my fictional story got a real life revision)!

And that all brings me to this...a large part of our collective safety comes from simply knowing our neighbors and not being afraid of just stopping to talk to those we pass during an evening stroll, saying "hi" or waving to a stranger or to the delivery persons we see daily.

Now, given our current and collective plight, we do have to talk a bit louder in order to bridge the six foot distance that separates us, but the awareness of each other brings us together. My hope is that when life returns to a different type of normal this familiarity does not dissipate but will grow stronger.

I have not yet heard when Patroller certifications will resume, but I do know they will be via Zoom. We always need more volunteers. Download the application at gardenoaks.org under the Security tab, fill it out, and email to me at: gocop@gardenoaks.org . I will forward it to the officer in charge of the C.O.P. program. When certifications crank up again, I will put out a bulletin on social media. Qualifications are that you live in Garden Oaks, be at least 18 years old, and can pass a background check.

### Crime reports for July 2020

July 17th, 5 am, 300 block W. 30th – Breaking and entering

July 25th,10 pm, Graham Park – Quality of life-narcotic violation

Reported patrol hours for July - 13







### Continued from page 1

virtual classroom dressed appropriately for the learning experience, fully clothed in attire they would wear to an everyday school function or trip to the store.

Once a comfortable workspace is established, develop a daily work schedule. Your student should set a start time daily, and their day should include times for short breaks and should be long enough to complete all daily assignments. Students are expected to take short breaks between work sessions. It is essential that you set ground rules for breaks. We suggest that your student avoid gaming, videos, or any other technology during break time. These breaks are designed to give your student a short time away from the screen to unwind for a few minutes. They should grab a snack, get a drink, stretch, and then get back to work.

One early fatal error is taking breaks that are too long, or too frequent, thus keeping the student from completing daily assignments and putting them behind schedule. Not completing daily tasks is a very slippery slope, and often, students who fall behind may give up and quit working because they are unable to handle the workload.

Lastly, for your student to know what must be completed in each subject daily, it is necessary to create pacing guides. These will help your student understand what to achieve in each subject area, each day, to stay on track, and complete courses on time. Pacing guide lengths and the amount of daily work required will vary, depending on course length, so be sure to ask your student's teacher for assistance with getting these set up.

Encourage independence and self-reliance at home. Maria Montessori believed that it is vital to allow children to become independent at a young age. This means encouraging them to learn to master life skills every day. Look for opportunities to allow your child to practice new skills, such as mixing ingredients in the kitchen or watering the plants. Teach your son or daughter how to accomplish the task rather than doing it for them. And be patient when he or she makes mistakes — it's part of the learning process.

### 2. Know your resources

As the parent of an online learner, you must be aware of the tools and services available to your student. Parents often feel isolated and are unsure of where to go if their student needs help. This uncertainty may inadvertently lead to your student falling behind, losing confidence in their online learning abilities, and ultimately failing or wanting to search for a new school. By adequately preparing, and knowing how to help your student, your student can successfully navigate the online educational world.

First, be sure that you know your student's teacher(s). This may be a single individual or separate teachers for different subjects. Make sure that your student knows them, and is confident in asking for help, or with questions, when necessary. Knowing the correct person to reach out to for help the first time will help your student avoid the frustration of reaching out to several people before landing on the right one.

Learn your parent portal into your student's online learning platform, and become comfortable navigating, and reviewing assignments, grades, notes, etc. Just as your student is being challenged to learn a new and unfamiliar system, you too must determine the systems your child will use so that you can assist them if needed. Additionally, be prepared to help your student, and gather the tools necessary, so that your student knows what to do when you or a teacher are not immediately available to them. As online learners, students often have the luxury of looking outside of the 'lesson' to seek additional information or to help clarify concepts or ideas presented in their coursework. Be sure that you ask teachers for suggestions for outside web resources or additional aids to help your online student be successful. Be sure to also ask about any available tutoring, teacher's office hours, and study groups.

### 3. Communication

Aside from actual time spent working online, one significant indicator of student success is the frequency and duration of a student's interaction with teachers, parents, and other students, regarding school and schoolwork. To truly learn, your student must talk about, explain, and ask questions about their lessons, and must know exactly whom to speak with, and how to contact

them. Students who are afraid to, or avoid reaching out to ask for help, often fall behind and are generally less successful than students who actively seek out help when needed. Help is not always a natural habit, and parents should work closely with their student to help them build the confidence to seek out help whenever necessary.

Additionally, parents should never hesitate to call or email their student's teacher if they have any questions, need assistance, or need advice on how to help their student succeed.

Online teachers tend to communicate student progress to parents far more frequently than teachers in traditional school settings. With the isolation that online students can feel if they are not adequately participating in the system, it is imperative that teachers keep lines of communication open with parents and students at all times concerning student progress, performance, and pace of work. Frequent communication between parents and school staff helps avoid frustration or surprises when progress reports or report cards go home.

Lastly, make sure that your student attends every scheduled online meeting, and a class session is required. Continued communication and interaction with teachers and other students help online students feel less isolated and look forward to attending classes and meetings, as well as improving school work overall. Unsuccessful online learners often claim that there was no communication, or that they never saw a teacher or other students. It is your job, as a parent, to ensure that your student is enrolled in a program where they receive frequent feedback, facetime, and communication from teachers, and where you both feel as though you are part of a community, and not just a 'learning program.'

### 4. Engage

Stay involved in your student's schoolwork. Sometimes when we ask children about school, we may not always get a straight answer. Rather than asking how they are doing in school, ask them specifically about what they are doing in each subject. Ask them to tell you about something interesting that they discovered while studying or ask about a particular assignment that was completed. Having students explain their learning is a great way to help students truly master the ideas and

concepts they learn every day.

Review schoolwork frequently. Before your student submits assignments, especially longer written assignments, help them proofread their work, checking for spelling, punctuation, or other grammatical errors, before turning it into the teacher. Many students today struggle with spelling and grammar just due to our relaxed, informal language usage. Students today often don't see the importance of proper spelling and grammar, and continually struggle on written assignments and essays because of this. Working with your student to develop the habit of proofreading their written work before submitting it will result in higher grades on written assignments and essays, and will help continue to develop overall writing skills.

Review graded work and your student's grade reports often. Review teacher comments and graded assignments and tests to see which areas may need to be studied further. Ask your student about low scored quizzes, tests, and tasks. Review missed questions and review written work to help understand why they were incorrect. Just asking your student to explain a missed question may reveal that they know quite a bit more on the topic that was told by the subject and can help you to help your student better explain themselves on future assignments. Don't be afraid to question grades. If something doesn't look right, or you would like to discuss the reasoning behind any specific class, you should always feel comfortable asking the teacher.

Lastly, teach your student that, just because they've finished an assignment, quiz, or test, doesn't necessarily mean that that information disappears forever. We are continually scaffolding ideas and concepts and calling on students' past experiences and knowledge to help them gain further understanding and delve deeper into each subject. If they're not working to remember what they're supposed to be learning now, it will become more and more difficult to do so as time goes on.

Read with your child. One of the most powerful ways to encourage your child's academic growth is to read with them at home. Spend time reading books together daily, such as after dinner or at bedtime. Read a variety of books, and discuss what you have both read. Ask questions about the book. As you read aloud, follow the

### Continued from page 7

text with your finger so your child can associate sounds and words with written letters. If they don't know a word, define it for them.

Learn from nature. Another part of an effective Montessori education is embracing and learning from the natural world. Children are explorers, and they love studying bugs, plants, and other elements of the outdoor landscape. Foster that curiosity by taking walks with your young student, visiting the park, watching birds, turtles and other animals, collecting leaves, or anything else out of doors that intrigues them.

Take a long-term perspective. Every person is unique, and the beauty of the Montessori method is that each child can work at his or her own pace, learning in the way and timing that is best for them. We won't compare your son or daughter to other children in the class, and we encourage you not to do so either. Remember that no matter what they are working on, he or she is learning foundational principles that will aid them in school and in life. Be patient, and celebrate their successes.

Use these tips and leap into online education that can be an inspiring and rewarding experience for both students and parents alike!

## Heard Under the Oak Tree

### Terry Jeanes

### Welcome, New Neighbors!

Congratulations on joining our community. We look forward to seeing you online at a Civic Club meeting soon.

 4239 Apollo
 927 Gardenia
 902 Lamonte

 1003 Lamonte
 3209 Lawrence
 1403 Sue Barnett

 223 West 32nd
 407 West 34th
 939 West 43rd

 1026 West 43rd

### **Happy Birthday**

Rita Hartman 8th Gretchen S. 10th
Sylvia Escobedo 16th Jacopo W. 20th
Allison Mattingly 21st Candice Croker 25th

### **Happy Anniversary**

Trent and Megan Salch 5th Mike and Diane Heath 7th Phil Ramirez and Gina Pecoraro 7th Rick and Tonya Knauth 29th

### Congratulations

To **Gina Greenslate** and her company who are Excalibur Award Finalists in the tactical responder field.

To **Alex Feit** who placed 3rd in the Regional Ninja competition in Austin. Onward to the World competition in Vegas.

### **Out and About**

The Goad family enjoyed a fun-packed trip to Breckenridge Colorado. Mike, Carrie, and the Taylor family enjoyed biking and hiking in Colorado as well. The Martin family enjoyed Washington State and camping in Mt. Rainier National Park. Julie Sherber and her girls rocked some fun days at Galveston West Beach as well as a little break-time in Weimar. Terry Jeanes and her mom enjoyed a full road trip along Route 66 from Chicago to Oklahoma City and all the sights in between. The Zindler-Feit family enjoyed a full trip including the Eiffel tower in Paris, Texas, Palo Duro Canyon, Fort Worth Stockyards, and more.

**Special Thoughts** to neighbors who have lost loved ones.

For Elisa Cuellar in the loss of her dear mother.

For Margarita Barcenas and Kevin Klotz in the loss of their beloved pup, Zorro.

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.

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.



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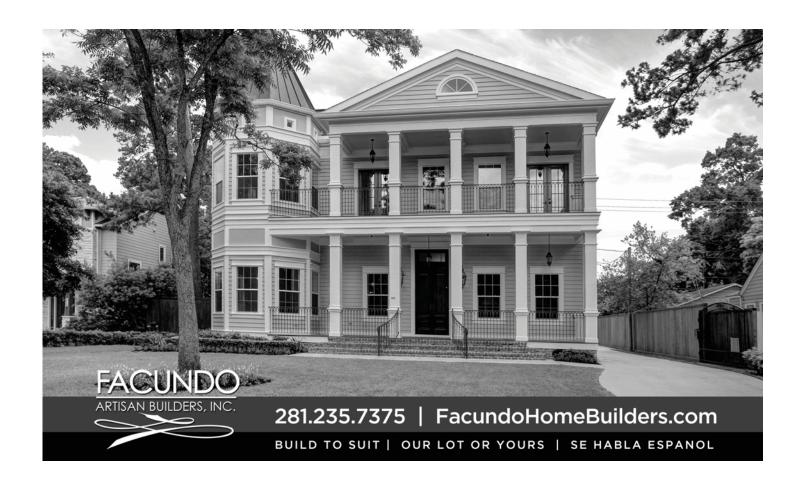


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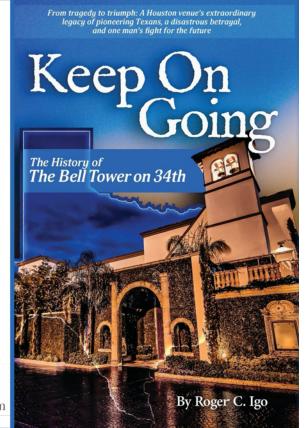
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## 2020 COMBINED CIVIC CLUB AND CONSTABLE DUES STATEMENT (January – December)

Civic Club membership is open to all residents. While membership is voluntary, you must be a paid member to be eligible to vote on civic club matters. Constable Dues are also voluntary and help pay for our Precinct One Constable Deputy on patrol.

Civic Club:	
\$	Basic Membership \$40 (\$20 for seniors 65+)
\$	Community Household Membership \$100
Constable Prog	ram:
\$	Annual Constable Supporter (\$250, w/yard signage)
\$	Additional Constable Program contribution
Other:	
\$	Contribution to <b>Beautification</b> (maintain area green spaces)
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## Mickey's Minute

### Mickey Morales

At the time of this writing in mid-August, I'm sitting in a travel trailer at Sullivan's Happy Heart Family Farm in Damon, Texas. I bet you didn't know that Farmer Cathy's place had such a grand name. I'm here to get the trailer sorted out, as it will be her temporary home in the coming months. The original farm house will be bulldozed and rebuilt due to damage from Hurricane Harvey three years ago. When they say things move slower out in the country, they're not kidding. I'm also here to design and build the infrastructure that it will take in order for her to continue to operate, since it is a working farm.

I joked the other day on Facebook that I was on a working vacation at the farm, with "work" being the first word and "vacation" being the latter. They say that fresh air and sunshine are good for you. Well, I'm here to tell you that too much of a good thing can be bad for you as well, especially in mid-August. However, if you don't mind the smell of nature (300 or so chickens, a few ducks, half a dozen goats, four dogs, and two lazy cats), it's quite an adventure.

On the first day of my "vacation", I wrangled two snakes. The garter snake was a catch and release. The copperhead didn't fare as well. I also summarily took care of a rooster that had the bad manners to attack Farmer Cathy on more than one occasion. The first night in the trailer I played peek-a-boo with a little mouse that had setup shop. He had to go the next day as he violated the truce by running across my legs while I tried to go to sleep and came and tapped me on the shoulder the next morning to tell me it was almost sunrise (as though I couldn't tell by the dozen or so roosters crowing at the top of their tiny yet seemingly powerful lungs).

All in all, the work went pretty well, and I'll be coming back from week to week to finish what I've started. It's really a shame that we live "in the time of Corona", because if it weren't so, we could have an old fashioned barn raising party, and my work would go a lot faster. Trust me when I tell you that erecting twelve-foot pieces of lumber by yourself is no easy task. But thankfully the Lord made me strong and filled with vigor. Could it be the fresh air and sunshine?

Meanwhile back at the market, we have managed to assemble a happy band of marketeers with most everything you need to sustain your day to day life. And on top of that, it soon will be September which means we have only a month or so of the Gulf Coast's horrid temperatures and humidity.

As always, "Come soon, come often, and start praying for a cool front."

## 2020 Wine Walk Postponed until 2021

### Dian Austin, Committee Chair

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our annual Constable Program fundraiser, the Garden Oaks Wine Walk, will be postponed until next year. The committee felt it was the prudent thing to do for the safety of all involved.

Usually we have about 300 people gather in the de Albas' beautiful backyard in late October, but even in that large venue, there's just no way to maintain safe spacing and social distancing with that many folks. I know we are all ready for some neighborhood socializing, and hopefully next year's Constable Program fundraiser will give us that opportunity and will be a huge success.

If you have the energy to spearhead other ideas for virtual fundraising events that could raise monies for the underfunded Constable Program, please email me at membership@gardenoaks.org. We would welcome volunteers to plan and execute some new efforts until we can resurrect the Wine Walk.

Friends of the Wine Walk? If you've supported the Wine Walk in the past as a participant or attendee or a sponsor and would like to donate to keep the Constable Program running until the 2021 Wine Walk, please send a check (made out to GOCC) in any amount to PO Box 10273, Houston TX 77206. Note that it is for "Friends of the Wine Walk" and it will be earmarked for the Constable Program. We will be glad to acknowledge your contribution in the *Gazette*!

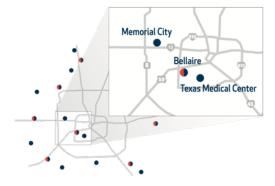


## Our sports medicine specialists can help keep your body in motion

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houstonmethodist.org/sportsmed 713.441.9000

### 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/

Please support our advertisers who support our neighborhood.
Tell them you saw their ad in the *Gazette*!

### The Farmstand of Greater Heights

9:00 am - 1:00 pm

**Every Saturday Rain or Shine** 

### 949 Wakefield

Sustainably-grown produce, eggs, goat cheese, coffee, breakfast tacos and omlettes, baked goods, jams, and jellies

### **Gazette Advertising Rates/Sizes/Submission Guidelines**

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

### Please note:

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

# HVAC 101: What Is a Return Air Vent, and What Does It Do?

### Mitch Weigand

Every home with a central A/C system uses forced conditioned air for cooling. The air is distributed via supply registers located in the ceiling of every major room. The cool air will eventually warm up and need to be reconditioned. That's where the return air vent comes into play.

### Return air vents as part of the ventilation cycle

The return air vent allows warm air to be pulled back through the A/C system. It's also houses the air filter that helps remove airborne contaminants.

Return air vents can be installed in two different ways: (1) in every room where there's a supply register or (2) located in a single spot on each floor of the home. These are typically located near the center of each floor.

Ideally, it's better to have a return air vent in every room than it is to have a single, centrally located one. Multiple return air vents make it easier to achieve neutral pressure within the

home. Measured in cubic feet per minute, you want the air being distributed throughout the home equal in pressure to the air being returned to the A/C system. This can be better accomplished when a return air vent is in each room that has a supply register.

#### Return air vent maintenance

A slight suction is created when the warm air is being drawn in to be reconditioned. This suction will pick up airborne contaminants (dust, pollen, pet dander and hair, etc.) and trap them in the air filter located behind the return air grill. Eventually debris accumulates on the grill and filter, choking off the system's air intake. This causes the evaporator coil located in the attic to work very hard.

It's essential that you replace the air filter regularly and clean the supply registers and return vents. Accumulated dust and dirt cause the A/C system to work much harder than it should, resulting in higher energy bills, poorer indoor air quality and premature failure.

It's also important that air be able to travel freely to your return air vent. Make sure there's no large furniture or other obstructions that can block air flow.

Mitch Weigand is the owner of Air Wise<sup>m</sup> and a Garden Oaks homeowner for over 25 years.

Garden Oak homeowner for over 25 years

Here's what our customers are saying about us:

## Who else would come out at 1:00am on Memorial Day weekend?"

Juan M., Garden Oaks

"After Air Wise replaced one of my A/C's, I noticed a water stain on the bathroom ceiling. Although the leak was not A/C related, Mitch arrived at 1:00am, put a pan under the leaky pipe and returned the next morning with his plumber to repair it.

What other company would do that on Memorial Day weekend?"



Air Wise owner Mitch Weigand



713/231-2222

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License #TACLA020081C • Regulated by the Texas Dept. of Licensing & Regulation

SEPTEMBER 2020								
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat		
30	31	1 Civic Club Meeting 7 pm Online via Zoom	2	3	4	5 Farm Stand 9 am - 1 pm 949 Wakefield		
6	7 Labor Day	8	9	10	11	12 Farm Stand 9 am - 1 pm 949 Wakefield		
13	14	15 Gazette Article Deadline	16	17	18	Rosh Hashanah Farm Stand 9 am - 1 pm 949 Wakefield		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26 Farm Stand 9 am - 1 pm 949 Wakefield		
27	28 Yom Kippur	29	30	Never think you'	ve seen the last of	anything. — Eudora Welty		

