



December 2020

Volume 42 Issue 12

Garden Oaks Gazette

The newsletter of the Garden Oaks Civic Club

December Gazebo Park Santa Visit (Tentative)

It's the most wonderful time of the year!

Santa and Mrs. Claus hope to visit Gazebo Park (42nd/Lamonte/Sue Barnett)

Wednesday, December 9th, from 6 to 7:30 pm

Thursday, December 10th, from 6 to 7:30 pm

Social distancing photo opportunities with Santa and Mrs. Claus in the background will be available. Social distancing and masks are required while waiting. Please bring your own camera or cell phone camera. Due to the unique conditions of 2020, refreshments will not be present other than a wrapped peppermint candy upon the Gazebo visit. It is important to follow all the guides set up by the elves to ensure the safety of Santa, Mrs. Claus, and the participants. Any concerns with safety will result in Santa and Mrs. Claus heading back to the North Pole.

For information contact
Terry Jeanes
(terry@terryjeanes.com)
or Georgia Lister
(gvlister@yahoo.com).

Editor's note: As we went to press, COVID cases in the area were rising and it was determined that an alternative to the above may have to take place. Please keep an eye on social media (see the box on page 8 for links), the GardenOaks.org web site, or attend the December 1 Civic Club meeting for the latest, or email Terry or Georgia.



Garden Oaks Civic Club Meeting (Virtual)

Tuesday, December 1, 7 pm

Meeting ID: 853 8370 1841

Passcode: 505892

Topic: We will elect officers for 2021 (see page 3). In a typical year, we would have a potluck party and social time – we will hope to resume that tradition. This year, we will raise a glass to celebrate the holidays in our respective homes.

Emergency Numbers

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

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

Constable Statistics October 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
 Burglary of a Habitation – 1
 Burglary of a Motor Vehicle – 1
 Check Park/School/Business/Church – 10
 Contract Check – 62
 Criminal Mischief – 1
 Domestic Issues – 1
 Follow Up – 6
 Meet the Citizen – 20
 Suspicious Person/Vehicle – 10
 Traffic Stop – 4
 Vacation Watch – 9
 Vehicle Speeding – 1
 Writ – 1

Article Submission Guidelines

- MS Word or text document as an attachment** (not the body of the email), left justified, no headers or footers. Keep formatting to a minimum.
- Photos need to be sent separately.** You may embed photos to show where they go with the article but separate full size and resolution photos must also be provided outside of the document.
- Articles should be titled.** These can be as simple as the name of the committee or event, but a concise title should be provided for other articles.

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
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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.

2021 GOCC Dues and Constable Supporter Fees

Dian Austin and Terry Jeanes, Committee Chairs

In the next several weeks, each Garden Oaks resident will receive the annual mailing of the dues form for both the 2021 Garden Oaks Civic Club (GOCC) and the 2021 Constable Patrol Program. We have combined the forms so that there is one form covering both programs.

We urge you to support both the Civic Club and the Constable Program for 2021 with monetary contributions and mail the form back soon. Projected expenses for both the Civic Club and the Constable Program are anticipated to exceed projected revenues. That is not a position we can maintain for very long. We need more support from residents to continue to provide upkeep for all our greenspaces in the neighborhood, hold neighborhood events, print the *Gazette*, maintain our website, and to keep the constable deputy on patrol. We are currently down to only one constable due to lack of support by area residents.

Contributions can be made online at gardenoaks.org and payments for the Constable Program can be made all at once or by monthly contributions. The forms are in each month's *Gazette* as well. For 2020, we ended the year with 261 GOCC members and 335 Constable supporters, out of some 1400+ homes in the neighborhood. We can do a lot better! Please support your neighborhood!

GOCC Officer Nominations for 2021

A Nominating Committee was formed to find candidates for GOCC officers for 2021. Members of the committee were Chair John Bartos, Kevin David, Kip Noser, and Carrie Arnett. Thanks to this committee for their work. Thanks also to those officers and committee chairs and members who dedicate themselves as volunteers to our neighborhood. Garden Oaks would not be the same without their help.

Nominees for GOCC Officers 2021 are:

- President: Tonya Knauth
- Vice President: Kevin David
- Secretary: Beth Jackson
- Treasurer: Paul Vincent

Nominations will also be accepted from the floor at the November and December general meetings, and the election will be held at the December meeting.

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Beautification

Pam Parks, Committee Chair

With the cooler weather, our parks are showing the results of the considerable efforts by volunteers in October. Our parks definitely have a more open feel. It is time to start filling in a bit of that openness with some new plantings, which will help get root systems established in advance of the next growing season. In much the same way, this is the season to shift focus onto building up our volunteers. We would like to get started filling in captains and teams for several of our parks.

Funding for our Park Projects this year has been strong and spread through the year in such a way as to fully support the efforts. We didn't always know money would be there but when we have made plans and asked for help, we have gotten the support. Thank you donors!!

At this point we have built up funds to complete all of the projects begun in 2020 and to do professional tree work in late winter. We also have received strong support through donations to our General Beautification funds to address maintenance of our entrance signs and get an early start on mulching.

So, if the funds and volunteers have been there, why hasn't more been done? Glad you asked. The limitation is really a shortage of park captains laying out plans for each of these parks and pestering me a bit to get the ball rolling. Several of our parks have been without leadership for most or all of the year. The parks with captains are the ones that made good progress this year. If you would like to help with leading a Park Team or joining an existing team, please contact me at beautification@gardenoaks.org.

Feel free to volunteer for one of the existing teams. Note that I have listed parks in order of need:

Randall Berm (Durham @ W. 30th) – Vacant Captain -
beautification@gardenoaks.org

Art Park (Sue Barnett @ W. 43rd) – Bill & Shawn Spear - Bill@spear.net
W 43rd Esplanade (Ella @ W. 43rd) – Teresa Coleman -
teresa.ann.coleman@icloud.com

Gazebo Park (Sue Barnett @ Lamonte) – Rayford Irvin -
rayford.irvin@gmail.com & Ahren Lacy - ahrenlacy@gmail.com

Garden Oaks Blvd Esplanade (Garden Oaks Blvd.) – Shana Tatum -
shanatatum@icloud.com & Jonathan Morgan - jonathanlmorgan@gmail.com

Rose Garden (Lawrence & W 34th) – Brenda de Alba - albagarden@yahoo.com
& Sheila Briones - sbriones@hotmail.com

Triangle Park (Alba @ Azalea) – Tina Nieto - t-nieto@att.net

Friendship Garden (Lawrence @W. 30th) – The Garden Club - t-nieto@att.net

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/>

Life Lessons from 2020

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

To say that the year 2020 was filled with unprecedented events is an understatement, and yet I continue to hear the phrase! Talking with a group of friends recently (virtually), the consensus seemed to be that 2020 was going to go down in history as a year we would never, ever forget for so many reasons. As we conversed, most of the examples we discussed were negative or unhappy situations and news stories that we all agreed we would have happily forgone. After I hung up with my friends I reflected on our perceptions of the year and the lessons I have learned from the opportunities 2020 presented.

Lesson one: When everyone comes together for a common purpose, we all “win”.

When the schools closed and we had to quarantine, everyone came together for our children. We received word the evening of March 12th, and schools closed the next day for what we thought would be a brief interlude in the school year. Teachers and staff worked through the Spring Break to ensure that lessons were ready to roll out the next week online. Our staff at Garden Oaks worked non-stop to gather devices from abandoned classrooms to distribute what we had on hand to children who did not have computers at home. Some of our families donated extra laptops and iPads that they had at home so that everyone would have access to virtual lessons. Teachers worked to help each other develop lessons to keep the learning going. In the end, we finished out the school year online and were even stronger when we returned to school virtually this fall.

Lesson two: Embrace change (especially the use of technology)!

Virtual school has created an entirely new format of lesson delivery and also a whole new opportunity to connect with people. While many of us learned to use many new apps, platforms and functions in our existing programs, we’ve also made connections with one another in a whole new way. Virtual conferences with parents became a regular format of communication. We had exponentially more conferences with parents whom

we could see online and partner with more effectively when we moved to the virtual format. On personal and professional levels, by meeting virtually, I could jump from one meeting to another without losing driving time. Additionally, my family (which includes New Jersey, Minnesota, South Carolina, and Pennsylvania) now meets every week to connect. This is truly a gift as we rarely set aside time to connect prior to the pandemic as we were all running around in separate directions.

Lesson three: Take time to relish daily miracles.

As the days stretched on at home, I began to notice many things around me that I have taken for granted. As silly as it may sound, I appreciated the automatic coffee maker that had my favorite beverage ready for me each morning. While it was doing what it had always done, I had become oblivious to my husband preparing the coffee pot each night and rushing out of the house each morning, I would grab my cup and head to work without thinking about the care it had taken to make this happen every day. I learned to savor my favorite foods during this time, to eat more slowly and realize the effort to keep our supply chain running. As I walked through the empty aisles at the grocery stores at the beginning of the pandemic, I reflected on my assumptions about our food staples and supplies. I had assumed they would always be available (barring natural disaster) and had never imagined a health crisis of this magnitude. Now, every day I marvel at the interconnectedness of our systems from the farm to the store to my home. So many daily occurrences that I used to take for granted!

These three simple life lessons are a few examples of the ways in which 2020 has not only brought challenges but also opportunities for growth and a shift in awareness that has benefited me and my family. What gifts did 2020 bring you and yours? Will 2020 have a lasting impact on your lifestyle and/or habits? I encourage you to keep a calendar or journal to reflect on your year, to write down your thoughts of this momentous year. What is a quote that you would say sums up your year? If 2020 were a song what song would you choose?

Enjoy the rest of 2020. I have found this quote attributed to the Greek philosopher Epictetus useful to me. “It’s not what happens to you, but how you react that matters.” May you find happiness and abundance in 2021!

Information for Zoned to Garden Oaks Montessori Families and HISD Magnet Application Information for 2021-2022 School Year

Stephanie DuBroff-Acosta, Parent Engagement Liaison

Choosing Schools

Please research your campus choices at www.houstonisd.org/magnet

HISD Office of School Choice has one remaining Virtual Fair on February 13 for PK and K-12 schools with magnet seats still available. The Virtual Fair is online at <https://www.houstonisd.org/site/default.aspx?PageID=182880>

- Saturday, February 13, 2021

Tours

Although school tours have ended, you can still view the Garden Oaks Tour presentation at <https://youtu.be/IUPnBEgGfRQ>

Applications – available online at hisdchoice.com

K-12 PHASES

- **Phase 1 (Sept 19, 2020 – Nov 6, 2020)**
All qualified applications submitted during Phase I will be entered in a lottery or will be eligible for auditions at secondary fine arts programs. Rankings can be changed up to November 6.
- **Phase 2 (Nov 7, 2020 – Feb 26, 2021)**
All qualified *in-district* applicants will be considered on a space-available and will be placed on the offered list after Phase II closes. (These applications are not part of the lottery.)
- **Phase 3 (Feb 27, 2021 - Onward)**
All qualified applicants that are **currently NOT in HISD** or out of district will be considered on a space-available and first-come-first-served basis. Tuition is required for OOD students accepted at SUS and Specialty Schools.

Pre Kindergarten - all PK seats are by lottery ONLY. There is no zone for PK.

- September 19, 2020 – April 30, 2021 - Qualified in-district, TEA Eligible applications and tuition-based applications received will be entered into the lottery.
 - Rankings can be changed up to April 30.

- Notification day for all applications is May 20. Applications received after this date will be offered only by space available and in order of submission.
- All PK applications must include the birth certificate in the uploaded documents.
- If you qualify for the non-tuition PK program, you must upload requested documentation into the program no later than May 5, 2021. (Note, this is after the deadline of submission!)
- Tuition-based applications will be considered after June 3, 2021.

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. Although your application will be in the lottery, *this will reserve your seat for the upcoming school year.*

Zoned families of K-5 students are encouraged to apply even past the Phase 1 deadline. Applications received prior to January 22, 2021 will be given priority.

There is no zone for PK in HISD.

If your child will be either 3 or 4 by September 1, 2021, and you are considering GOMM, you must complete the online application. (Please choose "Magnet/Vanguard", not "PK enrollment" for our program.)

All PK applicants, who submit the application prior to April 30, 2021 will be notified of application status via USPS mail, email, and viewable online May 20, 2021 (offered or wait-listed).

For more information, please refer to www.houstonisd.org/magnet

Constable Program

Terry Jeanes, Program Chair

Supporter Dues Time. Helpers Needed. Arrest Made. Thank you, Plonk!

2020 has been a tough year for all. Crime: This last week in Garden Oaks alone, two Section 4 neighbors were held at gunpoint in their driveway after returning home late one evening, and another Section 2 resident awoke to his truck being up on blocks, with no wheels. Reduced constable patrols show increasing crime stats. And we are down to only one constable patrol due to lack of funding from residents. Normally at this time of year, we would be thanking our Wine Walk sponsors, table hosts, guests, venue hosts, and other participants for helping us raise Constable Program funds. But Covid cancelled the fundraiser, so we are even more in need of funds.

Time to Ante Up: Please pay your 2021 Constable Supporter Dues. You will be getting a dues form in the mail this month, or use the form in the *Gazette*. You can pay online or via the snail mail form. We request support at the full \$250 annual level. Pay at gardenoaks.org.

Helpers Needed: Looking for volunteers interested in working to keep and increase program participation. Contact Terry Jeanes at constable@gardenoaks.org. We can tailor a support position to fit your schedule and time available.

Arrest Made: Precinct One Constable made an arrest in late October (just weeks prior to this writing) of an individual responsible for several burglaries including several in Garden Oaks. One incident was a theft of over \$7000 in tools and equipment.

A Special Thank You to Scott Miller, owner of Plonk! Beer and Wine Bistro, who graciously provided proceeds from Biscuit Sunday to the Garden Oaks Constable Program. Scott and Plonk! have been long-time supporters of the Wine Walk. Remember to support them as well. We are lucky to have them in the neighborhood.

There is **no mandatory fee collected**. The Constable Program is strictly a program supported by volunteer payments. We need each of you to do your part.

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/>

If you have questions, please email
Constable@gardenoaks.org.

Section 1 Rose Garden Volunteer Efforts

*Brenda de Alba and Sheila Briones
Rose Garden Captains*

Saturday, October 17th, saw the revitalization of our Section 1 Rose Garden. The weather was beautiful, and a number of volunteers were able to get all of the work done in under three hours. Plantings were added to the sign bed, camellias and pentas were added to the memorial area, and eighteen roses from the Antique Rose Emporium were planted in the rose bed. A special thank you goes out to Laura Neff and Paul Kopecky, owners of The Rice Organization, an all organic landscaping design build firm. Laura and Paul donated the labor of five of their employees to prepare the rose bed along with compost and Microlife products to enrich the soil and fertilize the roses. Please consider The Rice Organization if you need landscaping design or installation services.

A special thanks also goes to James Elmore who provided equipment and personnel to do the necessary digging to complete our project needs. James is also the builder and installer of our new Little Free Library in the Rose Garden. A new bench was installed thanks to neighbor Rita Donaldson. Thank you to the additional hardy volunteers who showed up to help us complete the project. A heartfelt thanks to all who donated money to help us realize our goal. With the additional funds raised, we will be fixing the entrance sign and assessing the health of the park's trees and trimming as necessary.

Practicing Gratitude

Erin Thole, CNHP

Sometimes it's really easy to focus on what isn't going our way: what went wrong, what needs improvement, where there is lack.

We, as a people, tend to focus on a lot of the negative and not enough of the positive. One **big** way to change our outlook on life, boost our spirits and decrease our stress is to have a gratitude jar.

Now, it doesn't have to be anything fancy. Mine is just a mason jar... yes I wrapped it in lace and then painted it... But yours can just be a plain old mason jar, or peanut butter jar, or ... whatever!

I use Popsicle sticks that I picked up at a craft store, 500 for a few bucks. You can use Popsicle sticks or post it notes, or note cards, whatever you would like.

Every few days I write down something I am grateful for, date it, and put it in the jar. These could be simple things like:

"I'm grateful for this beautiful, sunny day."

"I am grateful for a lazy Sunday."

"I am grateful for chocolate."

To bigger things like:

"I'm grateful for my family and friends who are always there for me during a difficult time."

"I'm grateful for the baby taking a long nap so that I could get some work done."

"I am grateful for my grandma's clean bill of health and getting discharged from the hospital."

I find that when I am particularly stressed about a situation that is the time to sit down and write three things I am grateful for in that moment. I try to make at least one of the things I am grateful for pertain to why I am stressed in that moment in the first place.

For example:

If I'm having a hard time with work/life balance and trying to "fit it all in" I'll write: *"I am grateful that I am able to make my own schedule, work from home and spend*

Wednesdays and Thursdays with my son."

This can help to instantly lift stress and put a positive spin on things. It also helps you to see the good in everything around you.

I also find that this is a good teaching opportunity for kids. Have them make their own gratitude jar and then talk to them about what they are grateful for. This is a great activity for the whole family to hold each other accountable and to fill your jar with the beautiful, wonderful things in life.

At the end of the year, either New Year's Eve or New Year's Day, go through your jar and read all the things you were grateful for that year. You will see that even the "worst year" will have many, many wonderful moments worth remembering, being grateful for, and treasuring.

Erin Thole, CNHP has been working in Functional Medicine for over 11 years. To learn more and request a free consultation: www.erinthole.com - thole.erin@gmail.com

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/>

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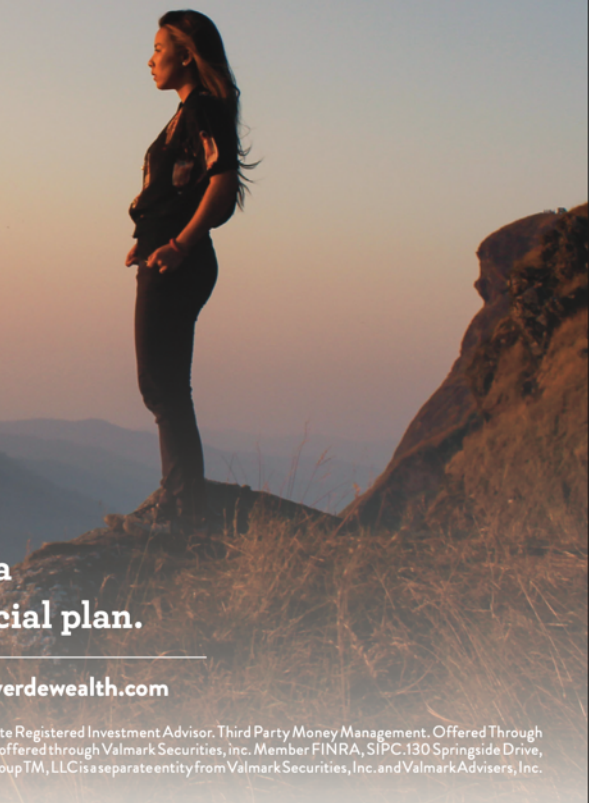
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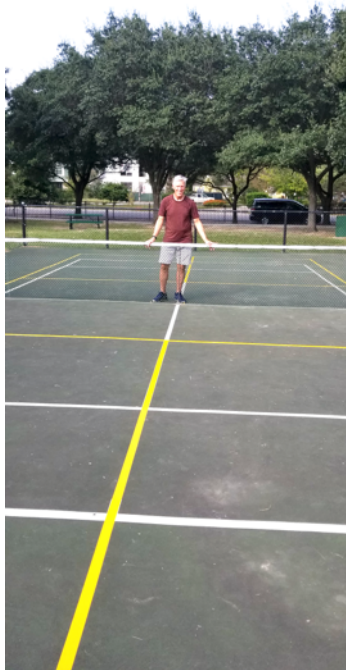
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The Making of a Pickleball Court

Tony Padon, GO Resident

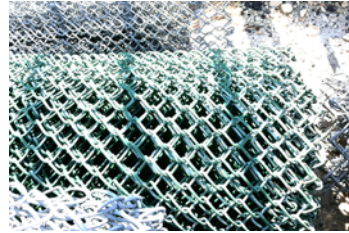
First, you need a court. I had a court at GOMM — a starter tennis court that gets little or no use. It's a small court with a low fence. When I played a couple of games of pickleball I thought that it would be a fun game that a lot of people can play. Pickleball is kind of a cross between ping pong and tennis. You don't have to move nearly as far as you do in tennis. And you can keep the ball in play much longer with easier strokes. I play a lot of tennis so I could clearly see the advantage that pickleball would have for a wider audience. So this little court was a good project.

I needed to get the measurements for a pickleball court and mark the court for where the lines would be. I was able to measure only with the help of a couple of young and curious kids who were playing nearby. They helped hold down my measuring tape. Then I had to consider how to make the lines. After getting an expensive quote to have the lines painted on, I deferred to using some 3" wide plastic yellow tape. It was a \$25 experiment and it worked well. Voila! I had the lines on the court, and they looked really good!



I was pumped! So, next was figuring out the net. The court had none, but it did have net posts that were partially destroyed too. I bought a portable pickleball net for \$150 and got some area residents to join me in a few games of pickleball one Sunday morning. What is really nice about this court is that it is shaded by trees even during the summer months until about 10 am (fall and winter even longer), So, for morning Pickleball, you have it made in the shade! Six or eight people showed up. We

did some teaching and playing and a good time was had by all. We did that a couple more times, and it became clear that the court really needed a permanent net.



After studying the problem, I settled on using coated chain link fencing for the net. Via luck or karma, I found a leftover scrap of coated chain link fencing at a local fence company (cost \$140).

But, the fencing was too tall – it needed to be 34" high, not 8' high. I finally figured out that bolt cutters would do the trick to trim the net to the correct height.



And finally, my good friend Bill Heinzerling met me on the court to install the net (not a one-man job). It worked well. It's installed. It looks good. The project is completed. Come play some Pickleball!

Signed,

Rocket Man





Citizen Patrol

Mark Saranie, Program Chair

Hey 2020, don't let the Auld Lang Syne kick you on the way out. 'Nuff said!!!!

If you are Interested in being part of our Citizen Patrol crew, please email me at gocop@gardenoaks.org with your name and email. This will be forwarded to the officer in charge of the program. He in turn will reach out with the application. Requirements are that you be 18 years old, live in Garden Oaks proper, and can pass a background check.

Happy 2021 Everyone!

The year in review

Theft from a vehicle—17
 Breaking and entering—12
 Simple assault—4
 Vandalism—3
 Theft of vehicle—2
 Counterfeit/forgery—1
 Quality of life/narcotic arrest—1

Reported Patrol hours-annual

141 Hours

Reported patroller hours

September 2020—10
 October 2020—7

Crime Stats

September 2020

4th, 1 pm, 4300 block Apollo – Theft from vehicle.
 16th, 5 pm, 400 block W. 30th – Breaking and entering.

October 2020

2nd, 4 pm, 200 block W. 30th – Simple assault.
 3rd, 7 am, 600 block W. 34th – Theft from vehicle.
 9th, 5 pm, 200 block W. 34th – Theft from vehicle.
 12th, 2 pm, 1300 block Sue Barnett – Theft from vehicle.
 14th, 3 am, 800 block Azalea – Breaking and entering.
 15th, pm, 700 block Sue Barnett – Theft from vehicle.
 28th, 11 pm, 900 block W. 41st – Simple assault.

RATES ARE AT ALL-TIME LOWS

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PURCHASE

- 3% down for First Time Home Buyers up to \$510,400
- 5% down for others up to \$510,400
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- 15% down up to \$1,500,000
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- Tax benefits



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Mortgage Loan Consultant
NMLS# 179895

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Gazette Advertising Rates/Sizes/Submission Guidelines

Size	Single	Six Months	Twelve Months
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).

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The History of the Bell Tower on 34th

by Roger C Igo, CEO The Bell Tower

The inspiring story of one of the most successful venues in Houston, Texas

From tragedy to triumph, *Keep On Going* is a story about never giving up, because sometimes, with faith and fortitude, it is possible to overcome great challenges.

Available at most online retailers. All proceeds go to The Alzheimer's Foundation

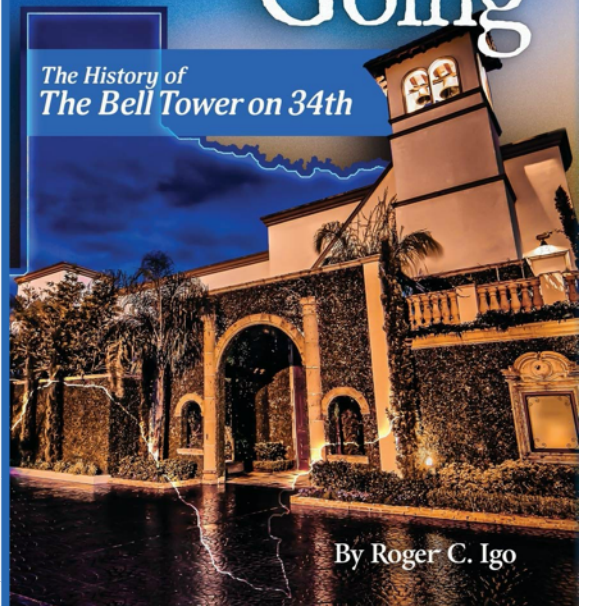


713-868-2355
901 W. 34th
thebelltoweron34th.com

From tragedy to triumph: A Houston venue's extraordinary legacy of pioneering Texans, a disastrous betrayal, and one man's fight for the future

Keep On Going

The History of The Bell Tower on 34th



By Roger C. Igo



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Mickey's Minute

Mickey Morales

I've been thinking of a line from a Shawn Colvin song where she sings about a cruel December, and because of personal reasons I won't go into here, I've been hoping for anything other than that. However, with everything we've all been through in 2020, we could use a cool and joyful end to our year. After all it is the Christmas season when we're most thankful for the life and family given to us.

I'll start the gratitude with a hearty thank you to my fellow neighbors who have stood with us through this year and to our new team members who have been part of the transition that seems to have reinvigorated our little neighborhood market: the ever gregarious Hugo of Cake and Bacon and his sister Elvira selling their mama's tamales (don't forget to order ahead for your Christmas festivities). We were also joined this year by Mariana and Carlos of 109 Coffee with their unique take on single origin beans from small Columbian family farms that truly benefit from better than fair trade prices. We also brought back a longtime market favorite, Manish's Quick

'n EZ Indian foods along with an every other week visit from Lena Sue Baggett and her beautiful and quite tasty baked goods. Add to that an interesting array of seasonal vendors like Angie and her local pecans, Steve Willis with handmade woodworks, and Kit and company with pottery, and we have a nice assortment of offerings each Saturday.

Farmer Cathy is still the center point of the market because how can you call yourself a Farmer's Market without a least one farmer? Her chickens and their free-range eggs, and her sustainably grown fruits and vegetables have been major draws from our very beginning. Of course the breakfast café that has been incorporated into the market makes it a homey destination every Saturday for almost eight years now. More on that in next month's article.

As always, "Come soon, come often, and pray we end the year on a high note."



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**2021 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 Program:

\$ _____ **Annual Constable Supporter (\$250, w/yard signage)**

\$ _____ **Additional Constable Program contribution**

Other:

\$ _____ **Contribution to Beautification** (maintain area green spaces)

\$ _____ **Contribution to Garden Club** (maintain Friendship Park, Section 1)

\$ _____ **TOTAL**

Please mail this completed form along with your check payable to:
Garden Oaks Civic Club, P.O. Box 10273, Houston, TX 77206

- OR -

Pay online at gardenoaks.org and get e-mail confirmation of payment.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF OUR GREAT NEIGHBORHOOD!

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.

709 ½ West 34 th	810 West 42 nd	935 Gardenia
923 West 43 rd	515 West 30 th	1031 West 41 st
1442 Sue Barnett	1014 West 42 nd	1082 Gardenia
1054 Gardenia	831 Lamonte	512 West 33 rd

Happy Birthday

Joel E 1 st	Joshua M 2 nd
Jane Ann Roberts 2 nd	Pierce E 4 th
Ella C 9 th	Jason Espeseth 9 th
Jayne Maltbie 10 th	Terry Jeanes 11 th
Ian McDaniel 12 th	Julia McDaniel 12 th
Chris Lindsay 13 th	Sabrina 15 th
Jim McDaniel 15 th	Carmen Elizabeth C 17 th
Kevin Klotz 23 rd	Sandy Altman 24 th
Katie C 30 th	

Happy Anniversary

John and Margie Hesse – 29th
Troy and Jordan Allan – 31st

Congratulations to Garden Oaks Lady Cougar, **Audie C.** who got the game ball because she was "the girl who played the best". Kudos to **Alexis (Alex) Feit** who placed 3rd in Texas for Ninja competition giving her a spot to compete in Worlds in Las Vegas. Thumbs up for **Joe Muscara** who finished his Houston Half Marathon Virtual Event. Congrats to **Lauren Seghers** and her Spooky Scary Skeleton Line Dance producing a win for the Student Choice Award in the Virtual Talent Show.

Out and About

Tony and Debbie Padon enjoyed a recent trip to Austin for their daughter Caroline's birthday and then visited friends at their ranch in Boerne. **Carl Waters and Leslie Ryan** got away to Fredericksburg. A relaxed Saturday was fun for **Terry Jeanes**, Patrick Kelley, and the pups for the Airing of the Quilts in Smithville. Garden Oaks explorers of Round Top and Warrenton's Fall shows

included **Caroline McLean** and **Joan Harmon**. **Debbie Driver** visited friends in Natchez and enjoyed book club gal fun in Florida. **Tina Rowe** visited friends in Utah. **Margarita Barcenas and Kevin Klotz** welcomed a new pup to their household. It was a terrific Trick or Treat Trot for Garden Oaks Kids, planned by **Amy Lee & Pamela Thomas Bell**. Among the neighbors cheering the participants were **Shreda Paire, Erin Donaho, Cat Theriot, and Tina Greer**. The final adventures of **Tina Sabuco and Shellye Arnold** during the conclusion of their heartland road trip adventure included traveling through Lower Michigan, Indiana, and Memphis.

Special thoughts of comfort for **Debbie and Tony Padon** for the recent loss of Debbie's mother in Hawaii.

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.

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

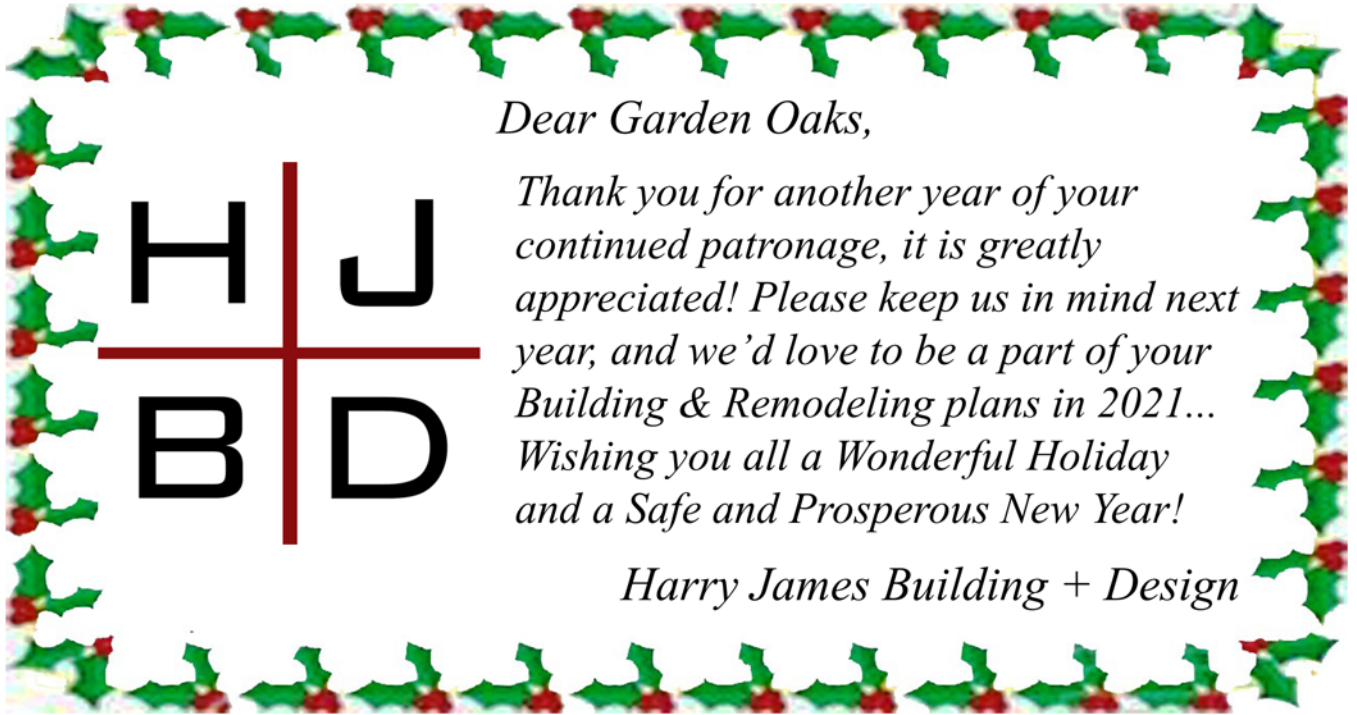
The Farmstand of Greater Heights

9:00 am - 1:00 pm

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949 Wakefield

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goat cheese, coffee, breakfast tacos and
omelettes, baked goods, jams, and jellies



Dear Garden Oaks,

Thank you for another year of your continued patronage, it is greatly appreciated! Please keep us in mind next year, and we'd love to be a part of your Building & Remodeling plans in 2021... Wishing you all a Wonderful Holiday and a Safe and Prosperous New Year!

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The Pup Stop on Wakefield

Local dog owners in the Garden Oaks area can visit The Pup Stop on Wakefield at the corner of Alba and Wakefield for free dog treats and potty bags.

This treat box, similar to sharing libraries, is the brainchild of dog mom Cheryl McCleary, a realtor with Boulevard Realty, and Jo Dunham, owner of Joasis, a dog swimming and dock diving facility located on Wakefield. Local Garden Oaks resident Rebecca Bridges, who blogs as HoustonDogMom.com, is also part of the project.

The Pup Stop provides a sense of community for fellow dog owners, and supports rescue groups. While treats are free, each month The Pup Stop will feature a local rescue and ask for voluntary donations made directly to the rescue. For December, the featured rescue is Animal Justice League, a local rescue group very active in the neighborhood. Pup Stop will also have a special giveaway on the 2nd Saturday of each month, for visitors from 9 to 10 am.

Wakefield Drive (between Alba and Golf) features a Farmer's Market on Saturday mornings, a winery, a coffee roastery, a micro-brewery, and a distillery. Dog friendly restaurants include The Wakefield Crowbar, Walking Stick Brewery, and the soon to open Grease Monkey Cantina, at the location of the former Petrol Station.

For more information:
Rebecca Bridges | 832.265.4210 |
rebeccag@houstondogmom.com



Ensuring a Comfortable and Safe Home for the Holidays

Mitch Weigand

No matter what the temperature is outside, it's easy to achieve a perfect indoor environment. The key is proper use and maintenance of your HVAC system.

(1) Schedule a winter check-up This check-up will ensure that all components are working properly, safely, and efficiently.

(2) Upgrade to variable speed heating Variable speed heating enhances your indoor comfort while using less energy. "Variable speed" allows your furnace to operate at an energy-efficient lower speed and when necessary, a higher speed for increased warmth. Thus, your furnace doesn't have to turn on and off as much which will save money plus you won't experience uncomfortable drops or rises in temperature.

(3) Have a programmable thermostat installed This will allow you to pre-set temperatures to match your daily schedule, whether at home or away. The newer thermostats have touchscreen controls that are easy to use and have some side benefits like informing you of the outside temperature and when to change your AC filter.

(4) Protect your family from carbon monoxide poisoning Have your gas furnace cleaned and inspected every year. Carbon monoxide is a by-product of combustion and is present whenever fuel is burned. Virtually every gas furnace produces some CO that is carried away from your home through the furnace's venting.

While a newer gas furnace will shut off when a problem is detected, older furnaces have no such devices. Over time, a furnace can develop small cracks in its combustion chamber, which could allow CO leaks into your home.

Another important task is to change your filter regularly, which will help your furnace run more efficiently and help keep dust from being circulated throughout your home.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) recommends installing at least one carbon monoxide detector per household, near the sleeping area. Additional detectors on every level of a home and in every bedroom provide extra protection. Be sure to choose an Underwriters Laboratories Inc. (UL) listed detector that emits an audible alarm and has a digital display.

Mitch Weigand is the owner of Air Wise™.

**Happy Holidays
to everyone!**



Air Wise owner Mitch Weigand

Here's what our customers are saying about us:

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and glad I did."** *Matt G., Garden Oaks*

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Mitch was arrived the next day, did the checkup for a very fair price and gave me a quote for the dampers. It was less than half what another vendor had quoted plus Mitch was giving me better quality dampers. Obviously, I went with Air Wise and glad I did. The work was performed the next morning, and the technicians were polite, respectful and cleaned up after themselves. More importantly, my A/C system now works GREAT!"



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DECEMBER 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	1 Civic Club Meeting 7 pm Online via Zoom	2	3	4	5 Farm Stand 9 am - 1 pm 949 Wakefield
6	7	8	9 Santa at Gazebo Park 6 pm - 7:30 pm	10 Santa at Gazebo Park 6 pm - 7:30 pm	11 Hanukkah	12 Farm Stand 9 am - 1 pm 949 Wakefield
13	14	15 Gazette Article Deadline	16	17	18	19 Farm Stand 9 am - 1 pm 949 Wakefield
20	21 Winter Solstice	22	23 Festivus	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas	26 Kwanzaa Farm Stand 9 am - 1 pm 949 Wakefield
27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve	I never cease being dumbfounded by the unbelievable things people believe. — Leo Rosten	

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