



February 2021

Volume 43 Issue 2

Garden Oaks Gazette

The newsletter of the Garden Oaks Civic Club

Decision Needed on Sue Barnett Sidewalk(s)

Tonya Knauth, Civic Club

President

Our unique neighborhood was developed in the 1930s and 40s with a ditch and swale drainage system, narrow streets, and no concrete sidewalks. Sidewalks can be a lively discussion between Garden Oaks neighbors, with some for, and some against. While a complete rebuild of all our streets with sidewalks is **not** under consideration, there are some developments that warrant Civic Club discussion. **We will talk Sue Barnett sidewalks at our February 2, 2021 GOCC meeting.**

New City regulations and their effect on Garden Oaks

Last Fall, City Council passed a Walkable Places ordinance, with new regulations for sidewalks city-wide. In order to obtain a building permit for many types of projects, including a new home, an applicant must submit a sidewalk plan that conforms to City sidewalk specifications. Modifications or exceptions are only granted for limited reasons, after a formal modification application is filed along with the nonrefundable fee of \$1,144.00. While walkability is generally a positive direction for any urban area, Garden Oaks is affected in two ways that need review.

First, builders who have sought building permits for new homes have been advised to submit a sidewalk plan, and that an exception will not be granted simply because there are no sidewalks in front of other houses in the neighborhood. In the past, GOMO and/or GOCC have written an informal letter that the City planning department accepted and granted an exception; apparently that will no longer apply. GOCC is working with our City Council Member Abbie Kamin's office on a universal solution to this issue, instead of each builder being required to submit the modification application and fee each time — some 40 new houses a year are built in Garden Oaks. The following is an excerpt from

my letter to Kamin's office, explaining why Garden Oaks needs a universal modification:

Open Ditch Drainage System. The drainage system has proven effective through many storms to this day. The current multi-million dollar City Garden Oaks North-South drainage projects were designed and built to work with the existing ditch and swale drainage system of our East-West streets.

Not only are there no existing sidewalks in Garden Oaks, but sidewalks will not work with our current streets from an engineering perspective. The easements between the street and the ditches vary in width, and most slope downward at an angle that will not support a sidewalk between the street and the ditch. For drainage reasons, the grading cannot be changed, and the ditches cannot be covered, especially not in one-lot increments along a street. Apparently this issue was considered and recognized in the Office of City Engineer's "Practice for Sidewalk Requirements" document dated March 17, 2014.

Safety. There is a real safety issue that would be created by elevation changes and patches of "sidewalks to nowhere" along our residential streets. Families walk and run in the easements, currently all the same elevation and covered with grass or gravel - it would be clearly unsafe to have periodic sidewalks along the way.

Aesthetics and Property Values. Although drainage and safety are most important, I cannot leave out that Garden Oaks is a historic neighborhood with a special aesthetic that includes large front lawns with ditches and swales. Tall old-growth trees give shade to homes

Continued on page 4

Garden Oaks Civic Club Meeting (Virtual)

Tuesday, February 2, 7 pm
Meeting ID: 853 8370 1841
Passcode: 505892

Topic: Sidewalks on Sue Barnett

Garden Oaks Civic Club Business Members

Welcome to the following neighbors and neighborhood businesses who joined our new Business Membership Program. Thanks for your support!

Deanna Zugheri, Keller Williams Metropolitan

Verde Wealth Group

Erin Thole, CNHP – Thole Wellness, LLC

Harry James Building + Design

John Bartos, Attorney at Law

Delarco Designs & Construction, LLC

Plonk! Beer & Wine Bistro

IndyQuest Properties, LLC

Central City Air

The Law Offices of Hilda Sibrian

The Rice Organization, Inc.

Southern Sprinkler & Drainage

Terry Jeanes, Realtor – Led Well Realty

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 – Paul Vincent 713 834 7248
742 West 41st treasurer@gardenoaks.org

Secretary – Beth Jackson 870 816 0774
851 West 43rd 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

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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.

Article Submission Guidelines

1. **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.
2. **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.
3. **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.

Citizens Patrol

Mark Saranie, Program Chair

Patrolling through our neighborhood one clear, crisp January afternoon reminded me of how much I love our garden of oaks. Despite our proximity to downtown, we are still a somewhat laid-back collection of fortunate people. With Christmas decorations still in many yards and front doors decorated, it really feels good. Maybe because of the pandemic, the desire is to prolong the joy of the past holidays that came and went in a flash. Heck, if Dolly Parton can keep her decorations up until her birthday, (January 19th), why can't we, right? One day at a time.

With regards to crime in our neighborhood, my hope is that the few incidents I see are truly the only ones that happened in December; it is very important that you report all incidents, no matter how insignificant you might think they are. The more accurate the reporting the more attention we as a community will receive from the authorities.

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

Happy Valentine's Day everyone, stay safe.

December 2020 Crime Stats

- Dec. 2, 8 am, 4200 block Apollo – Breaking and entering
- Dec. 22, 1 pm, 900 block Althea – Theft from vehicle
- Dec. 28, 2 pm, 200 block W. 33rd – Breaking and entering
- Dec. 30, 1pm, 1000 block W. 41st – Theft from vehicle

Reported patrol hours: 10



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All Other City Services	311



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Decision Needed on Sidewalks—Continued from page 1

with beautiful landscaping many property owners lovingly tend. In addition, many residents have planted new trees in the easement between the ditch and the street; trees given to them through City grants that encouraged tree planting in the easements. Periodic, interrupted sidewalks would negatively affect the beauty of our neighborhood and property values.

Council Member Kamin's office is working with the City Planning Department and hopes there will be a solution this Spring; in the meantime, builders are requested to file a modification application with each permit application, and not to build any sidewalks. GOCC welcomes your feedback and participation as we continue to work on this issue, and we will keep you informed.

Second, Phase 3 of the storm water management project ("Garden Oaks East"), which will rebuild Sue Barnett from 43rd to and including Wakefield, is affected. The original design drawings include two sidewalks on Sue Barnett. While there is general agreement that a sidewalk is needed for school traffic, GOCC advocated for only one sidewalk on the West (school side) of Sue Barnett, with the full support of the GOMM principal. This was done to limit changes both to residents' yards and to Gazebo Park on the East (non-school) side. That request has been denied. At this time, GOCC needs to decide whether to file a formal modification application, and spend \$1,144.00 and volunteer time to do it. The application must be filed by March, so there will be a discussion and vote on this decision at the February 2, 2021 GOCC meeting. Note that only paid GOCC members can vote; if your membership is not current, please make it so before the February 2 meeting. You can easily join online at gardenoaks.org. You can also view the plan drawings at City's website, with a link through our website at <https://www.gardenoaks.org/gocc-home/neighborhood-info/streetwork/>

The City has confirmed that the design of the Golf Dr. rebuild ("Garden Oaks West" project) will not be changed because the design was completed before the new ordinance was passed. There will be no sidewalks on Golf.

A Bit of History

Education and appreciation of our drainage system. Our community is full of hidden gems, including experts in many fields. Cathy Wahren, P.E., is a Section 4 resident and land development engineer. In 2013, she presented at a GOCC meeting to explain how our narrow streets and ditch drainage are "best management practices" for reduction of water pollution. You can review the Gazette article at https://www.gardenoaks.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/2013_08.pdf.

The 2014 Survey. In 2014, when the North-South storm water management projects were in the planning phase, GOCC surveyed all property owners to determine support for preferred street width and sidewalks on the final design for Alba and Golf. Several options were presented. The majority of property owners responding voted for no sidewalks (64%) over some sidewalks (36%),

and for a narrower street width. The City took these survey results into consideration in the design of Alba and Golf.

The survey questions, results and the community input letter from GOCC to our then-Council Member Cohen can be reviewed at <http://gobigdig.com/results.html>.

During the survey period in 2014, several information sessions and town hall-style meetings were held. While input is always appreciated by GOCC, we do not have a vote as to whether the City will change our streets and drainage system. As a result, we are not re-opening a general sidewalk debate or taking a survey. *Discussion at the February 2, 2021 GOCC meeting will be limited so that we can have a productive dialogue around the limited decision actually on the table — whether GOCC should apply for a modification to the Sue Barnett plan.*

Please join us at the February GOCC meeting via Zoom. Meeting details are on page one.

Constable Statistics Dec 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 deputy is following CDC guidelines and social distancing on the street as well as in the office. The deputy is equipped with PPE so you may see him/her wearing a mask to avoid exposure and then a forced 14-day quarantine. Please help keep our deputy safe.

- Alarm – 2
- Burglary of a Habitation – 1
- Burglary of a Motor Vehicle – 3
- Check Business – 3
- Check Park – 17
- Contract Check – 133
- Disturbance Loud Noise – 1
- Domestic Issues – 1
- Follow Up – 1
- Information Call – 2
- Meet the Citizen – 14
- Natural Disaster – 1
- Property Found/Lost – 2
- Suspicious Person/Vehicle – 3
- Theft Other – 2
- Traffic Stop – 2
- Vacation Watch – 7
- Vehicle Speeding – 1
- Welfare Check – 1
- Writ – 1



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Garden Oaks Civic Club Meeting Minutes

Beth Jackson, Secretary

January 5, 2021

Location: Zoom online meeting

GOCC President Tonya Knauth called the January meeting to order at 7:02 pm. The meeting was held virtually due to COVID-19 precautions and will continue as such until safe to meet in person.

The guest speaker was Representative-elect Penny Morales Shaw who will represent District 148, including portions of Garden Oaks, in the Texas House of Representatives. Ms. Shaw talked about specific items to be considered in the legislative session beginning January 12th which runs through May 2021, including the economic impact of COVID and managing the state budget to help small businesses affected by the pandemic. There have already been more than 2,000 bills filed for consideration. Constituents can search bills by subject topics (transportation, education, environment, etc.) at the Legislative Reference Library of Texas, <https://lrl.texas.gov>.

Tonya asked for her support of legislative efforts to help neighborhood associations amend deed restrictions related to racial and offensive language. Ms. Morales said that the time to do so is now, and that she will reach out to former District 148 Rep. Jessica Farrar for background information.

Ms. Shaw will share her contact information with constituents and GOCC after being sworn in.

Treasurer's Report

Outgoing Treasurer, Jeff Martin, reported that Constable contributions were up in 2020 thanks to a \$25,000 donation from Gulf Coast Development Corp. and the generosity of Plonk! Beer & Wine Bistro's Sunday Biscuit fundraiser. Similarly, the GOCC general budget ended 2020 in the positive column. Civic Club membership revenues increased, the *Gazette* again proved to be a revenue stream, and significant dollars were raised for beautification of neighborhood green spaces. GOCC

ended 2020 with surpluses in both accounts, in part due to lower-than-expected expenses and activities because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Tonya presented the proposed GOCC 2021 budget, which shows a small deficit in spending to be pulled from reserves. The proposed budget does include revenue from the Wine Walk, which will hopefully happen in Fall 2021. Member Shelia Briones moved to accept the 2021 budget as proposed, with member John Bartos seconding the motion. With unanimous approval, the GOCC 2021 proposed budget passed.

Committee Reports

Constable Program: Terry Jeanes reminded residents to list the Harris County Constable dispatch as first responder on their alarm systems for quickest response times. She mentioned new Garden Oaks Constable patrol deputy Corporal Derrick Grandstaff, who is our current deputy. Thus far, GOCC has received about \$50,000 in contributions from residents towards the annual Constable contract.

Beautification: Pam Parks reported that Houston City Council approved funds for a mini-mural installation on the signal box at Shepherd and Garden Oaks Boulevard. Tree work in parks and green spaces is planned for February and March of this year, and fundraising for irrigation at the Shepherd/Randall berm is going well. A social aspect for park workdays may be added later.

GardenOaks.org: Pam Parks noted that the joint GOCC and GOMO website will be redesigned once GOMO issues are resolved. The current site has been updated with accurate information online.

GO Citizens Patrol: Committee Chairperson Mark Saranie was not present, and Tonya noted the ongoing call for volunteers for Mark's team.

Membership: GOCC has received 235 responses to the December 2020 annual mailout, according to Dian Austin. There are currently 166 paid Civic Club members, 194 Constable supporters, and thirteen new business memberships for the recently rolled-out GOCC Business Membership Program. Welcome packets for new property owners are ready to go.

Gazette: The deadline for February submissions to gazette@GardenOaks.org is January 15th.

Social Media: John Alvar is working to share and promote neighborhood events on the Garden Oaks Instagram account, @gardenoakshouston. There is an album on the Houston_GO facebook page labeled "Instagram Event Photos" where residents can upload photos for the GO Instagram account.

Government Affairs/Capital Improvement Projects: Tonya updated the efforts to strike the racial and offensive language in the Deed Restrictions, noting a group of residents have privately paid legal counsel for an opinion. She also mentioned the new City of Houston sidewalk ordinance and the proposed design of Sue Barnett near and around GOMM. In keeping with neighborhood precedent and the original layout of Garden Oaks, GOCC had requested an exception to the new two-sidewalk requirement (on both sides of the

street). The City of Houston denied the request, citing its new walkability requirements. GOCC will be exploring options and the collective will via requests for input and discussion during the February GOCC monthly meeting.

Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet School

Dr. Pollock, GOMM Principal, was not present, so no report was given.

With no old business to be discussed, members brought up several items of new business including drainage at and around the GOMM Spark Park, the bus stop structure and sign at the abandoned Sears property, and traffic hazards at the intersection of Apollo and 41st Streets.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm. The next GOCC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 2nd at 7:00 pm via the Zoom application.



Food that Unites US!

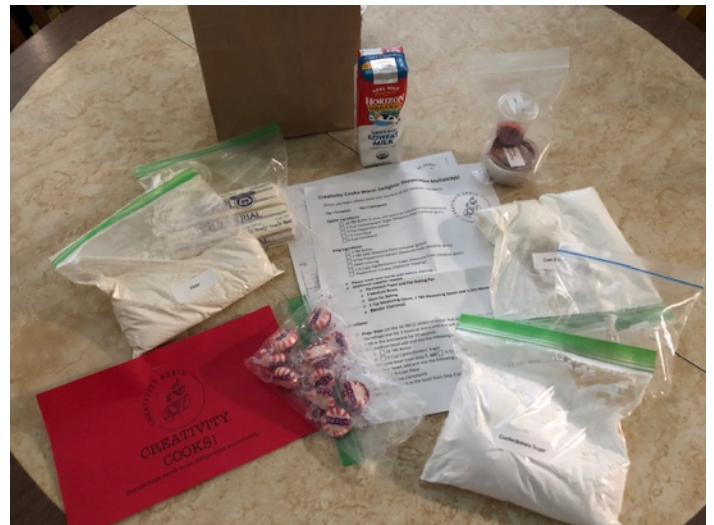
*Lindsey Pollock, Ed.D., Principal,
Garden Oaks Montessori*

Have you ever wondered why cooking shows garner so many viewers? Why do we tune in each week to watch? Why the spike in the number of cooking shows? Some might attribute the increase to the pandemic. We're at home looking for something to do, restaurants are closed and after all, who hasn't aspired to create that perfect recipe that will wow our friends and family as we place our culinary triumph on the table before them?! At Garden Oaks we are partnering with Creativity Shell to provide our students with opportunities to cook through a unique after school program, Creativity Cooks.

Food gathering and preparation is a basic human need. We must have food to survive! In Montessori education we study the needs of humans and the environments in which human beings exist. For example, the needs of humans in the desert vary sharply from the needs of humans in the rainforest. While one group of people are striving to have enough water, the other must navigate an abundance of water. In both scenarios, water is central to survival. This examination of the environment then extends to the food available to people in each circumstance. Desert peoples' diets and food preparation are dramatically different than the staples available in a lush tropical setting. In either case, people work together in family units and communities to share food both in preparation (harvesting, hunting, cooking, and storing) and consuming the food. Families gather for daily meals and to celebrate special occasions with a central food focus (such as birthday cakes, Thanksgiving turkeys, and those iconic family recipes). We gather with friends at parks and backyards to barbecue, and we create online forums to share recipes. We also sit with rapt attention as we hope our favorite cooking show contestant can put those finishing touches on the plate before the time runs out.

With the history and current context of cooking in mind, we are partnering with Creativity Cooks. It is an after-school program, funded by a CASE grant through the Harris County Department of Education. The program was launched in Houston at the onset of the pandemic to bring people together online through cooking with

basic ingredients found at home. Since its inception, it has expanded to include GOMM as the pilot school for some of our 4th – 6th grade students after school. Each Friday, Creativity Cooks delivers premeasured ingredients in Ziploc bags and small containers all packed in a brown paper bag with the recipe and directions for preparation. Students then take the bag home and prepare the recipe with the supervision of the grown-ups at home. Students are encouraged to log in and watch the video for each week's recipe. This program has given a shared understanding and focus for our students as they photograph the foods they are creating, share their experiences, and discuss favorite family recipes. On Mondays I have listened in as students talk together about the recipe they tried and the perspectives they have about the final product.



In many ways, food has become a vehicle to enhance a common bond through these discussions and an opportunity to be a part of a collective endeavor. As I watch the excitement of the students as they take their bags home each week, ready to try something new, it gives me hope that we can remember our commonalities and have constructive dialogue around our different opinions. Food has been a symbol of peace and togetherness for millennia as we gather to break bread, to celebrate, and to understand one another! Below is one of my favorite Creativity Cooks recipes – perfect for Valentine's and any other occasion. Enjoy!

Peppermint Meltaway Cookies!*Cookies:*

16 T. butter (softened to room temperature)

½ cup powdered sugar (Confectioner's)

½ t peppermint extract

1 ¼ c flour

½ c cornstarch

Icing:

2 T butter

2 T milk

¼ t peppermint extract

Food coloring

1 ½ c powdered sugar

Peppermint candies (optional topping)

In medium bowl add and mix the following until they are light and fluffy:

16 T butter and ½ c powdered sugar.

In the same bowl add ½ t peppermint extract and continue mixing.

In a different bowl add and mix 1 ¼ c flour and ½ c cornstarch.

Add dry ingredients to the first bowl and mix thoroughly.

Cover the bowl with a clean kitchen towel or plastic wrap

and refrigerate for 30 minutes or until the mixture is firm.

When you are ready to start baking, preheat the oven to 350 degrees F.

Roll your dough into 1" balls and place them about 2" apart on an ungreased baking sheet/parchment paper. Bake for 8-12 minutes or until the bottom of the cookies are light brown.

Remove from baking pan and allow to cool

Icing directions:

Start with 2 T of softened butter and stir until creamy. Add 2 T milk and ¼ t peppermint extract. You may choose to add food coloring (red is recommended). Slowly add the 1 ½ c powdered sugar and continue mixing until smooth. Use a butter knife and spread over the cookies as desired.

You may want to crush peppermint candies and sprinkle on top of the cookies while the icing is still wet to add extra flavor!

Serve with hot cocoa!

To learn more about Creativity Cooks, go to www.creativityshell.org.



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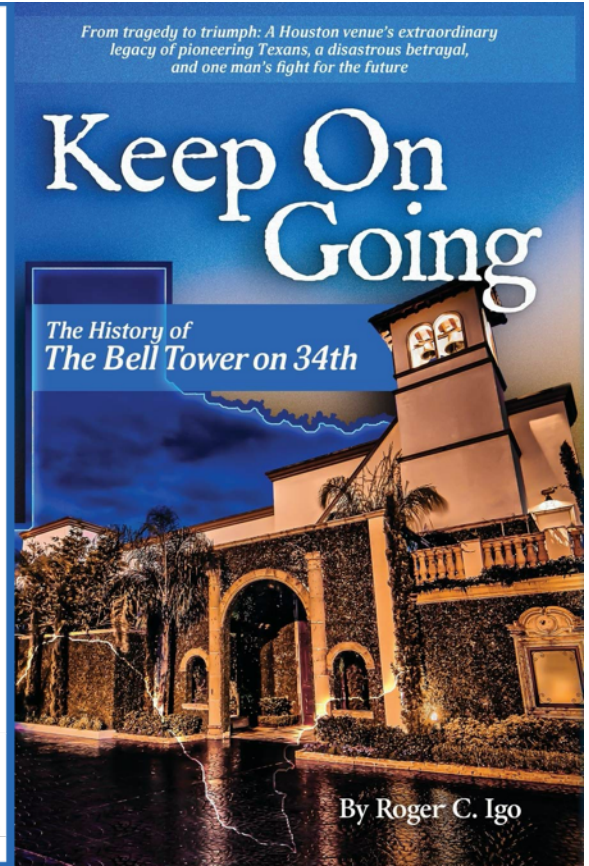
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Information for Zoned to Garden Oaks Montessori Families and HISD Magnet Application Information for 2021-2022 School Year

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>. You can also join the Magnet Coordinator and the Magnet Clerk Live via Microsoft Teams on Thursdays at 9am at <https://tinyurl.com/y52qp6rd>.

Applications – available online at <https://hisdchoice.com>

K-12 PHASES

- **Phase 1 (Sept 19, 2020 – Nov 6, 2020)**
All qualified applications submitted during Phase I will be entered either in a lottery or will be eligible for auditions at secondary fine arts programs. Rankings can be changed up to November 6. Applications submitted after the November 6 Phase 1 deadline are considered Phase 2 and will be added to the waitlist by submission date/time stamp.
- **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.

- Applications are open September 19, 2020 – April 30, 2021 - Qualified in-district, TEA Eligible applications and tuition-based applications received by the deadline will be entered into the lottery.
- Rankings can be changed up to April 30, 2021.
- Notification day for all applications is May 20, 2021. Applications received after this date will be offered only by space available and in order of submission.
- If you qualify for the non-tuition PK program, you must upload qualifying documentation into the application 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, regardless of how you rank your selections.**

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.

Notification date for K-12 applicants is January 28, 2021.

If you have completed the online application, you will receive an email with enrollment information, document requests and timeline for submission.

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).

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

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



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- 15% down up to \$1,500,000
- 0% down Physician/Dentist loans

REFINANCE

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Constable Program

Terry Jeanes, Program Chair

Have you supported the Constable Program in 2021 yet?

By now, your GOCC mailer should have arrived with the combination Civic Club dues and Constable Supporter fees form. Please return this promptly with your dues. We need you! You can also pay online at gardenoaks.org. **Payment of at least \$250 per household will get you a GO Constable Supporter sign. As we go to press, we have some 230 Constable Supporters, and we are targeting 400. If you need a new sign or a 2021 sticker, email constable@gardenoaks.org.**

Help Wanted: We are looking for volunteers. We have jobs that can be tailored to fit your schedule, available time, and interests. Examples: Follow up with past

contributors, or coordinate Constable Program spirit nights with area establishments. Another option is to coordinate block or section captains to increase participation. If you can help, contact constable@gardenoaks.org.

Reminder: The Constable Program is paid only by residents' contributions. There is **no mandatory fee** collected.

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/>



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Community Garden Oasis

Caroline Stender

The Garden Oaks Community Garden, located on Alba

between Sue Barnett and Chamboard, offers a little slice of heaven to our neighborhood.

Having volunteered in the garden for many years, I have learned much from Beth Galiano, Harris County Master Gardener, and a tireless Shepherd Park Plaza resident

who has worked in this garden since its inception in 1986. Volunteer gardeners enjoy the fruits of their labors, but the vast majority of the organic vegetables are donated to local food pantries to help those in need. Beth shares, "When we go to the pantry, they're so appreciative. When you bring something picked that morning, there's something special about it."

There are nine beds in which we grow vegetables. Our current winter garden hosts broccoli, broccolini, cabbage, peas, spinach, chard, kale, greens, lettuce, sugar snap peas, carrots, potatoes, radishes, onions, lemon grass, and beets. One of the beds is generally reserved for herbs such as garlic, garlic chives, cilantro, dill, basil, and mint.

Summertime brings peppers, squash, cucumbers, melons, runner and bush beans, bok choy, okra, sweet potatoes, and tomatoes — oh, those tomatoes! In years past, we have harvested as much as 600 pounds of these tasty tomatoes.

This little oasis is truly a balance of nature ... from the milkweed for the monarch butterflies to the pear, fig, and mulberry trees that attract birds and wildlife. We usually dedicate patches of the garden for a variety of flowers, including coral vine draping the fence, sweet peas, bluebonnets, zinnias, and wildflowers for colorful

splashes of beauty and to bring essential pollinators. Our gardeners are focused on promoting sustainable practices, such as composting, using natural pest controls, and planting heirloom seed varieties.



For many years, the Garden Oaks Civic Club has generously paid the irrigation and mowing expenses for the garden. Donations to support the Community Garden are welcomed and may be made at <https://www.gardenoaks.org/gocc-home/payments/beautification-projects/>. Our fundraising target is \$2000 to cover the costs of keeping the

garden watered and mowed and a few supplies. Your continued support is greatly appreciated so that we may keep this little slice of heaven alive and contributing to our community.

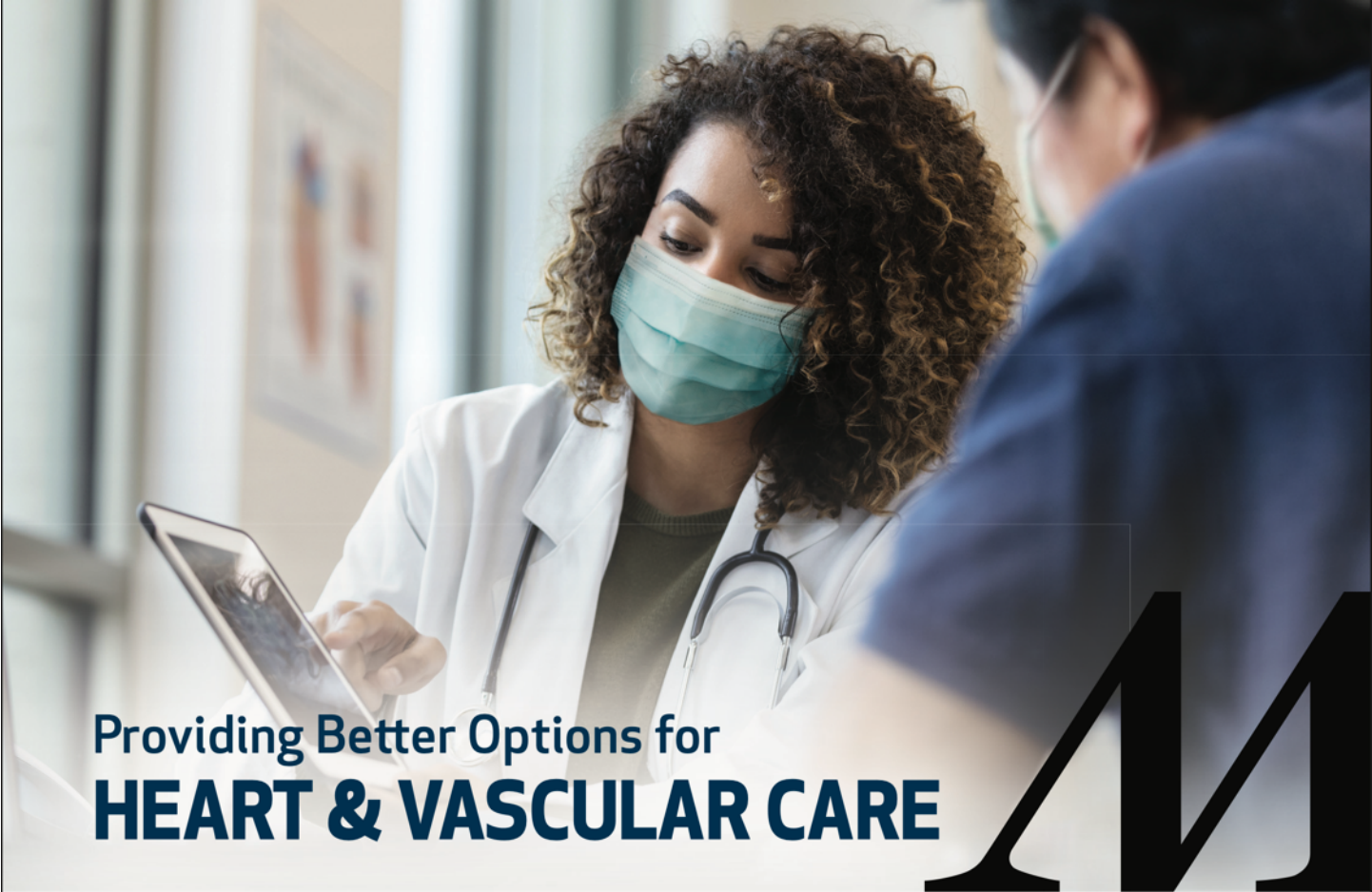
Shepherd Park Plaza and Garden Oaks residents are among the



regular volunteers. Our communal gardening morning is Wednesday between 7:45 and 9:15 am, and of course you can garden at a time that better suits your schedule.

If you enjoy gardening, please come get your hands dirty and grow what you like. If you have questions or would like to be involved in the garden, please contact Caroline Stender at 713-818-5420 for more information.

"If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need." — Marcus Tullius Cicero



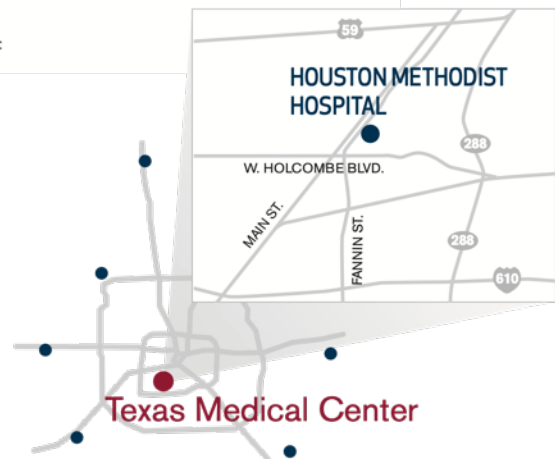
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Heard Under the Oak Tree

Terry Jeanes

Welcome, New Neighbors!

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

1039 Lamonte	1419 Sue Barnett	1478 Sue Barnett
528 West 32nd	511 West 33rd	859 West 41st
1010 West 41st	939 West 42nd	939 West 43rd

Happy Birthday

Ann Best – 2/2	Georgia Lister – 2/5
Tonya Knauth – 2/9	Alisha Cunningham – 2/12
Lela C. – 2/12	Brenda de Alba – 2/17
Terry Williams – 2/17	M'lissa Dilley – 2/22
Grady S. – 2/22	Maya Rahman – 2/23
Elan Britt – 2/28	Eddie Battenfield

Happy Anniversary

Will & Deanna Zugheri – 2/23

Out and About

Marisa Zindler spent New Year's in New Braunfels, Luckenbach, and Gruene with her cousin and sister. **The**

Therriots enjoyed New Year's in Louisiana. **Leslie Ryan and Carl Waters** and pups enjoyed the Eastern Glades at Memorial Park. (Great job **Shellye Arnold** as many of your neighbors are enjoying it.)

The Taylors shared some family time in Leadville Colorado. **Melissa Reid, Jeff Gibb,** and family enjoyed a trip to Breckenridge. **Heather McKeown** had an eventful trip to Terlingua, Marfa, and Big Bend State Park. **Georgia Lister** and gang spread some joy to Garden Oaks neighbors with her caroling group. Kudos to **Joe Muscara,** finishing the Virtual Aramco Houston Half Marathon and setting a new personal record. **Missy Alwais** found a true Message in a Bottle in Galveston.

Special Thoughts for our neighbors who lost someone dear to them, particularly

Debbie and Bob Driver on the loss of Bob's dad Robert Driver in December.

Sympathies to the **McLean family** in the loss of their dear pet, Buddy, and to **Michael Beard and James Flowers** in the loss of their pup, Lily.

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.



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Mitch Weigand

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A matched A/C system is one that combines components that

are designed to work together, resulting in a perfectly balanced system tuned for efficiency and substantial comfort. The system's variable speed technology reduces the temperature peaks and valleys found in conventional single and two-stage systems by adjusting to various conditions while maintaining desired comfort level. The result is a higher level of consistent comfort and efficiency.

The 20 SEER system has a special filtration system that removes unwanted allergens down to .1 micron from your indoor air. That is 100 times more effective than your standard 1" throwaway filter you get from a big box store.

The new 20 SEER system isn't built just to be efficient and comfortable, but it's also built to last. From its all-aluminum fin coils that make the outside unit extremely efficient at transferring heat and resistant to corrosion to the heavy-duty, steel panels that protect the attic coil from dirt and damage while providing substantial airflow, this is one tough system. Even the screws are zinc coated, making them rust-resistant and longer lasting.

Now is the time of year to do this. Since it's the beginning of the year and temperatures are still low, most A/C companies are not very busy. They may offer excellent discounts, so now is the time to replace your system.

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FEBRUARY 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31	1	2 Groundhog Day Civic Club Meeting 7 pm Online via Zoom	3	4	5	6 Farm Stand 9 am - 1 pm 949 Wakefield
7	8	9	10	11	12 Lunar New Year	13 Farm Stand 9 am - 1 pm 949 Wakefield
14 Valentine's Day	15 President's Day Gazette Article Deadline	16	17 Ash Wednesday	18	19	20 Farm Stand 9 am - 1 pm 949 Wakefield
21	22	23	24	25	26	27 Farm Stand 9 am - 1 pm 949 Wakefield
28	<p>1 I don't like that man. I must get to know him better. —Abraham Lincoln</p> <p>5</p> <p>6</p> <p>Fear is the cheapest room in the house. I would like to see you living in better conditions. — Hafiz</p>					



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