



May 2021

Volume 43 Issue 5

# Garden Oaks Gazette

The newsletter of the Garden Oaks Civic Club

## Gazette Editor, Delivery Coordinator Needed

*Joe Muscara*

*Wanted: A willing volunteer to take over the position of Editor for the Garden Oaks Gazette. No experience required.*

When I took over being *Gazette* editor for a second term, I only half-jokingly said I could do it forever. While it could still happen, if a willing volunteer were to step up to take over now, it would be the right thing to turn it over. My first term lasted two years and 10 months while this time I've already been editor for four years and four months! I must admit that my better attitude towards the position has made doing the job much easier for me.

*The only requirement is a willingness to learn how to edit, layout, and publish a monthly newsletter. While owning a computer isn't required, it probably would be helpful.*

If you visit the *Gazette* page at the GardenOaks.org website, you'll find *Gazettes* going back to 1977. Many of these were scanned by other volunteers (thanks to them!) because they predate the personal computer. I have no idea how these early *Gazettes* were done. In a prior life, I had done a small newsletter and I think it involved typewriters and paste, but I'm not actually sure.

*Please note that this is a volunteer position. Once you get up to speed with it, it probably requires a few hours a month. However, how much time you spend is entirely up to you.*

One of the nice things that you'll find when you take over as editor is that the publication is all yours. Looking back at issues by previous editors, you can see that the *Gazette* has always reflected the personality and interests of the editor. Some editors focused on community news, while others used it as a pulpit for their own political beliefs. How the *Gazette* will look when you are the editor will be entirely up to you.

### Garden Oaks Civic Club Meeting (Virtual)

Tuesday, April 6, 7 pm

Meeting ID: 853 8370 1841

Passcode: 505892

Speaker: Representatives from our constable  
Harris County Constable Alan Rosen Precinct 1

*We also need a delivery coordinator. This is also a volunteer position. It takes one or two hours per month.*

Lori Kennedy has been delivery coordinator for eight and a half years. She has done an outstanding job, quality checking the issues when they arrive from the printer, making sure the bundles for each block captain are properly collated, and grouping the issues for the five section captains and delivering to them. She has also coordinated with all the block and section captains as well as filled in for some block captains when they were unable to deliver that month, which is beyond the requirements of the position. Please contact Lori if you are interested in this position. She can give you all the details about what it takes. She can be reached at 713 691 6833 or [GazetteDelivery@GardenOaks.org](mailto:GazetteDelivery@GardenOaks.org). This position needs to be filled by June.

Being *Gazette* editor for a second term has been another fantastic opportunity for me. It continued my involvement with the neighborhood, the Civic Club, and my many friends here in Garden Oaks. I enjoyed putting out what I hope was a quality publication, and I appreciated the feedback I received from so many people (most of it, anyway!).

If I've sold you on being the next *Gazette* editor, please call me at 713 691 6833 or email me at [Gazette@GardenOaks.org](mailto:Gazette@GardenOaks.org) (the email address will become yours when you become editor).

P.S. The 700 block of Sue Barnett also needs a new block captain. This position also needs to be filled by June.

## 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**

**Frost Bank - 4606 N. Shepherd Dr.**

**Common Bond - 3210 N. Shepherd Dr.**

## 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

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

*Social Media* – John Alvar 713 775 0365  
social@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  
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*Delivery Coordinator* – Lori Kennedy 713 691 6833  
750 Sue Barnett gazettedelivery@gardenoaks.org

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.

# Constable Program

*Terry Jeanes, Program Chair*

Sadly, there has been an uptick in Crime Alerts with several break-in attempts within the last few weeks. Please let our Constable Deputy know if you are a crime victim. Please support the Constable Program so we can keep crime out of our neighborhood.

The Red Thermometer Gauges are posted in several places in the community to remind neighbors to pay your supporter dues. **Let's Get The Red To Rise!!!**

## Have you supported the Constable Program in 2021 yet?

We need you! You can pay online at [gardenoaks.org](http://gardenoaks.org) or mail in the form in this newsletter. **Payment of at least \$250 per household will get you a GO Constable Supporter sign. As we go to press, we have some 275 Constable Supporters, and we are targeting 400. If you need a new sign or a 2021 sticker, email [constable@gardenoaks.org](mailto: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](http://gardenoaks.org)

**Constable Dispatch:** 713-755-7628

**Sign up for Precinct One Crime Alerts:** <http://pct1constable.net/sign-up/crime-alerts/>

**Vacation Watch:** <http://pct1constable.net/sign-up/vacation-watch/>

# Constable Statistics March 2021

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 masks to avoid exposure.

- |                                  |                               |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Alarm Call – 3                   | Meet the Officer – 1          |
| Animal Humane – 1                | Mental Health Call – 1        |
| Burglary Motor Vehicle/Other – 2 | Open Door/Window – 1          |
| Check Business/Park/School – 45  | Solicitors – 1                |
| Contract Check – 521             | Suspicious Person/Vehicle – 6 |
| Discharge Firearms – 1           | Theft Residence/Other – 3     |
| Disturbance Loud Noise/Other – 2 | Traffic Initiative – 11       |
| Drug OD/Possession – 1           | Traffic Stop – 17             |
| Fraudulent Use ID – 2            | Vacation Watch – 23           |
| Information Call – 5             | Warrant Service – 1           |
| Meet the Citizen – 36            | Welfare Check – 2             |



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# Is Your Car Road Trip Ready? A Checklist for Peace of Mind

*Chris Schute*

With Memorial Day approaching, and summer just around the corner, a lot of us are looking forward to a well-deserved vacation. For many people this means a great American road trip!

Before hitting the open road, make sure your car is road trip ready with these tips:

- 1) Plan Your Route and Pit Stops** - Be sure your favorite spots have reopened so there are no surprises. Make sure you have current registration and insurance info in the glove box.
- 2) Perform Scheduled Maintenance** - Refer to your owner's manual to see your list of scheduled maintenance listed by age of car and/or mileage. Be sure you are up-to-date.
- 3) Top Off Fluids** - Check all fluid levels: oil, coolant, brake, and windshield-washer fluids. As applicable, also inspect the power-steering and transmission fluid levels. Be sure to get an oil change if you are due.
- 4) Check Tire Pressure & Tread for each Tire** - Be sure to check the spare too! Follow the recommended tire pressure, found on the front door jamb or in your owner's manual. Also check for signs of abnormal or uneven wear, cuts, or sidewall bulges.
- 5) Change the Air Filter and Cabin Filter** - Clean filters help the engine run better, and increase air quality. A dirty filter can increase your fuel cost by 10% and can add stress to other vehicle components.
- 6) Buy New Wiper Blades and Fill the Washer Fluid** - Windshield wipers typically last about 6 months. If they are a few months old consider replacing before a long trip.
- 7) Check Your Lights** - Be sure to check that your headlights, fog lights, taillights, brake lights, and turn signals are all working properly, and that the lenses are clean.
- 8) Check Your Battery** - Check terminals and cables for corrosion, and that the battery is securely attached to the vehicle.
- 9) Get a Road Trip Inspection** - One of the best ways to have peace of mind before a road trip is to bring your vehicle to a trusted automotive repair shop to have all systems inspected. Your technician can check the radiator, hoses, brakes, belts, suspension, A/C, and check engine light.

**10) Have Fun, Drive Safe, and Enjoy Your Road Trip!**

*Chris Shute is the owner of Open Road Automotive.*

# Information for Zoned to Garden Oaks Montessori Families Enrollment Information for 2021-2022 School Year

*Stephanie DuBroff-Acosta, Parent Engagement Liaison*

## Do you have a tour?

Although school tours have ended, you can still view the Garden Oaks Virtual 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 9 am at <https://tinyurl.com/y52qp6rd>

## Considering your zoned school - Garden Oaks Montessori

Thank you to our Garden Oaks Families who completed the online application. You should have received an email with registration forms and document requests. Those who completed the application are offered the limited seats available. Those who wish to apply after January 29 are considered on a first come first served basis.

Please email Stephanie Acosta at [SDUBROFF@houstonisd.org](mailto:SDUBROFF@houstonisd.org) for more information regarding registration for Kindergarten through 5th grade.

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

- PK applicants must be 3 or 4 by September 1 to apply for the PK program
- To select Garden Oaks Montessori, you must select Magnet in the application, not PK Enrollment.
- 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. You must rank the most desired school as 1, descending in order.
- 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**.

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

For more information on PK Tuition, please visit the website at [www.houstonisd.org/Page/126419](http://www.houstonisd.org/Page/126419)



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# Letter to the Editor

The last six months have been some of the most challenging months of my life, but also some of the most rewarding. Balancing the pandemic, school, extra-curricular activities, and working on my Girl Scout Gold Award have taught me so much about time management and making things happen.

My Gold Award has taught me the most. The project revolved around Gazebo Park: cleaning and re-painting the gazebo, adding a stone tic tac toe game, and repairing the two wooden benches to make the park more inviting for all members of our community. The work kicked off in October 2020.

I have learned so much about this community and what goes on behind the scenes. I think everyone should participate in these community events because the bond that I gained with Ms. Pam Parks alone has completely changed my perspective on hard work and diligence. I learned that the people in this neighborhood are some of the most kind-hearted and helpful people around.

I would like to thank the Garden Oaks Civic Club for donating the money to help me complete my Gazebo Park project, and I would also like to thank Ms. Parks for having the patience and dedication to answer all of my emails and help me tremendously with this project.

Completing this project has given me respect for people who repair and clean up neighborhoods. With this newfound attitude, I encourage everyone to pick up trash as they see it and continue to help maintain all of our pocket parks in the neighborhood. When given the opportunity to volunteer, take it. Doing the work yourself gives you so much understanding of why it is necessary to help maintain your own community, and it also helps further the volunteer work with other surrounding communities.

Ava Kirkpatrick

Garden Oaks Resident



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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.

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 1066 Lamonte 1082 Lamonte 802 W. 30th  
 303 W. 33rd 939 W. 41st 1027 W. 41st  
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### Happy Birthday

Cheryl McCosh 1st	Brad Hem 2nd
Christopher K. 5th	Linda Sparks 8th
Ryan W. 9th	Jenny Odinet 14th
Victor Seghers 20th	Riley T. 22nd
Amelie P. 24th	Lauren S. 24th
Shannon Miller 31st	Rowan S. 31st

### Happy Anniversary

Victor and Deb Seghers 3rd  
 Jason and Alisha Cunningham 16th

### Out and About

**The Shablens** visited Dogwood Canyon, Mo. **The Odinets** skied Park City, Utah. **The Arnett** family enjoyed Jamaica Beach. It was a big Spring Break for the **Sherbers** including Onalaska, Cold Springs, Sargent, and camping and fishing. The **O'Guynns** enjoyed Perdido Key. **The Weltin** boys visited Graceland. **Tina Rowe** visited with family in Oklahoma City.

### Congratulations

To **Reagan S.** who made the FM Black Middle School En l'air Dance Company, and to **Alexis F.** on her recent cover shoot for La Belle Fashion Magazine.

**Special thoughts** for our neighbors who have lost someone near and dear to them.

For the **Starling family.**

Also for the **Britt family** in the loss of their family member.

For **Terry Jeanes** in the loss of her longtime canine companion, Dixie.

*To highlight an event, celebration or other tidbit, please submit information no later than the 13th of the month to Terry Jeanes at [terry@terryjeanes.com](mailto:terry@terryjeanes.com).*

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# With Gratitude

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

In the words of Dr. Montessori, “We shall walk together on this path of life, for all things are part of the universe and are connected with each other to form one whole unity.” —To Educate the Human Potential

Since I arrived at Garden Oaks Elementary in the summer of 2008, it has been my honor to walk on the path of life with you, your family and our greater Garden Oaks community. After 20 years in the Houston Independent School District and 25 years in public education, I have decided to retire. As I reviewed the list of accomplishments that were published in last month’s *Gazette*, I reflected on the teamwork and dedication of the community, staff, and parents at Garden Oaks and the support I have received to accomplish these milestones. Garden Oaks is filled with supremely talented people with whom I have had the honor to work alongside. I am eternally grateful for this chapter in my life and look forward to the next adventure.

I have accepted the position of Program Director at a Houston non-profit organization, TEACH! (To Educate All Children). In my new role, I will continue to support public educators in the Houston Independent School District and hope that you will stay in touch with me. Know that Garden Oaks will always hold a very special place in my heart. You have been my family and the center of my life for the last 13 years. We have grown together and have accomplished so much!

*“If we are among the people of good will who yearn for peace, we must lay the foundation for peace ourselves, by working for the social world of the child.” —International Montessori Congress, 1937*



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- Debt Consolidation - pay-off credit cards, autos, etc.
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# Mickey's Minute

*Mickey Morales*

Well folks, it appears we've survived one of the worst years on record. First it was the COVID-19 outbreak that precipitated a national lockdown that has lasted for well over a year. Then just when we thought we were out of the woods, the Valentine's freeze hammered us. Thank goodness that farmers markets were considered a vital or essential industry, and we were able to continue our little enterprise, albeit with a lot of changes, mostly for the better.

Despite the devastation wrought upon Farmer Cathy's livestock and crops, life at the farm has returned to normal. The egg producers (the hens) have kicked it into high gear and are producing more eggs than Cathy can sell to y'all (lucky me – more on that later). So by the time of this writing, the short-lived crops that we look forward to the most, like wild dewberries and tomatoes, should be in abundance for a few weeks. May will also start the beginning of the summer veggies: cucumbers, peppers, melons, and the like.

We've also gained a few new vendors. Jennifer of Bloom, Bloom Flowers has joined our happy band, offering stunning bouquets to brighten your home or table. And our pecan girl, Angie, has reinvented herself making beautiful and tasty macarons. Sadly, we lost Hugo, our bread guy, but we did get to keep his sister, Elvira, who brings their mama's tamales and other tasty treats. Our neighbor girl, Sophie, comes every other week with her homemade granola. Mariana and husband Carlos continue to offer us better- than-fair-trade coffee from Colombia.

I of course will continue with my breakfast taco stand that I have been told must be there every Saturday morning or there will be a riot. I can imagine y'all standing at the gate of my home in Itchy Acres, torches and pitchforks in hand. Hopefully sometime soon I will have rebuilt my food cart and will be able to transition across the street to Decant Urban Winery after the market closes. I plan to spread my culinary wings and prepare bistro fare along with a date night dinner menu. (That's where those extra eggs come into play in the form of creme brulee', puddings, and such.)

As always, "Come soon, come often, and celebrate our new lease on life."



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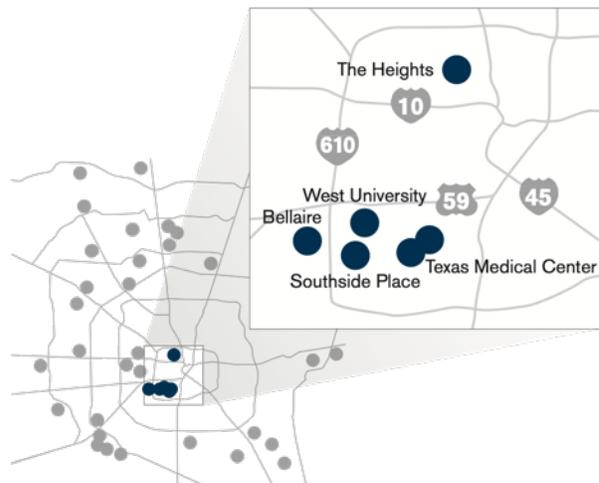
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# How Plants and Animals Can Affect Your A/C System

*Mitch Weigand*

While landscaping your yard this spring, consider doing it in such a way that the plants actually contribute to the cooling of your home. According to the Department of Energy, keeping the condenser (that's the A/C system's outside unit) in the shade can increase its efficiency by as much as 10 percent. Just be sure that the shrubs placed near the condenser do not obstruct air flow or impede access for repairs. Leave approximately three feet of clearance all around the equipment and at least five feet above it.

In turn, the condenser can benefit your landscaping. One of the tasks your A/C performs is to de-humidify the air from within your home. It collects and pumps the humidity outside as condensation. While not a lot, water from the drain line can provide moisture to keep the surrounding plants healthy.

### Pet damage can happen

While we can train our pets to mind their manners indoors and relieve themselves outdoors, the condenser is especially vulnerable to damage done by pet urine. Urine contains chemicals that can eat away at metals, especially aluminum. Unfortunately, condenser fins and coils are made of aluminum, and in time, fins become encrusted with dust, and coils begin to leak.

A leak in the condenser coil means that your A/C is no longer a properly closed system. The freon will leak out, and the system can be emptied completely. When this happens, you run the

risk of burning out the condenser and having to replace it prematurely.

### A clean condenser is a happy condenser

When your A/C runs, air is drawn into the condenser through its coil. Outdoor contaminants such as dust and plant matter (grass clippings, cottonwood seeds, small leaves, and mulch) can get caught in the coil. You can include pet hair and urine too. As debris accumulates, airflow through the coil is reduced that causes your system to run harder and harder. It is not uncommon for a condenser coil to be clogged completely in just one season of operation. As a homeowner, one thing you can do is take your garden hose and spray thoroughly about six inches from the condenser's fins to clear them of dust and leaves. This simple action will go a long way in keeping your condenser running efficiently.

Routine maintenance is so important. The higher temperatures generated by a filthy coil will cause premature failure of the capacitors, fan motor, and eventually the compressor within the condenser. A thorough cleaning of the condenser coil can prevent this. Not only will keeping the coil clean improve the efficiency and capacity of your entire system, it will also extend the life of your entire A/C system.

*Mitch Weigand is the owner of Air Wise™.*

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# Beautification

*Pam Parks, Program Chair*

Work continues to fine tune the irrigation systems and to put in a few more plantings before the hot weather sets in. Most of the frost damage has been shuttled off to the dump. The longer days and warmer weather are hinting that it is getting to be too late for planting most things.

Our efforts to solve the street flooding in front of GOMM and the Spark Park remain largely untested. Two big loads of leaves have been collected from the swale and donated to the Community Garden. It will take a big rain to tell if shifting some leaves will cure this longstanding problem. GOCC clearing drainage swales is not a long-term solution but it may be the most expedient solution until the drainage project planned for Sue Barnett properly cures the problem.

Late April and May will be the time for weeding and mulching. Watch for Work Day signs and plan to come out and join us. This should be light work, clearing a few weeds and shifting a few yards of mulch.

And finally, my thoughts are turning to our volunteer pipeline for beautification. That pipeline really is not what it should be, and it has me thinking about how best to improve things. Pocket parks differ a good deal from a typical yard and many of our volunteers are a bit nervous to take one on. There is a pretty long list of best practices, and many "new ideas" are immediately met with the reasons not to do it. It is a hard sell to recruit a Park Captain. So what to do? I have some ideas, and plan to share them next month.

## Park by Park Updates:

**Rose Garden** - The rain garden project has been delayed by personnel changes. Ella Sailors plans to carry through with the project later this year.

**Friendship Garden** has a new set of valves on its irrigation system. That sounds like a simple matter, but it involved considerable learning, trial and error, and not a few unkind words leveled at PVC and glue. Never mind the difficulty of gathering plumbing supplies in February and March! I will never take irrigation plumbing repairs for granted again.

**Triangle Park and Gazebo Park** were cleared quickly after the freeze and have seen minimal effort since. We had hoped to get in some plantings this spring but fear we have run out of time. Between now and the next "cool" window, the efforts will shift to improving the walkways, edging on beds, and slope stabilization.

**Art Park** - Come check out the wildflower plantings at Art Park. We have installed flagging and a few small signs to protect the planting from mowers and trampling. So far, so good. In April we added six more crepe myrtles along the north side of the park for a total of eight. All eight trees were donated by residents.

**Randall Berm and the Esplanade on W 43rd near Ella** also have plantings of wildflowers that are showing good color. A work day at the Berm cleared out a considerable amount of frost damage and started work on the thicket across W. 30th on the wedge property along Durham. Last year's plantings of duranta, plumbago, esperanza, fountain grass, lantana, and firecrackers took a real hit from the freeze. A few of the plants are showing new growth, and we are hopeful that most will come back. Plans are to turn on irrigation for these new plants in May.

**Garden Oaks Blvd Esplanade** - We have seen the first of several anticipated mini-mural designs from the Art students at GOMM.

**Entrance Signs** - Work on the entrance signs has taken a back seat to planting and getting the irrigation systems tuned up. In the meantime, some thought is being given to investing in a complete rework of our branding which might entail much more than paint and replacing a bit of wood rot.

If you would like to join a team, contact me or select from one of these existing teams. Note that I have listed Parks more or less in order of need:

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

Art Park (Sue Barnett @ W. 43rd) – Shawn and Bill Spear  
W 43rd Esplanade (Ella @ W. 43rd) – Tom Cronin and Helen Sestak

Gazebo Park (Sue Barnett @ Lamonte) – Co-Captain  
Rayford Irvin (rayford.irvin@gmail.com)

Garden Oaks 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/>

## Citizen Patrol

*Mark Saranie, Program Chair*

Happy Mother’s Day to all. I hope your gatherings and celebrations are filled with happy memory-making moments. Moms rock!

Driving through my section recently, I saw a vehicle up on jacks and no tires. I wondered if this neighbor’s tires

were merely being changed out and not stolen. Usually what I see in these cases is the vehicle up on inexpensive cement blocks, not pricey equipment. In any event, please report crimes committed against your property or even if you see any suspicious activity. Better safe than sorry.

We are always in need of volunteers. If interested, send me an email at [gocop@gardenoaks.org](mailto:gocop@gardenoaks.org), and I will connect you to the officer who manages the Citizen Patrol program. To qualify, you must reside in Garden Oaks, be at least 18 years old, and pass a background check.

- 3/22, 12 am, 1000 block W. 43rd – Credit card theft
- 3/23, 2 am, 1500 block Sue Barnett – Theft from vehicle
- 3/27, 2 pm, 1000 block Althea – Theft of vehicle parts
- 3/28, 4 am, 1000 block Althea – Simple assault

Reported patrol hours for March – 5

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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](http://gardenoaks.org) and get e-mail confirmation of payment.**

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# Garden Oaks Civic Club Meeting Minutes

*Beth Jackson, Secretary*

April 6, 2021 via Zoom

The April virtual GOCC meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by President Tonya Knauth, with the evening's agenda posted on the screen.

A motion was made by John Bartos, seconded by Chris Lindsay, to accept the February and March minutes as written. The motion passed.

The guest speaker was Robert Glaze with the Garden Oaks Community Garden. Caroline Stender, a community garden volunteer, was also present on the call. The joint community garden was founded over 30 years ago with a focus on organic gardening. The one-half acre garden is located on Alba between the Shepherd Park Plaza and Garden Oaks neighborhoods.

The garden was one of the first Urban Harvest Gardens in Houston. It features raised beds for vegetables, herbs, and pollinator plants. Several compost bins are maintained on the site as well. The garden serves the community by donating produce to the St. Rose of Lima food bank. In the midst of the pandemic, we saw how close food insecurity is for many Houstonians, and it is even more important to be able to give back right now.

There is room for growth on the lot and in the existing beds. The garden can do more with more volunteers — the only limitation is labor. There is plenty of expertise in the existing volunteer pool, so it is a great place to visit with experts and learn. The core volunteers generally meet on Wednesday mornings from 8-9:30 am, but the garden can be open other times for those interested. Contact Caroline Stender, 713.818.5420, to volunteer.

GOCC contributes financially to the mowing and maintenance of the community garden lot, as well as paying the monthly water bills. GOCC will begin fundraising for the community garden as we have for all neighborhood parks in the hopes of making it a revenue neutral line item.

## Treasurer's Report

Paul Vincent delivered the Treasurer's Report. The Constable account has about \$113,000 in funds, and the GOCC general account has about \$90,000. Funds are trending close to the previous year thus far. Constable support is up over 2020, and the Garden Oaks Gazette is showing a small profit. Expenses are tracking as expected. Per our 2021 budget projections we currently stand with a net income-to-date of about \$6,200. Full financial reports are available by contacting [treasurer@gardenoaks.org](mailto:treasurer@gardenoaks.org).

## Committee Reports

**Constable Program:** Terry Jeanes reported that we have 279 paid constable supporters to date, an addition of 20 new members over last month, and with a goal of 400 supporters. Updating neighborhood supporter signs and stickers is ongoing. Three of the four thermometer signs are up and will be updated this week. The red on the thermometers is rising from \$50K to \$75K this spring. One patrol deputy costs \$85,000 per year, so we are close to having raised that amount. With additional supporters, we could add a second deputy.

**Beautification:** Pam Parks shared that there will be many work days this month to remove frost damage from the February winter blast. Leaf litter has been removed from swales in front of GOMM and taken to the Garden Oaks Community Garden for their use. Irrigation work continues at Friendship Park, not related to the freeze.

**GardenOaks.org:** Pam Parks reported that the website requires almost no maintenance these days. She is looking for a new assistant webmaster with the departure of Joe Muscara from Garden Oaks. Please reach out to Pam to volunteer.

**GO Citizens Patrol:** Tonya delivered the report for Mark Saranie. If interested in participating in the neighborhood patrol, please contact Mark to volunteer.

**Membership:** Dian Austin noted that we currently have 261 paid GOCC members, up from 246 last month. Business memberships stand at 15 and growing under this new program launched in 2021. Welcome packets for new residents are delivered quarterly and will go out soon. The evening's raffle prize, a \$25 certificate to Eagle

Car Wash, went to Paul Vincent.

**GO Gazette:** Joe Muscara noted that the deadline for the May *Gazette* is Thursday, April 15th. Submissions go to [gazette@GardenOaks.org](mailto:gazette@GardenOaks.org). A block captain for the 700 block of Sue Barnett is needed.

Joe and Lori Kennedy will be moving from Garden Oaks soon, so we will be looking for a new *Gazette* editor, delivery coordinator, and block captain in their absence. Please contact Joe or Lori respectively if interested in volunteering. Tonya acknowledged Joe and Lori for their many contributions to the Garden Oaks neighborhood over the years. We'll miss you both!

**Social Media:** Chairperson John Alvar was absent, so Tonya delivered his report. Plans are to continue to nurture the official Garden Oaks Instagram footprint so that GO Instagram is considered an influencer. We will still have an active presence on Facebook as well. John has a new Facebook moderator to help check facts and point people to resources as available.

**Government Affairs:** Tonya recognized Hannah Cobb from Houston City Councilmember At-Large Sally Alcorn's office who joined this month's meeting. Councilmember Alcorn just opened an annual budget survey to allow residents to provide feedback on budget priorities. She hopes to encourage increased public engagement in the City's budgeting process. Citizens can participate here, [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdwwFSdAqbbUCpeP3-e2dqmmiJ1JGhKfM10\\_w7vYfPRHbc\\_5A/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdwwFSdAqbbUCpeP3-e2dqmmiJ1JGhKfM10_w7vYfPRHbc_5A/viewform).

Councilmember Alcorn is also looking at noise ordinances, working with BARC on animal welfare issues, and of course, COVID-related items.

Tonya continued her report by noting that she, Pam Parks, and Vic Seghers completed a modification application for the proposed Sue Barnett infrastructure and drainage project in March. The City has not made a decision on the application yet. The application did include an alternative request as approved by GOCC that if the request for no sidewalk on the east side of Sue Barnett is denied, that the sidewalk through the Gazebo Park be a permeable surface to better protect the mature trees and landscape of the park.

GOCC also hosted a public forum on the proposed multi-

family housing development at 909 Fisher Street. The virtual forum featured eight panelists from the City, the Kinder Institute for Urban Studies, the State of Texas, the proposed developer, and others. An application has been submitted to the State of Texas, and a decision on the proposed development is pending.

### **Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet School**

Principal Lindsey Pollock is retiring from public school education after 13 years at GOMM. She said she will miss the Garden Oaks community — her friends and neighbors and supporters of GOMM over the years. Dr. Pollock will begin working for the nonprofit TEACH in the Houston area this summer.

Tonya expressed our deepest appreciation to Dr. Pollock for her commitment to GOMM and the Garden Oaks community. Thursday, April 8th will be the first of several opportunities for public input into Dr. Pollock's replacement for the new principal at GOMM.

### **Old Business**

No old business was discussed.

### **New Business**

No new business was brought forth.

The next Garden Oaks Civic Club meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 4th. There is currently no guest speaker lined up, so stay tuned for updates.

The tentative goal is to resume in-person GOCC meetings with appropriate safety measures in the fall of 2021 at local establishments. We want to focus on ideas for how we can come back together safely in person. Suggestions are welcomed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 pm.

# MAY 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
25	26	27	28	29	30	1 <b>Farm Stand</b> 9 am - 1 pm 949 Wakefield	
2 <b>Orthodox Easter</b>	3	4 <b>Civic Club Meeting</b> 7 pm Online via Zoom	5 <b>Cinco de Mayo</b>	6	7	8 <b>Farm Stand</b> 9 am - 1 pm 949 Wakefield	
9 <b>Mother's Day</b>	10	11	12 <b>Eid al-Fitr</b>	13	14	15 <b>Gazette Article Deadline</b> <b>Armed Forces Day</b> <b>Farm Stand</b> 9 am - 1 pm	
16	17 <b>Tax Day</b>	18	19	20	21	22 <b>Farm Stand</b> 9 am - 1 pm 949 Wakefield	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29 <b>Farm Stand</b> 9 am - 1 pm 949 Wakefield	
30	31 <b>Memorial Day</b>	1	2 How old would you be if you didn't know how old you are? — Satchel Paige		3	4	5

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