



February 2023

Volume 45 Issue 02

Garden Oaks Gazette

The newsletter of the Garden Oaks Civic Club

President's Message

Tonya Knauth, President, Garden Oaks Civic Club

Welcome to 2023! I look forward to meeting and hearing from more of you in the new year.

I want to begin by acknowledging our officers and committee chairs – see page 2 for the list. They contribute their time and talents to the betterment of our community, and it is my privilege to work with them. Many have been serving for years – please thank them when you see them, and support them by joining in their work when you can.

Thanks to all who have already paid their Garden Oaks Civic Club (GOCC) dues and/or contributed to the Constable Program for 2023. We've had a very good response already, with some 175 residents sending in funds as we go to press. The updated rosters can be found on the gardenoaks.org website.

GOCC has a permanent meeting place for this year: the private back room of Great Heights Brewing at 938 Wakefield. It's a spacious and separate area, and it even comes with a bartender and a tap wall, should you be thirsty! I hope you will join us for a monthly meeting at 7 pm on the first Tuesday of each month. And a round of applause for Great Heights Brewing and their generosity!



For 2023, GOCC's theme is "CommUnity", emphasizing that we are a group of residents with more in common than our zip code. We are hoping to get input from you as to both your concerns and what you would be interested to learn about or discuss at civic club meetings.

We have changed the format of our monthly meetings so that the first 30 minutes will be social time to meet and greet your neighbors, and we have dispensed with perfunctory committee reports. Some meetings, but not all, will include speakers. Watch the Gazette and your email reminder for meeting topics each month.

Our neighborhood is full of subject matter experts on all kinds of topics. If you are one of those experts and would be willing to share your information or passion with the group, let me know. We'd love to feature you at one of our monthly meetings or in the Gazette.

The Annual Neighborhood Survey will be going out soon, as a part of a larger effort to gather input on how we can best serve. We hope to hear from more of you there too.

This year we hope to create more community partnerships with other groups both in Garden Oaks and neighboring areas. If you like to connect people and organizations, we can use your talent and help with this effort.

And lastly, GOCC is planning some new social gatherings starting this year! Stay tuned for details.

Ideas, comments? Please send them to president@gardenoaks.org.

Notices

GOCC Meeting:

Tuesday, February 7th,
7:00 PM — Social Time
7:30 PM — Short Business
Meeting with time for Q/A

Speaker: a member of the
County Commissioner, Rodney
Ellis' staff

Great Heights Brewing Private
Meeting Room

2023 Garden Oaks Civic Club CommUnity Partners

Thank you to the following neighbors and neighborhood businesses who are supporting our CommUnity Partnership Program for 2023.

If you/your business is interested in joining our annual program, please email membership@gardenoaks.org.

Terry Jeanes, Realtor – Led Well Realty

John R. Bartos, Attorney at Law

Deanna Zugheri, Keller Williams Metropolitan

IndyQuest Properties, LLC

Great Heights Brewing Company

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Erin Thole, CNHP – Thole Wellness, LLC

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Publication of any article or letter does not imply endorsement by the Garden Oaks Civic Club and is solely the opinion of the author.

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 the event, but a concise title should be provided for all other articles.

Waltrip High School – An Overview

Tim Weltin, College & Career Advisor – Waltrip HS, and Waltrip parent

Waltrip High School is rapidly emerging as one of Houston’s premiere comprehensive high schools. That news might surprise some who are unfamiliar with the constant flood of impressive information that has been streaming out of our neighborhood high school in recent times. There is not enough space here to detail all of Waltrip’s recent successes, but many of Waltrip’s highlights will be shared in this forum and others, throughout the community, in the weeks ahead.

The flood of good news from Waltrip High School is certain to accelerate now that beloved principal Rhonda Honoré has been named to lead Waltrip. Honoré served as the exceptionally successful principal at Frank Black Middle School, as well as in multiple other roles in her career with HISD.

Waltrip High School's engineering program has recognized as one of the best in the nation. More Waltrip students earned Certified SOLIDWORKS Associate (CSWA) designations than any other school

in Texas last school year, finishing in the top ten high school programs in the United States. Waltrip students dream big in Waltrip’s MIT-inspired million dollar fabrication laboratory with its suite of 3D printers, vinyl cutters, fleet of drones, high-end wood shop / metal shop machinery and welding equipment. Waltrip’s robotics team advanced to state finals in UIL competition a few weeks ago.

Waltrip currently offers 22 AP courses and an AP Capstone Diploma, which gives the school unmatched academic programming in our area. This past school year, we had an AP Capstone scholar earn a full-ride scholarship to Johns Hopkins University, and other students earn hundreds of thousands of dollars in scholarships and admission to George Washington, Carlton College, and Brandeis, among many other outstanding schools. We also had a Forty Acres Scholar in our most recent graduating class: a full-ride scholarship to UT Austin with

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(Waltrip from page 3)

additional benefits. More than 3,400 Seniors applied nationwide for the scholarship, while only 19 students were selected. One of those 19 students from the nationwide pool was from Waltrip. For this school year, one of our current AP Capstone scholars just received word that she has earned a full-ride scholarship to Vanderbilt. For our most recent graduating class, 100% of graduating seniors applied to and were accepted into college.

The Waltrip of today is exceptional. The greatest challenge Ram Nation faces is getting people to understand how extraordinary the school currently is (along with keeping up the fast pace of its continuous achievements and improvements) as opposed to relying on outdated, non-substantial or erroneous information in faux assessing the school. Waltrip is an outstanding school — right now — and is quickly earning a spot as one of Houston's very best high schools. Now that you are in the know, spread the word. You can be an ambassador for Waltrip – a/k/a a "Rambassador." Text me to tour or for more information: 713-540-5315.

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What to Do with your Landscape after the Christmas Freeze

Brandi Keller (Harris County Horticulture Agent with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension)

You may recall the advice after the winter storm of 2021 to hold off on pruning trees, shrubs, and perennials until the danger of frost/freeze is over. The same holds true now, but even more since we still have February ahead of us and another freeze is possible. A phrase that became popular was "learn to like ugly." Do not inflict damage on plants because of how they appear right now. With so many variables, we cannot know the extent of damage to our landscape just yet. Only time will tell. Here are things to consider:

- Our landscape suffered a significant drought this past summer. Despite rain in the fall, woody shrubs and trees are still dealing with the effects, and this could magnify freeze damage.
- There was no gradual cooling off period. The shock from warm weather to cold may affect plants differently than the freeze in 2021.
- Soil moisture at time of freeze, proximity to house, location of afternoon sun, intensity of wind will all vary the results the freeze

had on our gardens.

- Signs of freeze damage include deflated-looking leaves drooping to the ground, discolored leaves (brown or black), bark splitting and branch dieback.

Annuals, biennials, perennials, and tropical plants

Herbaceous plants have flexible, not woody, stems that do not survive below-freezing temperatures. Freezing and thawing temperatures cause tender plant tissue to expand and collapse. Damage may appear as mushy tissue on foliage and stems, as they dieback to the ground (hardy roots will grow new stems after winter), or as a complete plant loss.

Remove the mushy, slimy tissue. Add mulch in case of another freeze event. Leave everything else alone until the danger of winter has passed. Dried plant material serves as protection to the rest of the plant if there is another cold snap.

Cool-season annuals, like pansies and ornamental kale and cabbage, may be fine. Give them time to recover and water the soil if dry.

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(Landscape from page 5)

Tender perennials like Pentas, blue daze and angelonia are likely done. These perennials will exhibit the most damage in the form of mushiness. Begonia, society garlic, agapanthus, canna, ginger, banana, philodendron and succulents are examples of plants that may soften in a dreadful way. Clean mushy parts out as soon as possible; otherwise, the rot can continue downward to healthy plant parts, causing fungal infection and disease. Clean up to, but not into, the healthy tissue. Remove leaves on banana plants but avoid pruning the trunk yet.

Hardy perennials will die back to the ground. Leave their dried stems until spring.

Woody tropical plants, such as hibiscus, ixora, croton and angel trumpet, all look fried, but wait until spring to prune. Dead leaves can be cleaned up off the branches.

Plumbago, pride of Barbados and oleander are perennial shrubs (evergreen in mild winters) that are head-to-toe crispy fritters now.

The good news is that they should come back from the ground.

The bad news is that their mere existence in this firewood state is like seeing big chunks of peeling paint in the living room. Resist pruning back. Removing dead wood will encourage new growth at the base, and we don't want that yet.

Palm care

Palms grow from the apical meristem, the central growing point.

Wintry weather affects palms by either causing fronds to brown, killing new emerging leaves (spear leaf), killing the apical meristem, or stem splitting.

Time will tell the extent of damage that has occurred. While you are sitting around waiting, do not prune fronds until the last chance of freeze. Leaving dried fronds also gives structural support. Damage can take some time to reveal itself. Avoid watering or fertilizing postfreeze. Fertilizing is not necessary until late spring anyway.

Woody ornamental trees and shrubs

Leave trees and shrubs alone until spring — unless it is a safety issue. This is the hard part if you like a nice and tidy appearance. Remember that neat and tidy in January and February are not necessarily what is best for your landscape plants. Any pruning of woody ornamentals sets them up for further freeze damage that may come in the next couple of months. Do not fertilize during this time.

Roses are pruned around Valentine's Day, after the chance of a severe freeze has passed and when roses are about to come out of dormancy.

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Garden Oaks Kids

Sara Mathias, GOKids Admin

GOKids is getting excited for our first event of the year: a family cookie decorating kit to celebrate Valentine's Day. GOKids hosts about 6 events each year with 2 being large celebrations. Membership is \$85 per year, and once a paid member, all events are free. We also offer a bounce house rental to members for only \$20 per day! To join sign up at: <https://my.cheddarup.com/c/gardenoakskids>

New for 2023, GOKids is also adding a volunteer aspect to teach our kids about community. We hope to partner with Kids' Meals for a summer event. In the meantime, GOKids families collected 4,896 ziplock bags, 12 Chef Boyrdee, 36 mac and cheese, and 48 chicken salad pouches that we donated to Kids' Meals.

GOKids hopes to teach our kids about the fun in community involvement and the importance of giving back to our community. We would love for you to join for 2023!



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Harvesting Vegetables and Connections

Amanda Sebba, Principal GOMM, and Yoly Villarreal, PTO President

As the fall semester has wrapped up at Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet (GOMM), we find ourselves reflecting on the work we have accomplished on our green spaces. In addition to being a Magnet Montessori school, GOMM is also an Environmental Sciences campus. As such, each classroom has a designated garden bed where students plant, tend and harvest fresh vegetables. One of our favorite experiences at GOMM is seeing the wonder that students experience from tasting a new vegetable, that they have helped grow, for the first time.

This past fall we partnered with Urban Harvest for our first Big Gardening Day. Over 35 neighbors, school parents, educators and local business partners joined us to clean up our common green spaces and get our garden plots ready for planting. Together we worked to clear out excess vegetation, spread over 4 yards of mulch, and clear out paths.

GOMM's Pocket Prairie, located in front of our school, also got

some love and attention. Members of our Beautification Team worked with the Coastal Prairie Conservancy and the Native Prairies Association of Texas to develop a plan for how to best maintain our little prairie. Upon their recommendation, a landscaping crew removed invasive plants, weeds, and plant debris. This clearing will allow wildflowers to sprout next Spring. Our students are receiving lessons on disturbance-driven ecosystems, and how plants and animals have adapted to withstand and even thrive with regular disturbances, such as fire, grazing, and periodic droughts. The clearing completed this fall mimics such a natural disturbance and will help keep our prairie in good health.

At GOMM we also are working hard to turn our current pond space into a true outdoor classroom! We have had multiple community partners visit our pond space to help us develop a master plan. Future additions will include a shady space for learning and multiple elements

(Continued on page 10)



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- Customer service was top notch from the time we contacted State Roofing for a free estimate to the time they completed our roof replacement. Chris exceeded our service expectations. He addressed all our concerns and accommodated our requests beyond just replacing our roof. We highly recommended State Roofing.

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(Continued from page 8)

for environmental science education, such as water reservoirs that will fill our pond with harvested rain, wind and solar sustainable energy sources, and animal life cycle habitats. If members of the community are interested in supporting these efforts please contact us at beautification@gopto.org. We would love to partner with you!

As we work collectively on the beautification and development of our green spaces, we find ourselves harvesting not only fresh vegetables and rain water but also new, strong relationships with each other. Our root system at GOMM is strong, and similar to our Pocket Prairie; we have grown from navigating the natural disturbances that have arisen.

For more information about our Pocket Prairie visit: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100086358094297>



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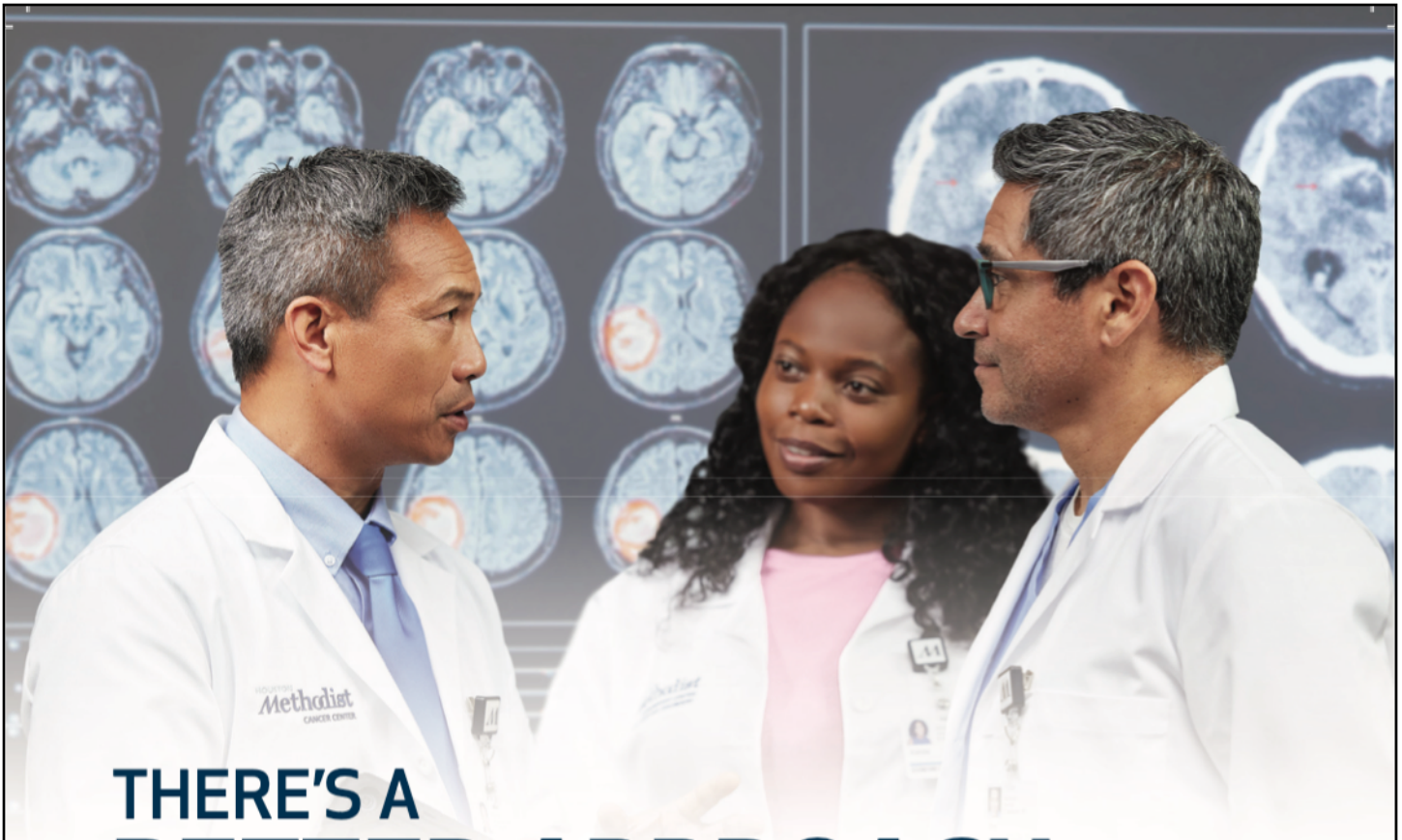
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Heard Under the Oak Tree

Terry Jeanes

Welcome, New Neighbors!

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

415 West 30th
722 West 38th
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Happy Birthday

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

Happy Anniversary

Will & Deanna Zugheri 23rd

Congratulations to Jason Cunningham as the National Museum of the Pacific War in Fredericksburg, Texas will begin carrying his book, *Wherever You Are Tonight: Love and War in the Forgotten Theater of World War II*, in their store.

Out and About

Carl Waters and Leslie Ryan enjoyed a great time at the Jez's annual New Years' Eve Party, and this year it was a Prom Theme. The **Odinets** spent New Year's in Park City, while **Jaime & Celeste Zamora** enjoyed a Royal Caribbean cruise over New Year's.

Jennifer Perry & family had a great European vacation which included Positano Italy and a visit to Pompeii. **Terry Jeanes** enjoyed a cruise with sister and friends to Key West, Dominican Republic, St. Maarten, St Kitts, St Croix, St Thomas, San Juan, and Montego Bay.



Special Thoughts to

Robert and Amanda Carlin in the loss of Robert's sister.
Reagan and Lauren Cracknell in the loss of Reagan's brother.
The **Knauth family** in the loss of longtime family canine, Dini. **Tina Rowe and Jim Dicola** in the loss of their cat, Tango

New to the Neighborhood?

We are glad you are here!

If you'd like a Welcome Packet, please email membership@gardenoaks.org.

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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Garden Oaks Civic Club Minutes

Beth Jackson, Secretary

Tuesday, January 3, 2023 @ Great Heights Brewing

Vice President Kevin David called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. The brief business began with the unanimous passage of the December 2022 GOCC meeting minutes. Due to the absence of several of the standing Committee chairs, there were no updates from Beautification, Constable, Website, Social Media, or Membership. Gazette Editor Christi Hartley reminded those present that the deadline for submission to the February issue is January 15th.

Secretary Beth Jackson encouraged all neighbors to join the GOCC in a facilitated "community input session" to be held at the next GOCC meeting. This is an opportunity to tell us what you value about Garden Oaks and what direction you would like to see the Civic Club go in the future. Please spread the word about this opportunity for input to neighbors and friends.

There was no Treasurer's Report since the Treasurer was out of town, but current financials are available for neighbors to review by contacting treasurer@gardenoaks.org.

Kevin then opened the floor for any questions or comments. Discussion ensued about the Golf Road construction project, the City's new(ish) sidewalk ordinance and its impact on Garden Oaks, and the GO Kids organization.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, February 7th at 7:00 pm at Great Heights Brewing.

With no further business raised, the January 2023 Garden Oaks Civic Club meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm.



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Constable Program

Terry Jeanes, Program Chair M'lissa & Craig Dilley –Vice Chairs

Welcome back to regular patrol, Deputy Jessica Clark!

Have you supported the Constable Program yet? We need you! The 2023 campaign is in full force. Return your **YOUR CIVIC CLUB MAILER promptly as it includes the opportunity for you to contribute for the 2023 year.** Pay your dues via the mail OR pay online. Payment of at least \$250 per household will get you a GO Constable Supporter sign. That's a mere 65 cents per day!

<https://www.gardenoaks.org/go-constable/>

If you need a new sign, please email constable@gardenoaks.org. A roster of current supporters is available at 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?

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As an avid runner of Garden Oaks, Evan is always willing to go the extra mile. Whether crunching numbers or providing input on the latest real estate trends and hottest neighborhoods, rest assured that Evan will use his analytical expertise and unwavering commitment to guide his partners through the changing market. A personal approach that puts your first.



Evan Mangan

Broker Associate, MBA

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 **Douglas Elliman**
REAL ESTATE

2800 KIRBY, SUITE A-206, HOUSTON, TEXAS 77019. 281.652.5588 © 2023 DOUGLAS ELLIMAN REAL ESTATE. EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY



2023 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 Garden, 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**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

opt-in for monthly emails re: neighborhood news and meeting notices

A/C Ductwork Can Make or Break Your System's Efficiency

Mitch Weigand

Forced-air heating and cooling systems use ducts to distribute air evenly throughout your home. Properly sized, sealed and insulated, ducts can increase the efficiency of your A/C system by 20 percent. Conversely, leaks and loose connections can raise utility bills, while making your home feel stuffy, despite a low thermostat setting.

Modern ductwork consists of insulated flexible tubes which run across the attic floor or beneath your home. Leaks can happen from a simple puncture via a protruding nail, or a tear while being installed. Connecting joints where two pieces of duct come together can separate over time.

Rushed contractors can even fail to properly attach ducts together or to a vent. As a result, conditioned air is needlessly pumped into the attic or under the house for years while the room it is supposed to cool or heat never gets comfortable.

Additionally, problems occur when ducts are blocked or kinked. Kinking occurs when ducts are forced into tight places beneath your home or in the attic. Make sure ducts are


properly supported so they won't sag or bend unnecessarily which can create gaps or splits.

System design is equally important. Improperly designed ducting can be too small for the amount of air needed to carry, or conversely too big, which then robs air that should be going to another part of your home. The A/C itself can be improperly sized for the ductwork, providing too little or too much pressure.

If your ductwork is poorly designed or installed, it will waste energy no matter how well insulated your home is or how efficient your air conditioner is. Be proactive and have your duct system examined for leaks, blockages, and inadequate design by a professional A/C technician.

Lastly, replace air filters regularly and clean your home's supply vents and return grills.

Mitch is the owner of Air WiseTM




Here's what our customers say about us:

“I've been a client of Mitch's for 20+ years.”

Robbie J., Copperfield

★★★★★ "From the moment I met Mitch, the honest dedication and integrity shone from all points. Besides that, he utilizes the best and latest test equipment. One of the other items I notice about his skill set. It's a guy thing!"



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Air Wise owner Mitch Weigand

FEBRUARY 2023

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|---|--|---|--|-----|--|
| | | | 1 |  | 3 | 4 Farm Stand 9am to 1 pm 949 Wakefield |
| 5 | 6 | 7 GOCC Meeting 7 pm | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 Farm Stand 9am to 1 pm 949 Wakefield |
| 12 | 13 |  14 Gazette article deadline | 15 | 16 Junk Waste Pickup | 17 | 18 Farm Stand 9am to 1 pm 949 Wakefield |
| 19 | 20  | 21  Mardi Gras | 22  | 23 | 24 | 25 Farm Stand 9am to 1 pm 949 Wakefield |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | | | | |

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