



October 2023

Volume 45 Issue 10

# Garden Oaks *Gazette*

The newsletter of the Garden Oaks Civic Club



**OCTOBER 21ST**

4:30 pm - 7:00 pm on 800 block of Azalea in GO  
21 years and older only  
Tickets on sale at <https://azaleastreet.eventbrite.com>

## Notices

No Garden Oaks Civic Club Meeting for October

National Neighbors' Night Out  
October 3rd, 6 pm - Your Block

Constable Fundraiser  
Beer & Wine Extravaganza  
Saturday, October 21st  
4:30 to 7pm  
800 block of Azalea  
Tickets on sale-  
<https://azaleastreet.eventbrite.com>

Rebuilding GO Meetings  
St Stephens Church  
2003 West 43rd St  
Oct 17th and 24rd  
7:00 pm

## Wanna Join the *Gazette* Delivery Team?

### *Gazette* Block Deliverer Needed

We need 1 person to deliver *Gazettes* to the 700 and 800 blocks of W. 30th and W. 31st.

The time commitment would be 30-45 minutes once a month. The newsletters are delivered to your home so you would just need to walk door to door and deliver one to each home on the route.

This is a perfect opportunity for middle or high schoolers wanting service hours in the community!

If interested, contact Angela Winston at 832-656-8648.

## 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](mailto: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**

**Nationwide Tools & Supplies**

**Erin Thole, CNHP – Thole Wellness, LLC**

**Central City Air**

### Civic Club Officers

President – Tonya Knauth 713 396 0876  
986 Gardenia [president@gardenoaks.org](mailto:president@gardenoaks.org)

Vice President – Kevin David 713 686 5903  
1002 Althea [vicepresident@gardenoaks.org](mailto:vicepresident@gardenoaks.org)

Treasurer – Paul Vincent 713 834 7248  
742 West 41st [treasurer@gardenoaks.org](mailto:treasurer@gardenoaks.org)

Secretary – OPEN

### Committee Chairs

Beautification – Pam Parks 713 686 7728  
[beautification@gardenoaks.org](mailto:beautification@gardenoaks.org)

Constable Program – Terry Jeanes  
281 236 8033  
[constable@gardenoaks.org](mailto:constable@gardenoaks.org)

Membership – Dian Austin 713 691 6505  
[membership@gardenoaks.org](mailto:membership@gardenoaks.org)

Social Media – John Alvar 713 775 0365  
[social@gardenoaks.org](mailto:social@gardenoaks.org)

Webmaster – Pam Parks 713 686 7728  
[webmaster@gardenoaks.org](mailto:webmaster@gardenoaks.org)

Social Events - Emily Stephens 913 526 5160  
[goSocial@gardenoaks.org](mailto:goSocial@gardenoaks.org)

### Gazette Contacts

Editor – Christi Hartley 806-319-0853  
[gazette@gardenoaks.org](mailto:gazette@gardenoaks.org)

Advertising Director – Brenda de Alba  
713 705 0886  
[gazetteads@gardenoaks.org](mailto:gazetteads@gardenoaks.org)

Delivery Coordinator – Angela Winston  
832 656 8648  
[gazettedelivery@gardenoaks.org](mailto: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 the event, but a concise title should be provided for all other articles.

## 2023 Azalea Street Extravaganza Table Hosts

Our annual Constable Program fundraiser would not be possible without the generosity of our table hosts. Each table host provides at least a case of wine (or wines), or other beverages, and foods at their own expense. Most of these folks have been repeat hosts for many, many years. Thank you to these generous neighbors and neighborhood businesses. We appreciate you! Thank you for supporting our Constable Patrol Program. We couldn't do it without you!

- "Aged to Perfection" – Pam Parks & Teresa Coleman, Elisa Cuellar & Knox Wright
- Aitu Pham Taube, State Farm Insurance Agency, and Ginny Ledwell, Led Well Realty
- Alison Spencer, Spencer Law
- Coldwell Banker Realty, Goad Family
- Craig & M'lissa Dilley
- d'Alba
- 11 Below Brewing
- Frankie and Flora
- GO Red Hot Chili Peppers (Gannon, Neikirk, and Noser)
- Heidi & Stuart Arouty
- Heights Margaritas
- Sandra Penfold
- Susan Kostelecky
- The Canary
- The Upside Pub
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## 2023 Azalea Street Extravaganza Sponsors

Cash sponsorships are a big part of our fundraising! Please thank these neighbors and patronize the businesses who support Garden Oaks. We have a lot of sponsorship opportunities still available.

Sponsorship benefits are outlined elsewhere in this month's newsletter, and include event tickets, signage, Gazette ads, listings in the monthly newsletter, and on the website.

Sponsorships may be purchased online at <https://www.gardenoaks.org/azalea-street/>

### Diamond Sponsors (\$2500)

- High Performance Home Systems  
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- Central City A

### Platinum Sponsors (\$1000)

- Harry James Building + Design
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- Oak Forest Veterinary Hospital
- The Bell Tower on 34th
- Tyra Properties
- Verde Wealth Group, LLC  
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Garden Oaks Resident

### Gold Sponsors (\$500)

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- CTC Contractors LLC
- Frost Bank
- Optimus
- Terry Jeanes, Led Well Realty
- The Dilley Family
- The House Manager – Cat Theriot
- Tonya L. Knauth, Attorney, PLLC
- SPA 146

### Silver Sponsors (\$300)

- Alleanza Custom Homes
- The Zindler-Feit Household





# Rebuilding Garden Oaks Together

*Stuart Arouty*

Community Meetings: October 17 and 24, 7pm, St. Stephen's United Methodist Church, 2003 W. 43rd

The conclusion of bankruptcy proceedings marks a significant moment for Garden Oaks, as it highlights the importance of reestablishing the Garden Oaks Board. Why is this important? Our neighborhood finds itself in the same predicament as the day before the bankruptcy declaration. We are still grappling with the very issues that initially led to our bankruptcy in the first place. We have decisions to make and need leadership to help facilitate them.

Historical surveys have revealed that our community wants deed restrictions that make sense for today's world and a governing body to enforce them. So, what options lie before us?

One option is maintaining our current approach of doing nothing and relying solely on the city's selective enforcement of our deed restrictions. Unfortunately, this approach has proven less than ideal in the short time it has been in effect. Lots of homeowners have encountered significant challenges, including construction delays due to a lack of clear guidance from the city. These delays come with substantial financial burdens as well. One neighbor had the unfortunate experience of their garage collapsing, and now they face deed restrictions that prevent them from rebuilding it. Additionally, there are plots within our community where, in the event of catastrophic damage to the existing home, owners would be unable to rebuild. Also, our new neighbors are currently encountering transfer fees due to confusion among title companies regarding state responsibilities. Given these issues and uncertainties, continuing with the current approach may not be the best course of action for Garden Oaks.

A more proactive approach involves replacing our current deed restrictions with clear, non-discriminatory rules that leave no room for subjective interpretation. By empowering homeowners with a precise understanding of these governing laws, they can confidently pursue their desires within these boundaries. For instance, a straightforward guideline could be 'adhere to all setback requirements and construct as desired'. Such a step would effectively resolve most of the legal disputes our neighborhood has ever faced.

Additionally, we can utilize our existing HOA to fund the passing of these new deed restrictions and to establish a new governing body. These updated regulations can also be thoughtfully designed to remain adaptable for the benefit of future generations.

The issues we're currently facing require comprehensive and permanent solutions. In an ideal scenario, Garden Oaks should be a community where residents can confidently choose to live, knowing that their homes, properties and homesteads are valued and protected. Homeowners should have assurance that their investments are secure from potential legal complications, and they should feel that the neighborhood supports them rather than works against their interests. Achieving this level of security and community support is crucial for the well-being and stability of our neighborhood for generations to come.

**To further discuss our long-term options and foster community-wide dialogue, we will convene in person. Two meetings will be held at St. Stephen's United Methodist Church @ 2003 W 43rd St., on October 17th and 24th at 7 pm. Following this, we will proceed with elections by the end of the year to establish new leadership. If you are interested in a leadership position or if you have any board experience or if you just care about the direction of your neighborhood, please email [Help@gardenoaks.org](mailto:Help@gardenoaks.org) to find out how you can contribute!**

# What can we do about our tree canopy losses?

*Pam Parks, Beautification Chair*

Two back-to-back very hot dry summers are having a devastating impact on our tree canopy. A strong showing of oranges and browns on our streetscape in early September is the result of a major die off. Most of the trees sporting these colors will not recover. I am noticing that Magnolias, Redbuds and Sweetgums seem to be particularly hard hit though I think I have seen at least one die-off of all our main species except Hackberry. The other characteristic of this die-off is its' effect on trees of almost all ages. It is typical to see impacted trees on or near construction sites, or not yet established new plantings or trees nearing their end of life all struggle in a dry year. This year we have all that and more.

If you have trees that are dropping brown leaves, it may be possible to save them by applying a deep water once a week. If the brown leaves are not falling off, it is likely that the tree will not recover.

Tree watering does not have to break the bank or go against the city water conservation measures. Both young and old trees will benefit from a soak much more than what they

typically get from sprinklers. Plastic containers in the gallon or larger sizes make great tree waterers (image).



Poke 2-3 holes near the base of the container, set under the tree, and fill with water. Depending on the size of the tree, a fill or two once or twice a week can mean survival. Using this set up, our volunteers have saved (trees continued page 7)

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(continued from page 6)

dozens of trees planted three years ago at Graham Park in Section 1. We have lost a few but would have lost dozens without supplemental watering this summer.

If you have lost trees or have room to add more, it isn't too soon to be thinking about what to plant.

CoH maintains a list of trees approved for planting in ROW and parks; that is a good place to start. [https://www.houstontx.gov/planning/DevelopRegs/StreetTree\\_files/StreetTree.xlsx](https://www.houstontx.gov/planning/DevelopRegs/StreetTree_files/StreetTree.xlsx)

A much longer list with images is available at Trees for Houston.

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5b1ff7473917ee0f13516265/t/64625276576cde7f25f08498/1684165252479/Master+Species+List.pdf>

Our city parks department and our city forester have awakened to the threat that this year poses to maintaining and growing a healthy canopy. In the past few weeks, removal of dead trees has begun at Graham Park, and a

watering program is in the works for all city parks. While it may be too little, too late for many trees, it is an important investment in the surviving trees. We are seeing a lot of engagement of mayoral and council candidates these days as they seek our support in upcoming elections. It could do some real good to ask them to pay attention and invest appropriately in our trees.



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## Garden Oaks Kids

*Sara Mathias, GOKids Admin*

Copeland (7), Enzo (5), and Magnolia (3) love fall and Halloween. Some of their favorite fall traditions include visiting local pumpkin patches, carving jack-o-lanterns, and attending the GOKids' Halloween Party. One of the traditions that Mom and Dad (Carra and Brian) love is dressing up as a family. The year we dressed as a banana split is a favorite! We even got a great picture from a local photographer, Michelle Cotton, who we found at a past GOKids event.

This year GOKids will be having a Monster Mash Dance Party with a DJ, face painting, crafts, games, a balloon photo op, food, drinks and a take home gift. We are so lucky to have such wonderful neighborhood sponsors that make each of our events even more special. Please remember to support our wonderful sponsors for this event: American Legion Post 560, Ginny Ledwell of Led Well Realty, Katie Hilburn Interiors, Primrose School on Judiway, Raising Cane's on Ella, and Susan Kostelecky of SK Designs.

Special thanks to member, Crystal Shel, for making our balloon arch.

If you are interested in joining us, please sign up at <https://gardenoakskids.cheddarup.com>



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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.

939 West 43rd  
906 Gardenia  
802 West 41st  
4319 Apollo  
1059 Gardenia  
227 West 33rd  
1543 Sue Barnett

335 West 34th  
810 West 43rd  
986 Althea  
516 West 30th  
208 West 31st  
532 West 33rd

## Happy Birthday

Dian Austin 1st  
Sue Schmidt 3rd  
Julian S. 5th  
Tina Sabuco 9th  
Michael Padon 17th  
Alice Sarmiento 24th  
Benjamin B. 24th

Pene Carter 25th  
Linda Reichle 25th  
Mark Saranie 25th  
Fritz Westover 25th  
Jack Runge 28th  
Eden Craig 30th

## Happy Anniversary

Tony & Debbie Padon 6th  
Elizabeth & Mark Klein 7th  
Betsy & Gig Runge 9th  
Jayne & Mike Maltbie 38th

## New to the Neighborhood?

We are glad you are here!

If you'd like a Welcome Packet,  
please email  
[membership@gardenoaks.org](mailto:membership@gardenoaks.org).



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## Out and About

Elisa Cuellar and Knox Wright enjoyed Greece.

Carl Waters and Leslie Ryan had break time in San Antonio. A little fun in the sun for Jaime Zamora and a longtime friend from Corpus with stops in Cozumel and Roatan via the Allure of the Seas.

Terry Jeanes enjoyed a trip with real estate industry friends seeing Paris, London, and then off to a British Isles cruise.

Tina Sabuco and Shellye Arnold had some fun in Austin over Labor Day weekend.

The Dilleys had a great time in New York City.

Special Thoughts to  
The Morgan family in the loss of their dear pup, Crosby.

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

# Garden Oaks Civic Club Minutes

*Cathy Wahren, GOCC Volunteer*

Tuesday, September 5, 2023 @ Great Heights Brewing

The meeting came to order after a brief presentation by Abbie Kamin, Houston City Council Member District C. The GOCC Treasurer made copies of his report available. A motion was made and passed to accept the August minutes as published in the Gazette.

### Old Business

The history and development of the sidewalk on the west side of Sue Barnett to GOMM was discussed.

### New Business

A motion was made to approve Deepak Khosla as GOCC Secretary; the vote was seconded and approved.

Mike Stephens outlined the upcoming Constable Program fundraiser, the Azalea Street Wine and Beer Festival. It will be held in the 800 block of Azalea on October 21, with a rain date the following weekend. A limited number of tickets will be

sold. Cash sponsors and volunteers for setup and breakdown are being solicited. If interested, email [GoSocial@gardenoaks.org](mailto:GoSocial@gardenoaks.org). A bike parking area was suggested.

For 2024, a slate of proposed GOCC officers will be presented at the November 7 GOCC meeting, with elections being held in December. Volunteers are needed to serve on the Nominating Committee; if interested, email [president@gardenoaks.org](mailto:president@gardenoaks.org).

Constable Deputy Tommie Kelly attended the meeting and said a few words. She has been our new constable on patrol since July. She indicated GO has been relatively quiet and encouraged residents to request vacation watch when leaving town. Neighbors' Night Out will take the place of a GOCC meeting in October. Requests for constable visits at your NNO gatherings should be made to Terry Jeanes.

(minutes continued page 12)

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(minutes from page 11)

GOCC is working with Super Neighborhood chair, Marc Klein, and representatives of the North Shepherd District to arrange a candidate forum for the upcoming November elections. City Council District H candidates are new to GO due to re-districting (candidates Mario Castillo and Cynthia Reyes-Revilla were in attendance). A new Mayor will also be elected. The date and location of the forum have not yet been determined. Volunteers are needed for this effort. To volunteer, contact Tonya Knauth at [President@GardenOaks.org](mailto:President@GardenOaks.org).

A question was posed about the legality of a new fence around a lot at the corner of Apollo and W. 43rd. Tonya Knauth stated that GOCC bylaws preclude involvement related to deed restrictions.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:14 PM.

## NATIONAL / NEIGHBORS NIGHT OUT

– Tues October 3rd. –

If you are going to host a neighborhood or block gathering, please advise [constable@gardenoaks.org](mailto:constable@gardenoaks.org) so Precinct One officers stop in. Stay tuned to FB pages for parties noted.



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# Constable Program

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

**JOIN US FOR NEW FALL CONSTABLE FUNDRAISER OCTOBER 21st: The Azalea Street Beer and Wine Extravaganza....** Ticket link here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/azalea-street-beer-and-wine-extravaganza-tickets>

Reminder to extend warm greetings to newly assigned Patrol Deputy, a 20 yr veteran of Law Enforcement, **Deputy Tommie Kelly**. More about Deputy Tommie in November.

**Have you supported the Constable Program yet?** We need you! You can pay online at or via the form in this newsletter. 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](mailto: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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**Constable Dispatch:** 713-755-7628

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

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# 2023 Azalea Street Extravaganza Sponsorship Benefits

## Diamond Sponsor (\$2500 Cash Contribution)

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- 8 tickets to the event (value \$800)
- Garden Oaks Gazette Full Page Ad (value \$180)
- Recognition in the GO Gazette through June 2024
- Your logo/link on the Garden Oaks website

## Platinum Plus (\$1500) Cash Contribution

- INDIVIDUAL sign at the entrance on Azalea
- 6 tickets to the event (value \$600)
- Garden Oaks Gazette ½ page ad (value \$110)
- Recognition in the GO Gazette through June 2024
- Your logo/link on the Garden Oaks website

## Platinum Sponsor (\$1000 Cash Contribution)

- INDIVIDUAL sign at the entrance on Azalea
- Four tickets to the event (value \$400)
- Garden Oaks Gazette ½ page ad (value \$110)
- Recognition in the GO Gazette through June 2024
- Your logo/link on the Garden Oaks website

## Gold Sponsor (\$500 Cash Contribution)

- SHARED signage with other Gold Sponsors
- Garden Oaks Gazette Ad - 2 ¼" x 2 3/8" (value: \$60)
- Two tickets to the event (value \$200)
- Recognition in the GO Gazette through June 2024
- Your link/logo on the Garden Oaks website

## Silver Sponsor (\$300 Cash Contribution)

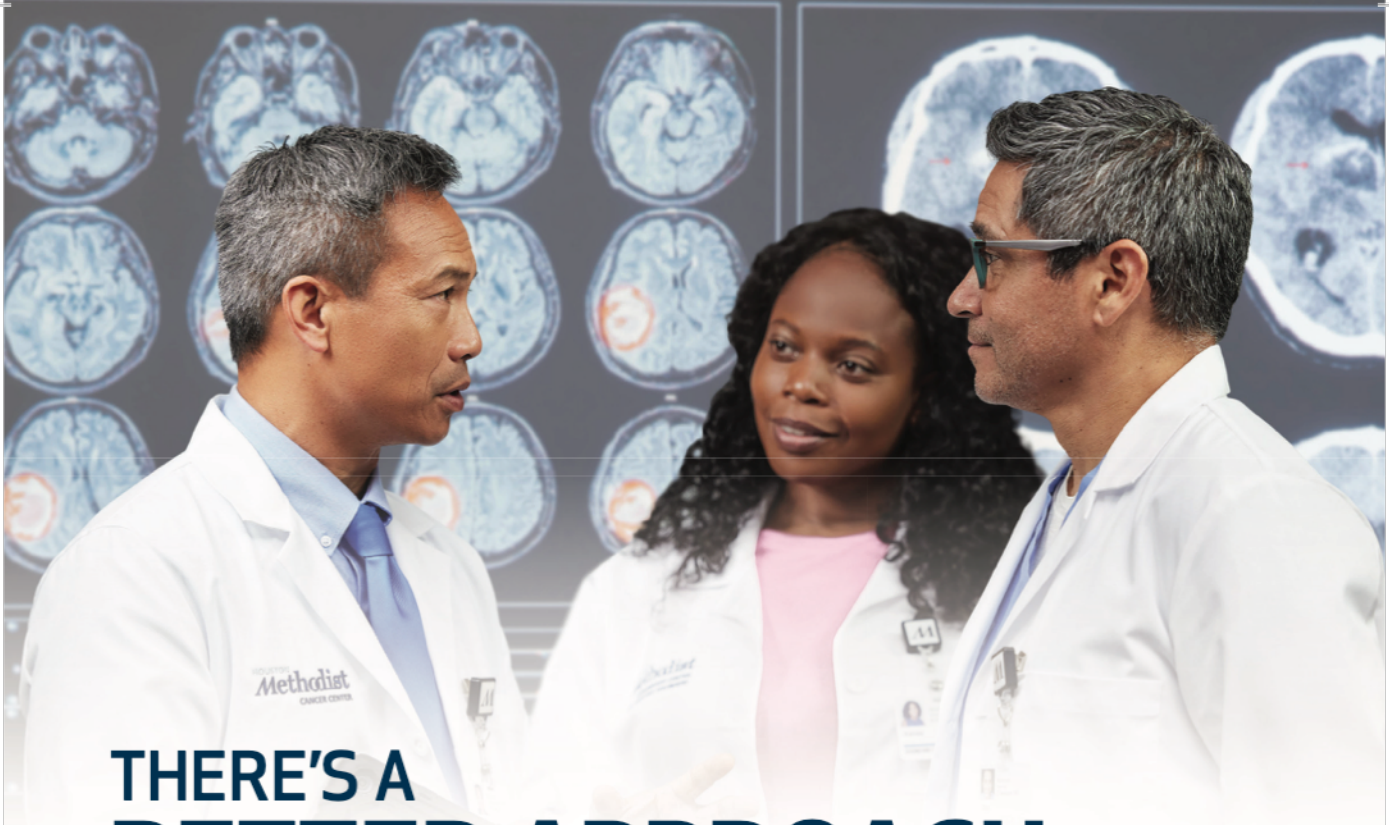
- SHARED signage with other Silver Sponsors
- One ticket to the event (value \$100)
- Recognition in the GO Gazette through June 2024
- Your link/logo on the Garden Oaks website



Sponsorships can be purchased at [gardenoaks.org](http://gardenoaks.org).  
All proceeds are used to fund the Garden Oaks Constable Program.

Questions? [Constable@gardenoaks.org](mailto:Constable@gardenoaks.org)



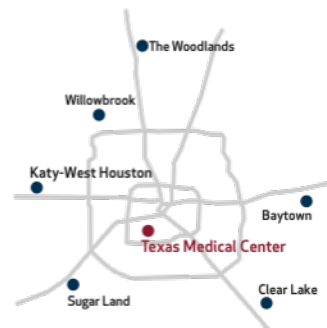


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# Planting Seeds of Knowledge: GOMM's Green Initiatives

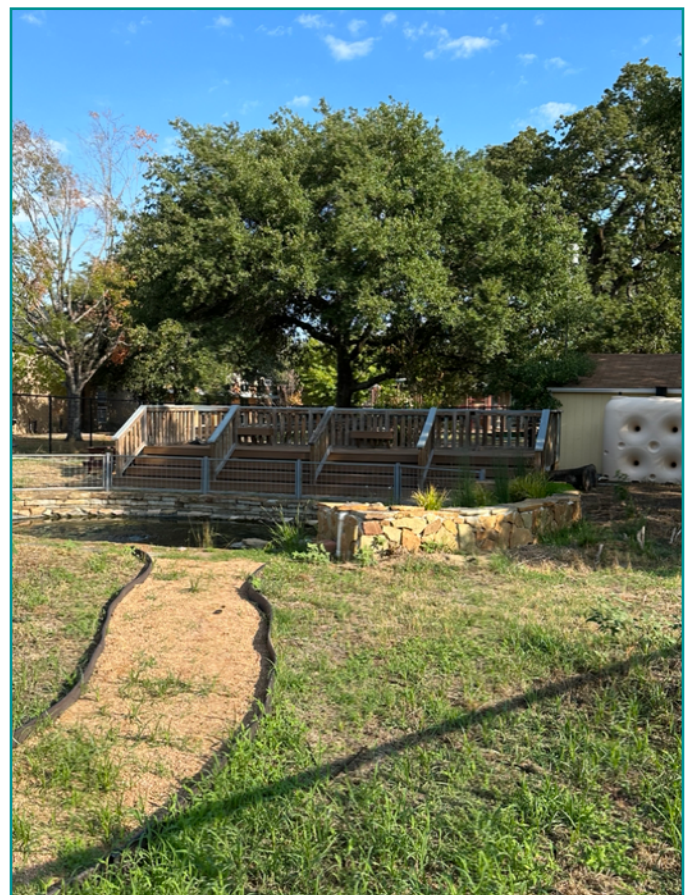
*Celina Sandoval, VP of Community Engagement, GOPTO*

As the school year takes off, GOPTO has an expansive plan for many areas on campus at Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet (GOMM). Through PTO funding and a much-anticipated sidewalk paver sale later in the fall, the Beautification committee reinstated a program that will enhance the student environmental science experience of the school's magnet program. The program, On the Grow, will be led by a former HISD teacher and curriculum specialist, Janice Brown, who has taken her passion for gardening back to school. This program will allow children to experience farming by growing herbs and vegetables. Part of the program will also include Children's House Garden beds, 5 of which face the Spark Park. Beautification chairs Andrea Rafiei and Denise Colmenero are leading the committee. "I am excited to help launch a commemorative paver fundraiser that supports beautification at Garden Oaks", Rafiei said. Community Garden workdays are set for Oct. 7, Nov.4, and March 2. You are invited and encouraged to sign up to participate.

Another area being cultivated by the PTO is the Outdoor Classroom and Pond which runs along the south end of Sue Barnett and ends at Wakefield. This area will include a spacious area for students to sit comfortably under the shade of large oak trees. Outdoor Classroom Chairs and GO residents Breanne Thomas and Thomas Cepeda are eager to complete this by the end of this school year. "I am excited to be working on the pond rehabilitation and outdoor classroom project. Academically speaking, the pond and surrounding gardens give us the opportunity to create an incredible living laboratory for earth science. Additionally, our teachers and children will socially, emotionally, and physically benefit from working outdoors", says Breanne Thomas.

Over the summer, the pond underwent a big makeover, and a bog filter was added to create a natural filtration process and a cleaner, healthier ecosystem. This addition will draw wildlife back into the area, where students can observe the various life cycles in a pond ecosystem. Several learning stations will be placed along the pathways in the pond area. "The stations will focus on native Texas wetlands, aquatic ecosystems, native flowers, pollinators and local wildlife. We are also creating stations that are dedicated to environmental sustainability and conservation, which highlight our water wall, solar panels, and windmill. We are effectively creating a living laboratory for earth science."- Breanne Thomas.

An exciting initiative that was started last year is the Dads of Garden Oaks, also known as The DOGOs. Spearheaded by long time GOMM parent Joel Ramirez, the goal is to increase participation of our community dads. The DOGOs will assist in large projects such as helping to build out the areas in the outdoor classroom. They will also staff the kitchen at the returning Pancake Breakfast event, slated for Spring 2024. We invite the community to join our Facebook page at Garden Oaks Montessori PTO or follow us on Instagram @garden\_oaks\_montessori for more information and updates. If you have questions, please reach out to our VP of Community Engagement, Celina Sandoval at [communityvp@gopto.org](mailto:communityvp@gopto.org).





# WHY WE NEED A CONSTABLE PROGRAM FUNDRAISER

*Terry Jeanes, Constable Program Chair*

- Our contract with the Precinct One Constable's Office costs about \$90,000 each year. That's for one deputy, 40 hours a week of professional law enforcement presence. Our Constable Deputy serves all 5 sections of the neighborhood, and responds much quicker than a call to HPD.
- The Precinct One Contract is paid ONLY by contributions from residents.
- Currently only 264 homes (out of some 1400 in GO) support the Constable Program with an annual donation of at least \$250. That's less than 20% participation.
- We will shortly run out of funds to pay for a Constable Patrol. No funds, no constable.
- If you want to keep our Deputy on the streets of Garden Oaks, please support become a Constable Program supporter. The form is in the Gazette every month. You can become a Constable Program supporter online at <https://www.gardenoaks.org/go-constable/>
- You can also contribute by buying a ticket or a sponsorship for our upcoming fundraiser, the Azalea Street Beer & Wine Extravaganza, to be held on Saturday, October 21st. Sponsorships can be purchased at <https://www.gardenoaks.org/azalea-street/>
- Tickets can be purchased at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/azalea-street-beer-and-wine-extravaganza-tickets>
- Can't attend? At least invite your neighbors and friends!



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## 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](http://gardenoaks.org)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

# Home Heating Myths Debunked

*Mitch Weigand*

What you think you know about heating and energy efficiency may be costing you money. It's time to set the record straight regarding common home energy myths.

**Fiberglass insulation in your attic alone keeps cold air out of your home. FALSE.** Fiberglass actually does a better job at keeping heat in than keeping cold out. If you have cracks and air leaks anywhere in your house, the cold air will seep in no matter how much insulation you have. Air sealing is the most important thing you can do to plug these holes and gaps to keep the chill from creeping in.

**Having an energy efficient furnace installed will reduce your energy bill. FALSE.** Even the highest efficiency-rated heaters can cost you more money than necessary if they are improperly sized or installed. According to the DOE, shoddy installation and improper sized equipment can waste as much as one-third of your energy consumption.

**The higher you set your thermostat, the faster the furnace will heat up your home. FALSE.** Furnaces deliver heat at the same rate no matter how high the thermostat is set. If you set your thermostat at the desired temperature, it will reach that point just as quickly as if you set it higher than you truly want.

**Adjusting your thermostat to a lower temperature at night or when nobody's home can save you money. TRUE.**

Research shows that the longer your house stays at a reduced temperature during the fall and winter, the more energy and money you will save. This is because heating cost depends mostly on the difference between indoor and outdoor temperature. When you lower the temperature, you are reducing this temperature difference. In fact, setting the temperature back 10 or more degrees for eight hours while you sleep or go to work can reduce your energy bill by five to 15 percent. A programmable thermostat can do this automatically for you.

**Energy efficiency increases the initial cost of a home. FALSE.** There is little correlation between energy efficiency and a home's purchase price. Sometimes efficiency can even reduce the initial cost when smaller, high-efficient furnaces are installed. Energy efficient appliances can also be a great plus point when selling your home.

*Mitch is the owner of Air Wise <sup>TM</sup>*

## Fall is in the air so it's time to have your furnace checked.

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- Inspect, clean and operate burners
- Check and cycle safety devices
- Oil and check operation of motor

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# OCTOBER 2023

| Sun | Mon                             | Tue  | Wed | Thu                         | Fri | Sat   |
|-----|---------------------------------|--|-----|-----------------------------|-----|---|
| 1   | 2                               | 3<br>Neighbors Night<br>Out<br>Garbage, &<br>Yard Waste  | 4   | 5                           | 6   | 7<br>Farm Stand<br>9am to 1 pm<br>949 Wakefield   |
| 8   | 9<br>Indigenous Peoples'<br>Day | 10<br>Garbage, Yard Waste,<br>Recycling  | 11  | 12                          | 13  | 14<br>Farm Stand<br>9am to 1 pm<br>949 Wakefield  |
| 15  | 16                              | 17<br>GO Rebuild meeting<br>7:00 pm<br><br>Garbage, &<br>Yard Waste  | 18  | 19                          | 20  | 21<br><br>Azalea St. Extravanga<br>4:30 - 7:00pm |
| 22  | 23                              | 24<br>GO Rebuild meeting<br>7:00 pm<br><br>Garbage, Yard Waste, Recycling  | 25  | 26<br>Large Waste<br>pickup | 27  | 28<br>Farm Stand<br>9am to 1 pm<br>949 Wakefield  |
| 29  | 30                              | 31<br><br>Garbage, &<br>Yard Waste |     |                             |     |   |

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