garden oaks *Gazette*

The newsletter of the Garden Oaks Civic Club

January 2024 Volume 46 Issue 1

President's Message

Mike Stephens, GOCC President

Hello and Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season.

I want to introduce myself as your new Garden Oaks Civic Club President and to tell you a little about myself.

My name is Mike Stephens, and I'm excited to be taking on the role! My family and I moved to Garden Oaks in 2018 from Denver Colorado, and we immediately fell in love with the community. My dream job of International Sales in the oil industry brought us to Houston. My wife, Emily, and I have two children, Jonathan (4) and Harper (21 months).

Upcoming Events

GOCC Monthly Meeting:
Tuesday, January 2nd
7:00 pm
Great Heights Brewing
Private Meeting Room

Garden Oaks Board Election
Jan 25th 6-8 pm
St. Stephens Methodist Church

I've lived in a few other large cities in my lifetime, including Denver, Los Angeles and Kansas City. My experience in Houston, and specifically Garden Oaks, has been meeting the most receptive and friendly neighbors in my life. That has been even more important to me and my family, since we have no immediate family in Texas.



Some of you may have met my wife, Emily, because she has been playing an active role in the community as Social Chair. She has planned the last two Wakefield Shuffles, and she was part of the team that orchestrated the recent, and very successful, Azalea Street Beer & Wine Extravaganza. Both events are held as fundraisers for the Constable program and as a way to bring the community together socially.

Speaking of bringing the community together socially, I consider that to be one of the primary roles of the GOCC. My goal is to promote all of these objectives: meeting your neighbors, getting involved in the neighborhood, getting educated on issues that impact our community, and having a forum that lets you voice your ideas and concerns.

(continued page 3)

2024 Garden Oaks Civic Club CommUnity Partners

Thank you to the following neighbors and neighborhood businesses who are supporting our new CommUnity Partnership Program for 2024.
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

Central City Air

Great Heights Brewing Company

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.

Civic Club Officers

President – Mike Stephens 303.886.1870
president@gardenoaks.org

Vice President – Paul Vincent 713.834.7249
vicepresident@gardenoaks.org

Treasurer – Brian Rabe
treasurer@gardenoaks.org

Secretary – Deepak Khosla 832.788.7201
secretary@gardenoaks.org

Committee Chairs

Beautification – Pam Parks 713 686 7728
beautification@gardenoaks.org

Constable Program - Terry Jeanes
281 236 8033
constable@gardenoaks.org

Membership – Dian Austin 713 691 6505
membership@gardenoaks.org

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The Garden Oaks *Gazette* is the official publication of the Garden Oaks Civic Club and is published monthly. The submission deadline to the editor is 11:59 PM of the 15th of each month for publication the next month unless otherwise noted.
Publication of any article or letter does not imply endorsement by the Garden Oaks Civic Club and is solely the opinion of the author.

(from page 1)

Right after moving to Garden Oaks, I searched out the Civic Club in order to become familiar with the people and the happenings in my new community. I feel it's important to be involved in your community. The vibe of this neighborhood makes me feel like many of you want to be involved too. If so, I encourage you to attend our monthly GOCC meetings! The focus of each meeting is more on being social with the other attendees than it is on spending a bunch of time on "official" business. Don't get me wrong; we do also spend some time on an agenda that covers interesting local topics, and we will have the occasional guest speaker. Meetings are the 1st Tuesday of every month, and the Great Heights Brewing Company on Wakefield has been gracious enough to let us use their special meeting room, and bar, as the meeting location.

2024 will also be an interesting year for our community as the Garden Oaks maintenance organization elects their new board. Part of the challenge for the Civic Club will be to help community members understand the difference in missions between GOCC and the maintenance organization, but also understand how important it will be for the two organizations to work together for the betterment of Garden Oaks.

I am excited, and appreciative, of the new GOCC team of officers and committee members! Please check out page 2 of this Gazette issue for the entire list of the team, and their contact information.

I'd also like to recognize the time and efforts put in over the last four years by the previous GOCC officers: Tonya Knauth – President, Kevin David – VP, Paul Vincent – Treasurer, and Beth Jackson – Secretary. They led brilliantly through challenging Covid years and the recovery years. I'm counting on seeing their faces at GOCC monthly meetings and I plan to lean on them for guidance as the new team of officers get established.

Again, please don't hesitate to email me with thoughts and concerns to president@gardenoaks.org. I hope to see many of you in the coming months at our meetings.



Garden Oaks Civic Club CommUnity Partnership Program

Dian Austin, Membership Committee Chair

Three years ago, the Garden Oaks Civic Club (GOCC) rolled out a Business Membership Program, to better involve and recognize our neighborhood businesses who support the Garden Oaks neighborhood. Several nearby businesses have joined, and we appreciate your support.

For 2024, the GOCC will continue its focus on establishing and growing partnerships with nearby businesses, GO residents, neighboring civic clubs, area schools, and close-by neighborhoods, thus growing our community. The CommUnity Partnership Program will continue its emphasis on finding more connections between us all, and we will be listening to how we can be a better partner. It works both ways for all involved.

A Garden Oaks CommUnity Partnership is $250 annually, from January to December, and can be purchased at https://www.gardenoaks.org/contribute-memberships/

Benefits include:

- A monthly listing in the Garden Oaks Gazette newsletter.
- A visible listing on the gardenoaks.org website, with a link to the Partner's website, if applicable. Partners will be listed in the order in which they join, not alphabetically, so it pays to be amongst the first! Listings will be visible for the full year of membership.
- Routine mention of our partners on our social media.
- Invitations and e-reminders to our regular monthly meetings and our separate in-person social events.

(continued page 5)



(Partners from page 4)

- First-hand knowledge of upcoming neighborhood events and potential sponsorship opportunities.

GOCC funds the beautification and maintenance of all our area greenspaces, including tree trimming, planting, mowing, weeding, mulching, and keeping the irrigation systems running. GOCC also pays for the publication of our monthly Gazette newsletter, maintains the Garden Oaks website, and serves as a contact point for city and community affairs. CommUnity Partnership funds will help the Garden Oaks Civic Club continue its neighborhood/area support and involvement, while also raising the profile of the various Partners.

CommUnity Partnerships will not have voting privileges, per our bylaws, but you are welcome to attend our monthly Civic Club meetings and our scheduled social gatherings.





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Outgoing President's Farewell

Tonya Knauth

As I write on a brisk, sunny Saturday morning, I watch young families walk by with babies in strollers, kids on balance bikes, and dogs in tow. I smile to think how the parents have been awakened earlier than they wanted to be, and that everything goes better when the kids get outside and move; so, they have geared everyone up and headed out. Those days are past for our family with now older teenagers – except that the dog still doesn't let the grown-ups sleep late. And yes, everything still goes better when we all get outside and move.

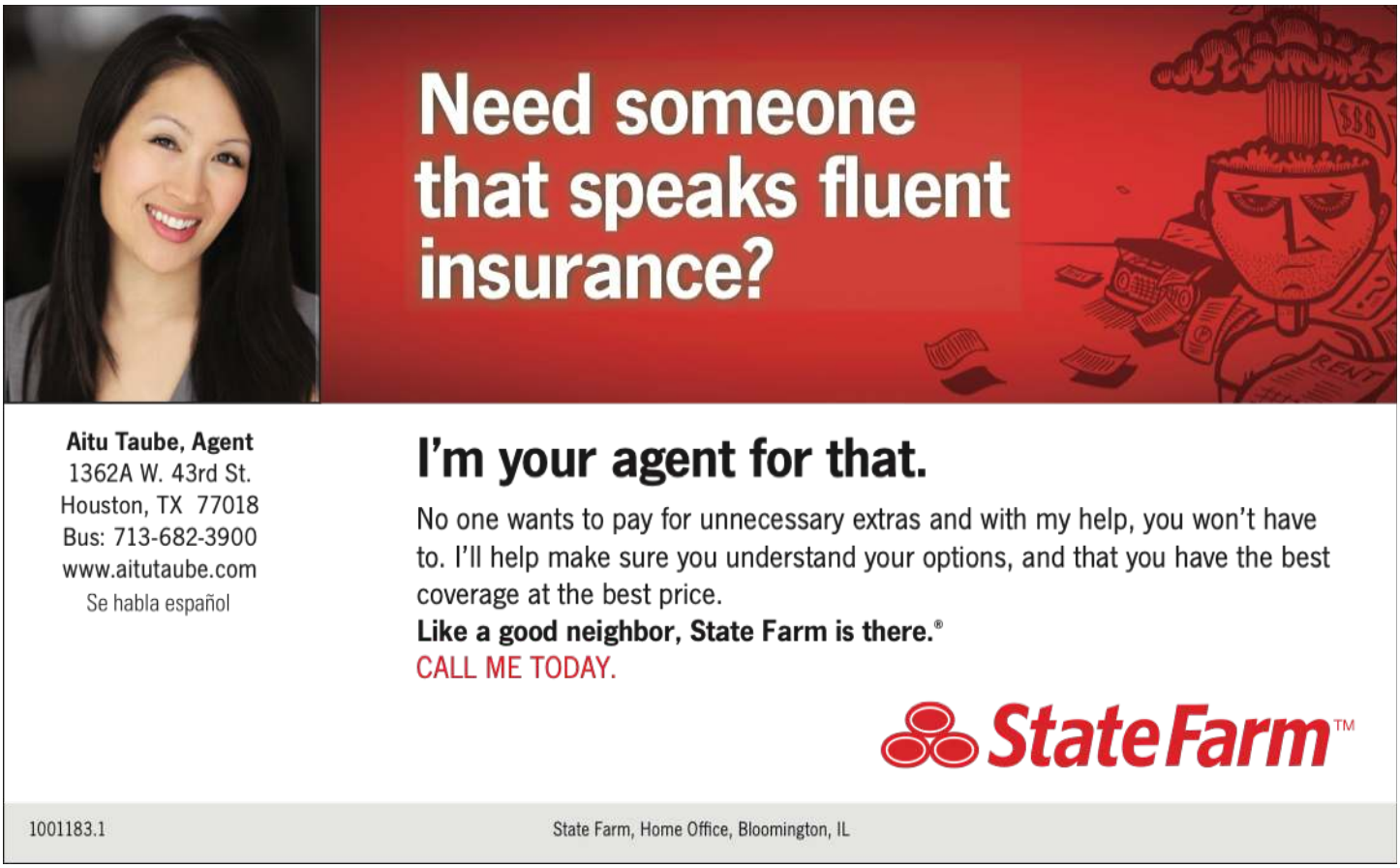
When we bought our first house in Garden Oaks in 2004, we came with a toddler who needed space to run, and our desire to make a home for what we hoped would be a growing family. Our reasons for choosing the neighborhood: proximity to work downtown, the tall trees, large lots, and charming old houses.

We had always lived in more transient places, where people come and go – apartments, a rental duplex in Montrose. There were nice neighbors to wave at and say hello, but one day there would be a moving van and the names and faces would change.

I was delighted when the Garden Oaks Gazette landed on our porch – we had a real neighborhood newspaper. Neighbors brought welcome treats and sat with us and told us their stories, including Shirley and several others on the block who had been in their homes for more than 40 years, raising their families here and now welcoming back grandchildren for visits. After school, the Spark Park was full of regulars, as the kids played out their energy and the parents visited and caught up. I saw the same people at the grocery store, local shops and restaurants. We were now part of a community.

Fast forward: 3 kids, Garden Oaks Montessori, Scouts, YMCA. Photos with Santa in the Gazebo. Visits to the public library. Workdays in the pocket parks. Saturday mornings at the farmer's market. Teaching kids to walk, run, ride bikes, rollerblade and skateboard at the Spark Park. Neighbors stopping to catch up as they take their daily walk. Friday evening impromptu gatherings in driveways. Real friends who know each other well.

(continued page 7)



(Farewell from page 6)

And the Civic Club. Meetings of volunteers to talk through supporting our developing and changing neighborhood. In the beginning, I attended meetings to be "in the know" about community issues. Along the way, I met people I liked, and found opportunities to work on projects that were meaningful to my family and hopefully were of service to others. Redeveloping the Spark Park was one of the first such projects, and I still get to see and enjoy the fruits of that labor. There have been many projects, large and small, along the way, that I hope improved this place we call home. As Civic Club president for the last four years, I have been in a position to both advocate for Garden Oaks externally and help us internally make decisions that will have lasting impact. It has truly been my privilege to serve, contributing my time and talents as I could to this community.

As I hand off the presidency, I know that I will stay involved, because honestly, it's enjoyable for me to participate. I still like being "in the know" and part of the conversations. I look forward to supporting the new leadership and continuing to help where I can. As more young families move into the neighborhood and begin to be involved, it is an exciting time.

Next year we will be able to say we've lived and served here for 20 years; not nearly as long as Shirley, who still lives in her original house. But long enough to express our gratitude for this special place called Garden Oaks, and the neighbors who make it so. Thank you.



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Garden Oaks Civic Club Minutes

Deepak Khosla, GOCC Secretary

Tuesday, December 5, 2023 @ Great Heights Brewing

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 by President Tonya Knauth.

A motion was approved to accept the 2024 budget that had been presented at the November meeting.

The slate of officers for 2024 as recommended by the nominating committee was presented for election. No nominations were made from the floor. The following nominated officers were approved for 2024 without objection:

- President – Mike Stephens
- Vice President – Paul Vincent
- Treasurer – Brian Rabe
- Secretary – Deepak Khosla

Incoming president, Mike Stephens, then presented the outgoing officers Tonya Knauth, Kevin David, and Paul Vincent with tokens of appreciation for their invaluable service to the Garden Oaks community.

Next, outgoing president Tonya Knauth, who has been volunteering for the club as vice president and president over the last six years, spoke of her great experience with the club. She also presented tokens of appreciation and thanks to the various officers and committee members who had been so instrumental in helping her and the club during that time. The members present included Bill Shaughnessy, Kevin David, Terry Jeanes, Paul Vincent, Pam Parks, Christi Hartley, Brenda de Alba and David and Angela Winston.

Finally, outgoing vice president Kevin David spoke of his experience and thanked everyone for their support.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM so that the holiday dinner could begin.

The buffet dinner was catered by Mickey Morales, and desserts were provided by Angela Winston's Liberation Gluten Free Bakery.



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.
850 Lamonte
1058 Althea
903 Lamonte
802 West 32nd
1519 Sue Barnett
706 West 32nd
927 Lamonte
863 West 43rd
819 Lamonte
709 West 39th
967 West 42nd

Happy Birthday

Evin Dunn - 4th
Maeve Mc – 5th
Mae T – 8th
Diane Heath – 9th
Phil Ramirez -10th
Erik Martin- 24th
Owen H – 30th
Shellye Arnold – 30th
Belated Birthday wishes to Jason Sherber – Dec 14th

Happy Anniversary

Alice & Mark Sarmiento - 30th
Bonnie & Rudy Hernandez

New to the Neighborhood?

We are glad you are here!

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

Out and About

The Perrys enjoyed a trip to San Miguel de Allende. For **Julie Sherber,** it was a 5 day Virgin Voyage from Miami to Key West and Bimini. **Kat Stinson** attended the Citizens for Animal Protection Gala.

M'lissa Dilley visited long-time friend Natalie in London. The **Zindler Feits** covered lots of bases attending the Texas Country Music Awards, Ninja Sports Network Camp, SPC Field Hockey tournament Ft. Worth, the Gruene Turkey Trot, and then some good great family friends' time. Dickens on Main Smithville was a delight for **Terry Jeanes. Heather McKeown and family e**njoyed an amazing trip to Paris and then a busy 24 hours in London. It was a fun time in Cozumel for **Angie Lane and daughter** who tried their hands at scuba water time.

Congratulations to

Gretchen Seghers, who received 1st place in public forum debate as well as being awarded best speaker. And to **Morgan Shamblen** along with fellow softball team members, who took the USFA National Fall Championship in Pearland.

Special Thoughts for

Patrick & Brooke Murphy & family in the loss of Patrick's mother.

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

Garden Oaks Kids

Sara Mathias, GOKids Admin

Have you heard about Garden Oaks Kids? We are a membership-based community group bringing together neighborhood families in Garden Oaks and surrounding neighborhoods. Each year, we host about 10 events. We hope to bring families together to provide long-lasting childhood memories, meet our neighbors, and support our local businesses.

We had a wonderful Christmas party with a train, Santa pictures, and food and drink tickets. Kevin Dunn of Portrait EFX generously donated his time and skills to make sure each family had a photo memory.

We are looking forward to kicking off 2024 with a mom's night out so we can meet more of our neighbors.

Annual dues are $75 per family for the 2024 calendar year. After dues are paid for the year, your household family will be invited to the events and there is no additional charge to attend. Scan the QR code below to pay dues and then request to join the GO Kids Facebook group to learn about upcoming events. For more information: Gardenoakskids@gmail.com



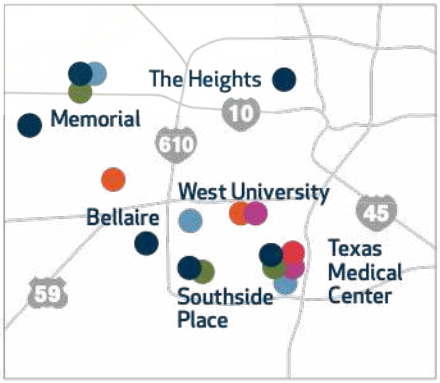


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Mickey's Minute

Mickey Morales

Happy New Year! Thank goodness 2023 is over.

At this time last year, I was probably busy baking tarts and quiches, walking dogs, and plotting my strategy for domination of my small part of the culinary world in the coming year. I figured that I had a pretty good handle on it with a pared down weekend market, a pop-up here or there and a once- a- month restaurant take over, beginning with a couples' Valentine dinner.

However, life had other plans for me. Most of you regulars know the details of my mom's passing. It was one of the most challenging situations I've ever faced, but I made it through, despite the most brutal of summers. Luckily it was also one of the busiest of my catering career. And thank God for that, because without it, my finances would not have held out. I worked the last job of the spring season on July 3rd and I'm writing this post on the eve of my last Christmas event of this year.

Farmer Cathy once asked me several years back what my New Year's resolution was. I explained that I don't make resolutions, but I do make changes. Resolutions are quickly forgotten or dismissed outright. Beginning in February, I'll begin drawing social security and a pension I didn't even know I had coming. Between that and my pet sitting duties, I'll never have to do another pop-up unless I choose. Technically the breakfast taco stand on Saturday mornings is a pop-up. But over the years it's become so well established and attended that it doesn't seem like spec work. And it provides Cathy a place to come sell her eggs and veggies.

That being said, as mentioned previously, we don't think we have another summer in us. I am on a quest for an indoor venue. I have some ideas and may have found a near perfect one right in the neighborhood. It just needs a little refining before I can be sure of it. I'm still working on any other changes for the coming year, but having more fun is at the top of the list.

We're not going anywhere anytime soon, as there's plenty of cool weather on the horizon. My favorite time of the year is at hand. Besides Sophia is in her final year of high school and we've been joined by Austin Potts, so I'm compelled to keep this ship afloat a bit longer.

As always, "Come soon, come often, stay flexible and stay focused.".



Garden Oaks Homeowners' Special Election

Stuart Arouty

Property owners of Garden Oaks, mark your calendars! On Thursday, January 25th, from 6 to 8 pm, St. Stephen's United Methodist Church will host a pivotal event: the Election of the Garden Oaks HOA Board. This election aims to establish a fresh HOA board of directors, crucial in shaping our community's future. With the potential to utilize our neighborhood's resources effectively, the new board will steer Garden Oaks' future. Your participation is vital; exercise your right to vote and help select the directors who will champion our community's needs.

What are my voting options? You have several avenues to cast your vote. First, you can attend the event on January 25th, where you'll have the opportunity to meet the potential candidates and personally cast your vote. Alternatively, if you cannot attend the meeting, you can opt to use a proxy by downloading a proxy form from the gardenoaks.org website. This form allows you to authorize another homeowner to vote on your behalf because you are unable to attend. Additionally, if you're interested in running for a board seat, you can access a nomination form on the same website and submit it accordingly.

For those eager to take an active role, whether by running for a position or contributing ideas, reach out to help@gardenoaks.org or join us at the meeting. Let's shape Garden Oaks together!

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NEW CLIENTS RECEIVE 10% OFF FIRST VISIT

Constable Statistics November 2023

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.

Accident - 1

Alarm Local/Holdup – 3

Burglary of Motor Vehicle - 2

Check /Park/School/Business – 10

Civil Process - 4

Contract Check – 71

Criminal Mischief – 1

Discharge Firearms - 3

Information Call -1

In Progress Life in Danger - 1

Follow Up -5

Meet the Citizen – 10

Meet the Officer - 1

Mental Health Call - 1

Suspicious Person/Vehicle – 6

Traffic Hazard – 4

Traffic Initiative - 3

Traffic Stop - 19

Vacation Watch – 21

Welfare Check - 1

Writ - 2



2024 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

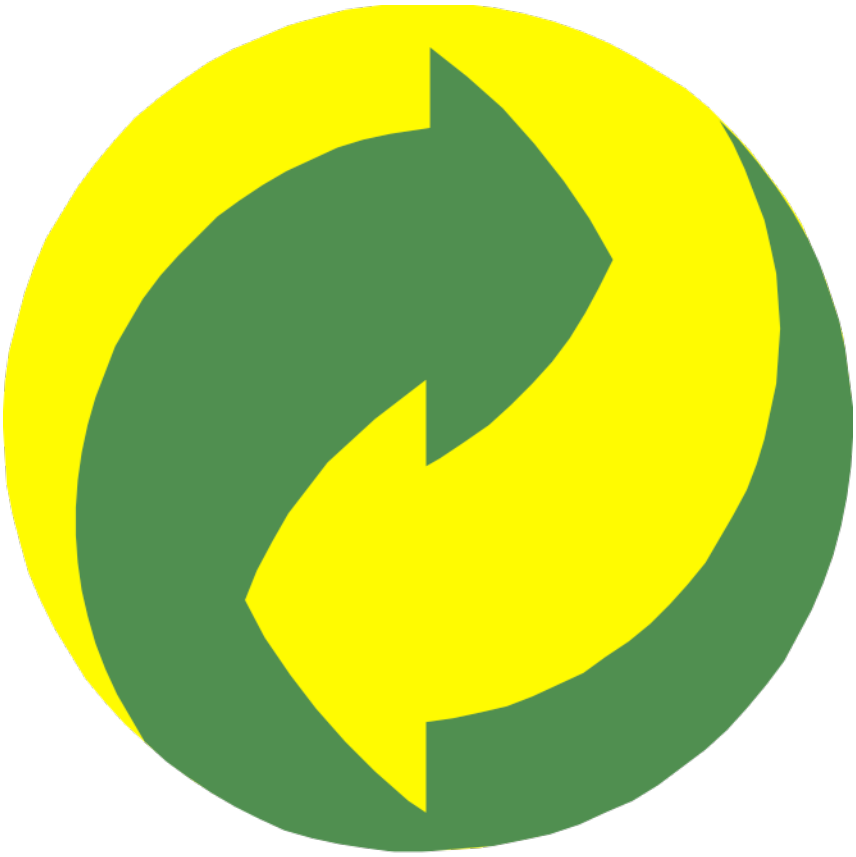
Recycling Reminder

Recycling right is just as important as recycling more. Contamination harms the program by making it hard to recover clean recyclables at the sorting center.

Most importantly, DO NOT BAG YOUR RECYCLABLES! Bagged recyclables are the number one contaminant and cause of tangling the recycling equipment. Keep your recyclables loose and free. Do NOT put recycling in trash bags or garbage bags into your green recycling bin!

You can safely put these into your green recycling bin, loose:

- Metals and Cans: Aluminum and tin cans, such as soup cans, coffee cans, vegetable cans
- Cartons: Emptied and rinsed milk cartons, juice cartons, soup cartons
- Glass: Emptied and rinsed bottles, jugs, and jars
- Paper: Newspaper, magazines, catalogs, junk mail. NO shredded paper!
- Cardboard: Cardboard and cereal boxes, flattened and emptied of packing materials
- Plastic: Bottles, tubs and jugs, #1 – 5 and #7. Examples include water and soda bottles, milk jugs, margarine tubs, detergent bottles (emptied and rinsed).



Constable Program

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

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. 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?

Become a Constable Program Supporter: https://www.gardenoaks.org/go-constable/

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/







HOUSTON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Garden Line - Year-round

by Brent Moon - HPARD Urban Garden Manager

January

1. This is a good time to test your lawn and garden soil for its pH level. Soil samples can be sent to Texas A&M for analysis. Go to http://soiltesting.tamu.edu for details.
2. Compost piles should be turned at least once during the month. Leaves are abundant and should be shredded before being added to the pile. Add animal manure or clippings from winter rye for a source of nitrogen. The pile should be at least 3 cubic feet in volume to hold in the heat generated by decomposition. Check the pile for moisture level. It should be neither too wet nor too dry. Add water if it is dry; add more coarse, dry matter if it is too wet.
3. Start seeds indoors now for planting in late winter and early spring: broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, collards, kale, lettuce, parsley, petunias and begonias. Tomato, pepper and eggplant seed should be started in January for transplanting in late February to early March. Use a commercial peat-light soil mix in a clean flat. Place in a warm, bright spot. Cover the tray with a clear piece of glass or plastic or saran wrap until the seeds have sprouted. Then, place in very bright light to keep the seedlings from stretching.
4. January and February are the months to prune fruit trees. Annual pruning keeps the harvest within reach and thins crowded branches, allowing more light to penetrate developing fruit, and stimulates new growth for next year's crop. Peaches, plums and apricots need this annual pruning.
5. The dormant season of winter is also the time to do any needed pruning of shade trees to clean out dead wood, remove lower limbs and crowded branches to allow more light to reach the ground, and remove hazardous branches which threaten property.



Why Does My Furnace Blow Cold Air?

Mitch Weigand

The winter months can bring some pretty cold temperatures. So the last thing you want is cold air blowing from the A/C registers in your home. While some issues can be solved easily, other problems require the help of your A/C technician.

Check the thermostat. Make sure that your thermostat is set on "AUTO," not "ON." If your thermostat is set to "ON," the furnace blower will run nonstop even when your furnace isn't heating the air. When you switch it to "AUTO," the fan will only blow air while the furnace is running.

Check the ductwork. Check your air ducts in the attic. Air ducts are the large flexible tubing that move the heated air from the furnace to the registers. Wear and tear from accidental damage, fluctuating temperatures and advanced age can cause significant tears to develop. If these are large enough, the frigid air within the attic can be sucked into the ducts and blown throughout your home.

Check the pilot light. If your older gas furnace blows cold air, the pilot light may have gone out. If you feel comfortable with doing this, just follow the manufacturer's instructions and re-light it. If the pilot light won't stay lit, it may need some routine maintenance by your A/C technician. Also, sometimes the flame sensor needs to be cleaned or a malfunctioning circuit board or faulty igniter needs to be replaced.

Check the furnace air filter. What if the furnace blows hot air, then cold air but then stops blowing air altogether? It's possible that your furnace has overheated. Its safety device, called a limit switch, turned the furnace burners off. The blower keeps blowing to cool the furnace down to a safe level.

So what causes the furnace to overheat? Most likely it's a dirty furnace air filter. A dirty filter blocks airflow and causes the furnace to run so long while trying to heat your home that it overheats. Simply change the air filter to remedy the problem. Don't ignore this issue; repeated overheating can damage the furnace's heat exchanger, which is expensive to replace.

Usually it's only a matter of time. Just as it takes a few seconds for hot water to arrive when you turn on your faucet, it's completely normal to experience a few moments of cold air before you feel any warmth coming out of the registers. Just give it time to work.

Mitch Weigand is the owner of Air Wise™.



JANUARY 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 New Year's Day	2 GOCC Meeting Garbage, Yard Waste, Recycling	3	4	5	6 Farm Stand 9am to 1 pm 949 Wakefield
7	8	9 Garbage, & Yard Waste	10	11	12	13 Farm Stand 9am to 1 pm 949 Wakefield
14	15 MLK Jr. Day Gazette article deadline	16 Garbage, Yard Waste, Recycling	17	18 Junk Waste pickup	19	20 Farm Stand 9am to 1 pm 949 Wakefield
21	22	23 Garbage, & Yard Waste	24	25	26	27 Farm Stand 9am to 1 pm 949 Wakefield
28	29	30 Garbage, Yard Waste, Recycling	31			

