

The newsletter of the Garden Oaks Civic Club May 2024 Volume 46 Issue 5

President's Message

Mike Stephens, GOCC President

Hello and happy May! You can certainly feel the enthusiasm throughout the Garden Oaks community, as we all enjoy the amazing springtime weather.

There has also been great enthusiasm at monthly Civic Club meetings and other community events, like the Garden Club Pollinator in the Park, Community Garage Sale, GO Kids Earth Day Extravaganza and the Wakefield Shuffle! Thanks to all who organized, volunteered and attended the various events. Garden Oaks has such a great neighborly vibe, and the success of these events just reaffirms that feeling.

As I mentioned, attendance has been encouraging at our monthly Civic Club meetings. The social time at the beginning of each meeting, where we enjoy some drinks together, as well as goodies that are occasionally provided by attendees, has been a great way to catch up with neighbors we have known for years and to meet neighbors who are new to Garden Oaks.

Upcoming Events

GOCC Meeting: May 7th--7:00 PM

Meeting Topic-CenterPoint Energy representative discussing power outages

Great Heights Brewing Private Meeting Room

As a way to keep this momentum rolling, I'd like to highlight some of the topics that we plan to cover at upcoming monthly meetings:

- » CenterPoint Energy: There have already been some educational discussions about frequent power outages in Garden Oaks, and we're excited to be hosting representatives from the CenterPoint Service department at the May GOCC meeting. They will be talking more about improvements that have happened, or are planned, in our neighborhood to address the power outage issues. They will also be taking questions from attendees.
- » Beautification: Upkeep and improvements at the many parks and green spaces in Garden Oaks are consistently listed by our residents as one of their highest priorities for the neighborhood. It also makes up over half of the expense budget for the GOCC. We will highlight the various properties, and plans for them, at an upcoming meeting.
- » Heritage District: A "Heritage District" for Garden Oaks could be a way to preserve our neighborhood's large lots, tree-lined streets, and the distinct, intentional, and effective drainage mechanisms that define the area. This designation has been a focus of GOCC over the last few years, and we intend to keep things moving in 2024.
- » Deed restrictions: Updates on the progress being made by the newly formed GOMO board.
- » Area development: We hope to have speakers, including some from Houston City planning, that can update us on new areas of development in Garden Oaks and surrounding areas. For example, the old Sears property on Shepherd comes to mind.
- » Information & speakers from local organizations: Trees for Houston, North Shepherd District, Memorial Park Conservancy, others.
 (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 Har.com/TerryJeanes

John R. Bartos, Attorney at Law Htownlaw.com

Deanna Zugheri, Keller Williams Metropolitan Gardenoakshomes.com

Central City Air Centralcityair.com

Great Heights Brewing Company Ghbrewing.com

Nationwide Tools and Supplies NationwideDist.com

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.
- 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.

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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.

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» Local Politics: There have been representatives previously in attendance from both Council Member offices, whose districts include portions of Garden Oaks (Abbie Kamin, District C, and Mario Castillo, District H). They have promoted open dialogue regarding questions or concerns that GOCC members have. These representatives have promised to frequently attend our monthly meetings.

Do you have subjects that you'd like to propose for future meetings or speakers that you'd like us to contact? Please email me at president@gardenoaks.org, or come talk to me about it at the monthly GOCC meeting. I'll make a best effort to make it happen!

I hope to see you at the next GOCC monthly meeting! They take place at 7pm, on the first Tuesday of every month, in the back social room at Great Heights Brewing.





Pollinators in the Park Event

Photo credit to Shawn Spear





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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 C	lub:							
\$ 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							

Mickey's Minute

Mickey Morales

They say that April showers bring May flowers, but that must be in other parts of the world. Around here it just brings mosquitoes and muggy weather. Yep, ladies and gentlemen, welcome to summer on the Texas Gulf Coast. I know, I know the official start isn't until sometime in June, but again that's in other lands. The only thing I can say good about it is that it begins as a slow burn, giving us time to adjust to the coming heat. Another good thing is the egg producers (the hens) like the warmer weather and lay a lot more eggs, and there's usually a bumper crop of veggies to go along with it.

While we're on the subject of eggs, I heard a news story the other day that there has been another outbreak of avian flu, resulting in the culling of millions of birds. It takes five to six months for a baby chick to become a full grown egg layer. So you can expect egg prices to rise at the store soon, which will make Farmer Cathy's

egg prices much more favorable. Honestly, I don't know why you'd buy your eggs anywhere else. Even if you buy certified organic free-range eggs, they will be at best several months old and probably more expensive. The eggs you get at The Farmstand are no more than a week old, not to mention you are supporting a local farmer rather than a big corporation.

I'm still working on our move indoors. It remains to be seen what the timeline will be, as there are a lot of factors in play. I'll keep y'all posted as we progress. In the meantime, please continue to support our little market.

As always, "Come soon, come often and bring a friend."



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GoKids Family Pictures

Sara Mathias, GoKids President

May brings us one of GoKids' most popular events, Family Pictures. Each year, we work with a different photographer in the area to give our families a professional photograph. The picturesque Gazebo Park provides the perfect setting. For many families, it is a chance to get mom and dad in the same photograph while others choose to take pictures with grandparents or have Mommy and Me photos in celebration of Mother's Day. Each family that participates in the event will receive digital copies of lightly edited photos at no additional cost to them.

This year we are pleased to announce that Corey Wilson of Corey Allyn Photography will be taking our family photos. She is a family and brand photographer local to Garden Oaks and has lived here for 14 years. She and her husband have two boys, ages 4 and 7, and a sweet golden retriever. "I have a love for beautiful natural light, capturing precious candid moments for families and helping small local businesses feel confident in their brand. I am excited to be

involved in this event this year and look forward to seeing and meeting all of the wonderful families of the community. If you'd like more information about me, you can follow on Instagram (@coreyallynphotography) or my website (www. coreyallyn.com)." This event is generously sponsored by Spa 146 Dr. Theresa Harring, and flowers

CHRIS AND MATT SCHMIDT Family owned and operated since 2006 WWW.SCMTexas.com are provided by Frankie + Flora.

We had a very fun Earth Day Celebration at Wakefield Crowbar. Chris Lindsay from the Garden Club helped our members plant seeds in a fingerprint pot. Riki, of Riki's Reptile Relocations, educated everyone on the importance of reptiles in our area. She made quite a few reptile lovers out of our group, and many brave kids held a snake!

If you are considering joining GoKids, we encourage you to do so now so you can participate in Family Pictures. GoKids is a great way to meet other families in the neighborhood and support the small businesses that are in our area. The second half of 2024 features some of our most popular events including our volunteer event in support of Kids' Meals, and our Halloween and Christmas parties. Most of our events feature a craft activity, snacks for the kids, and a tasty beverage for the parents. https://gardenoakskids.cheddarup.com



Garden Oaks Civic Club Minutes

Deepak Khosla, GOCC Secretary

Tuesday, March 5, 2024 @ Great Heights Brewing

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by President Mike Stephens.

A motion to accept the minutes from the February 2024 meeting was made, seconded, and approved. Mike briefly discussed the goals to increase GOCC membership as well as contributions to the Constable Program.

Treasure Brian Rabie reported that the financials were on track. Gardenoaks.org has links to the budget and financial info. (Click on "Civic Club Financials" under GOCC Bylaws & Admin)

Constable Program chair, Terry Jeanes, thanked the volunteers for delivering constable supporter signs and 2024 stickers. If you need a new sign and/or sticker, email constable@gardenoaks.org. Constable Deputy Tommie Kelley had successful surgery, and is expected back in

a few weeks. Other deputies from Precinct 1 are covering Garden Oaks in her absence. Lastly, Terry mentioned the homicide behind the Sears building and the ongoing investigation. The option of finding ways to add overtime patrols was discussed later in the meeting.

Pam Parks said the Beautification committee needs volunteers as she was seeing a drop in participation. She also mentioned that some budget revisions were in progress to cover the rising costs of park maintenance.

Social chair Emily Stephens was recognized for the positive increase of GOCC info on IG and FB. Emily mentioned that the upcoming neighborhood garage sale has seen active participation from every section. The Wakefield Shuffle vendor line-up includes all of last year's participants. Residents are encouraged to buy tickets early to get a discount, and to avoid waiting in lines.

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There was also mention of the April Pancake breakfast at GO Montessori, the Garden Club's Pollinator in the Park event, and GO Kids Earth Day Celebration.

Russell Etherton, Chief of Staff for Council Member Mario Castillo, mentioned the Department of Neighborhoods, and their matching grants program available starting July 1. He also reported an ongoing effort to move some of the city budget hearings to off hours, so more communities can participate. He agreed to look into the safety issues around the Sears building.

The \$25 raffle gift card was graciously donated by Upside Pub and won by Section one resident, Jim Craig.

GO resident Alex Tarley next provided details on the effort to raise awareness at Centerpoint about the high number of power outages in the neighborhood. Experiencing the direct negative impact of these outages on his father and others with mobility issues, he has been pushing hard for explanations and actions from Centerpoint. He asked for a strong showing by the community at May's GOCC meeting where representatives from Centerpoint will be present to

further explain the various causes, update on any progress, and take questions.

Mike asked for other ideas for fundraising and for attracting people to the Civic Club, mentioning a home and garden tour, for example. Any ideas can be submitted to president@gardenoaks.org.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.



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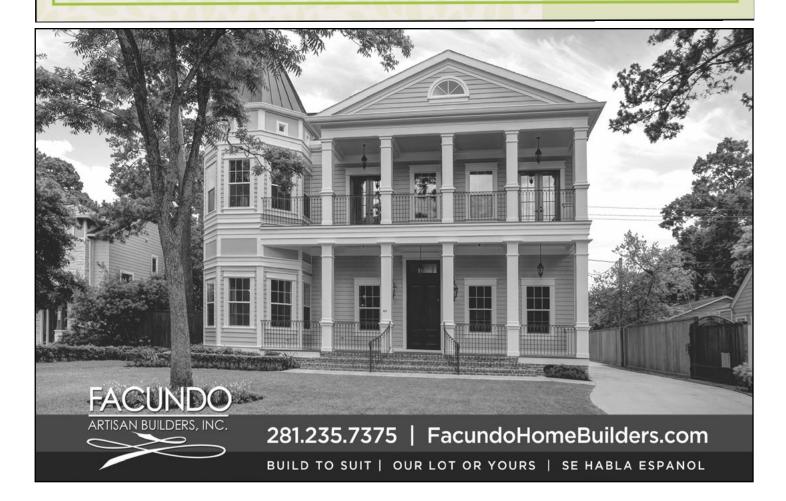
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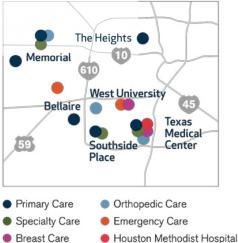




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Heard Under the Oak Tree

Terry Jeanes

Welcome, New Neighbors!

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

404 West 31st 838 West 43rd 3002 Randall 328 West 34th 1415 Sue Barnett 942 Lamonte 757 Sue Barnett 810 West 30th

Happy Birthday

Cheryl McCosh 1st Brad Hem 2nd Christopher K. 5th Linda Sparks 8th Ryan W. 9th 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 Rusty and Linda Reichle 10th Jason and Alisha Cunningham 16th Alyn and Karie Goad (Belated April 10th)

Special Thoughts to

Sam and Beth Stengler and family in the recent passing of Sam's mother. Also to Shane Davis & family in their recent loss of Shane's father. To family and friends of longtime resident Rita Hartman who passed away in March. For Michael Beard in the loss of his longtime pup, Fenway.



Out and About

Heather McGowan and daughter Kate enjoyed a trip to St Pete's Beach Florida. Caroline Stender and longtime friend & former Garden Oaks resident Janna Alsobrook, had a "seenagers" celebration trip abroad including visits to Arles, Vienne, & Lyon in France, and also a visit to Amsterdam.

Tina Rowe had a fun meeting with NFL Hall of Famer Drew Pearson (#88 Dallas Cowboys). She even got to try on his Super Bowl Ring. **Vic Seghers** and daughter **Gretchen** added to their array of Spring Break adventures touring California National Parks this year. **Marissa Zindler** and **Alex Feit** visited Pittsburg.

Congratulations to

Evan Weltin who is officially joining the Fighting Irish, enrolling at the University of Notre Dame. Congratulations to **Alex Feit** for being accepted to the Perry Outreach Program at the Perry Initiative in Pittsburgh, PA. Her visit included working with other future female doctors and biomedical engineers, with **Alex** performing mock orthopedic surgeries and conducting biomedical experiments. Congratulations **Cole Taylor** (St. Thomas High School Golf Team) on a first place finish in a recent tournament at Moody Garden Golf Club.

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

Constable Program

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

Thank you to all who supported the Constable program through the Wakefield Shuffle – Sunday April 21st. It made for great times with neighbors and was a boost to help fund the neighborhood Constable program. A special shout out to Emily Stephens and team for making it happen.

Have you supported the Constable Program yet? We need you! Watch for the 2024 mailer. Return your CIVIC CLUB MAILER promptly as it includes the opportunity for you to contribute for the 2024 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!

If you need a new sign or 2024 sticker, 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/

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Heads up on Hurricane Season

Mitch Weigand

Hurricane season begins June 1 and preparing for it means stocking up on supplies such as batteries, canned goods, and gasoline. You may also need to secure your home by boarding up windows and removing outdoor items such as patio furniture.

Along with these usual precautions, don't forget to protect one of your home's most valuable assets, your air conditioning system. Below are some easy steps to follow to protect it from hurricanes and other extremes in weather.

Turn the A/C system off. This sounds like a no-brainer but make sure it's completely off during the storm, both at the thermostat and at the breaker in your electric panel. In the event of flooding, power to the A/C can create a fire hazard or electrical shock.

Secure your A/C system's condenser. That's the A/C system's outside unit. Powerful hurricane gusts can move loose equipment and cause significant damage. Make sure the condenser is completely secured to its base or your home by using hurricane straps, bolts, or strong rope. All can be

purchased at your local home improvement store.

Remove loose items near the condenser. Just as important as removing patio furniture, eliminate any other items that can potentially become airborne and cause damage. This includes flower pots, toys, and bicycles, etc.

Clear away residual trash and debris. Once the hurricane is over and electrical power has been properly restored, be sure to clear all trash, leaves and limbs which have gathered around the condenser. In addition, use a garden hose to remove accumulated debris from its fins so proper airflow can be restored.

How to handle a flooded A/C system. If flooding occurs in any part of the A/C system inside or outside of your home, call your A/C service technician to perform a thorough inspection. NEVER restore power or turn on the thermostat until you are absolutely sure it's safe to do so.

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I am sure my family will be nice and cool this summer, thanks to Mitch!"



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May									
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			1	2	3	4			
5 Cinco de Mayo	6	7 GOCC Meeting 7:00 pm Garbage, Yard Waste, & Recycling	8	9	10	11			
Mother's Day	13	14 Garbage & Yard Waste	15	16 Tree Waste	17	18			
19	20	21 Garbage, Yard Waste, & Recycling	22	23	24	25			
26	27 Memorial Day	28 Garbage & Yard Waste	29	30	31				



