



# garden oaks *Gazette*

The newsletter of the Garden Oaks Civic Club

June 2025

Volume 47 Issue 6

## Celebrating the Heart of Our Community: Our Volunteers

*Mike Stephens - President, Garden Oaks Civic Club*

As we reflect on the growth and vibrancy of our neighborhood and civic club, one thing is abundantly clear—our volunteers are the heartbeat of everything we do. Their dedication, energy, and generosity of spirit make our community stronger, more connected, and a better place to call home.

From organizing neighborhood fundraisers, seasonal events, and social activities, to maintaining our shared spaces, volunteers work behind the scenes (and often front and center) to bring our mission to life. They give their time freely, not for recognition or reward, but out of a shared commitment to making our neighborhood the best it can be.

Volunteers create various forms of communication to keep the residents of Garden Oaks informed. Whether it's the crew of soldiers who put together, and ultimately deliver, the monthly Gazette newsletter to your front door, or the people behind the scenes who assemble the content for our monthly email blasts, website ([gardenoaks.org](http://gardenoaks.org)), Facebook page (Houston\_GO), or Instagram page (@gardenoakshouston), we depend on volunteers.

Volunteers manage budgets and cash flow, tend gardens and parks, lead initiatives, and lend a hand wherever it's needed. Every hour they give, every task they take on, and every idea they share adds tremendous value to our community.

The Constable patrol dedicated to Garden Oaks doesn't just happen. It's the result of the generous donations made by our residents, combined with significant fundraising events that are coordinated and managed by...you guessed it...volunteers.

To our long-time volunteers: thank you for your continued service and leadership. And to everyone considering getting involved—know that your time and talents are always welcome and deeply appreciated. Please don't hesitate to reach out to anyone on the Garden Oaks Civic Club team to find out how you can help. From an hour or two per month, to whatever time you have available to help, there is no minimum amount of time that won't help us immensely.

Are you not receiving the monthly informational email blast I mentioned above? PLEASE register with the Civic Club so that we can help keep you informed AND give you a voice in the community. You can register your contact info by going to [gardenoaks.org](http://gardenoaks.org) and clicking the "register" link on the main page.

We would also love to see you at our monthly GOCC meetings, on the first Tuesday of every month. We make the effort to keep you informed and entertained by combining presentations from guest speakers with social activities.

Together, we build more than just a neighborhood—we create a community where people feel connected, supported, and proud to belong. Thanks to our volunteers for being the heart of our civic club. Your work truly matters, and we are all better for it.

### Upcoming Events

**GOCC Meeting:**  
June 3rd- 7:00 pm  
Great Heights Brewing  
Speaker: Rep. Penny Morales Shaw

**GOMO Meeting**  
6:30 June 11th  
1100 W. 23rd Mtg Rm

# 2025 Garden Oaks Civic Club CommUnity Partners

*Thank you to the following neighbors and neighborhood businesses who are supporting our new CommUnity Partnership Program for 2025.*

*If you/your business is interested in joining our annual program, please email [membership@gardenoaks.org](mailto:membership@gardenoaks.org).*

Nationwide Tools & Supplies  
[NationwideDist.com](http://NationwideDist.com)

Deanna Zugheri, Keller Williams Metropolitan  
[Gardenoakshomes.com](http://Gardenoakshomes.com)

Stephanie Pribble, The Pribble Group  
[www.Pribblegroup.com](http://www.Pribblegroup.com)

Geordie Hrdlicka, Verde Wealth Group  
[www.verdewealth.com](http://www.verdewealth.com)

Katie Hilburn, Katie Hilburn Interiors  
[Katiehilburninteriors.com](http://Katiehilburninteriors.com)

Great Heights Brewing Company  
[Ghbrewing.com](http://Ghbrewing.com)

Shane Davis, First United Mortgage Group  
[www.shanedavishomeloans.com](http://www.shanedavishomeloans.com)

Frost Bank, 4606 N. Shepherd  
[Frostbank.com](http://Frostbank.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.
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](mailto:president@gardenoaks.org)

Vice President – Paul Vincent 713.834.7249  
[vicepresident@gardenoaks.org](mailto:vicepresident@gardenoaks.org)

Treasurer – Brian Rabe  
[treasurer@gardenoaks.org](mailto:treasurer@gardenoaks.org)

Secretary – Bill Shaughnessy 713-504-8336  
[secretary@gardenoaks.org](mailto:secretary@gardenoaks.org)

### 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)

Webmaster – Pam Parks 713 686 7728  
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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.



**Garden Oaks  
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Come see the HFD lead the  
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Friday, July 4<sup>th</sup>

 [www.GardenOaks.org](http://www.GardenOaks.org)

more details to come!

## The Garden Oaks 4th of July Parade is coming!

A Fire Truck from the Houston Fire Department will be leading the parade this year so mark your calendars and check out our website

([gardenoaks.org](http://gardenoaks.org)),

Instagram page (@GardenOaksHouston) or the

Houston\_GO Facebook page for more information.



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# Garden Oaks Civic Club Minutes

*Bill Shaughnessy, GOCC Secretary*

Tuesday, May 6, 2025 @ Great Heights Brewing

The meeting was called to order at 7:18pm by Secretary Bill Shaughnessy.

A motion to accept the minutes from the April 2025 meeting was made, seconded, and approved.

A representative from one of the Houston City Council At-Large positions announced that mayor John Whitmire has released the proposed budget for the year, and that it includes increases for law enforcement pay, among other items. The budget had just been printed and distributed to the council members and was still being reviewed by them.

Russell Etherton, Chief of Staff from CM Castillo's office, added that there will be two District C town hall meetings to discuss the mayor's budget on May 17th (in person) and 22nd (virtual).

**Sophia Campos**, a representative from Senator Molly Cook's office, encouraged constituents to voice any comments and questions to Senator Cook's office relating to bills and any other state government business.

Jacob Mata, Communications Manager for CM Kamin's office, talked briefly about improvements to Ella Boulevard, \$11.5 million improvements to the Westside Service Center, and other projects in District C. He announced that there will be a Disaster Preparedness Workshop on June 14th as we head into hurricane season. The workshop will be at 10:00AM at the West Grey Multi-Service Center.

Terry Jeanes said new constable supporter signs had arrived. These can be either picked up at the civic club meetings or requested via email ([constable@gardenoaks.org](mailto:constable@gardenoaks.org)) and a sign can be delivered to you.

Speaking in Treasurer Brian Rabe's absence, Bill Shaughnessy

(continued on page 5)

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(continued from page 4)

stated that the budget is still in good shape for the first 4 months of 2025. Bill also acknowledged that the Wakefield Shuffle was a wondrous success, which brought in over \$4400 to benefit the civic club. The utmost gratitude goes to Social Chairs Emily Stephens, Kate Gould, Melissa Brady, and all the volunteers who worked to make the event such a prosperous affair.

Pam Parks said a \$3000 donation has been made to the civic club from GOMO, with the intent that the funds are used in the civic club's campaign to gather email addresses from GO residents. Some of the monies will pay for t-shirts and caps to be distributed to the Gazette deliverers and to those who volunteer to walk the blocks to gather the email information. A motion was made and seconded to approve the use of the donation for this cause. The motion passed unanimously.

Leigh McBurnett, the VP of Development for the Buffalo Bayou Partnership, was the guest speaker at the meeting. She provided updates on past, current, and future projects for the areas along the bayou between Shepherd Drive and

east of US Highway 59. Currently, the main focal points are the projects east of US59, specifically at Japhet Park and Tony Marron Park. Residents are encouraged to visit the [buffalobayou.org](http://buffalobayou.org) website for more information on these projects and all the things BBP has to offer, such as boat tours, cistern tours, nature walks, etc. Visit [buffalobayou.org/](http://buffalobayou.org/) contact to sign up for the newsletter.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20PM.  
Attendance: 22



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### 2025 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.**

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**Civic Club:**

\$\_\_\_\_\_ **Individual Membership \$50** (\$25 for seniors 65+)

\$\_\_\_\_\_ **Community Household Membership \$125**

**Constable Program:**

\$\_\_\_\_\_ **Annual Constable Supporter** (\$300, w/yard signage)

**Other:**

\$\_\_\_\_\_ **Contribution to Beautification** (maintain area green spaces)

\$\_\_\_\_\_ **Contribution to Garden Club** (Friendship Garden, Section 1)

\$\_\_\_\_\_ **GO Kids Membership \$85**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **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)**

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

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



## Our Park, Our Pride: The Legacy of the Garden Oaks Spark Park

### *Dr. Rashada Abraham, Principal GOMM*

The Garden Oaks Montessori Spark Park has long been a beloved community treasure—a place where families gather, children play, and neighbors connect. The park was first imagined in the summer of 1987, when sitting Principal Jean Dodd joined forces with HISD, GOMM PTO, Councilwoman Eleanor Tinsley, and the local civic club. Their goal, as stated in the original SPARK proposal, was to “help enhance our school campus and result in a wonderful playground/park for our school and community.” Prior to the park’s establishment, our area was considered a “park desert”—lacking a safe park or play area for the community.

After years of collaboration and dedication supported by local businesses, donors, and volunteers, the park became a reality in the early 1990s. The Spark Park was named in memory of Rick Englert, a longtime Section 1 resident. Since its establishment, the GOMM PTO and SPARK have worked tirelessly and dedicated funds to maintain and improve the space. In 2023, the park was officially “Re-SPARKed” with refreshed equipment and rededicated in a formal ceremony. This milestone event brought families and neighbors together in recognition of our shared commitment to the park. Most recently, in 2025, a new water fountain was added thanks to a partnership between the GOMM PTO and SPARK, further enhancing the park’s amenities for everyone to enjoy.

Many of our neighbors have noticed the park has experienced damage and increased litter, especially over the weekends. This is a reminder that this shared space depends on all of us to protect and preserve it. Neighbors can help preserve our community’s investment by cleaning up after visits, respecting playground equipment, and reporting issues.

Our Spark Park is more than just a playground. It’s a symbol of what we can accomplish when we work together. But it only thrives if we all play a role in its care. Let’s continue the tradition of stewardship that began nearly 40 years ago. Let’s take pride in this representation of our community.





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# GO Creature Report: Eastern Cottontail Rabbit

*Sophie Crow and Bernada Rubasingham, GO residents*

On a regular day after school, we stood talking by the front windows. Dusk was settling in, and it was getting harder to see. To our surprise, we spotted a long-eared brown creature in our front yard. We quietly crept closer to the window and saw that it was a medium-sized, long-eared brown rabbit that easily blended into its surroundings. It carefully walked further out into the open before disappearing behind a bush. We remember that day like it was yesterday!

Churro has been spotted several times by friends and family on or after dusk, typically hopping in and out of the bushes in our front yard but always very discreetly. It suffices to say we are thrilled by our fluffy new visitor!

## Creature Details:

- Most common species of rabbit in North America
- Status: Least Concern (population increasing)
- Habitat-open fields, meadows, orchards, farmlands
  - Housing-shallow burrows
- Diet:
  - Summer -grass, wildflowers, vegetables, fruits (occasionally insects)

- Winter-bark, twigs, buds, seeds
- Lifespan-8 to 12 years
- Can run up to 18 mph

## Anatomy

- Fluffy Tail-distracts predators while being chased
- Back legs-very good for jumping (significantly bigger than front legs)
- Front legs-small and good for balance and running
- Ears-long and very sensitive to listen for danger
- They can twitch their nose between 20 to 120 times per minute.



photo courtesy of  
Google Images



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# Why Native Plants Matter

## *Chris Lindsay, Garden Club President*

The July 1st Civic Club meeting will feature Lauren Simpson who will speak about "Why Native Plants Matter." We have been hearing that native plants matter for wildlife. But why? And what is a native plant, anyway? In this presentation, Lauren Simpson will explain what native plants are and why they are key to sustaining wildlife (particularly pollinators and other insects). The talk will also highlight some beautiful, pollinator-friendly native plants for the greater Houston area. Ms. Simpson will also bring native-plant seeds harvested from her own garden to share with attendees.

Since early 2015, Lauren Simpson has transformed her family's home gardens into a wildlife-friendly habitat, currently a Certified Wildlife Habitat, Monarch Waystation, Certified Monarch Garden, and Certified Butterfly Garden. She promotes insect conservation and habitat gardening through presentations, events, interviews, and articles, as well as through a website and Instagram and Facebook communities under the appellation "St. Julian's Crossing Wildlife Habitat"—the name adopted for her family's Monarch Waystation. Ms. Simpson is a member of local chapters of the Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT), Native Prairies Association of Texas, and North American Butterfly Association. She has also received certifications at various levels from these organizations.

When not playing in her garden, Lauren is a Clinical Associate Professor at the University of Houston Law Center, teaching Lawyering Skills and Strategies. She has won numerous awards for teaching excellence at the UH including the Student Bar Association Professor of the Year for Law Center Faculty teaching in the part-time program seven times!



"Photo courtesy of UH Law Center"

**Garden Oaks Residents**

# Volunteers ♦ Needed ♦

We need three new volunteers to help get our newsletter delivered each month.

- ✓ Delivery for the 700 block of W. 39th
- ✓ Delivery for the 900 block of W. 41st
- ✓ Section Captain to drop off bundled Gazettes to the 8 block captains in Section 5

**gazettedelivery@  
gardenoaks.org**

**Angela**  
832-656-8648

## Gazette Delivery Volunteers Needed

We need three new volunteers to help get our newsletter delivered each month.

- A volunteer is needed to deliver to the 700 block of W. 39th.
- A volunteer is needed to deliver to the 900 block of W. 41st.
- A volunteer Section Captain is needed to drop off the bundled Gazettes to the 8 block captains in Section 5.

Each requires 30 minutes or less per month.

**Interested?** Email Angela at [gazettedelivery@gardenoaks.org](mailto:gazettedelivery@gardenoaks.org) or call her at **832-656-8648**

## Constable Program

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

**Have you supported the Constable Program yet?** We need you! Pay your dues via the mail OR pay online. Payment of at least \$300 per household will get you a GO Constable Supporter sign. That's a mere 82 cents per day!

**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](http://gardenoaks.org). Signage and stickers will be placed for all supporters of \$300 & higher. We do appreciate your patience in allowing time to have these installed.

**Constable Supporter Signs and Stickers** are generally available at the Garden Oaks Civic Club meetings.

**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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# Constable Statistics April 2025

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 Minor - 2	Special Assignment – 2
Alarm Local – 1	Stationary Visibility Patrol - 2
Animal Humane - 1	Suspicious Person/Vehicle – 5
Burglary of Habitation - 1	Theft Residence – 1
Check Park, School, Parking Lot - 47	Traffic Initiative - 5
Civil Process - 1	Traffic Stop - 15
Contract Check – 134	Vacation Watch – 33
Criminal Mischief - 1	Vehicle Speeding – 1
Disturbance Loud Noise – 1	Welfare Check - 1
Follow Up – 4	
Information Call -3	
Meet the Citizen – 25	
Solicitors - 1	

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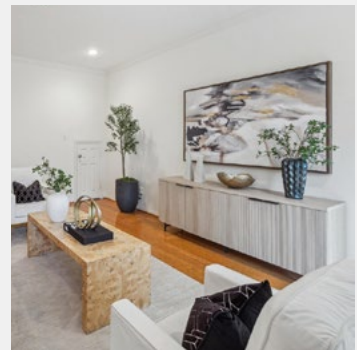
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## What our clients have to say:

*"Stephanie has been a true gem to work with. Her levels of professionalism, attention to detail, and market knowledge are unmatched. As first time sellers, she guided us through the entire process and, because of her suggestions, we were able to sell our home for full asking price. She made the entire process seamless and effortless. If anyone needs a realtor recommendation in the Houston area, Stephanie is the answer - without question."* - Atkinson Family



## Behind the curtain...

The Pribble Family has lived on Cheshire Ln. since 2017 and have two young children. Stephanie has over 10 years of experience and over 150 5 star ratings. She prides herself on having a business built on 100% repeat and referral business.



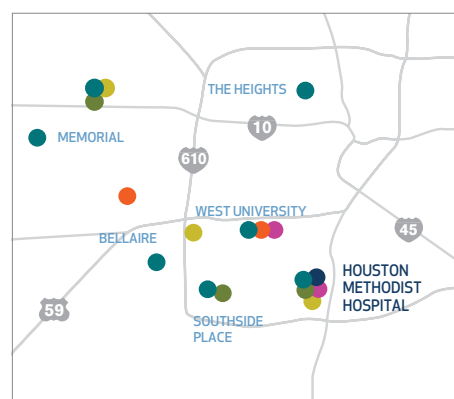


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# Heard Under the Oak Tree

*Terry Jeanes*

## Welcome, New Neighbors!

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

752 West 43rd      1590 Sue Barnett      1051 Althea

705 A West 34th      415 West 32nd      843 West 42nd

4212 Apollo      316 West 33rd

511 West 30th      847 Azalea

713 Sue Barnett      404 West 30th

## Happy Birthday

Andrew B – 1st

Julie Sherber – 2nd

Stephen S – 4th

Tina Rowe – 5th

Odette M – 7th

Elyse S – 9th

Mark Klein – 13th

Landon C -18th

Antonio R – 23rd

Allison Padon – 28th

## Happy Anniversary

Alex & Erin Dunn – June 11th

## Out and About

**The Greenslates** had a great time in the Turks and Caicos. It was mechanical bull riding & LSU baseball for **Jason Theriot**, celebrating his 50th birthday.

**Tina Sabuco & Shellye Arnold** took godson **Jones Bowman** on a graduation adventure to Puerto Rico. And of course, thank you to **Azalea Bunnies Tina and Shellye** for treating the neighbors to a great Easter weekend tradition. It was Moms' Camp in Costa Rica for **Julie Sherber & Alisha Cunningham**, along with former GO neighbor Stacy Rivenbark.

**Mike & Emily Stephens** had an amazing trip to Milan, Florence, and even a Tuscan wedding. Welcome home new pup Morgan to the **Michael Beard & Shane Hutsen** household. The **de Albas** loved their tour of Ireland, enjoying music, gardens, and new adventures. **Terry Jeanes** had a bit of time in Key West and the Bahamas. **The Carlins** enjoyed Greenwich CT for Mother's Day.



## Congratulations to

...**Will McKeown**, who will be attending Texas A&M Galveston in their Maritime Academy with a major in Marine Transportation.

**Karly Taylor** had a terrific sports year as a freshman, playing both freshman and JV volleyball, as team captain & being named MVP. Next is basketball on both JV and varsity. Onto varsity softball, earning Honorable Mention All-District.

**Lauren Seghers** received honors as the valedictorian for Heights HS, and recipient of a Phi Beta Kappa scholarship, and is TAMU bound. **Houston Perry** is the valedictorian of Waltrip HS and recipient of a Greater Heights Chamber scholarship, and is UT School of Engineering bound.

**Thomas Winston** on his graduation from TAMU.

## Special Thoughts

To **Laura & Paul Kopecky** who lost their 16.5 year old schnauzer **Gumby AKA Bob Louie**.

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







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photo courtesy of Pam Parks

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Agent

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Bus: 713-682-3900

[www.aitutaube.com](http://www.aitutaube.com)

Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.®





## Help Your A/C Keep You Cool During this Scorching Summer

### Auggie Reyes, new owner of AirWise

Once 95-plus degree temperatures are the norm in Houston, we definitely depend on our home air conditioners to keep us comfortable. Here are some simple maintenance tips to help keep them running smoothly throughout the rest of summer.

**(1) If you haven't already, have an A/C check-up done NOW**

This is the most important tip I can offer. During a check-up, the freon level, compressor, condensing coil, evaporator coil, drain pan, filter, thermostat and wiring will all be inspected and any minor mechanical issues will be fixed. This helps prevent most problems and maintains your A/C system at its peak operating efficiency.

**(2) Replace your A/C filter every month.**

A clean air filter protects from dust, pollen and other airborne contaminants. However, a clogged filter forces the compressor to work much harder, plus shortens its lifespan.

**(3) Have realistic expectations with your home's indoor temperature.**

Regarding outdoor temp vs. indoor temp, the standard in the industry is 20 degrees max difference. So when it's 95 degrees outside, probably the coolest your house will get is 75 degrees. Count yourself extremely lucky if your system does better.

**(4) Purchase a programmable thermostat and use it!**

Program the thermostat to raise your home's temperature about 30 minutes after you leave and lower it about 30 minutes before you return. You can ease the load on your system by setting the thermostat to the highest temperature that you're comfortable with and using ceiling fans. Fans keep you cool by evaporating moisture on your skin.

**(5) Keep the outside condenser unit clear of debris.**

Plants and lawn debris can build up around your outdoor condenser unit and restrict its airflow. One simple task you can do is take your garden hose and spray thoroughly about six inches from the condenser's fins to clear them of dust and leaves. This simple action will go a long way in keeping your condenser running efficiently.

**(6) Finally, call an A/C service technician as soon as you suspect a problem.**

If you suspect a problem, contact your technician immediately before the problem gets worse and you have to suffer the steamy consequences!

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# June

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 Shavuot	2	3 GOCC Meeting 7 pm Yard Waste, Garbage, & Recycling	4	5	6	7 FarmStand 9am to 1pm 949 Wakefield
8	9	10 Yard Waste, & Garbage,	11 GOMO Meeting 6:30 pm	12	13	14 FarmStand 9am to 1pm 949 Wakefield Flag Day
15 Father's Day	16	17 Yard Waste, Garbage, & Recycling	18	19 Juneteeth	20 Summer Solstice	21 FarmStand 9am to 1pm 949 Wakefield
22	23	24 Yard Waste, & Garbage,	25	26	27	28 FarmStand 9am to 1pm 949 Wakefield
29	30					



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