



garden oaks *Gazette*

The newsletter of the Garden Oaks Civic Club

Aug 2025

Volume 47 Issue 8

Investing in Our Neighborhood: Why Your Garden Oaks Civic Club Dues Matter

Mike Stephens, President - Garden Oaks Civic Club

Dear Neighbors,

Garden Oaks is more than just a place to live—it's a community. From our beautiful tree-lined streets to the vibrant parks and neighborhood gatherings, the quality of life we enjoy is no accident. It requires funds to pay for maintenance of those parks and it requires coordination by volunteers.

It's a common misconception that the 9+ parks and open spaces in Garden Oaks are maintained by the City of Houston. It's actually made possible by the ongoing support of residents like you through membership in the Garden Oaks Civic Club (GOCC), and its important Beautification Committee. The 2025 budget for the Beautification Committee to cover minimum park upkeep costs is \$20,000. And that's just one line-item in GOCC's annual expenses.

But there's another critical piece of the puzzle—public safety.

GOCC residents have the option to contribute an additional fee to help fund a dedicated Constable for Garden Oaks. This is not a luxury—it's a powerful, proven investment in safety. Having a Constable deputy patrol our streets means quicker response times, proactive crime prevention, and a visible presence that deters unwanted activity.

The GOCC Constable program costs over \$100,000 per year for one (of three) daily shifts to be covered. GOCC currently barely has enough financial support for that one shift Constable coverage. And nearly half of those funds come from our annual Azalea Street Beer & Wine Extravaganza (another GOCC organized event). You may have noticed that the annual Constable fee increased for 2025. That increase was because the Constable cost has actually increased 25% in the last 6 years. Meanwhile, we never increased the fee for residents during that time.

Both the Civic Club membership and the Constable program rely entirely on voluntary contributions. Without broader participation, we risk losing services and programs that make Garden Oaks such a special place to call home.

I'm sorry if you find yet another solicitation for contributions to be annoying. I just feel that it's important for every resident to understand why I consider the financial support to be so integral to success. I hope you agree.

If you haven't paid your dues this year, I urge you to do so today. And please also consider contributing to the Constable fund. Every household that participates helps strengthen our community—and every dollar makes a difference. To pay your annual fees, go to gardenoaks.org and click on the "\$ pay" dropdown menu on the upper right side of the page. You can also pay via the form in each month's Gazette.

Do you think you have contributed for 2025, but you're not sure (time does fly)? Click on the links under the GOCC+ dropdown menu or the Constable dropdown menu to then click the links to check the updated rosters of 2025 contributors (separate for GOCC and Constable).

Do you want to have a voice in our community and to receive the most up-to-date communications about what's going on in Garden Oaks? Please go to gardenoaks.org and click on the "register" button in the middle of the home page.

Let's continue to work together to make Garden Oaks safe, beautiful, and vibrant—for ourselves, and for generations to come.

Upcoming Events

GOCC Meeting:

Aug 5 -- 7pm

Great Heights Brewing

Speaker: Lauren Simpson -
Why Native Plants Matter

Beach Blanket Bingo

Aug 6- 6:00 to 8:00

Stomping Grounds

GOMO Meeting

Monday, Aug 11, 6:30 pm

Trees for Houston

Community Meeting Room

1911 W. 34th

Azalea Str Extravaganza

Nov 15th

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.

Nationwide Tools & Supplies
NationwideDist.com

Deanna Zugheri, Keller Williams Metropolitan
Gardenoakshomes.com

Stephanie Pribble, The Pribble Group
www.Pribblegroup.com

Geordie Hrdlicka, Verde Wealth Group
www.verdewealth.com

Katie Hilburn, Katie Hilburn Interiors
Katiehilburninteriors.com

Great Heights Brewing Company
Ghbrewing.com

Shane Davis, First United Mortgage Group
www.shanedavishomeloans.com

Frost Bank, 4606 N. Shepherd
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
Vice President – Paul Vincent	713.834.7249 vicepresident@gardenoaks.org
Treasurer – Brian Rabe	treasurer@gardenoaks.org
Secretary – Bill Shaughnessy	713-504-8336 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
Webmaster – Pam Parks	713 686 7728 webmaster@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.



Garden Oaks Civic Club
and
Stomping Grounds present



Beach Blanket **BINGO**

join us for a fun night at Stomping Grounds! Grab dinner and drinks at one of the restaurants, then head to the green for some family fun BINGO!

Bring your blanket or beach chairs!

FAMILY FUN BINGO | PRIZES GALORE | NEIGHBORHOOD FUN

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6TH
6:00 - 8:00 PM



www.gardenoaks.org

Check out our Instagram for more details,
[@gardenoakshouston](https://www.instagram.com/gardenoakshouston)



Garden Oaks Civic Club Minutes

Bill Shaughnessy, GOCC Secretary

Tuesday, July 1, 2025 @ Great Heights Brewing

The meeting was called to order at 7:22pm by President Mike Stephens.

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

Guest speaker Texas State Senator (District 15) Molly Cook provided an overview of the recent session of Congress that ended in June. She and her committees were responsible for 7 bills being signed into law. Highlights of the session included passing of the bill to prohibit THC/Cannabis products from being sold to consumers, which was subsequently vetoed by Governor Abbott on June 20. There will be a special session to discuss the regulation of THC sales and other topics. One regulation could be to prohibit smoke/vape shops near schools. There was plenty of productive Q&A and dialogue. The next session of congress will be in 2 years.

Two candidates to fill the office of United States House of

Representative for District 18 were present: E. Rain Eatmon and Zoe Cadore discussed their qualifications and backgrounds.

A representative from State Rep Penny Morales Shaw stated that anybody can call or email Ms. Shaw's office with comments or concerns.

Anna Smith, the Deputy Chief of Staff for CM Abbie Kamin's office (District C), said that the funding for the neighborhood signage is still being worked on. She also said that maintenance issues relating to drainage ditches can be reported to her office. She encouraged all to sign up to their newsletter for up-to-date information about the district and emergency preparedness information.

Thomas Wheaton, Director of Communications from CM Mario Castillo's office (District H), announced that there is an effort to add a public session at 6:00PM once a month as a convenience for constituents who are unable to attend the usual sessions due to work/life conflicts. Normally sessions are held on Tuesdays at 2:00PM. He encouraged citizens to

(continued on page 5)

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sign up for the District H newsletter.

Bryce Randall, the Community Affairs Advisor for Harris County Commissioner Rodney Ellis' office (Precinct 1), introduced himself and discussed the ongoing work the precinct is providing for its constituents. One highlight was the new policy for county employees to receive a minimum (living wage) of \$20/hour.

Constable Committee Chair Terry Jeanes announced that there had recently been an attempted child abduction in a nearby neighborhood. Please refer to the Garden Oaks Facebook page for more information, including details about the suspect and his vehicle. Also, report any suspicious information to HPD or to the Constable. The constable will typically have much quicker response times than HPD. Citizens are encouraged to store these numbers in their smartphones: 713-755-7628 (dispatch) and/or 713-755-7618 (backup).

Mike Stephens discussed the upcoming Fourth of July parade, which will be taking place on July 4th. Participants will be gathering at the Rick Englert Spark Park. Highlights this year will be an HFD fire truck leading the parade and a

sno-cone truck. The parade begins at 9:00, and registration will begin at 8:30.

Beautification Chair Pam Parks announced that the effort to obtain email addresses from Garden Oaks residents is still ongoing. The purpose of the email is to keep residents informed of upcoming events. Go to the gardenoaks.org website for more information and to submit your email address to the registry.

Garden Club President Chris Lindsay stated that the speaker at the August Civic Club meeting will be Lauren Simpson, a native plant expert and author of the book *Why Native Plants Matter*. Also, planning is underway already for the Spring 2026 Pollinator in the Park event. She added that the milkweed planting to benefit pollinators was a success. Those interested in joining the Garden Club should contact gardenclub@gardenoaks.org.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:43PM.

Attendance: 43

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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.

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**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

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

Mickey's Minute

Mickey Morales

Greetings! Sorry for the delay in not posting for the last few months, but the needs of my late brother's estate have been many and varied. However, I've come to the end of my labors and will soon be just a trustee rather than an executor. Should you ever be asked to perform such duties come by and I'll happily point you in the right direction.

By the time y'all read this post, I'll will have completed my sixty eighth revolution around the sun and received the best birthday present ever: a cool, dry place indoors to cook breakfast tacos and where Farmer Cathy can sell eggs and produce. We will be firmly ensconced in the newly revamped Decant Urban Winery tasting room. This is going to vastly improve our lives and efforts to serve y'all, our loyal customers, some of whom have been with us for over thirteen years. For those of you who weren't here from the beginning, we started up on the corner of Golf and Wakefield on the last Saturday of January 2012 across from the now defunct Petrol Station. I wonder if anyone will ever do anything with that place? Not that we don't have plenty of choices already.

Back then and all the way up to and just past Covid, we were a collection of ten to twelve different vendors. Now it's just Miss Cathy and I, which is just fine with me, as running a Farmer's Market is like herding cats. It's hard and aggravating. So, we are more than thrilled to be just the happy pair that you see each week, with the occasional appearance of Sophia when she's home from University. And we will be extra cheerful being out of the elements for the first time since our inception. Which means y'all will be out of them as well. So don't be alarmed if you don't find us in the parking lot across the street.

As always, "Come soon, come often and stay a while."



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From First Day Jitters to Resilience

Dr. Rashada Abraham Brown, principal- Garden Oaks Montessori

The first day of school can bring about a wide range of emotions for both children and their adults. For children, being small in a place filled with unfamiliar faces can feel overwhelming—and that new teacher may be a brand-new adult they've never seen. Whether it's your kindergartener's very first day away from home or your senior's last first day, the back-to-school transition can stir up big feelings within the household. After a long summer of togetherness for families, even the excitement of a fresh start can come with its own set of challenges.

Early child development research once emphasized the idea that children are inherently more resilient than adults (Masten, 2001; Garnezy, 1991; Werner & Smith, 1992). However, more recent studies show that resilience is not just a personality trait, but a learned skill that develops in the presence of strong, supportive relationships. According to the Harvard Center on the Developing Child, "Resilience requires relationships, not rugged individualism" (Center on the Developing Child, 2015). In other words, children don't just "bounce back" on their own, but with the foundation of at least one stable, caring relationship, children are able to navigate challenging experiences and grow from them.

While it's often innate for parents to protect their children in the face of worries and anxieties, family therapist Walsh (2003) notes that challenging situations are necessary, critical components "for the development of resilience." Translated into the scope of back-to-school—your child needs you—not to shield them from every uncomfortable moment, but to be a steady presence, especially in those first days of school. As Maria Montessori wisely said, "Never help a child with a task at which he feels he can succeed." Supporting children doesn't mean removing struggle, rather it means allowing space for effort and growth while remaining a calm, encouraging presence. This type of support for children requires consciousness and effort on behalf of their most trusted adults, who are mostly like to have their own anxieties.

Kris (2023) offers four key strategies to help children prepare for back-to-school transitions, including: talk about what to expect in advance, prepare for big emotions, express your confidence in them, and reach out to their teacher. Each of these steps promotes what child psychologists call co-regulation, or helping children manage their emotions through connection before they can do it independently. They also serve to build your child's internal sense of safety and capability, both necessary for cultivating long-

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term resilience and academic confidence. This back-to-school season, I encourage you to lean into the uncomfortable moments with your child and push through to build resilience that leads to lasting excitement for a positive, great school year. Happy back-to-school!

To ease the transition and build community before the first day, many schools like Garden Oaks Montessori offer opportunities for children and families to connect. These events are especially helpful for new students to become familiar with peers, staff, and routines before school begins. Parents are encouraged to get involved with their children to support back-to-school transitions to set children up for success throughout the entire year.

Garden Oaks Back-to-School Events:

- **Thursday, August 7:** Meet the Teacher (New-to-Class Families) (4:30–6:00pm) Parents of students moving to new classrooms (typically PK/K, 1st, 4th, and 7th) can meet teachers and connect with PTO. Learn about class changes, supply fees, carpool tags, and more. Parents only event—no childcare provided.
- **Friday, August 8:** New Family Orientation (1:00pm) Orientation for new families with administrators and classroom visits for students
- **Saturday, August 9:** Popsicles with the Principal (9:00–10:00am) - Cool off with a treat and connect casually with leader-

ship and families

- **Tuesday, August 12:** First Day of School HISD PTO BooHoo Breakfast at the Spark Park at 8:30am for parents needing tissues, coffee, and company as they send their children off to school

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Constable Program

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

Save the Date: Neighbors' Night Out will be Tuesday October 7th so start thinking about block gatherings.

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. A roster of current supporters is available at 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 June 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.

Alarm Local – 1	Solicitors - 1
Check Park, School, Parking Lot - 33	Stationary Visibility Patrol - 5
Civil Process - 2	Suspicious Person/Vehicle - 4
Contract Check – 197	Theft Other – 1
Criminal Mischief - 1	Traffic Hazard - 1
Disturbance Other – 2	Traffic Initiative -6
Follow Up – 6	Traffic Stop - 6
Information Call -1	Vacation Watch – 58
Meet the Citizen – 33	Vehicle Speeding - 1
Open Door/Window – 1	Welfare Check - 1

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"Stephanie was fantastic. She operates with the utmost professionalism. She brings good insight and honest opinions. She built trust with me very quickly, and her guidance was on point. HAR should create a 6th star just for her. Highly recommend." - Kuhn

"This was my fourth time working with Stephanie and she continues to surpass my expectations. This particular purchase came with a few hiccups, to no fault of Stephanie's, and she was patient and helpful through every step of the way. There's a reason I keep turning to her for any of my real estate needs...her professionalism, prompt communication, industry expertise, and dedication to her clients make her the best of the best." -Atkinson



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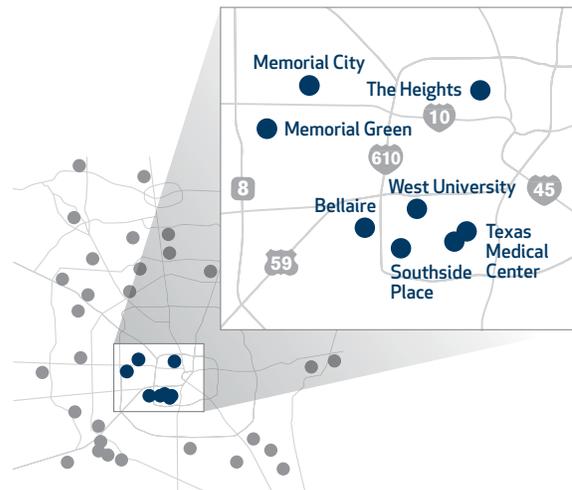


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Heard Under the Oak Tree

Terry Jeanes

Welcome, New Neighbors!

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

211 West 31st	303 West 33rd
1011 West 43rd	862 West 41st
1019 West 43rd	224 West 34th
316 W 30th	970 West 41st
607 West 30th	219 West 34th
725 West 39th	813 West 32nd

Happy Birthday

Mark Sarmiento 3rd	Mary Beck 24th
Elizabeth Klein 4th	Summer D'Amico 25th
Katherine Knauth 4th	Bridgette Martinez 26th
Avery T. 5th	Emma Kathryn C. 28th
Rick Knauth 9th	Debbie Padon 28th
Tony Padon 23rd	Gretchen Dreher 29th
Isabella R. 23rd	Carl Waters 29th
Trent Salch 23rd.	

Happy Anniversary

Pat Buron & Shelley Rogers 5th
Max Curry & Kate Christenbury Belated 1st Anniversary wishes June 1st.

Congratulations to

Vic Seghers was honored with the 2025 Presidential Service Award for his leadership as Chair of Governance Reorganization Task Force within Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging (SNMMI).

Pete Vonder Haar, longtime columnist for the Houston Press, was recognized in a national journalism contest, receiving second in the Arts Criticism category for a collection of his 2024 "Reviews for the Easily Distracted," in the competition sponsored by the Association of Alternative News Media's AAN Awards.

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



Out and About

Alex Feit started her 1st job this month as an engineering intern at 9BA Engineering as well spending a week at NC State participating in an ecological engineering program. Then off to zip lining and whitewater rafting with mom **Marisa Zindler**.

Mike Stevens celebrated a milestone birthday in the Caribbean with wife Emily. **Amy Lee** and friends celebrated the 40s birthday in Grand Cayman. **Angie Lane** traveled with the Houston Ballet to Japan. **Michael Beard & Shane Hutson** traveled to Mykonos Greece. **Robert & Amanda Carlin** visited RI & Williamsburg. It was Camp Ozark for the **3 Dilley kids** along with **Jackson Theriot**. **Cat, Jason, & Mae Theriot** attended the LSU College World Series Championship game. It was Galveston Time for the **Salches** July 4th weekend. **Heather McKeown** visited Sayulita Mexico.

Tonya Knauth was a featured panelist at UT Law CLE: the Four-Step Process of Sale of Property. **Jason Sherber and daughter Reagan** just got back from an unforgettable fishing adventure in Alaska with Jason's dad.

Special Thoughts

Carl Waters & Leslie Ryan in the recent loss of their cat **Grace** who was rescued during Ike. Speedy recovery wishes to **Gretchen Seghers** on her recent ACL surgery

**AZALEA
STREET BEER
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Extravaganza

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NOVEMBER 15TH, 2025

GOCC CONSTABLE FUNDRAISER

More details coming soon

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Understanding Basic Air Conditioning Terminology

Auggie Reyes

When purchasing an HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) system, cost is one of the biggest concerns. Finding the right A/C system can be a bit intimidating with the industry jargon, acronyms and numerous rating systems. Knowing what it all means will help you get the most for your money. For most rating systems, the higher the number, the higher the energy efficiency and the higher the lifespan of the system.

AFUE (Annual Fuel Utilization Efficiency) - AFUE is a measure of a gas furnace's efficiency in converting fuel to energy. The higher the AFUE, the greater the furnace's energy efficiency. If your system is more than 15 years old, an AFUE rating may not be available. You can obtain it by finding the furnace's serial number and contacting the manufacturer.

BTU (British Thermal Unit) - BTU represents the amount of heat that is required to raise or lower the temperature of one pound of water by one degree Fahrenheit. Most air conditioners are measured using BTUs. For example, 12,000 BTUs equals one ton, 24,000 BTUs equals two tons, etc.

SEER (Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio) - SEER is calculated by dividing the amount of cooling supplied by an A/C system with the electricity consumed by the system under specific seasonal conditions.

SEER ratings are determined in a laboratory where specific indoor and outdoor conditions are determined by the U.S. Department of Energy. Because A/C systems are evaluated using identical conditions, they can be compared to each other using the SEER rating. The higher the number, the better the efficiency. According to American Standard, one of the leading A/C manufacturers in the U.S., **14 SEER is the lowest rating while 20 SEER is the highest rating.**

Higher SEER ratings are usually achieved by manufacturers using the latest technology in their equipment. That can influence the cost of the equipment. You may pay more for the latest and greatest, but you'll get increased efficiency and lower electricity bills.

Most A/C systems installed prior to 2006 have a 10 SEER rating or less. Installing a new 14 SEER system with its superior technology can save you 28% on your electricity bill. A 15 SEER can save you 38%, and a 16 SEER can save you 47%. Finally, a 20 SEER system can save you a whopping 68%!

Ton - A unit of measurement used for determining cooling capacity. One ton is the equivalent of 12,000 BTUs per hour. A 2,000 square-foot house typically requires a five-ton system.

“Who else would come out at 1:00am on Memorial Day weekend?”

Juan M., Garden Oaks

“After Air Wise replaced one of my A/C's, I noticed a water stain on the bathroom ceiling. Although the leak was not A/C related, Mitch arrived at 1:00am, put a pan under the leaky pipe and returned the next morning with his plumber to repair it.

What other company would do that on Memorial Day weekend?”



Auggie Reyes, new owner of Air Wise



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August

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
					1	2 FarmStand 9am to 1pm 948 Wakefield
3	4	5 GOCC Meeting 7 pm Yard Waste, & Garbage,	6 Beach Blanket Bingo 6:00 to 8:00 pm	7	8	9 FarmStand 9am to 1pm 948 Wakefield
10	11 GOMO Meeting 6:30 pm	12 First day of school for HISD Yard Waste, Garbage & Recycling	13	14	15	16 FarmStand 9am to 1pm 948 Wakefield
17	18	19 Yard Waste, & Garbage,	20	21 Heavy Trash pickup	22	23 FarmStand 9am to 1pm 948 Wakefield
24	25	26 Yard Waste, Garbage & Recycling	27	28	29	30 FarmStand 9am to 1pm 948 Wakefield

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