



garden oaks *Gazette*

The newsletter of the Garden Oaks Civic Club

Jan 2026

Volume 48 Issue 01

Garden Oaks Civic Club Minutes

Bill Shaughnessy, GOCC Secretary

Tuesday, December 2, 2025 @ Great Heights Brewing

The meeting was called to order at 7:09pm by Vice President Paul Vincent.

A motion to accept the minutes as published in the November 2025 Gazette was made by Paul. The motion was seconded and approved.

Social Chairperson Emily Stephens announced that the Azalea Street Festival raised over \$26,000 to help support the neighborhood constable patrol program. She promulgated that a new level of sponsorship had been created, called the Double Diamond level, to reflect the donation of \$5000.00 by the Law Offices of Hilda Sibrian.

Treasurer Brian Rabe stated that there was a slight uptick in the marketing expenses, particularly due to the fees paid to the city for permits pertaining to the new neighborhood signage. The fabrication of the signs is currently underway.

Paul Vincent presented the proposed 2026 budget and called for a vote for its approval. The vote was held, and the 2026 budget was approved.

Paul Vincent called for a vote to approve the proposed slate of civic club officers, all incumbents, as presented by the prestigious nominating committee and published in the November Gazette. The vote was held, and the presented slate of officers were elected to serve for the year 2026.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:30pm.

Upcoming Events

GOCC Meeting:

Jan 6, 7 pm

Great Heights Brewing

GOMO Meeting

Jan 12, 6:30 pm

Trees for Houston Mtg Room
1911 W. 34th



**Pay Civic Club and/or
Constable Dues Here**

Happy New Year!

2026 Garden Oaks Civic Club CommUnity Partners

Thank you to the following neighbors and neighborhood businesses who are supporting our new CommUnity Partnership Program for 2026.

If you/your business is interested in joining our annual program, please email membership@gardenoaks.org.

Terry Jeanes, Led Well Realty
<https://www.ledwellrealty.com/terry-jeanes>

Third Coast Home & Commercial Services
<https://thirdcoasthomeandcommercialservices.com/>

Kat Abshire, Boulevard Realty
<https://www.yourblvd.com/agent/kat-abshire/>

Geordie Hrdlicka, Verde Wealth Group
www.verdewealth.com

Nationwide Tools & Supplies
NationwideDist.com

Deanna Zugheri, Keller Williams Metropolitan
Gardenoakshomes.com

Great Heights Brewing Company
Ghbrewing.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
Social Events - Emily Stephens	913 526 5160 goSocial@gardenoaks.org

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Other Contacts

Garden Club	gardenclub@gardenoaks.org
GO Kids	gokids@gardenoaks.org

The Garden Oaks Gazette is the official publication of the Garden Oaks Civic Club and is published monthly. The submission deadline to the editor is 11:59 PM of the 15th of each month for publication the next month unless otherwise noted.

Publication of any article or letter does not imply endorsement by the Garden Oaks Civic Club and is solely the opinion of the author.

2026 Membership Drive

Dian Austin, GOCC Membership Chair & Terry Jeanes, Constable Chair

It's time to renew your Garden Oaks Civic Club (GOCC) and Constable Program memberships for 2026. Constable Program supporters at the \$300 level and up can receive a supporter sign and a 2026 sticker.

Payments can be made in several ways. If you want to pay by check, please use the form in each month's Gazette and send in your contribution. Or you can pay online at <https://www.gardenoaks.org/gocc/payments/memberships/>

You can also pay using the QR code below:



Both the Civic Club and the Constable Program depend entirely on residents' support. We appreciate your help!



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Tree Planting 2026

Pam Parks, Beautification Chair

Our trees are finally entering their seasonal dormancy so it is time to take care of any needed pruning and to at least think about whether you may want to add a tree to your landscape or help a neighbor add a tree. The need to do this was driven home last week as I inventoried the pruning work needed on our pocket parks. A significant number of our loblolly pines have a higher-than-normal number of dead limbs, a high concentration of pinecones, and most concerning, thinned and yellowing tops. These trees are in serious decline and may only be with us a few more years. The bad news is that it isn't just our park trees with the problem.

There really isn't much that can be done for these trees. Removing dangerous limbs and budgeting for the day when removal will be necessary is about all that can be done now. But it is time to get a head start with some new plantings. Between now and April is the time to get new trees in the ground. Need help with species selection? Trees for Houston (scan code below) publishes a listing of recommended species and, depending on availability, may even make the tree you want available at one of their events.



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Constable Statistics November 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 Major - 1
- Alarm Local - 4
- Check Park, School, Business, Church, Parking Lot - 36
- Contract Check - 182
- Disturbance Loud Noise - 2
- Follow Up - 4
- Information Call - 5
- Meet the Citizen - 41
- Special Assignment - 4
- Stationary Visibility Patrol - 3
- Suspicious Person/Vehicle - 8
- Terroristic Threat - 2
- Traffic Hazard - 1
- Traffic Initiative - 2
- Traffic Stop - 6
- Vacation Watch - 42
- Welfare Check - 1

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2026 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)

\$ _____ Membership GO Kids \$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

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.

950 Lamonte	802 West 43rd
4212 Apollo	1015 West 41st
814 West 41st	
979 West 43rd	
519 West 31st	

Happy Birthday

Evin Dunn 4th	Happy Belated December
Maeve Mc 5th	4th Judy Clark
Mae T 8th	
Diane Heath 9th	
Phil Ramirez 10th	
Erik Martin 24th	
Owen H 30th	
Shellye Arnold 30th	

Happy Anniversary

Alice & Mark Sarmiento 30th
Bonnie & Rudy Hernandez



Out and About

Jaime Zamora celebrated his Royal Caribbean Diamond status with a trip to Costa Maya & Cozumel. **Tina Sabuco** resurrected Mrs. Claus at the Cypress Lucky Mutt Rescue fundraiser. **Craig Dilley & sons** traveled to Kansas City for the Texans' win. **Trent & Megan Salch** attended the Houston West Chamber Impact Awards Gala. **Gretchen Seghers** performed at the Heights High School showcase with her Heights mariachi group. **Doug & Julie Mischlich** visited the JFK and Truman Presidential libraries.

The **Sherbers** have a new family member, **Ellie**, of Dachshund persuasion. **Julie Sherber** had an amazing trip to Turkey. **Robert & Amanda Carlin** visited NYC. **Tina Sabuco & Shellye Arnold** celebrated a family Thanksgiving in Fayetteville Tx.

Caroline Stender and daughters attended a family wedding in Schulenberg. The **Zindler-Feit family** continued the tradition with the annual Turkey Trot at Canyon Lake.

Caroline McLean enjoyed a two-week trip seeing friends and family in both Scotland and England with hubby **Sean** joining in for some of the fun. **Laura Patterson** enjoyed the Houston Nutcracker Ballet.

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



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Constable Program

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

Thank You for Azalea Street Fest and Toy Drive Support. Thank you to all who supported the Azalea Street Fest Fundraiser with funds for the constable program. Added thanks to those who brought toys at the GOCC Holiday Party for the Precinct One Toy Drive

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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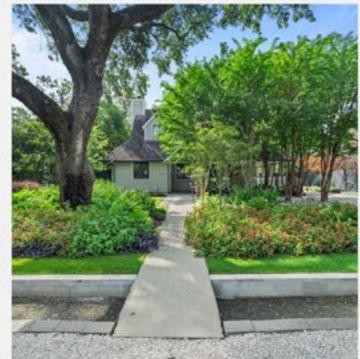
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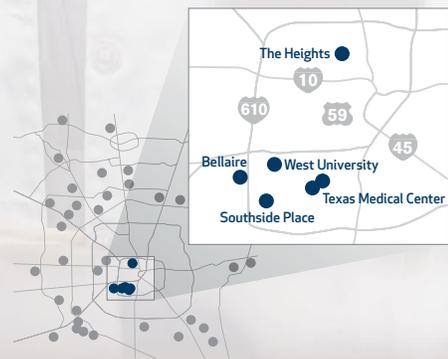




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Give the Gift of Peace of Mind in 2026 with Pre-Planning

Sandy Cruthirds, Pre-Arrangement Counselor, Neptune Society

The new year is the perfect time to take care of important documents such as your personal and financial affairs, your will, advanced directives, and your end-of-life pre-planning services. Taking these steps is essential to ensure you make your wishes known for your care, that of your children, estate, and even your pets. Doing so will give both you and your survivors peace of mind.

Hi. My name is Sandy Cruthirds, and I am your area neighbor and a pre-arrangement counselor for Neptune Society, the most respected and widely known provider of cremation services and funeral planning in the United States.

Every day I hear from families how grateful they are that their spouse, parent, family member or friend gave them the gift of pre-planning. There was no confusion as to what their loved one wanted for end-of-life care, final arrangements and other matters pertaining to their estate.

Without this direction and clarity, surviving loved ones are often overwhelmed by the cost of arrangements and the desire to honor your wishes, which can add confusion and stress during an already emotional time. This is something I understand personally as I lost both my parents at age 19.

Sadly, they had not prepared for the unthinkable. At a time when my world was thrust into unimaginable loss and turmoil, I was forced to decide how to manage their final arrangements and financial affairs—decisions I was not prepared to make.

For this reason, I am truly passionate about helping other families understand and prepare for pre-planning services, regardless of the path you choose. The key is having a plan, making it known, and acting now, rather than later.

Choosing final arrangements is a personal decision—whether you choose traditional burial or cremation. However, funeral costs have been rising steadily over the past few decades. Funerals that include traditional burials can vary significantly; the average cost of traditional burial arrangements exceeds \$10,000 and is often much higher due to the increasing cost of burial plots and other related services. As a result, many people are now choosing cremation for its simplicity and lower costs.

In fact, more than 50% of the U.S. population now chooses cremation over traditional funerals.

Because cremation has no geographical borders or boundaries, it gives you total flexibility to express your life and remembrance in very personal ways and to share what you cherished most. Your memorial service can be held in a place of worship, a favorite garden, or your favorite beach or mountain path. The choice is yours. I can help you determine what fits your needs and discuss how you can take advantage of flexible payment options that allow you to pay for future services at today's prices. Taking these simple steps today not only helps you or your loved ones avoid rising costs in the future but gives you all peace of mind today and tomorrow. I welcome the opportunity to meet you at your convenience and answer any questions you may have about the pre-planning process.

Sandy Cruthirds can be reached at Sandra.Cruthirds@Sci-us.com or at 832-562-5312.



Sandra Cruthirds
 Pre-Arrangement Counselor
 O: 832-562-5312 C: 832-562-5312
sandra.cruthirds@SCI-US.com

Neptune Society - Houston
 13451 Northwest Fwy., #400
 Houston, TX 77040



Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization (GOMO) Annual Meeting

James Elmore- President

GOMO members met for an update and the election of Directors and Officers on Monday, December 8, 2025.

The meeting began with an update of the current situation presented by Stuart Arouty, James Elmore and the GOMO attorney, Shannon Lange. An extensive Q&A session ensued, followed by the introduction of current Board members.

The floor was then opened to candidates to step forward to introduce themselves and indicate their interests in serving.

Section 1 had a single position open, and Gary Ingram was re-elected for a new 3-year term. Section 2's three open positions will be filled by Matt Friemel, Paul Vincent and Brenda de Alba; terms are to be decided at the January board meeting. Jonathan Luquette was re-elected for a 3-year term for the sole open position in Section 3. Section 5 had two open positions, and those will be filled by Nick Hosn and Pam Parks, with terms to be decided at the January board meeting.

A total of 94 property owners participated in the election of Directors, either by proxy or in person.

Following the Annual Meeting of Members, the Board met briefly to elect officers and to affirm the time and place of meetings for 2026. Officers elected for 2026 include:

- James Elmore, President
- Stuart Arouty, VP
- Gary Ingram, Secretary
- Pam Parks, Treasurer

The next scheduled GOMO meeting will be Monday, January 12th, at 6:30 in the meeting room at Trees for Houston, 1911 W. 34th. All Garden Oaks property owners are welcome to attend.

GOMO Meeting Schedule for 2026:		
January 12	May 11	September 14
February 9	June 8	October 12
March 9	July 13	
April 13	August 10	

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Help Nip Upcoming Allergies in the Bud

Auggie Reyes, Air Wise

Still a couple of months away, Spring in Houston means abundant flower buds and blooming trees. If you're one of the millions of people who have seasonal allergies, you can be miserable.

It's estimated that one in five adults has allergies, and the rates for children are even higher. Try these simple strategies to keep seasonal allergies under control:

- (1) Avoid outdoor activity in the early morning when pollen counts are at their highest, and keep doors and windows closed at night.
- (2) Delegate outdoor activities which stir up allergens. These include lawn mowing, weed pulling and other gardening chores. If this isn't possible, wear a dust mask when doing outdoor chores.
- (3) Stay indoors on windy days.
- (4) Shower more frequently to remove pollen from your skin and hair.
- (5) Wash clothes thoroughly that you've worn outside, and don't hang laundry outdoors. Pollen can stick to damp sheets and towels.
- (6) Check your local news sources for current pollen levels and future pollen forecasts.
- (7) Be sure to use the AC in both your house and car and make sure they're well maintained.
- (8) Clean floors frequently using a vacuum cleaner equipped with a HEPA filter.
- (9) Keep the humidity in your house below 50% to help prevent mold growth.
- (10) Most important of all, replace your home A/C system's air filter on a monthly basis. Keeping these filters clean can make the biggest difference.

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January

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3 FarmStand 9am to 1pm 948 Wakefield
4	5	6 GOCC Meeting 7 pm Yard Waste, & Garbage,	7	8	9	10 FarmStand 9am to 1pm 948 Wakefield
11	12 GOMO Meeting 6:30 pm	13 Yard Waste, Garbage, & Recycling	14	15	16	17 FarmStand 9am to 1pm 948 Wakefield
18	19	20 Yard Waste, & Garbage,	21	22	23	24 FarmStand 9am to 1pm 948 Wakefield
25	26	27 Yard Waste, Garbage, & Recycling	28	29	30	31 FarmStand 9am to 1pm 948 Wakefield



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