garden oaks Gazette

The newsletter of the Garden Oaks Civic Club

Mar 2026 Volume 48 Issue 03

Vice President's Message

Dillon Baker, Vice President, Garden Oaks Civic Club

As the newly elected Vice President of the Garden Oaks Civic Club (GOCC), I am honored to serve and excited to continue working on behalf of a neighborhood that truly feels like home. Garden Oaks stands out for its tree-lined streets, active neighborhood life, and strong sense of community. There is shared pride among residents who are genuinely invested in maintaining the character and quality of life that make this neighborhood distinctive.

My family and I are building our forever home in Section 5, where we plan to raise our two boys. That long-term commitment shapes how I approach this role: pragmatic, solutions-oriented, and focused on what actually makes daily life better for our neighbors.

Last year, I had the opportunity to serve on the GOMO Board of Directors. One of the most eye-opening experiences was seeing the volume of concerns and complaints that came through. It reinforced something important: we're better when we work together.

GOCC is 100% volunteer-run. There are no hidden agendas, just neighbors who show up, listen, and are helping guide our community in the right direction. Garden Oaks is home to a growing number of young families, and your input is essential to shaping the direction of our neighborhood. We are committed to strengthening communication and ensuring residents have clear, accessible information about the amenities and resources available to them, including how to participate in the Beautification Program and when and how to contact our Constable's office. These are services our community pays for, and awareness is the first step to making the most of them.

I encourage you to get involved, attend meetings, and stay engaged. As neighborhood leaders, we're committed to creating more opportunities for participation and connection. The more people who show up, the stronger and more representative our community becomes.



I'm grateful to serve alongside such dedicated volunteers and look forward to building a more informed, connected, and engaged Garden Oaks. Together.

Upcoming Events

GOCC Meeting:
March 3, 7 pm
Great Heights Brewing
Speaker: Alicia Nuzzie-Super Neighborhood 12 revitalization efforts

Community Garden Plant Sale
March 7

GOMO Meeting
March 9, 6:30 pm
Trees for Houston Mtg Room
1911 W. 34th

Garden Club Meeting
March 12th
Kroger on 43rd (Second floor)

Pollinators in the Park Event
April 19th, 12 - 2 pm

Wakefield Shuffle
April 19th, 3 - 6 pm

Pay Civic Club and/or Constable Dues Here

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://wwwyourblvd.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

Frost Bank, 4406 N. Shepherd Dr.
https://locations/Frostbank.com/Houston/4606-n-shepherd-dr

Lazy Lane Restaurant
www.lazylanehouston.com

Class 101: College Planning Made Simple
https://www.class101.com/houstonheights

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 – Dillon Baker
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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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.

Big Changes Coming to Heavy Trash Collection

Starting March 2nd, Houston residents will need to call 311 to schedule heavy trash collection instead of waiting for regular pickup days. There will be no routine heavy trash pickup days as in the past.

Key Details of the New System (Starting March 2, 2026):

* How to Schedule: Call 311 or use the city's 311 system to request a pickup.

* Confirmation: Each request will be reviewed and scheduled, and residents will get confirmation of the scheduled pickup.

* Response Time: Trash will be collected within 5 working days of the scheduled request.

* Limits: Maximum of 4 collections per residential address per calendar year.

*Why the Change: To reduce illegal dumping and address backlogs caused by the previous, inefficient system where crews drove every street monthly, whether trash was present or not.

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STEP 1: Complete the Pre-Registration Form HERE.

STEP 2: Complete HISD online Application on or after FEB 23

STEP 3: Schedule a registration appointment by calling 713-696-2930

Don't forget to bring:

- Birth Certificate
- Shot Record
- Social Security card
- Proof of address (utility bill or lease agreement)
- Parent ID

Website:
Houstonisd.org/enroll

REGISTRATION OPENS
FEB 23

Constable Program

Terry Jeanes, Program Chair

KUDOS TO PRECINCT ONE & JOE BOWDEN, our former Garden Oaks patrol Deputy, on the recent capture and arrest of a multi-theft porch pirate who not only had been stealing from Garden Oaks porches, but surrounding area porches as well. The culprit was a multi-offender that Joe Bowden had arrested before. Thank you to all the neighbors who provided additional video evidence on thefts in the area. Hopefully this will assist in more charges sticking with the party and more time to be served. The Program works. Join as a Supporter Today!

2025 - 2026 Contract Our Constable contract cost is $99,950 annually, so funds are very important. We need you as annual supporters and also supporting our fundraisers as well as the sponsors and vendors who support us.

Pay your dues via the form in the Gazette (snail mail) or pay online at gardenoaks.org or via the QR code on the front page. Payment of at least $300 will get a GO Constable Supporter sign.

If you need a new sign, please email constable@gardenoaks.org.

Constable Supporter Signs and Stickers are generally available at the 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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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

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Recycling Dos and Don'ts

Excerpted from houstontx.gov/solidwaste/recycling

The city of Houston recycles:

* Metal and cans: aluminum cans, vegetable cans, fruit cans, coffee cans (all emptied and rinsed)
* Cartons: Both gable top and shelf-stable food and beverage cartons. Examples include milk cartons, juice cartons, soup cartons, soy milk/alternative milk cartons (all emptied and rinsed)
* Glass: Bottles, jugs and jars only (all emptied and rinsed, no lids)
* Paper: Newspaper, magazines, catalogs, junk mail, office paper
* Cardboard: Cardboard and cereal boxes (emptied of packing materials and flattened)
* Plastic: Bottles, tubs and jugs #1 - 5 and 7. Examples include water and soda bottles, milk jugs, yogurt cups, margarine tubs, detergent bottles, shampoo bottles. (emptied and rinsed). Do not recycle the plastic bottle caps.

Do NOT put these in the green recycling bin:

* Shredded paper
* Batteries and electronics
* Food/Liquids
* Trash and Bagged Recycling
* Scrap wood and metal
* Yard waste
* Pizza boxes and soiled paper plates and napkins
* Plastic dry cleaning bags
* Bottle caps

Download the HTX Collects app to find out when your recycling day is.

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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.

1027 Althea
751 West 43rd
717 Sue Barnett
1547 Sue Barnett
819 Azalea
709 West 39th

Happy Birthday

Ollie H. 3rd
Sydney Grace N.3rd
Dodie Davis 11th
Robb Bunge 15th
Curtis Hall 15th
Angelica Sullivan 16th
Joann Jones 19th
Sharron Sanborn 26th
Nathan S. 26th
Lindsey Bartlett 27th
Olivia S. 29th
Will Zugheri 30th

Happy Anniversary

John and Nhilka Murphy 15th
Robert and Amanda Carlin 21st

Congratulations to:

Shellye Arnold on her new position as President & CEO of Coastal Preservation & Restoration where she will lead the effort to protect and restore our Texas coastal bays.





Out and About

John & Cindy Bartos enjoyed a birding adventure in south central Mexico along with an amazing visit to the Monarch Sanctuary. **Terry Jeanes & Patrick Kelley** enjoyed some ship time fun to San Juan, St Kitts, St Croix, St. Maarten, St Thomas, & Ocho Rios. **The Lozanos** enjoyed a trip to Hawaii in December. **Doug & Julie Mischlich** recently visited the LBJ Library. **Kathy Silver** had a trip to British Columbia. It was a fun long weekend for **Julie Sherber** and gal pals in Cancun.

James Flowers & Brandon Madden enjoyed a trip to Sao Paulo, Brazil. **Sandra OGuynn** & gang had a great family style Mardi Gras event in Galveston. **Carol Toups** enjoyed New Orleans for Mardi Gras. Heather Leverett visited both Little Rock and Hot Springs. **Evie McKeown** is having a grand time in Spain and Morocco.

Debbie Dryer had a great time with friends in Crested Butte. It was chicken banding in College Station for **Katy Kyle** along with her Breeders Greeters Rodeo committee family. **Carl Waters & Leslie Ryan** visited their giraffe friends at Longneck Manor in Fredericksburg.

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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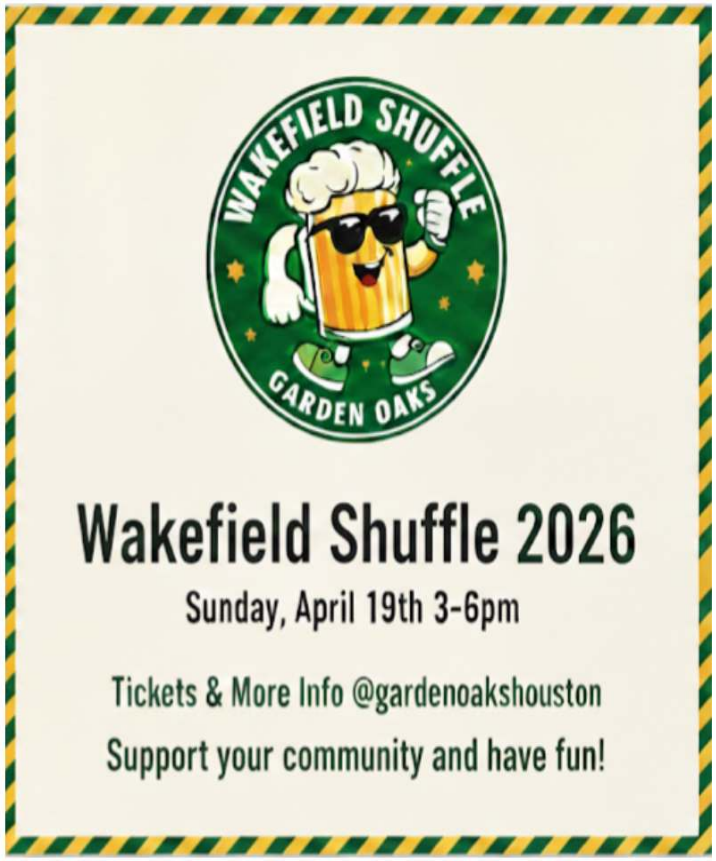
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NEW CLIENTS RECEIVE **$20 OFF** FIRST VISIT



SAVE THE DATE!

The GOCC is excited to announce the return of our spring fundraiser, Wakefield Shuffle, on Sunday 4/19! Sip and stroll down Wakefield Drive with friends and neighbors while enjoying a complimentary beverage from multiple vendors. Proceeds from ticket sales help our Civic Club to provide valuable services for our community like Constable patrols, park beautification and more. Check out @gardenoakshouston on Instagram for ticket information.

Thank you to our neighborhood businesses for making this fundraiser possible!

Want YOUR business involved? Contact GOcivicclubevents@gmail.com



Garden Oaks Civic Club Minutes

Bill Shaughnessy, GOCC Secretary

Tuesday, February 3, 2026 @ Great Heights Brewing
Attendance: 20

The meeting was called to order at 7:25pm by President Mike Stephens.

A motion was made by Mike to accept the January meeting minutes as published in the February 2026 Gazette. The motion was seconded and approved.

With Paul Vincent stepping down as the Vice President to serve as a member of the GOMO board, a special election was held to vote for his replacement. A vote was held to elect the nominee, Dillon Baker, to the Vice President position. Dillon is a section 5 resident and was a member of the GOMO board for that section. The vote was held and he was unanimously elected.

Due to the vacancy of the social chairperson position, Mike requested volunteers to lead such events as the Wakefield Shuffle, 4th of July Bike Parade, Garage Sale, Azalea Street Festival, etc. Paige Lujan has agreed to chair the upcoming Wakefield Shuffle. Funds from the Wakefield Shuffle will help support the civic club and constable program.

Mike has promulgated that he will head up the new resident welcoming committee. The purpose of this group will be to welcome new neighbors and to educate them about all the things the civic club does, and about the current status and future plans for GOMO, and how it differs from the civic club.

There will be a special election on April 4 to fill the vacancy left behind due to Council Member Abbie Kamin's departure (District C).

Thomas Wheaton, Director of Communications for CM Mario Castillo's office, reiterated that there is a "Hot Team" which is responsible for addressing issues related to illegal dumping and uncollected heavy trash. Contact their office to report on such issues. He announced that there will be wellness clinics for pets set up at the Wabash Feed & Garden store on February 13th and 16th.

(Continued on page 14)



(Continued from page

Treasurer Brian Rabe stated there are slightly fewer households that have paid their civic club and/or constable program dues. This is likely because a mailer has not been sent out yet, and that the number will likely increase after a targeted approach takes place in the very near future. He also announced that the deposit has been made on the new neighborhood signage, and that production and installation will possibly be occurring in the next few weeks.

Beautification Chair Pam Parks gave an overview of her committee. stating that there are 6-8 green spaces that they manage as far as plantings, watering, mowing, etc. The City of Houston helps offset some watering duties and costs, but not all. Each park/green space has a captain, but each captain could also use a co-captain if anyone wishes to be a co-captain. There is an undeveloped green space on the northwest corner of Durham/IH610 that the civic club could develop. Pam is open to suggestions about what to do with that space. There is a map of the parks that Garden Oaks maintains on our website, www.gardenoaks.org.

Chris Lindsay, Garden Club president, heralded that the biennial Pollinator in the Park event will take place on April 19 from Noon-2:00PM at the Art Park (at the corner of 43rd and Sue Barnett). The event is very family friendly, and provides education and activities related to our friendly pollinators, such as bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. There will also be free plants and seed packets to be distributed. She also shared that anyone can be a member of the Garden Club, which meets monthly. Dues for the Garden Club are only $20/year.

Constable Chair Terry Jeanes encouraged attendees to spread the word about joining the constable program for $300/year. She proclaimed that a repeat-offender porch pirate has been apprehended by a neighborhood constable, with assistance from neighbors' inputs and footage from several security cameras.

The announcement from GOMO stated that the following officers have been selected to their leadership team: James Elmore will be the President, Stuart Arouty will be the Vice President, and Pam Parks will be the Treasurer. GOMO meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at the Trees for Houston building on 34th Street at 6:30PM.

The meeting was adjourned by Mike Stephens at 8:18 PM.

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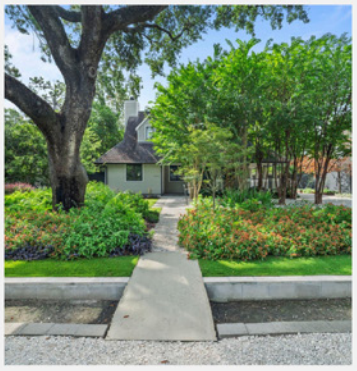
As a long time neighbor and area expert, we thank you for your support and look forward to continuing to serve our community.

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Client experience rating:
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Pollinators in the Park Event

Chavronne Slovak, Garden Club

Save the Date: Sunday April 19th, 12 – 2 PM, Art Park (W.43rd @ Sue Barnett)

The Garden Oaks Garden Club, and special guest Lauren Simpson, invite you to bring the family to our FREE Pollinators in the Park event! We'll have interesting displays, interactive educational activities, a scavenger hunt, and native plant and seed giveaways.

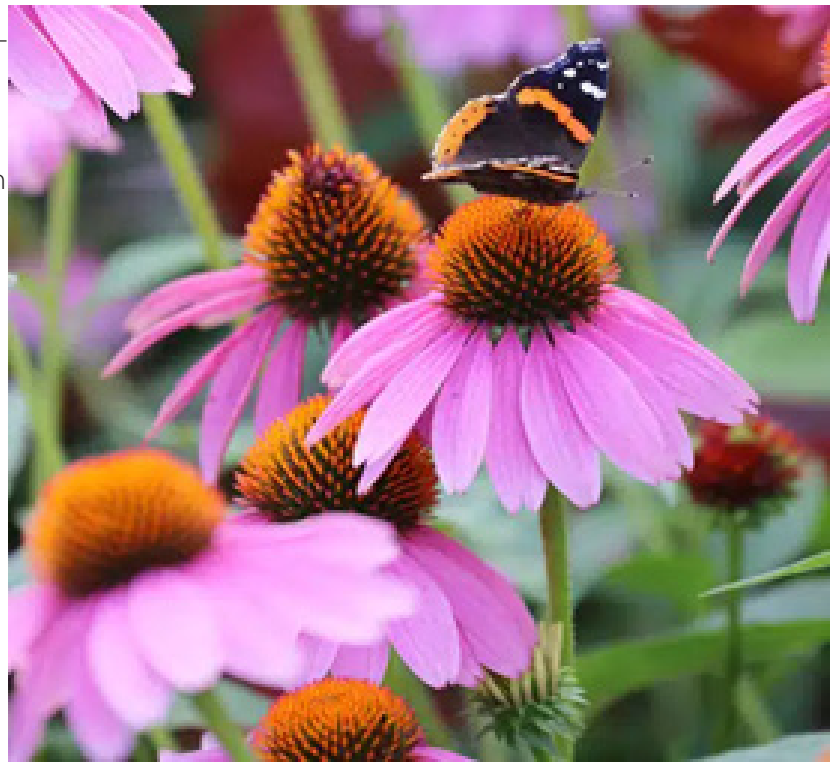
Why do pollinators matter? Bees, butterflies, hummingbirds, and other pollinating insects play a crucial role in the reproduction of many flowering plants, fruits, vegetables, and wildflowers. Without them, our food supply and ecosystems would be greatly compromised.

How to Attract Pollinators? One of the best ways to support pollinators is by creating a welcoming habitat in your garden. Here are some tips on how to do just that:

1. Choose Native Plants: Natives are adapted to our local climate and provide the most nutritious pollen and nectar for pollinators. Consider incorporating native wildflowers, grasses, and shrubs into your garden.
2. Plant a Variety of Flowers: Aim for a diverse array that blooms at different times. This ensures a continuous food source for pollinators from spring to fall.
3. Include Flowering Herbs: Herbs such as lavender, rosemary, and sage are not only aromatic but also attractive to bees and butterflies. Plant them in sunny spots throughout your garden.
4. Avoid Pesticides: Minimize or eliminate the use of pesticides and herbicides in your garden, as they can harm pollinators and disrupt their natural behaviors.
5. Provide Shelter and Water: Create sheltered areas with rocks, logs, and native grasses where pollinators can rest and take refuge. A shallow dish filled with water or a small fountain can also provide much-needed hydration.

By following these practices, you can help transform your garden and our community into a thriving sanctuary for pollinators while enjoying the beauty and abundance of nature.

NOTE: Please join us at our monthly Garden Club Meeting, 2nd Thursday of the month, 7:00 -9:00 pm at Kroger's Community Meeting Room,1352 W. 43rd St., 2nd Floor.




GO AND SPP COMMUNITY GARDEN
RAIN DATE
MARCH 14
COME & JOIN US FOR
SPRING
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SALE
SATURDAY MARCH 7TH
4401 ALBA ROAD
8:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Join the Garden Oaks and Shepherd Park Plaza Community Garden for their annual plant sale. All proceeds will benefit the garden's improvement projects.
ITEMS FOR SALE
VEGETABLES, HERBS, MILKWEED, DAYLILIES, ROSES, PAPERWHITES, JAPANESE MAGNOLIA, CORAL VINE, PLUMBAGO AND MORE!
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PSA:

Houston Municipal Code Sec. 6-24 (a) It is the duty of each person in control of a dog or cat to promptly remove and dispose of, in a sanitary manner, feces left by such dog or cat. (b) It shall be the duty of each person in control of a dog or cat to be in possession of materials to remove feces left by such dog or cat. (d) Violation of this section is unlawful and any violation shall be punishable upon conviction by a fine of not less that $75 or more than $500.



These discarded dog waste bags were seen in GO on recents walks through the neighborhood.
Rather than being disposed of in random yards and on yard waste piles they should have been taken home and put into the owner's black trash bin.



Please help us keep our neighborhood beautiful.

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Common Reasons Your A/C Could Quit

Auggie Reyes, owner of AirWise

While landscaping your yard, consider doing it in such a way that the plants actually contribute to the cooling of your home. According to the Department of Energy, keeping the condenser (that's the A/C system's outside unit) in the shade can increase its efficiency by as much as 10 percent. Just be sure that the shrubs placed near the condenser do not obstruct air flow or impede access for repairs. Leave approximately three feet of clearance all around the equipment and at least five feet above it.

In turn, the condenser can benefit your landscaping. One of the tasks your A/C performs is to de-humidify the air from within your home. It collects and pumps the humidity outside as condensation. While not a lot, water from the drain line can provide moisture to keep the surrounding plants healthy.

Pet damage can happen

When we consider our furry family members and the damage they can cause, we often think of gnawed furniture or stains on the carpet. The AC condenser is especially vulnerable to damage done by pet urine. Urine contains chemicals that are very good at eating away metals, especially aluminum. Unfortunately, condenser fins and coils are made of aluminum, and in time, fins become encrusted and coils begin to leak.

A leak in the condenser coil means that your A/C is no longer a properly closed system. The freon will leak out, and in a matter of hours, days or months, the system can be emptied completely. You then run the risk of burning out the condenser.

A clean condenser is a happy condenser

When your A/C runs, air is drawn into the condenser through its coil. Outdoor contaminants such as dust and plant matter (grass clippings, small leaves and mulch, etc.) can get caught in the coil. You can include pet hair and urine too. As debris accumulates, airflow is reduced which causes your system to run harder. It is not uncommon for a condenser coil to be clogged completely in just one season of operation. One thing 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.

This is why routine maintenance is so important. The higher temperatures generated by a filthy coil will cause premature failure of the capacitors, fan motor and eventually the compressor within the condenser. A thorough cleaning of the condenser coil can prevent this. Not only will keeping the coil clean improve the efficiency and capacity of your entire system, but it will also extend the life of your entire A/C system.

Here's what our customers are saying about us:

"I would recommend Air Wise to anyone."

Alia M., Pinemont Plaza



Auggie Reyes, new owner of Air Wise

★★★★★ "Air Wise A/C is professional and friendly, not to mention incredibly knowledgeable. They were able to explain what was wrong with our heating unit and how to fix the issue.

I would recommend Air Wise to anyone with heating or A/C issues."

NEW! **Finance options available. Call us for details.**

Air Wise™
AIR CONDITIONING & HEATING

713/231-2222

Service checks • Full installs
Emergency service day & night
www.airwisehouston.com

License #TACLA020081C • Regulated by the Texas Dept. of Licensing & Regulation

March

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1	2	3 GOCC Meeting 7 pm Yard Waste, & Garbage,	4	5	6	7 FarmStand 9am to 1pm 948 Wakefield
8 Daylight Savings Time starts	9 GOMO Meeting 6:30	10 Yard Waste, Garbage, & Recycling	11	12 Garden Club Meeting 7-9 pm	13	14 FarmStand 9am to 1pm 948 Wakefield
15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day Yard Waste, & Garbage,	18	19	20 Eid al-Fitr	21 FarmStand 9am to 1pm 948 Wakefield
22	23	24 Yard Waste, Garbage, & Recycling	25	26	27	28 FarmStand 9am to 1pm 948 Wakefield
29 Palm Sunday	30	31 Yard Waste, & Garbage,				

