



garden oaks *Gazette*

The newsletter of the Garden Oaks Civic Club

April 2026

Volume 48 Issue 04

GET YOUR WAKEFIELD SHUFFLE TICKETS!

Join us as we shuffle down Wakefield and enjoy complimentary beverages from participating vendors while catching up with your neighbors and winning some great raffle prizes!

Sunday, April 19th, 3 - 6 PM @ the 900 block of Wakefield Drive

Early Bird Tickets: \$30

Day of Event Tickets: \$40

GOCC Members: \$30 anytime!

You can purchase tickets ahead of time using the below QR code or head to our website www.gardenoaks.org. We will have tables outside of William Price and Great Heights for you to check in and receive your drink tickets, as well as purchase any additional tickets needed.

A special "Thank You" to our Wakefield Drive (and adjacent!) businesses:

Great Heights Brewing Company

d'Alba

Wakefield Crowbar

Lazy Lane

William Price Distilling

Walking Stick Brewing Company

The Station Smokey Oaks

ALSO! Check out a few of the raffle prizes you can win from our generous partners!

- High Tea for Two at Red Dessert Dive

- Resurrection Duet from Aesop Heights Mercantile

- Wine Basket from Union Kitchen

- Gift certificates to The Burger Joint, Body Rock Pilates, Valencia's Tex-Mex Garage & more!

GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!



SUNDAY APRIL 19TH 3-6PM

Upcoming Events

GOCC Meeting:

April 7, 7 pm

Great Heights Brewing

Speaker: State Senator Molly Cook

GOMO Meeting

April 13, 6:30 pm

Trees for Houston Mtg Room
1911 W. 34th

Garden Club Meeting

April 9, 7 pm

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://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

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

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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

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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.

Pollinators in the Park Event

Chris Lindsay, President Garden Oaks Garden Club

Sunday April 19, 2026

12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Art Park @ 43rd and Sue Barnett

Stop by the Art Park at 43rd and Sue Barnett between 12 and 2 PM on Sunday April 19th to explore the fascinating world of pollinators and learn about the role they play in the environment and the food we eat. The Sunday event is hosted by the Garden Oaks Garden Club and is kid friendly! Attendees can participate in a scavenger hunt, collect pollinator trading cards, and see close-up demonstrations of a few of these essential insects. We will be joined by special guest, Lauren Simpson.

Lauren teaches law at University of Houston by day, but her other passion is pollinators. Over the past 10 years she has transformed her yard into a certified wildlife and butterfly habitat that she named St. Julian's Crossing. This was the beginning of her mission to educate and conserve pollinators and the wildscapes that support them. On her web site <http://www.stjulianscrossing.com/>, Lauren shares some of her many discoveries found in her own Oak Forest yard.

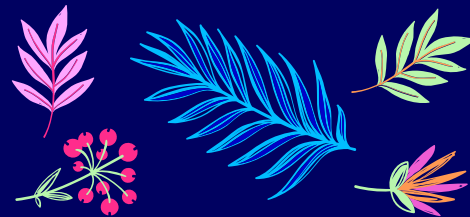
The event will feature a Pollinator Show and Tell, guided expeditions for young Naturalists, and other enlightening events, all in the spectacular wildflower setting of the Art Park. Pick up your own packet of native seeds and plants that will be distributed, clear a small space in your yard, and take advantage

of the useful tips on the St. Julians web site to create your own pollinator paradise.

We hope to see you there.

Note: The Art Park flower beds and wildflowers are maintained by Garden Club members Shawn and Bill Spear.

Free Event: Pollinators in the Park



• **Sunday, April 19 •**
12:00 – 2:00 pm

**Hosted by the Garden Oaks Garden Club
with Naturalist Lauren Simpson**

Where:

The Park @ 43rd Street & Sue Barnett

**Family friendly event features: Pollinator
show & tell, scavenger hunt, guided
nature walk, and free plants and seeds
(while supplies last)**

more info: gardenclub@gardenoaks.org



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**

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Email: _____ Phone: _____

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GOMO Update

James Elmore, GOMO President

I would like to give you a quick update on recent GOMO activities. The Board of Directors meeting was held at 6:30 PM on March 9 in the Trees for Houston meeting room as scheduled.

The 2024-2025 Annual Financial and 2025-2026 Interim Q1 Financial Reports were accepted as presented. A revised 2025-2026 Base Operating Budget was also approved. The Third-Party Vendor/Consultant committee has made progress on identifying new potential Legal Counsel to better guide us through the process of amending our Bylaws in preparation for reactivation of GOMO as a Homeowners Association. The Bylaws Committee has begun a revise and comment process with the Board members to be ready to get right to work with new Counsel once they are vetted, approved and engaged.

In the interest of inclusiveness, the Board has also approved creation of advisory non-voting positions for the Civic Club and Section 4. We have asked Mike Stephens, Civic Club President, and Betsy Stein, long time Section 4 resident and consistent Board Meeting attendee, to fill these roles. We

look forward to having these additional voices from the community.

Information about the effort to reform Super Neighborhood 12 was shared with the Board. Informal conversation was shared about possible advantages to adding our voice to this group.

As a final note, the Civic Club has graciously offered to let GOMO set up a table at the upcoming Wakefield Shuffle event. I look forward to participating in this fun event and hope to see many of there. Please come by and let me introduce myself. I always like to meet another neighbor.

Our next meeting will be on April 13 at 6:30 PM, in the Trees for Houston Meeting Room located at 1911 W 34th St, Houston, TX 77018

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Graham Park Tennis Court Update

Tony Padon, Section 3 resident

As the unofficial Keeper of the Graham Park Tennis Court for 30 years, I recently noticed the tennis court net had deteriorated and unraveled. I contacted my friends in the Houston Parks and Recreation Department (HPARD): Zina Garrison, Tennis Director and Tom Angelos, Assistant HPARD director. At my request, they were responsible for resurfacing the tennis court a year ago and also rebuilding the backboard. They are both state-of-the-art now. When I told them we needed a new net at Graham Park and that I would be happy to install it, they quickly delivered one to the Memorial Park Tennis Center. I picked it up there and connected with my tennis friends from Graham and we met to install it and hit some balls. Many thanks to Charlie Smith and Bruce Wiggins for their help.

After blowing the new oak tree pollen off the court (a regular maintenance routine I do), the court was ready for play with a brand-new net! Go try it out. It's a great court! And if you want to play pickleball on the court, there are pickleball court lines that use the ten-

nis net. The net is a little high for pickleball but not to worry! You can get my new Pickle-in-a-Pinch Tennis to Pickleball net converter kit on Amazon! It includes materials to lower the net in the middle from 36" to 34" (correct Pickleball net height) and lower it on the side lines from 38" to 36" (correct Pickleball net height at the edge court lines).



Pickle in a Pinch - Quickly and Easily Adjust Tennis Court Net Height to Pickleball Court Net Height. Portable DIY...

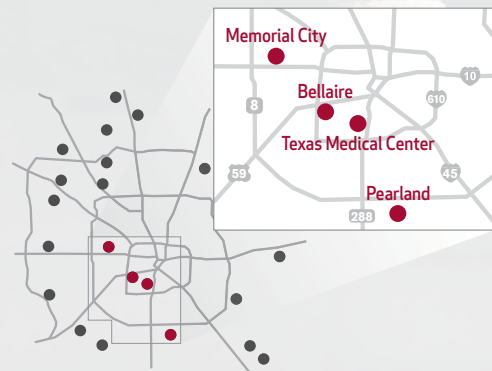


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Heard Under the Oak Tree

Terry Jeanes

Welcome, New Neighbors!

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

954 West 41st
307 West 31st
903 West 43rd
958 Gardenia

Happy Birthday

Tony D'Amico 1st	Leyton C 21st
Kiran B 2nd	Leslie Ryan 21st
Kylie S 7th	Nicholas M 26th
Reid S 9th	Jim Tucker 28th
Melissa Neiser 10th	Wade M 30th
Mansi Patel 12th	
Daniel Sanborn 12th	
Anna M 15th	

Happy Anniversary

ina Sabuco and Shellye Arnold 6th
Knox Wright and Elisa Cuellar 9th
Alyn and Karie Goad 10th

Congratulations to:

Gretchen Seghers, who was inducted into the National Honor Society.



Out and About

Trent & Megan Salch enjoyed celebrating Mardi Gras with Galveston's Knights of Momus Krewe. It was a trip to Florida for **Tina Rowe & Jim Dicola**.

Lucinda Kurtas & friends had a great time at HLSR Cook Off. **Rusty & Linda Reichle** enjoyed some Rice Baseball with St Pius friends. It was a Fat Tuesday celebration at Eugene's for **Kat Stinson and friends**. **The Sherber ladies** enjoyed opening night at HLSR & Riley Green. Then, to New Orleans for the **Sherber family**, a volleyball tournament and full introduction to New Orleans cuisine. Next the **Sherbers** did a Spring Break road trip to Pargosa Springs for skiing. Spring break held a Mom and Daughter trip for **M'lissa & Reagan Dilley** along with **Cat & Mae Theriot** who visited London. **Alyn & Karie Goad** participated in the St Rose Middle School Chili Cook-Off. **Heather McKeown** enjoyed some time in Seville Spain with her daughter.

Special thoughts for:

The Doug & Julie Mischlich family and Dana Mischlich in the loss of Doug's and Dana's mother. And to former resident **Robin Gorman**, in the loss of her husband **Gale Gorman**. And to **Gary Konecny** on the loss of his dog, Randi.

Continued healing and well wishes for **Mark Patterson** following knee replacement.

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

Garden Oaks Civic Club Minutes

Bill Shaughnessy, GOCC Secretary

Tuesday, March 3, 2026 @ Great Heights Brewing

Attendance: 29

The meeting was called to order at 7:14pm by President Mike Stephens.

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

Mike spilled the tea with regards to the date of this Spring's Wakefield Shuffle. This annual event has proven to be a great way to raise money for the civic club, constable program, and beautification projects, to name a few. The Shuffle will take place on April 19th. More information concerning ticket prices, participating venues, and the time will be announced shortly.

Benjamin Rizk made a brief announcement promoting Dr.

Audrey Nath's candidacy for the City Council District C position that is being vacated by Abbie Kamin.

This month, the guest speaker was Oak Forest resident Alicia Nuzzie, the head of Houston's Super Neighborhood #12. She stated that this Super Neighborhood is one of several in the city whose purpose is to promote and encourage revitalization efforts. Some examples of recent efforts include detouring the high-speed rail project away from utilizing the tracks that run through Garden Oaks and Oak Forest, the railroad quiet zones in effect along the tracks in Oak Forest, traffic questions surrounding the new HEB on Pinemont/Ella, and the ongoing issues with development of the former driving range on Acorn Street. Super Neighborhood 12 meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30PM at the Candlelight Community Center.

Treasurer Brian Rabe stated that we are behind on receiving dues this month, compared to the same time last year. This is being attributed to the fact that there were no mass

(Continued on page 11)



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(Continued from page 10)

mailings this year. Therefore, a targeted effort will now take place to encourage those who were members last year to submit their dues for 2026. It was pointed out that those wishing to pay their membership dues can do so by following the links at gardenoaks.org, or by mailing them using the form in the Gazette or on the website.

Beautification Chair Pam Parks discussed the issues with the city regarding heavy trash (tree/yard) waste at city drop-off locations. After clearing a pile of trees and shrub waste from the berm at Durham/IH610, they were turned away from several drop-off locations. The city needs to improve their ability to receive this type of waste from constituents. Unfortunately, no city council representatives were present at this month's meeting, likely because it was election night.

GOMO President James Elmore had a few updates. First, the attorney will be replaced with a new one over the next 30 days. Secondly, the GOMO by-laws are currently being revised. And thirdly, there has been good attendance lately by the directors. This is important since without adequate director attendance, voting cannot take place.

With regards to the new neighborhood signs, James Elmore stated that the fabrication is nearly complete, and that installation will soon follow.

Garden Club President Chris Lindsay shared that the biennial Pollinator in the Park event will take place on April 19th from noon-2:00PM at the Art Park on the corner of Shepherd and Sue Barnett. Included at this outing will be a scavenger hunt, native plant and seed packets to giveaway, and many other things for all ages. The Garden Club meets each month on the 2nd Thursday, at 7:00PM, at the Kroger Community room on the 2nd floor near the cash registers.

Mike Stephens announced that the next civic club meeting will be held on April 7th, with State Senator Molly Cook scheduled as the guest speaker.

The meeting ended at 7:57PM.

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This is the first in a series of articles to highlight the various parks and green spaces we have in Garden Oaks, featuring the park captains who volunteer their time.

Triangle Park Tidbits

Tina Nieto, Park Captain

I was asked to provide some background information regarding the Triangle Park located at the intersection of Alba Rd. and Azalea Street. I have been involved in maintaining the park since 1998 when the Garden Oaks Beautification Committee adopted the green space, thus relieving the City of Houston Parks Dept. from any maintenance.

There is one word that describes Triangle Park: **Community**. I say this for the following reasons:

* Oak tree: There was initially a huge, beautiful oak tree in the center of the park which was hit by lightning twice. Neighbor Jim planted another oak tree and it's thriving.

* Corner trees: Neighbors planted 2 pine trees and 1 oak tree on the north corner plus 1 pine tree and 2 oak trees on the east corner.

* Flowerbeds: Several volunteers installed flowerbeds on each side of the park along with an irrigation system. The size of the flowerbeds increased thanks to neighbors who donated plants and edgers.

* Boulders: There was a problem of someone driving a vehicle across the park late at night. Neighbors Tina and Shellye's solution was to install boulders.

* Swing: We have a really nice swing in the Triangle Park in memory of a neighbor's mom. Last year someone damaged the seating section of the swing. Neighbor Bill fixed the swing and did a fantastic job

* Red chair: Neighbors installed a red metal chair with painted flowers in memory of our neighbor Charlie. He used to walk his dog around the block and his cat Blue

(Continued on page 13)

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NEW CLIENTS RECEIVE \$20 OFF FIRST VISIT

(Continued from page 12)

would tag along. Charlie took ill and he easily tired during his walks. That's when the neighbors on Azalea Street placed chairs in their front yard, so when Charlie needed a break, he had a place to sit.

* Water bowl: There's a water bowl on the north corner among the trees. It initially was placed there for Bob – the stray dog that hung around Sue Barnett and Alba Road. Bob is no longer with us but other neighborhood dogs have access to water during our hot summers, thanks to Bob.

* Small rocks: Azalea neighbors came up with the idea of painting small rocks in memory of our pets, and we placed them around the oak tree. The coloring on the rocks has diminished but our memories haven't.

I hope you enjoyed this mini tour of Triangle Park, and I ask that you get involved in our community whether it's giving of your time or making a monetary contribution to the Beautification Committee or just getting to know your neighbors!



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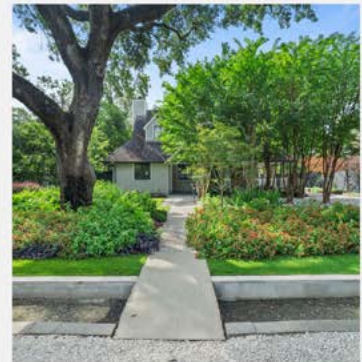
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Avoiding a Long, Hot Summer: Common Reasons Your A/C Could Quit

Auggie Reyes, owner of Airwise

Summer in Houston will be soon approaching, and it is the time of year that your A/C system works the hardest and has the greatest chance for failure.

Here are the most common A/C problems that service technicians see again and again. Let's discuss what they are and how to avoid a long, hot summer.

1. Lack of proper routine maintenance. Keeping your A/C system well-maintained is absolutely critical if you want to avoid a breakdown. The first step involves having your A/C technician perform a spring check-up. During the check-up, the entire system will be inspected in order to spot and fix potential problems. A well-maintained A/C unit uses less energy to cool your house, and lower energy usage can mean big savings on your monthly utility bill.
2. Not replacing your filter when it's dirty. When it comes to routine maintenance that you as a homeowner can perform, changing the air filter is numero uno. Make sure you replace the filter once a month. I cannot emphasize this enough.
3. Leaks which allow freon to escape. Freon (also known as refrigerant) is the lifeblood of your A/C system. Operating properly, it does not lose freon. The only time that you will need to have freon added is if there's a leak or your system was undercharged to begin

with. Did you know if your system is short just one pound of freon (that's about 10% overall), your electrical bill can increase nearly \$50 per month?

4. The A/C system gets overworked. With some summer days approaching 100 degrees with 90-plus percent humidity, there's no doubt your system will have to work extremely hard. It can lead to problems like tripped circuit breakers, blown capacitors and more. Help ease your system's workload by raising the temperature in your home to 80 degrees while at work, keep curtains closed to avoid sunlight heating up the indoor air and have realistic expectations regarding your home's indoor temperature. Don't expect your home to be 65 degrees inside while it's 95 degrees outside.

5. The system is old and past its prime. Most home A/C systems in Houston last about 10 years because summer puts tremendous stress on them. If your system is old and not up to the challenge, consider installing a brand-new system. Not only will this prevent breakdowns during the hottest months, but it can also make your home more comfortable and very likely lower your monthly electric bill.

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April

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			1 April Fool's Day Passover Starts	2	3 Good Friday	4 FarmStand 9am to 1pm 948 Wakefield
5  Easter	6	7 GOCC Meeting 7 pm Yard Waste, Garbage, & Recycling	8	9 Garden Club Meeting 7-9 pm	10	11 FarmStand 9am to 1pm 948 Wakefield
12 Orthodox Easter	13 GOMO Meeting 6:30	14 Yard Waste, & Garbage,	15	16	17	18 FarmStand 9am to 1pm 948 Wakefield
19 Pollinators in the Park Wakefield Shuffle	20	21 Yard Waste, Garbage, & Recycling	22 Earth Day	23	24	25 FarmStand 9am to 1pm 948 Wakefield
26	27	28 Yard Waste, & Garbage,	29	30		

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RE-OPEN A CULTURAL ARTS & CINEMA CENTER!



TOTAL PROJECT COST \$13.1MM - PURCHASE OF 2.3 ACRES PROPERTY - \$7.1MM + RESTORATION & RENOVATION - \$6MM

MULTI PHASE FUNDRAISING PROCESS:

PHASE III: NOW – Secure bridge loan for capital campaign with MAJOR GIFT PLEDGES

PHASE IV: NOW & BY April 21st – FINAL 30 day option TO EXTEND TO CLOSE ON 5/26/26

PHASE V: CLOSE ON LOAN & PROPERTY 5/26/26

PHASE VI: CAPITAL CAMPAIGN GRANT APPLICATIONS, COMMUNITY FUNDRAISING EVENTS, LEASES & HISTORIC DESIGNATIONS

**SECURE THE FUTURE OF GARDEN OAKS AS A COMMUNITY CULTURAL ARTS & CINEMA CENTER FOR HOUSTON –
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