



garden oaks Gazette

The newsletter of the Garden Oaks Civic Club

July 2026

Volume 48 Issue 07

President's Message

Mike Stephens, GOCC President

Hello neighbors!

I hope you have noticed the new Garden Oaks signage that has been installed throughout our neighborhood over the last few months. The response has been incredibly positive! The 10 locations already had existing neighborhood entry signs that were decades old (although some had previously lost battles with automobiles). If you would like to see more details about the locations, you can find them on our website, gardenoaks.org. Click on "Parks + ROW", then "Map & Overview", then "Signage".

The project was a multi-year effort that involved many volunteers, so I wanted to give you a little more background on all the steps it took to get the project to completion.

It all started back in the Fall of 2023, when a "Rebranding" subcommittee was formed by the Garden Oaks Civic Club to create new, updated logos for Garden Oaks. We worked with an outside consulting firm, CORE Design Studios, to assist with the process. Those of you who attended GOCC monthly meetings back then may remember a presentation by CORE, to help facilitate discussions and agreement amongst GOCC members to settle on our new logo. In addition to the signage, the logo was incorporated into the Gazette, website, etc.

Then came the most challenging part... financing. The GOCC budget that was approved for 2024 included some funding for the signage, but we were pretty sure we wouldn't be able to afford all 10 signs at once. So, it would take many years of GOCC fundraising to reach completion. Representatives from the two Houston City Council districts that represent Garden Oaks (Districts C & H), typically attend our monthly GOCC meetings, and when they heard about our financial challenges, they suggested applying for grant funding from the Matching Grants Program from the City of Houston Dept. of Neighborhoods.



Upcoming Events

4th of July Parade

July 4th 9:00 am

Spark Park

GOCC Meeting:

July, 7 pm

Great Heights Brewing

Speaker: Mary Beck, Exec. Director, Houston Humane Society

Garden Club Meeting

July 9, 7:00 pm

Kroger on 43rd-2nd floor

GOMO Meeting

July 13, 6:30 pm

Trees for Houston Mtg Room
1911 W. 34th



Pay Civic Club and/or
Constable Dues Here

(Continued on page 3)

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

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NationwideDist.com

Deanna Zugheri, Keller Williams Metropolitan
Gardenoakshomes.com

Great Heights Brewing Company
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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
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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.

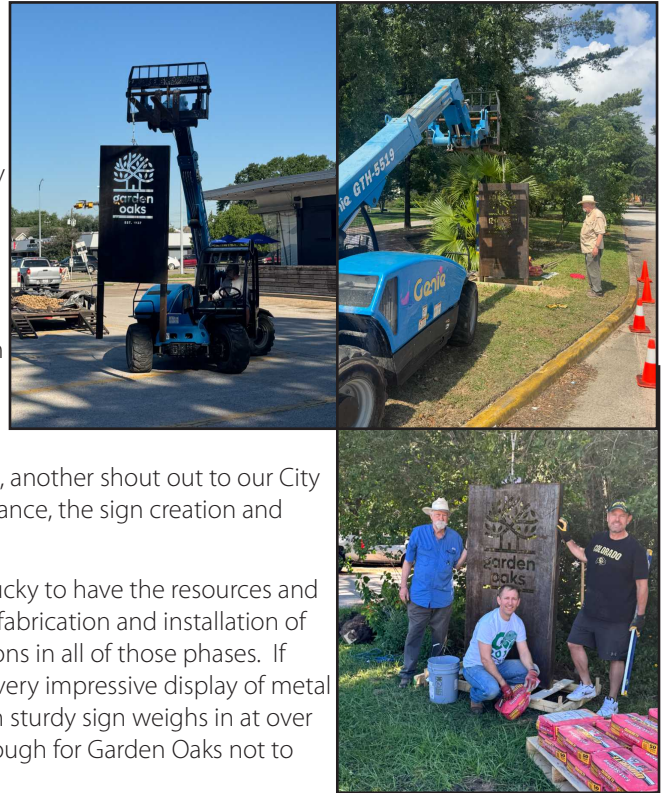
Publication of any article or letter does not imply endorsement by the Garden Oaks Civic Club and is solely the opinion of the author.

(Continued from page 1)

The good news is that the program provided the funding necessary to complete the signage project in one phase. The bad news is that the number of manhours required to wade through the application process, followed by the permitting and approval process from the COH, was extensive. Couple that with additional reviews and approvals required from organizations like Centerpoint and AT&T, and you can imagine how slowly everything moved. In fact, it took one year from the time we submitted the application to finally receiving approval. Oh, and just to add to the excitement, if we didn't receive matching grant approval within that one year, we'd have to start the process all over again.

This is the time that I give special recognition to our GOCC Treasurer, Brian Rabe, and our incredibly dedicated community volunteer, James Elmore. The two of them were the primary volunteers who were instrumental in making all of this happen. It's also not the last time that I will mention both of their efforts in the entire process to get these signs installed. Also, another shout out to our City Council district offices. As I mentioned, without their grant funding assistance, the sign creation and installation process would have gone much longer.

Now the fun part: signage creation and installation. We were incredibly lucky to have the resources and expertise from James Elmore, and his company, to assist with the design, fabrication and installation of the signs. He saved us a significant amount of money with his contributions in all of those phases. If you have a chance to take a close look at a sign, please do so. They are a very impressive display of metal work, with a creative background designed to really catch your eye! Each sturdy sign weighs in at over 250 pounds, which will hopefully give them the longevity to last long enough for Garden Oaks not to have to go through this process for many years to come.



(Continued on page 5)

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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: _____

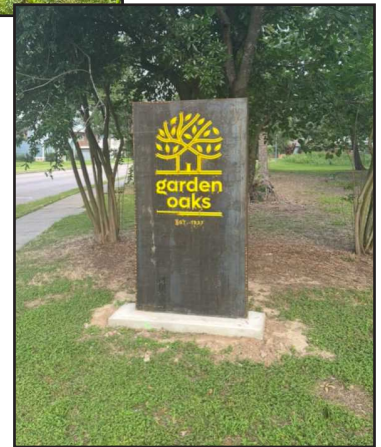
opt-in for monthly emails re: neighborhood news and meeting notices

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Finally, the installation came. Once again, for an organization like ours, with very limited funding, we completely relied on volunteers, and some equipment from James' company, to get the old signs out and new signs into the ground. Many thanks to the team that joined me on weekend days for three weeks to get this done. I estimate that the total process took nearly 40 hours, over 6 days, and James Elmore and Brian "I took a concrete class in college" Rabe were present for every one of those hours. Additionally, your neighbors Tony Padon and Bill Shaughnessy contributed many hours to the backbreaking work.

Again, I am very proud of the finished product, and I hope you enjoy it too. I often get asked, "what do the annual Civic Club dues actually pay for". Well, in addition to maintaining our beautiful parks and open spaces, these signs are a great example. If you don't already pay the annual membership dues, we'd really appreciate it if you would consider it. Only 15% of our residents make the annual contribution, and we run at an annual deficit. And don't confuse civic club dues with your Constable supporter contributions. While the Constable program is in major financial need also, it's totally separate from the Garden Oaks Civic Club, and the contributions are often confused.

I hope you all have a great summer, and I hope to see you at our monthly meetings! You don't have to be a member to attend. Don't hesitate to email me with comments or concerns: president@gardenoaks.org



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Friendship Garden

Chris Lindsay, Garden Club President

The pocket park on Lawrence and 30th Streets in Section 1 was named the Friendship Garden in 1989 when the Garden Oaks Garden Club received permission from the City of Houston to name and maintain the garden. In the same year, the Garden Oaks Beautification Committee installed an irrigation system in the pocket park and assumed responsibility for mowing and maintenance of the space at reduced cost to the City. In exchange, the City does not charge the civic club or the garden club for the water usage. These actions removed impediments for the Garden Club to plant and maintain shrubs and flowers.

The crown jewel of the garden is our 80+ year old oak tree which has survived being hit by a car several years ago. The numerous azalea shrubs were original plantings in the garden from club members and are still providing beautiful jewel colors blooming in the spring.

Over time we have been transitioning to more native plantings. We have created three additional flower beds and are growing native plants like lantanas, Esperanza, coneflowers, coreopsis, blanket flower, sunflowers, and frog fruit plus

a few more. This year we are going to update the Master Plan to see how we can improve upon what we have and make it more harmonious. If you have any ideas as to what you would like to see in the garden, please drop me a note: gardenclub@gardenoaks.org. Or please come to our next GOGC meeting on Thursday, July 9th at 7:00 p.m., 2nd floor meeting room at Kroger's



(Continued on page 7)

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Our garden club dues are used to purchase new plants and hardwood mulch along with tree maintenance. Fortunately, we have a good working relationship with the Beautification Committee and appreciate that they take care of the mowing contract for the garden as well as maintaining the irrigation system. We are working together to identify tree trimming needs for either this winter or early spring 2027, not only in Friendship Garden but also in the other pocket parks. By hiring a single contractor and pooling our dollars, we think we can achieve some savings. We also receive contributions from you, our neighbors, through donations you make on your annual civic club membership renewal form. Every gift is appreciated!

Club members have at least two garden workdays per year, usually in the Spring and Fall and sometimes we work in one more workday in the early summer to try and keep the weeds pulled. Please stop by and say hello next time you see us there. We love to talk about gardening!



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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.

709 ½ West 34th	717 Sue Barnett
1011 West 41st	717 Garden Oaks Blvd.
236 West 31st	403 West 32nd
1046 Althea	930 West 43rd
982 West 42nd	910 West 41st
1415 Sue Barnett	1046 Gardenia
516 West 30th	878 West 41st
1062 Lamonte	

Happy Birthday

Caroline McLean 1st	Alison Tucker 10th
Claire B 2nd	Kaplan Martinez 12th
Matthew Knauth 2nd	Jenny Espeseth 17th
Alexander Zugheri 2nd	Mary Sharon Komarek 18th
Jane E 3rd	Deanna Zugheri 23rd
Mike Heath 5th	Akira B 27th
	Jason Cunningham 27th

Happy Anniversary

Jenny and Jason Espeseth 7th

Congratulations to:

Congrats to **Gretchen Seghers**, Heights High School junior, on her \$1000 scholarship from UTSA's Klesse School of Engineering. Gretchen's team beat out twelve other teams by developing a biomedical innovation to fill a gap in women's health. **Grady Salch** and his team are ODC Pony League Champions. **Evie McKeown** is one of the 2% who are joining the Longhorn Nursing program in the fall. **Lela Cunningham** graduated summa cum laude with a BFA in Theatre at Texas State.

Alex Feit was selected for the Sacred Heart True Child Award at Duchesne Academy as a graduating senior. **Matthew Knauth** will be attending UT-Austin where he plans to major in Public Affairs on the pre-law track. **Addie Perry** will head to UT. **Julian Seghers** checked off SMU graduation and now starts in the fall at the SMU Dedman School of Law. **Mae Theriot** graduated from Houston Heights High and heads to LSU in the fall.

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

Julie Sherber hosted "The Summer We Became A Senior" party for daughter **Reagan** and her friends. **Robert Carlin** was a member of the FIFA World Cup grounds crew.

Caroline Stender had time with friends and family in the Pacific Northwest. **Caroline McLean & son** spent a week with family in Edinburgh and then headed to London.

Trent & Megan Salch enjoyed Houston Rodeo's Wine Garden Volunteer Appreciation Party. Trent has dedicated 16 years of volunteer time. **Craig Dilley & boys** had a great week in Detroit where the twins participated in a college mega camp. **John & Margie Hesse** enjoyed Italy – Orvieto, Assisi, Spello, and even had time for a cooking class.

Cindy & John Bartos visited Maine and enjoyed lighthouses, birding, and spectacular sunsets. The Annual Birthday Celebration Brunch continued for **Sheila Briones, Brenda de Alba**, and honorees **Tina Rowe**, and **Rebecca Stark** (former GO resident).

Special Thoughts for the family of Mary Lynn Porter, Garden Oaks resident who passed away in May. To **Deb Seghers and her family** in the recent passing of Deb's father. And to **Tina Sabuco & Shelley Arnold** who recently lost their boy Cooper.

Garden Oaks Civic Club Minutes

Bill Shaughnessy, GOCC Secretary

Tuesday, June 2, 2026 @ Great Heights Brewing
Attendance: 28

The meeting was called to order at 7:20PM by President Mike Stephens.

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

Mike then made several announcements, beginning with stating that the 4th of July is approaching and the annual bike parade needs a coordinator. If anyone would like to step up to head this event, contact Mike and he can direct you to the appropriate person for assistance. Also, he acknowledged Paige Lujon for her work leading the charge of the very successful Wakefield Shuffle. He later recognized James Elmore and Brian Rabe for all the work they did to get the new neighborhood signs installed. This was a very big task, and included utility permitting, planning, design and fabrication, and much persistence in obtaining the grants from the city.

This month's guest speaker, State Senator Molly Cook, was introduced by Mike. Ms. Cook represents over 950,000 constituents in her district. Her chief of staff was also in attendance. Ms. Cook stated that she was sworn in on May 16, 2024, and discussed such issues as immigration arrests and detainments, and working on healthcare issues, such as banning e-cigarettes for minors. This is a bi-partisan issue that all can agree on. She also had some breaking news to announce, which was that the Secretary of State, Jane Nelson, had just resigned. The next legislative session starts January 12, 2027.

Thomas Wheaton, Director of Communications for CM Mario Castillo's office (District H), discussed the fact that the new city budget is being created, and the vote will be coming up on June 10. Included in the budget is a proposed \$5 fee for trash bins. This fee could increase to \$25 over the next several years. On a related note, residents who are experiencing solid waste collection issues should report them by calling 311. After a report has been made,

(Continued on page 11)

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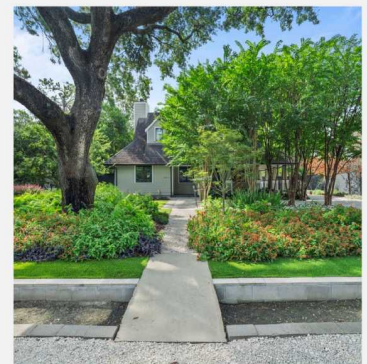
As a long time neighbor and area expert, we thank you for your support and look forward to continuing to serve our community.

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(Continued from page 10)

then make a follow-up call to the customer service hot line, which is 832-394-1453.

Treasurer Brian Rabe reported that the membership numbers are still tracking closer to 2024 levels for the same month, so they're not quite up to the 2025 level yet. Mike Stephens also added that not only does Brian have an extensive background in accounting/finance, but he also took a course in concrete while in college (which apparently was helpful during the new signage installation).

Beautification chair Pam Parks stated that contributions are up for her committee. She is currently thinking about how to use the increase in funding for the betterment of the community's parks and green spaces.

Terry Jeanes announced that Deputy Tommie Kelley has been reassigned to another area. The new deputy to our area is Sydnie Pennie, and he will now be the one patrolling around Garden Oaks.

James Elmore, GOMO president, stated that GOMO meets on the second Monday of each month at 6:30PM at the Trees for Houston building on 34th Street.

It was announced that the next Garden Club meeting will be in the meeting room at the Kroger store next Thursday at 7:00PM.

Mike Stephens trumpeted that the speaker for the July civic club meeting is scheduled to be Mary Beck, the executive director for the Houston Humane Society.

The meeting was adjourned by Mike at 8:08PM.

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Constable Program

Terry Jeanes, Program Chair

Seeking Volunteers to Add to Our Great Signage Team. Email constable@gardenoaks.org. Job description: Deliver/Install Constable Supporter signs and put 2026 stickers on signs in area supporter yards. Great opportunity for your preferred time.

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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4th of July Parade

GO Kids is pleased to sponsor the 4th of the July Parade this year!

The route will be the same as in years past. More details can be found on social media, but we hope you will join us to celebrate!

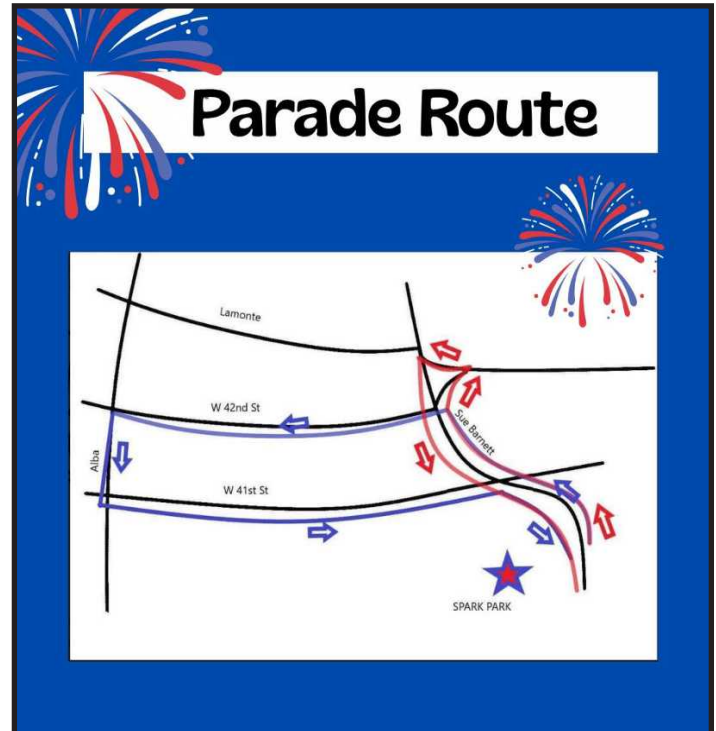
Where:

Rick Englert Spark Park off 41st and Sue Barnett

When:

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Constable Statistics MAY 2026

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 - 1
 Alarm Local/Holdup - 2
 Burglary of Habitation - 1
 Burglary of Motor Vehicle - 1
 Check Park, School, Business, Church, Parking Lot – 4
 Civil Process - 4
 Contract Check – 50
 Criminal Mischief - 1
 Disturbance Loud Noise – 1
 Domestic Prevent - 2
 Follow Up – 3
 Illegal Dumping - 1
 Information Call -3
 Illegally Parked Vehicle – 1
 K9 Deployment - 1
 Meet the Citizen – 5
 Suspicious Person/Vehicle – 4
 Theft Other - 2
 Traffic Hazard - 1

Traffic Stop - 2
 Vacation Watch – 8
 Vehicle Abandoned – 1
 Vehicle Speeding – 1
 Welfare Check – 1



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AC Tips for Beating the Summer Days of Heat and Humidity

Auggie Reyes, owner of AirWise

While we endure the days filled with high temperatures and humidity, your A/C system is being put to its most rigorous test when it's needed the most. This is also the time when problems can occur which have the potential to turn into major expenses next year. Correcting them now can be much more cost-effective than waiting until something major breaks down. Here's what to look for:

Restricted air flow

Free air flow is absolutely essential for your A/C system. In Houston, air conditioners run all summer long and can develop fan motor issues and clogged filters. These inhibit air flow and decrease your system's overall efficiency.

Misaligned fans tend to strike against their casings, causing quite a racket. Whether this is the result of accumulated debris or improper installation, a misaligned fan will only worsen while the system runs. Be alert to any rattling sounds because they might indicate misalignment.

When clogged air filters are the problem, your A/C system has to work harder to compensate for the blockage, putting tremendous strain on it during the hottest part of the

year. Replace these filters every month because once they become clogged, it can affect your home's indoor air quality plus shorten the life of your system.

Low Freon

Not only can freon leaks increase your energy usage, but they can also prevent your A/C from doing its job properly. You can have a freon check done any time of the year, especially in late summer. Signs that system may have a leak include a much lower cooling output and frost accumulation on the A/C's evaporator coils.

Additionally, when your system is low on freon, it seems to run nonstop and take forever to cool your house down. That's because there isn't enough freon available to absorb the heat effectively, and the air blowing out of your home's vents is warmer than normal. Call your A/C service technician to perform a diagnostic check to locate any leaks and restore the system's freon to its proper level.

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Brandon K., Stablewood Farms



Auggie Reyes, owner of Air Wise

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July

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4  4th of July Parade 9:00
5	6	7 GOCC Meeting 7 pm Yard Waste, & Garbage,	8	9 Garden Club 7:00 pm Kroger 43rd	10	11 FarmStand 9am to 1pm 948 Wakefield
12	13 GOMO Meeting 6:30	14 Yard Waste, Garbage, & Recycling	15	16	17	18 FarmStand 9am to 1pm 948 Wakefield
19	20	21 Yard Waste, & Garbage,	22	23	24	25 FarmStand 9am to 1pm 948 Wakefield
26	27	28 Yard Waste, Garbage, & Recycling	29	30	31	

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