



garden oaks *Gazette*

The newsletter of the Garden Oaks Civic Club

Oct 2026

Volume 48 Issue 10

President's Message

Mike Stephens, GOCC President

Hello Neighbors! I have some important Garden Oaks Civic Club updates for you. If you attended the September GOCC meeting, you have already heard about these items, but I wanted to get the word out to the broader neighborhood.

Most importantly, we need your help with the process of nominating the GOCC Board for 2027! After 3 years in the role, I will not be returning as GOCC President in 2027. The other three GOCC Board Members have graciously volunteered to return to their roles for 2027. Those members are Dillon Baker (Vice President), Brian Rabe (Treasurer), and Bill Shaughnessy (Secretary). Therefore, we need five volunteers for a Nominating Committee to nominate a slate of candidates. These candidates will be presented formally at the November 3rd GOCC meeting for election at the December GOCC meeting. Nominations from the floor will also be accepted. We need volunteers for the Board and for the Nominating Committee! If you are interested, or have suggestions for possible candidates, please email any of the GOCC Officers or Chairpersons listed on page 2 of this Gazette.

New Resident Welcome Committee (NRWC): I'm sure you're tired of my frequent requests for volunteers, so a big THANK YOU to those of you who volunteered for the NRWC! At least 10 people have reached out to volunteer. I will be working with those folks to get things kicked off in the coming months and take the momentum into 2027. If you are interested, but haven't yet contacted me to volunteer, we can always use more people. Just send me an email.

Azalea Street Festival (ASF): We were not successful in getting enough volunteers to form a planning committee, so I made an executive decision to not have the Azalea Street Festival this year. The thought process behind this is as follows:

*Last year we sold a total of 80 tickets to ASF. Assuming that most of those tickets were couples from one household, that means 40, out of 1400 total Garden Oaks households participated in the event last year. Granted, there were also Garden Oaks residents who were table hosts and volunteers, but overall, pretty dismal participation by G.O. residents at the event.

* Common feedback from wine table participants (especially company sponsored) was that they didn't like the format of the event.

*60% of the income from the ASF comes from corporate sponsors, which can still be predominantly collected by a GOCC team. In order to still capitalize on the corporate sponsorship dollars that are available out there, I plan to form a financial support committee, with the focus of getting the historical ASF sponsors, plus hopefully others, as financial supporters of GOCC, in general.

Upcoming Events

Spirit Night: Fajita Petes

Oct 5th 11 am to 8:30 pm

Neighbors Night Out

Oct 6th

Garden Club Meeting

Oct 8, 7 pm

Kroger on 43rd – 2nd floor

GOMO Meeting

Oct 12th, 7 pm

St. Mathew's UMC

4300 N. Shepherd



**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

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>

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

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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.

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.

(Continued from page 1)

Constable Program: We have already signed the Constable contract for Oct 2026 - Sept 2027. The Constable Program net income still falls far short of the expense, regardless of the loss of income from ASF ticket sales. The GOCC Board will be working on 2027 budget restructuring that will include the proposal to eliminate the dual-accounting for GOCC and Constable that we have been maintaining for many years. The GOCC is committed to funding neighborhood security in some format, but we have operated at a budget deficit for many years, and that is not sustainable.

Do you want to have a voice in all of this? Please attend our monthly meetings on the first Tuesday of every month or, better yet, volunteer to be a part of the team!

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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

Garden Oaks Montessori Receives an A Rating from TEA

Dr. Rashada Abraham Brown, Principal

Garden Oaks Montessori has earned an A rating from the Texas Education Agency (TEA)—an exciting achievement for our students, educators, families, and the entire Garden Oaks community. Under the state's accountability rating system, our neighborhood school has achieved the state's highest rating, reflecting strong academic performance and the hard work happening on campus every day.

For Garden Oaks neighbors, a highly rated public school is more than a point of pride. Strong local schools can make a neighborhood more attractive to prospective homebuyers, and school quality is often one of the factors families consider when deciding where to purchase a home. While an A rating does not guarantee higher property values or lower homeowners-insurance premiums, having a highly rated neighborhood school can contribute to the overall desirability and reputation of a community.

And there is even more to celebrate: Garden Oaks Montessori offers families the opportunity to experience a Montessori-based education within a public-school setting, right here in our neighborhood.

An A-rated neighborhood school is something our entire community can be proud of. It reflects the dedication of our teachers and staff, the accomplishments of our students, and the support of families and community members. Whether or not you currently have children attending Garden Oaks Montessori, its success is a win for Garden Oaks—and another reason to be proud to call this neighborhood home.

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Mickey's Minute

Mickey Morales

What to do, what to do? It's pumpkin time again and since we don't setup across the street anymore, it leaves us with what to do with all the gourds that are coming our way. And now I don't live in the neighborhood anymore and don't have a place to store a trailer full of pumpkins. So, I will kindly ask that y'all bring only gently used pumpkins. If they have been carved or bumped around and bruised, please send them to the landfill, not here. In the past we've received some that were already rotten and caused quite a ruckus with the property owner. It would be much easier to gather them at our leisure if they aren't stinking up the place.

On another note, let us rejoice in the fact that we've survived another summer along the Gulf Coast here in Houston. Granted there will still be plenty of hot weather to come but there will be a better chance of a cool front. Of course, since Farmer Cathy and I moved inside of Decant Urban Winery's tasting room last year at 948 Wakefield, we don't have to contend with the outside environment so much. Cathy, however, still has to gather eggs and coax sus-

tainable veggies out of the hard clay soil at her farm down in Damon. I've got the easy job of slinging breakfast tacos, migas and omelets on Saturday mornings in the AC.

In case you missed last month's post, The Farmstand is at the aforementioned Winery every Saturday morning starting around nine or so (it's a long drive in) until 1pm, at least until we have the good sense to retire someday. Hopefully sooner rather than later.

As always, "Come soon, come often and bring your Pumpkins".



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Constable Program

Terry Jeanes, Program Chair

Neighbors Night Out... Tuesday October 6th Hosting a gathering? To register your gathering with Precinct One Constable Office, use this link: <https://pct1constable.net/nnoregform/>
To register with HPD email: communityengagement@houstontx.gov

Reminder: New 2026 Contract Rates apply from October 1st 2026 to September 30th 2026. The Garden Oaks Contract rate is \$108,320.

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 of the newsletter. 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 and is featured on our monthly eblasts. Signage and stickers will be placed for all supporters of \$300 & higher. We do appreciate your patience in allowing time to have these installed by our volunteers.

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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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.

946 Lamonte	1530 Sue Barnett
967 Lamonte	408 West 33rd
224 West 30th	531 West 33rd
846 West 43rd	216 West 30th
3110 Randall	1050 West 42nd
1550 Sue Barnett	

Happy Birthday

Dian Austin 1st	Pene Carter 25th
Sue Schmidt 3rd	Linda Reichle 25th
Julian S 5th	Mark Saranie 25th
Tina Sabuco 9th	Fritz Westover 25th
Michael Padon 17th	Jack Runge 28th
Alice Sarmiento 24th	Eden Craig 30th
Benjamin B 24th	

Happy Anniversary

Tony & Debbie Padon 6th
Elizabeth & Mark Klein 7th
Betsy & Gig Runge 9th



Out and About

Caroline McLean enjoyed some time in Montana. The **Carlins** spent time on Fire Island and in Manhattan. **Jaime & Celeste Zamora** attended the baptism of their God-niece. It was Labor Day weekend fun for the **Sherbers** in Sargent. **Tina Sabuco & Shellye Arnold** welcomed new pup Ziggy Stardust to their household. Ziggy was adopted from CAMO Rescue. The **Dilleys** are enjoying Friday night lights, watching twin sons **Adam & Max** playing for St Pius as well as watching daughter **Reagan** play volleyball for St Pius. For **Megan Salch**, it was a bit of work and play in Chicago.

Constable Statistics August 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.

Alarm Local – 1	Meet the Citizen – 5
Burglary of Motor Vehicle - 1	Property Found Lost - 1
Check Park, School, Business, Church, Parking Lot – 4	Suspicious Person/Vehicle – 3
Civil Process - 2	Traffic Hazard - 1
Contract Check – 40	Traffic Stop - 11
Disturbance Loud Noise – 2	Vehicle Abandoned – 1
Drug OD Possession - 1	Vehicle Stickered - 1
Follow Up – 1	Welfare Check – 1
Forgery -- 1	



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, September 1, 2026 @ Great Heights Brewing
Attendance: 30

The meeting was called to order at 7:17PM by President Mike Stephens.

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

Mike began the meeting with a few announcements. The first announcement was that there would not be an Azalea Street Festival this year. Several reasons were given, including that no one stepped up to be the festival chair, feedback from the table sponsors, and low-ticket sales (80 tickets sold, or about 40 households). New ideas on how to raise money for the constable program are being discussed, since the festival raised about \$30,000 for the program, with about 60% of those dollars coming from the corporate sponsors.

A second announcement was that there were originally

10 neighborhood signs at various entrances. 5 signs are in good condition and will be auctioned off to raise funds for the civic club.

Thirdly, the new resident welcoming committee is attracting a high number of volunteers. There will be a kick-off meeting in the next month or so.

Mike then announced the need for a chair for the 2027 civic club officer nominating committee. The purpose of this committee is to gather a slate of officers for the civic club and present this slate at the November meeting. The current slate includes returning Vice President Dillon Baker, Treasurer Brian Rabe, and Secretary Bill Shaughnessy. Currently, the civic club needs a nominee for President as President Stephens is not seeking a fourth term.

Newly elected City of Houston District C City Councilman Joe Panzarella was a special guest at this month's meeting. He introduced himself and stated that the contact information for District C remains the same as it was when Abbie Kamin was in office. He encouraged constituents to sign

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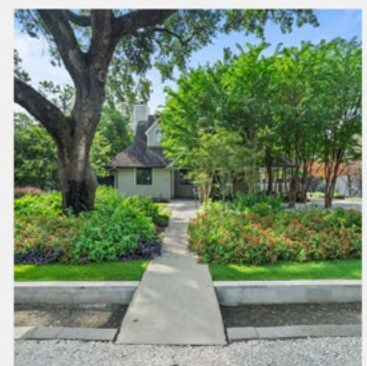
As a long time neighbor and area expert, we thank you for your support and look forward to continuing to serve our community.

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(Continued from page 10)

up for the newsletter to keep informed about events in the area. He stated that there will be a District C "100 Days Town Hall" on September 19th at 10:00AM at the Metropolitan Service Center at 1475 W. Gray. He also mentioned that there is a survey on his website for residents to give their input on relevant neighborhood priorities for your service dollars.

Thomas Wheaton, Director of Communications for CM Mario Castillo's office (District H), announced that the regular solid waste schedule will be affected by the Labor Day holiday. Trash and curbside recycling will take place on Wednesday, rather than Tuesday. He also said that there will be a virtual meeting on September 14 to discuss historical designations for commercial buildings. The Houston Planning Department will be attending this meeting.

Coby Johnston, District Liaison for Texas State Representative Penny Morales Shaw, commented about the early voting schedules for the upcoming midterm elections. He also applauded the success of the Kids Meals program over the summer, where over 1000 meals were donated at the Spring Branch Development Center.

The guest speaker this month was Tom Shaughnessy, a Texas Master Naturalist and professional beekeeper. Tom spoke extensively about various pollinators (bees, butterflies, moths, wasps, and bats), as well as how to provide habitat for them. He shared his knowledge of the different types of bees, like social bees, such as honeybees, and compared them to solitary bees, such as mason bees, carpenter bees, as well as bumblebees. He also talked briefly about agricultural exemptions to a few landowners who were in attendance from Austin County.

James Elmore, GOMO President, stated that the annual GOMO meeting will be at 7:00PM, October 12th at St. Matthews United Methodist Church. GOMO board member

elections take place at this meeting. He also said that much progress has been made in revising the by-laws, and they hope to be approved very soon.

Mike Stephens heralded the success of the Garden Oaks Spirit Night at Fajita Pete's, stating that the civic club received a check for \$150 as a result of that event. Fajita Pete's Spirit Night is now a monthly event in which Fajita Pete's donates a portion of their proceeds (15%) of the night's sales to the GOCC.

GO resident Tony Padon gave a brief update on the recent purchase of the Garden Oaks Theater by ArtHouse Houston. By purchasing the theater, it will be saved from demolition by the developer who had recently purchased it from Grace Church in February.

Mike reminded the attendees that there will not be a civic club meeting in October so neighbors can participate in the National Night Out events. Any household which is hosting a gathering should inform Terry Jeanes or the constable office so they can have a constable stop by the party.

The meeting was adjourned by Mike at 8:48PM.



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GOMO Update

James Elmore, GOMO President

I want to remind everyone that our Annual Meeting of the Members is only days away.

St. Matthew's United Methodist Church has been kind enough to host us this year in their Fellowship Hall. They are located at 4300 N Shepherd at W 43rd Street. The meeting will start at 7 pm. The Fellowship Hall and parking are best accessed on the north side of their campus.

Election of Directors:

One of the primary functions of the Annual Meeting is Election of Board Directors for expired terms and vacancies

Per our bylaws, member Sections 1,2,3, & 5 are to each have three elected Board Directors to represent their section. These positions are for 3-year staggered terms. The four terms noted below as (2026) are expiring this year. There are two additional positions that are currently vacant to be filled that expire in 2028. These positions are elected by members of their respective sections. Here is a recap of the current Directors with expiring and vacant positions that will be voted on by members of each separate section.

Section 1: James Elmore (2026), Sara Miller (2027) , Vacant (2028)

Section 2: Matt Friemel (2026), Paul Vincent (2027), Brenda deAlba (2028)

Section 3: Bob Fogleson (2026), Stuart Arouty (2027), Vacant (2028)

Section 5: Vacant (2026), Nick Hosn (2027), Pam Parks (2028)

Vote on adoption of Restated and Updated Bylaws

GOMO came into existence as a mandatory POA in 2003 through an amendment to the deed restrictions. In 2018 the courts ruled that this was not the correct procedure for GOMO's creation. The short version is that GOMO still exists, has approximately \$270,000, but cannot operate fully as a POA and fulfill its mission statement. More details surrounding this history are available on the GOMO website.

(Continued on page 13)



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The first step to properly reestablish GOMO as a fully operational Property Owners Association is to adopt bylaws that are consistent with current state laws and GOMO's current legal status as a non-profit organization. With frequent changes by the Texas Legislature, bylaws should be reviewed and possibly amended every several years. Our current bylaws date from 2002.

Adoption of these Bylaw changes requires voter approval by the Membership.

I encourage all property owners to attend this very important meeting, hear what is happening with GOMO, and exercise their vote.

As a quick reminder, each lot is allocated one vote to be cast by the property owner in person or by proxy.



FAJITA PETE'S - GARDEN OAKS

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Garden Oaks Community Garden: Growing for Good

Caroline Stender, Community Garden Volunteer

If you've driven along Alba Road north of Sue Barnett Drive lately, you may have noticed how vibrant and flourishing the Garden Oaks Community Garden has become. Founded in 1986 by local residents, the garden has always served as a charitable space where organically grown produce is donated to St. Rose of Lima food pantry. Gardening nourishes more than our bodies - it strengthens our sense of community and connection to the earth.

This year the garden has been buzzing with activity. Several new, knowledgeable volunteers have joined us, bringing fresh ideas in sustainable growth and garden expansion. Despite the heat, our harvest has been abundant. We are currently growing eggplant, cucumbers, okra, peppers, sweet potatoes, jicama, winged beans, herbs, and ginger.

We are proud to partner with Urban Harvest, located on 34th Street next to Trees for Houston, as one of their giving gardens. Their expertise, resources, and year-round adult and youth classes have been invaluable to our mission.

In February, Girl Scout Troop 122251 rolled up their sleeves and spent a day learning about food systems — from growth to harvest to distribution. Their enthusiasm helped us refresh pathways, weed beds, and complete a seed-germination project.

As a self-sustaining garden, we periodically hold fundraising plant sales. In March, we welcomed neighbors to purchase vegetable and flowering plants and enjoy a tour of the greenspace. These events help support our operations and strengthen community ties.

Beyond our vegetable beds and dedicated pollinator garden, the Garden Oaks Garden Club maintains a beautiful Mother's Day Cutting Garden, blooming nearly year-round. Every two years, children are invited to cut flowers for Mother's Day bouquets. At the rear of the garden, we are cultivating a natural ecosystem filled with native plants that support insects, birds, and wildlife. Mulberry, American beautyberry, Mexican plum, loquat, peach, and wax myrtle trees enrich this growing habitat.

Every Wednesday morning - volunteers gather for communal gardening — and you're welcome to join anytime you see someone working in the garden. It's a wonderful opportunity to learn, connect, and get your hands dirty. Teenagers interested in sustainable growing are especially encouraged to participate and it's a great opportunity for volunteer hours.

Upcoming Events (mid-October to Thanksgiving time frame)

Sweet Potato Harvest – A kid-friendly "treasure hunt" in the soil! Contact Shawn at 713-446-0937.

Planting Day – We'll be planting lettuce, coriander, broccoli, cabbage, and tomatoes. Adults and children are welcome. Contact Shawn at 713-446-0937.

"To forget how to dig in the earth and tend to the soil is to forget ourselves."



Simple Strategies that Save Energy

Auggie Reyes, owner of AirWise

Here are some simple strategies to help you save energy and make sure your home's heating system is running efficiently.

Take advantage of the sun's warmth

Open the curtains on your south and west-facing windows during the day to allow the sunlight to naturally heat your home. Be sure to close them at night to reduce the chill that may be felt from cold windows.

Keep dust to a minimum

Not only does dust, pet hair and other air-borne particles aggravate allergies, they're hard on your heating system. They float around your home, travel into the system's duct work and eventually collect on the air filter. A simple and cost-effective means of dusting is dampening an old towel and run it over your furniture. Any particles will be trapped on the towel and when you're finished, just throw it in the washer.

Replace your air filter every month

Yes, I'm saying it again. This is one of the most overlooked home maintenance tasks there is. Make it easy on yourself by having them always on hand. Take a used filter to the

hardware store to ensure you get the correct size and buy a box of them. They're usually cheaper that way too.

Reduce heat loss from your fireplace

Keep your fireplace damper closed unless a fire is burning. Install tempered glass doors and a heat-air exchange system that blows warm air back into the room.

An open damper is like having a window that's always wide open during the winter. Since hot air rises, this allows expensive, heated air to escape right up the chimney. But do this only when you are not burning a fire. Also, if you never use your fireplace, consider sealing the chimney flue.

Lower the temperature on your thermostat

When cooking your evening meal, your oven will help keep the house warm. You can turn on your ceiling fan, so it pulls warm air upward and distributes it throughout the room. When you leave the house or go to bed, turn your thermostat down five degrees. By doing this, you can save on your heating bills. A programmable thermostat can do this automatically for you.

Here's what our customers are saying about us:

"Give Air Wise a call."

John W., West Houston Heights



Auggie Reyes, owner of Air Wise

★★★★★ "I had Air Wise come out and do a furnace check. Good thing because he found that my exhaust flue vent had been disconnected from new roof construction two months ago.

"Give AirWise a call."

Finance options available. Call us for details.



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AIR CONDITIONING & HEATING

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October

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3 FarmStand 9am to 1pm 948 Wakefield
4	5 Spirit Night Fajita Pete's 11 am to 8:30 pm	6 National Neighbors Night Out Garbage & Recycling	7	8 Garden Club Meeting 7 pm Kroger on 43rd	9	10 FarmStand 9am to 1pm 948 Wakefield
11	12 GOMO Meeting 7 pm St Mathew's UMC	13 Garbage	14	15	16	17 FarmStand 9am to 1pm 948 Wakefield
18	19	20 Garbage & Recycling	21	22	23	24 FarmStand 9am to 1pm 948 Wakefield
25	26	27 Garbage	28	29	30	31 FarmStand 9am to 1pm 948 Wakefield Halloween

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