



# garden oaks *Gazette*

The newsletter of the Garden Oaks Civic Club

June 2024

Volume 46 Issue 6

## Civic Club Supports Area School

Recently, the Garden Oaks Civic Club was asked to help Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet (GOMM) with funds for their Outdoor Classroom and pond (aka the "Backyard Wetland"). GOMM is a magnet school with an emphasis on environmental science, and the Outdoor Classroom is an integral part of their mission to allow students to learn in a hands-on environment of discovery. The Outdoor Classroom serves as a living science lab for GOMM students.

The Garden Oaks Civic Club (GOCC) is very much interested in supporting and promoting all facets of our neighborhood, and that includes neighborhood schools as well. The civic club donated \$500 to help with improvements to GOMM's Outdoor Classroom.

### Upcoming Events

#### GOCC Meeting:

June 4th--7:00 PM

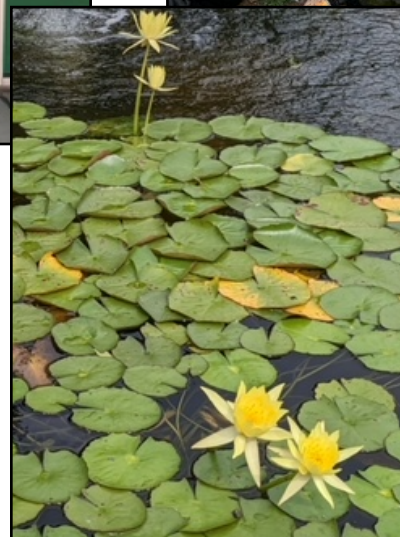
Great Heights Brewing  
Private Meeting Room

4th of July Parade

July 4th

8:30 am

GOMM Spark Park



GOCC VP Paul Vincent presented the donation to GOMM PTO Outdoor Classroom Co-chair Andrea Rafiei

# 2024 Garden Oaks Civic Club CommUnity Partners

*Thank you to the following neighbors and neighborhood businesses who are supporting our new CommUnity Partnership Program for 2024.*

*If you/your business is interested in joining our annual program, please email [membership@gardenoaks.org](mailto:membership@gardenoaks.org).*

Terry Jeanes, Realtor – Led Well Realty  
[Har.com/TerryJeanes](http://Har.com/TerryJeanes)

John R. Bartos, Attorney at Law  
[Htownlaw.com](http://Htownlaw.com)

Deanna Zugheri, Keller Williams Metropolitan  
[Gardenoakshomes.com](http://Gardenoakshomes.com)

Central City Air  
[Centralcityair.com](http://Centralcityair.com)

Great Heights Brewing Company  
[Ghbrewing.com](http://Ghbrewing.com)

Nationwide Tools and Supplies  
[NationwideDist.com](http://NationwideDist.com)

## Civic Club Officers

President – Mike Stephens 303.886.1870  
[president@gardenoaks.org](mailto:president@gardenoaks.org)

Vice President – Paul Vincent 713.834.7249  
[vicepresident@gardenoaks.org](mailto:vicepresident@gardenoaks.org)

Treasurer – Brian Rabe  
[treasurer@gardenoaks.org](mailto:treasurer@gardenoaks.org)

Secretary – Deepak Khosla 832.788.7201  
[secretary@gardenoaks.org](mailto:secretary@gardenoaks.org)

## Committee Chairs

Beautification – Pam Parks 713 686 7728  
[beautification@gardenoaks.org](mailto:beautification@gardenoaks.org)

Constable Program - Terry Jeanes  
281 236 8033  
[constable@gardenoaks.org](mailto:constable@gardenoaks.org)

Membership – Dian Austin 713 691 6505  
[membership@gardenoaks.org](mailto:membership@gardenoaks.org)

Webmaster – Pam Parks 713 686 7728  
[webmaster@gardenoaks.org](mailto:webmaster@gardenoaks.org)

Social Events - Emily Stephens 913 526 5160  
[goSocial@gardenoaks.org](mailto:goSocial@gardenoaks.org)

## Gazette Contacts

Editor – Christi Hartley 806-319-0853  
[gazette@gardenoaks.org](mailto:gazette@gardenoaks.org)

Advertising Director – Brenda de Alba  
713-705-0886  
[gazetteads@gardenoaks.org](mailto:gazetteads@gardenoaks.org)

Delivery Coordinator – Angela Winston  
832-656-8648  
[gazettedelivery@gardenoaks.org](mailto:gazettedelivery@gardenoaks.org)

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## 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.

# Garden Oaks Civic Club Minutes

*Deepak Khosla, GOCC Secretary*

Tuesday, May 7, 2024 @ Great Heights Brewing

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by President Mike Stephens.

A motion to accept the minutes from the April 2024 meeting was made, seconded, and approved.

President Mike Stephens briefly discussed the upcoming meeting with Council Member Abbie Kamin's office to review various community issues and solicited input for any topics of interest. One attendee requested mention of the ongoing water drainage issue at Graham Park after heavy rainstorms.

Mike mentioned that the old Sears property demolition work may start in a few months. Council Member Mario Castillo's office and HPD worked with the property developer to get a fence installed around the perimeter to improve safety until the demolition begins.

Treasure Brian Rabe presented a revised budget proposal for 2024 based on analysis to date. The main changes were

to adjust budgets for Signage and Beautification, and to proportionally allocate costs to the Constable program. The revised budget will be voted on at the June meeting. Links to the budget can be found at [www.gardenoaks.org](http://www.gardenoaks.org) (click on "Civic Club Financials" under GOCC Admin). Mike also informed that GOCC will go after funding available for Beautification from the city, with support from both the council members. There was a brief discussion on other ways to raise funds and provide more visibility to promote the value of the Civic Club.

Constable chair Terry Jeanes mentioned that more Constable Supporter yard signs are available, and to reach out to her if you need a new sign or have suggestions for security enhancements.

Social chair Emily Stephens reported on the various successful events that took place in April. Over 40 houses participated in the Garage sale. A record \$4,000 was raised for the Constable Program with the Wakefield Shuffle. Other successful events in April included the Pollinator Event,

(continued on page 4)

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(continued from page 3)

hosted by the Garden Club, the Earth Day Extravaganza, hosted by GO Kids, and the annual GOMM pancake breakfast fundraiser.

Upcoming events include the July 4th parade as well as several GO Kids ideas under consideration. Planning is about to begin for our next Constable Fundraiser, the annual Azalea Street Beer & Wine Extravaganza, in October.

Anna Smith, External Affairs Coordinator for CM Abbie Kamin, listed some of the issues being pursued including high water bills, drainage etc., as well as holding a Families with Pride event at Discovery Green on June 1.

Russell Etherton, Chief of Staff for CM Mario Castillo, listed their various engagements including Budget and Fiscal discussion townhalls, addition of speed bumps in various neighborhoods, and an effort to simplify the process of making vacant buildings safer. Each council member's contact details are listed on the City Council main page: <https://www.houstontx.gov/council/index.html>.

Nick Sweetland with CenterPoint Energy (CPE) gave a presentation to address the unusually frequent power outages in our neighborhood. He highlighted the various factors

considered by the company for power management such as load inspection, reliability, vegetation management, resiliency, and cyber security, among others. After the presentation there were several questions and concerns about the high number of outages and the lack of responsiveness and vegetation management from CPE. Nick took note of all the concerns and mentioned that this first meeting's primary objective was to capture all the concerns and take them back to his management team to address. He conveyed that he and his team are now focused on improving the reliability in the Garden Oaks area, and several of the issues raised are planned to be addressed in the next three months. He also requested that residents should forward any concerns and issues they would like to raise to Mike (president@gardenoaks.org), who will then consolidate them and forward them to Nick. CPE plans to attend future GOCC meetings and will bring representatives from other CPE groups to continue the power management discussions.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM with the raffle gift card drawing which was donated by GOCC and won by Section 4 resident, Betsy Stein.

**ASK ME ABOUT NEW BUILDS COMING SOON!**

**BRENT ALLEN PROPERTIES**

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## Texas Peach Season is Here!

*Kala Dunn, Garden Oaks resident*

Beginning in late spring, Texas peaches come on the scene, and their ripe, succulent juiciness can be enjoyed into early fall, usually until Labor Day. Peach season is one of my favorite things about living in Texas (besides being in Garden Oaks, of course!). From the famous Fredericksburg peaches to varieties grown in East Texas and the Rio Grande Valley, Texas freestone peaches set the national standard for sweetness, though most of them are consumed locally, right here in Texas.

The best time to go peach picking in Texas is in June or July, for maximum ripeness and those easy-eating freestone varieties everyone loves. Texas peaches can also be found at your local farmer's markets and even occasionally in grocery stores during peak season, especially in Texas-based HEB stores.

Whether you buy them from a roadside stand on a Hill Country trip or pick them up on your way home from work, once you've got your peaches in hand, ripeness is key. Peaches are one fruit that continues to ripen after it's

picked, so don't worry if the ones you've found are still a little firm. The easiest method is simply to leave peaches on the counter. Peaches are best stored on their shoulders (not their bottoms) and separated so that they are not touching one another. To speed up the process, you can put the peaches in a paper bag to trap ethylene gas and hasten the ripening process. At Plonk! Bistro, where we serve peaches throughout Texas peach season, we ripen our peaches in our temperature and humidity controlled wine cellar. We find the slow ripening that happens in the wine cellar gives us the sweetest fruit.

Once your peaches are ripe, with a slightly soft but not mushy texture, you're ready to go! They're perfect for eating out of hand and also for classic peach desserts like Peach Cobbler, or Peach Ice Cream. And don't forget savory applications for Texas peaches! At Plonk!, we like to serve Texas peaches wrapped in salty, thinly sliced prosciutto and topped with a drizzle of honey and some fresh basil. We also like tossing them in salads and on pizzas for a sweet and savory flavor profile.

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2024 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:**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Basic Membership \$40** (\$20 for seniors 65+)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Community Household Membership \$100**

**Constable Program:**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Annual Constable Supporter (\$250, w/yard signage)**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Additional Constable Program contribution**

**Other:**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Contribution to Beautification** (maintain area green spaces)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Contribution to Garden Club** (maintain Friendship Garden, Section 1)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **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](http://gardenoaks.org)**

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



# Mickey's Minute

## Mickey Morales

It's June, and it would appear that we'll have to suffer through another Gulf Coast summer. The City's permitting department is still sitting on three different final permits in three different departments, which impacts a venue where we could move inside. They fail to understand that their snail-like behavior of processing paperwork is choking off tax revenues. You can't generate sales taxes without being able to open your doors in a timely fashion.

Enough of my rant; let's get back to market news. We shall soldier on through the heat as before until things change. Sadly, this will be our last few months with our young entrepreneur Sophia. She'll be heading off to university out of state sometime in August. Farmer Cathy and I can remember when she and her sister were building fairy houses on the fringe of the parking lot twelve years ago when we were across from the now defunct Petrol Station. She has worked with us through thick and thin, rain or shine, and never complained. So, if you happen to have a youngster that would like to launch a small business making baked goods and other cottage-based items, bring them by and let's talk.

June will also be the first year that I don't get to celebrate my mother's birthday in person on the 14th of the month, which is also National Flag Day. I always thought it was convenient that those two dates coincided, and since my education began in a parochial school where we were taught civics, I could always remember her birthday. It's also the birthday of several other folks I know. I've always thought it was funny how some dates seem to mark important moments in your life. Like March 3rd was my first day of work when I graduated from college, my step-daughter's birthday, and the also the first day of work in my last corporate job. Make every Saturday this summer an important date to visit your local market and keep us company as we melt.

As always, "Come soon, come often and bake with us."



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# GoKids

## *Sara Mathias, GoKids President*

GOKids' members enjoyed family pictures at the Gazebo Pocket Park. Frankie + Flora provided the most beautiful floral décor, and Corey Wilson of Corey Allyn Photography captured our families beautifully while bringing smiles to the childrens' faces with her goody box filled with after-picture toys! Deep Eddy provided a peach cocktail for moms to take home and enjoy, and Spa 146 helped make the event possible.

The school year is almost over, and families are looking forward to camps, summer vacations and connecting with friends and family. We asked our members their favorite summer activities and they told us camping trips, staying up late, and swimming were their favorite parts of summer.

GOKids' admins are taking the month of June off from organizing activities, but we are looking forward to our annual volunteer event to support Kids' Meals. We are excited to be hosting this event at the Upside Pub. Rumor has it that the Halloween block party will return this year for members, and it is not too late to join for 2024. We still have

fun events planned for the second half of the year! For a nominal fee, members can also rent the bounce house and outdoor movie projector and screen.

<https://gardenoakskids.cheddarup.com>





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# Constable Program

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

Welcome back Deputy Tommi Kelley.

Thank you to those who supported the Wakefield Shuffle Fundraiser. Thanks to Social Chair **Emily Stephens and team**, and also to the participating venues: **d'Alba, Great Heights Brewing, Decant Urban Winery, Wakefield Crowbar, Walking Stick, William Price Distillery, and the Canary**, and to all the attendees. Over \$4000 was raised for the Constable Program.

**Interested in assisting with the Fall Constable Program Fundraiser?** Last year we held the inaugural Azalea Street Beer & Wine Extravaganza. If interested in participating in this year's major event, email [constable@gardenoaks.org](mailto:constable@gardenoaks.org). Stay tuned to social media, the Gazette, and civic club email announcements for the next FUN event.

**Have you supported the Constable Program yet?** We need you! Watch for the 2024 mailer. **Return your CIVIC CLUB MAILER promptly as it includes the opportunity for you to contribute for the 2024 year.** Pay your dues via the mail OR pay online. Payment of at least \$250 per household will get you a GO Constable Supporter sign. That's a mere 65 cents per day!

**If you need a new sign or 2024 sticker, please email [constable@gardenoaks.org](mailto:constable@gardenoaks.org).** A roster of current supporters is available at [gardenoaks.org](http://gardenoaks.org).

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/>

## Gazette Delivery Volunteers Needed!

There are several streets in Garden Oaks that need block captains to deliver Gazette newsletters to homes each month. Specifically, these two routes need volunteers:

404 through 531 West 30th, and 603-619 West 30th  
1002-1090 Lamonte, and 4206-4219 Alba

This would be an ongoing opportunity to volunteer, on a once-a-month basis. The bundle of newsletters will be dropped off at your home, and delivery to your route would take 45 minutes to an hour.

If interested, please contact Delivery Coordinator Angela Winston at [gazettedelivery@gardenoaks.org](mailto:gazettedelivery@gardenoaks.org)

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And don't be afraid to pair wine with peaches! A sparkling wine works well, or if you'd like to match the peach character in your dish, the wine grape varieties Riesling, Albariño, and Viognier commonly exhibit peachy characteristics that will match well with the peaches on your plate.

Whether you're enjoying them at your local Garden Oaks/Oak Forest wine bar or preparing them at home after a run to the farmer's market, Texas peaches are part of what makes summer in Texas so tasty!

*Kala Dunn is a long-time Garden Oaks resident and the Executive Chef of Plonk! Bistro and Wine Cellar, a neighborhood wine bar serving Garden Oaks and the surrounding area.*



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# July 4th Parade

*Emily Stephens, Social Chair*

Join us for the 4th of July Parade! We'll be at the GOMM Spark Park (41st and Sue Barnett) at 8:30 AM on Thursday, July 4th, and the parade will start at 9AM. Decorate your strollers, bikes or scooters with your festive decor as we walk throughout the neighborhood.

Prefer to stay home and enjoy the show? That's great! Grab your lawn chairs and get festive!

Check out our social media for more details!  
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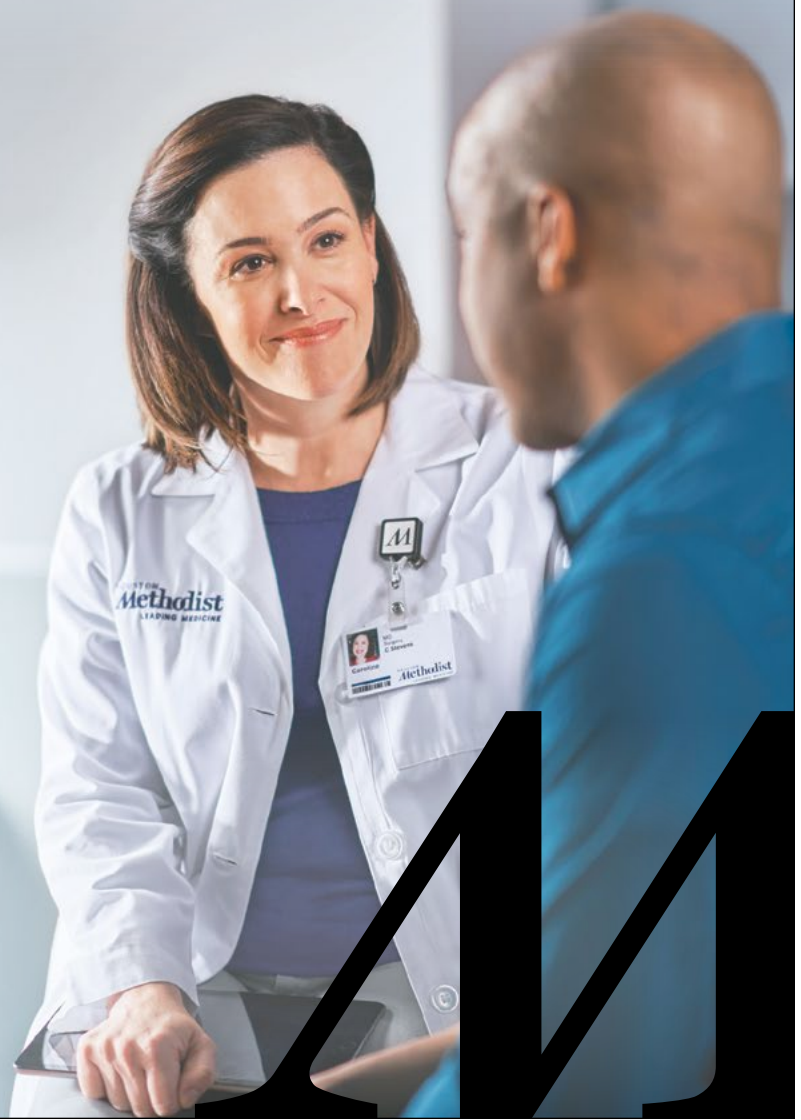
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# Heard Under the Oak Tree

*Terry Jeanes*

## Welcome, New Neighbors!

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

1030 Lamonte  
236 West 31st  
1070 Lamonte  
946 West 41st  
830 Azalea  
814 Azalea  
717 West 41st  
223 West 33rd  
822 West 32nd  
1574 Sue Barnett  
725 Garden Oaks Blvd.  
878 West 41st  
742 Sue Barnett

## Happy Birthday

Andrew B. – 1st  
Julie Sherber – 2nd  
Stephen S. – 4th  
Tina Rowe – 5th  
Elyse S. – 9th  
Mark Klein – 13th  
Landon C. -18th  
Antonio R. – 23rd  
Allison Padon – 28th

## Happy Anniversary

Alex & Erin Dunn – June 11th

## Special Thoughts to

To family and friends of **Karen McKinney**, who recently passed away. To **Tory Vonder Haar** and family in the loss of Tory's father. To **Shreda Paire** and **Erin Donaho** who lost their 17 yr old canine companion, Gracie.



## Out and About

It was fun times for the **Carlins** in Santa Fe. **Leslie Ryan** and **Carl Waters** enjoyed a great adventure in Spain. **Tina Sabuco** had a marvelous time on an Ireland music tour. **M'lissa Dilley** headed to Dublin to enjoy the city with a longtime London pal.

**John and Cindy Bartos** saw Gary Clark Jr & Mavis Staples in concert at Red Rocks Amphitheatre. **Heather McKeown** and **kids** enjoyed Willie Nelson at Whitewater Amphitheater.

A gathering of many friends held a special send off for **Shana Tatum**. Many stories were shared along with lovely notes left for the new residents.

## Congratulations to

Those recognized at the St. Rose of Lima (SRL) Athletic Banquet: **Rowyn Goad** for Varsity Football, JV Basketball and Varsity Baseball. **Reesie Sherber** received recognition for her SRL cheerleading & the JV Volleyball MVP award. **Morgan Shamblen** and her softball teammates as Champs again, 29-0 the last 2 seasons.

The **Dilley boys** and their fellow FBMS 7th graders were district baseball champs.

Congrats to **Caroline Padon**, earning her Master's degree from UT. Kudos to **Gina Greenslate** for earning her MA in Communication/PR from UH. Hooray for **Kate Mischlich** and Team Heartbeat HEROes on winning the TOP AWARD in Rice University's Engineering Design Showcase.

Congratulations to **Gretchen Seghers**, named district champion in impromptu speech, and winning district champions in public forum with her debate partner.

*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](mailto:terry@terryjeanes.com)*

## Constable Statistics April 2024

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 – 4	Meet the Citizen – 6
Burglary of Motor Vehicle - 1	Meet the Officer - 1
Check Park – 1	Open Door/Window – 1
Child Custody Dispute – 1	Special Assignment - 1
Civil Process - 3	Suspicious Person/Vehicle – 13
Contract Check – 33	Theft Other – 1
Discharge Firearms - 1	Traffic Hazard – 1 save w
Disturbance Juvenile - 1	Traffic Stop - 14
Disturbance Loud Noise – 1	Vacation Watch – 1
Follow Up – 2	Vehicle Speeding – 2
Illegally Parked Vehicle - 1	Welfare Check - 2
Information Call - 1	

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## Keep Off the Grass: Maintaining Your A/C System's Condenser

*Mitch Weigand*

Here in Texas, we have definitely had our fair share of rain this year. One of the results of this precipitation is a very lush lawn. While it looks great, your lawn grows and needs to be cut frequently. As a result, your A/C system's condenser (the outside unit) can suffer.

### That sweet smell of summer

Along with dust, pollen and leaves, grass clippings can seriously impede the flow of air that's essential to proper cooling. Grass clippings acts like a cover, constricting air flow into the condenser that is needed in order to cool your home. The result is that your A/C system works harder and harder and eventually fails. This means hot, sweaty nights for you during the peak of summer while you wait for your A/C service technician to make it to your home. Plus a \$3,500 repair bill to replace the condenser, and there goes the family summer vacation fund.

### Preventative maintenance is the key

Avoid blowing grass clippings toward the condenser when mowing your lawn. After mowing, take your garden hose

and spray thoroughly about six inches from the condenser's fins to clear them off.

Another way to make sure the condenser remains clear is every time you change your air filter inside your home, spend a few minutes outside and rinse the accumulated grass clippings, dust, and debris from your condenser with a garden hose. These simple steps can save you money and headaches in the future.

### Just a friendly reminder now that we are in thunderstorm and hurricane season

During a thunderstorm, turn off your air conditioner at the thermostat. During a hurricane, make sure it's completely off, both at the thermostat and the circuit breaker in your electric panel. In the event of flooding, power to the A/C system can create a fire hazard or electrical shock.

*Mitch Weigand is the owner of Air Wise™.*

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*Judy B., Alief*

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As a longtime homeowner, I have deep appreciation for them providing unparalleled peace of mind in an industry rife with dishonesty and incompetence."



**Air Wise owner Mitch Weigand**



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# June

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
						1 Farm Stand— 9am to 1 pm 949 Wakefield
2	3	4 GOCC Meeting 7:00 pm  Garbage, Yard Waste, & Recycling	5	6	7	8 Farm Stand— 9am to 1 pm 949 Wakefield
9	10	11  Garbage & Yard Waste	12	13	14  Flag Day	15 Farm Stand— 9am to 1 pm 949 Wakefield
16  Father's Day	17  Eid al-Adha	18  Garbage, Yard Waste, & Recycling	19  Juneteenth	20	21	22 Farm Stand— 9am to 1 pm 949 Wakefield
23  30	24	25  Garbage & Yard Waste	26	27	28	29 Farm Stand— 9am to 1 pm 949 Wakefield

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