



garden oaks *Gazette*

The newsletter of the Garden Oaks Civic Club

Aug 2024

Volume 46 Issue 8

Keep your heads up Garden Oaks!

Mike Stephens – President, Garden Oaks Civic Club

It's July 15th, and I'm thinking about what I might write for the August issue of the Gazette. I'm looking in the mirror at the T-Shirt I'm wearing, which shows a half full glass of water with the caption "Half Full". I get comments about the T-Shirt all the time when I'm out and about. "I like that shirt! Stay positive!"

It's certainly a tough time to stay positive in Houston. Our standard summer weather has set in, with daily heat indexes at 100+degF. We've endured two crushing storms in two months. At the time of writing this article, many of us are still without power, seven days after Hurricane Beryl.

When trying to draw positives from the current situation, what immediately comes to mind is the incredible group of neighbors who surround me and my family. I trust that most of you can make the same claim. It's a strength of Garden Oaks: pride in our neighborhood and care for our neighbors.

When trees came down on my block, the area was swarming with neighbors, with chainsaws in hand, wanting to help. When power was out for an extended period of time, extension cords ran in all directions from generators, and people stuffed operating refrigerators and freezers with as much as they could take in from others. Cell phone texts strings were created for wellness checks amongst adjacent neighbors, and other friends throughout Garden Oaks. Some of you have heard me say this multiple times in the past, but I've lived in a few other large cities in the U.S. over the years and Garden Oaks is, by far, the most supportive and friendly group of neighbors I've ever had.



Upcoming Events

GOCC Meeting:
Tuesday Aug 6th
7:00 pm
Great Heights Brewing
Private Meeting Room

The mission of the Garden Oaks Civic Club (GOCC) is to promote neighborhood unity, which in turn strengthens our community. Even in the heat of summer, our streets are full of families, and couples out for a walk and stopping for conversations with neighbors. Our July 4th parade had families on bicycles, and families pushing strollers that easily filled an entire block in the heart of Garden Oaks. Our community events, such as the Azalea Street Extravaganza (more to come on that soon!), are hugely attended and raise thousands of dollars to fund things like our Constable program. We watch for our local businesses, many of which have owners who are also Garden Oaks residents, to recover from the storm and we quickly try to stop in for a beer, a meal, or to shop, as a show of support.

Representatives from the two Houston City Council Districts that represent sections of Garden Oaks attend almost every monthly GOCC meeting. Those same representatives, and most recently the Council Members themselves, have checked in with GOCC officers on the status of the neighborhood and provided updates, to the best of their knowledge, on recovery efforts. They also helped escalate concerns to CenterPoint about the widespread outages in Garden Oaks, and the appearance of a lack of immediate repair response. I encourage all of you to attend our monthly GOCC meetings and meet your City Council representatives personally. For those of you who attended GOCC monthly meetings this spring, you heard from local residents who have established direct communications with the CenterPoint Service Area Manager who is assigned to Garden Oaks, and we also saw a presentation from a CenterPoint representative. Interesting timing, right before some of the most impactful power outages for our neighborhood in years.

(Continued on page 10)

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.

Terry Jeanes, Realtor – Led Well Realty
Har.com/TerryJeanes

John R. Bartos, Attorney at Law
Htownlaw.com

Deanna Zugheri, Keller Williams Metropolitan
Gardenoakshomes.com

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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.

Pro Tips for Keeping Perishable Food Safe During a Power Outage

Kala Dunn, Garden Oaks Resident

Hurricane Beryl recently challenged both home cooks and chefs across Garden Oaks and the whole city with extended power outages. In some restaurants and homes, loss of food due to unsafe temperatures led to financial hardship, inconvenience, and frustration. Having experienced several extended power outages as a chef, I wanted to share a few tips that might be useful as we move through the rest of the hurricane season.

Determining What's Safe to Consume after a Power Outage

- Make sure you have **appliance thermometers in your refrigerator and freezer**. These thermometers can tell you the air temperature in your refrigerator and freezer. Check to ensure that the freezer temperature is at or below **0°F** and the refrigerator is at or below **40°F**.

- The air temperature will steadily climb during the power outage, and items inside the refrigerator and freezer will thaw and/or warm up at different rates, depending on

the size, shape, and material of the container, the water content and consistency of the food, and other variables. If you want to get scientific about it, you can use a **digital thermometer** to check the temperature of individual items inside the refrigerator. You may find that a large container of leftover soup is still cold even after smaller items, or food stored in shallower containers, have exceeded the safe temperature of **40°F** for more than two hours, at which point the food should be discarded.

- However, do not open the doors of the refrigerator and freezer frequently. Most refrigerators will hold a very cold temperature for at least four hours, depending on the ambient room temperature. After that point, you may want to begin checking temperatures hourly or transfer food to a cooler.

- Perishable foods that were kept above 40°F for 2 hours or more (or 1 hour if temperatures are above 90°F) should be discarded.

(continued on page 4)



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(continued from page 3)

- However, many factors influence how perishable foods are. Foods with low water content, high acidity, or that contain preservatives like salt, sugar, and nitrates, can withstand more temperature abuse without spoilage or excessive pathogen growth. If the power goes out, and the food in the refrigerator warms before you are able to move it to a cooler, you may need to throw some items away, like raw meat or leftovers, but your condiments, which are generally high in acidity and preservatives, may be fine. Hard cheeses are safer for longer than soft cheeses because of their lower water content. Whole vegetables, fruits and berries can be visually examined to determine their quality. Discard foods that have changed in appearance or odor, and check expiration dates – any item that was on its “last legs,” so to speak, will only become more suspect as the temperature rises.

- If a thermometer has not been kept in the freezer, **check each package** of food to determine its safety. If the food **still contains ice crystals** or is **40°F** or below, it is safe to refreeze or cook.

Preparing for a Power Outage

- Purchase or make **ice cubes in advance**, and **freeze gel packs** and **containers of water** to help keep the temperature inside the freezer or refrigerator down. This ice can even be transferred to coolers later to store food after the refrigerator is no longer a viable option. The frozen containers of water can also provide clean drinking water during the emergency.

- **Freeze refrigerated items that can be frozen or are not needed immediately**, such as leftovers or fresh meat and poultry. Freezing items ahead of time keeps them at a safe temperature longer.

- **Group food together** in the freezer. This helps the food stay cold longer, especially if the freezer is not very full. A full freezer or refrigerator stays cold longer, but you're better off stocking up on non-perishables rather than filling your freezer before a storm. Grouping food together helps keep what you've got colder for longer!

- As a general rule, food in the refrigerator will be cold for about four hours if unopened, and a full freezer will keep the temperature for approximately 48 hours (24 hours if it is half full) if the door remains closed.

- **Have coolers on hand** to keep refrigerated food cold if the power might be out for more than 4 hours.

Losing food to a power outage is never a good feeling, and there's a lot you can do to limit your losses in this situation. However, remember that food safety is very important, and a case of food poisoning could make a difficult situation even more unpleasant, so remember the old saying, “When it doubt, throw it out!”

Kala Dunn is the Executive Chef at Plonk! Bistro and Wine Cellar and a longtime resident of Garden Oaks.



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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**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

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

GOKids Update

Sara Mathias, GOKids President

It is hard to believe that it is almost back to school time. This summer has gone fast, but we are all looking forward to some cooler weather.

We asked our members what they are most looking forward to about going Back to School. Beckett told us his mom makes homemade chocolate chip cookies that are still warm when he gets home from his first day of school. Tristan and Deacon celebrate with back-to-school haircuts after letting their hair grow long all summer. They are undecided if this is fun or if they will miss their long hair. Wesley will be starting kindergarten and can't wait to learn how to read. Bennett, Blakely, Connor, Ella, Emmeth, Holly and Odette are all excited about walking to school.

We asked the parents if they had any favorite traditions for back to school. Garden Oaks Montessori hosts a boo-hoo/woo-hoo lunch where parents either cheer or cry. Helms has Tacos and Tissues and an inspiration walk where the parents write chalk messages leading up to the school to welcome and inspire the kids

GoKids is also gearing up for our annual GoKids Gives Back where we show them the importance of volunteering and helping our community. The kids will decorate and stuff snack packs for Kids' Meals. At most of our events, the kids get a small gift, but at this event we hope to show them that it is just as important to give to others.



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July 4th Parade

Emily Stephens, Social Chair

Thanks to everyone who came out to participate in the 4th of July parade! Close to 150 people came out to show their spirit!

Special thanks to Deputy Tommi Kelley and Deputy Jacob Lemons for leading the parade



Mickey's Minute

Mickey Morales

Two down, two to go. Folks will ask, Mickey what are you talking about? Allow me to explain. Anyone who has spent any time on the Texas Gulf Coast knows that June through September are the hottest months. May is no picnic and October can be a little iffy, but those in between are brutal. So we've made it through the June/July period, and if anything good can be said about August it's that the daylight hours become shorter, since we're past the summer solstice.

In market news, our brave young entrepreneur Sophia will be off to college soon and will be sorely missed. She has stuck with us through thick and thin, enduring the heat of summer and cold of winter for a couple of years now. I've seen her hunker down in the back of her vehicle with the hatchback open, when it was too wet and cold to stand outside and sell her goods. There aren't a lot of teenagers like her, but my hope is there are more out there somewhere. We wish her the best in her future studies.

The buildout of Decant Urban Winery is moving forward, and I've had more than a few conversations with Kristina and Ron about their hopes and dreams of what's to come. It looks quite promising for us as well. Being able to cook inside on Saturdays will enable me to transition from breakfast to the bistro menu that I developed a few years back. I couldn't execute it because frankly it was too difficult to move across the street and deal with the challenges of the weather. They have asked me to develop a set menu that can be executed even when I'm offsite doing other events. So all in all, things are looking up, and that gives us the strength to endure the last of the summer heat.

As always, "Come soon, come often and let's look forward to better weather."



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*All investments contain risk and may lose value.

(Continued from page 1)

None of us is happy with CenterPoint right now. I don't even want to open that can of worms. BUT, the point is that Garden Oaks residents, and GOCC members, were able to establish direct dialogue with those same CenterPoint managers during the recent crisis and get better answers, even if not satisfying, than any of us could get from dialing in on the main customer service line. Additionally, we plan to take advantage of having those inside contacts at CenterPoint to continue to demand accountability, and improvements for Garden Oaks, once the dust has settled on the current crisis.

So yes, it's tough times in Garden Oaks, and throughout Houston. But we need to remember that we're surrounded by incredible people here. We need to remember why we chose this neighborhood, nestled in the heart of the core of the city of Houston, and draw positivity from all of the things this community gives us in our day-to-day lives, when life is more normal. And, when the times get tough, which they most certainly will again, we need to maintain the Glass Half Full attitude and power through, along with our neighbors.

See you at the next Garden Oaks Civic Club meeting! We gather at 7pm on the first Tuesday of every month in the private meeting space at Great Heights Brewing Company, 938 Wakefield.



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Constable Program

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

The Constable Fall Fundraiser is still in need of assistance and is very important for maintaining our area patrol program. Please email social@gardenoaks.org or constable@gardenoaks.org with interest or questions.. Stay tuned to social media for updates and announcements.

Thank you to Deputy Tommi Kelley, Deputy Jack Kelley, and Deputy Jacob Lemons who helped during the Garden Oaks July 4th Bike Parade. Special thumbs up and kudos to the Kelley Deputies who were able to wrangle 2 loose horses to the Garden Oaks Spark Park fenced area for the safety of area children. HPD and Harris Cty Sheriff office aided as well.

Have you supported the Constable Program yet? We need you! 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, please email constable@gardenoaks.org. A roster of current supporters is available at gardenoaks.org. Signage and stickers will be placed for all supporters of \$250 & higher. We do appreciate your patience in allowing time to have these installed.

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/>



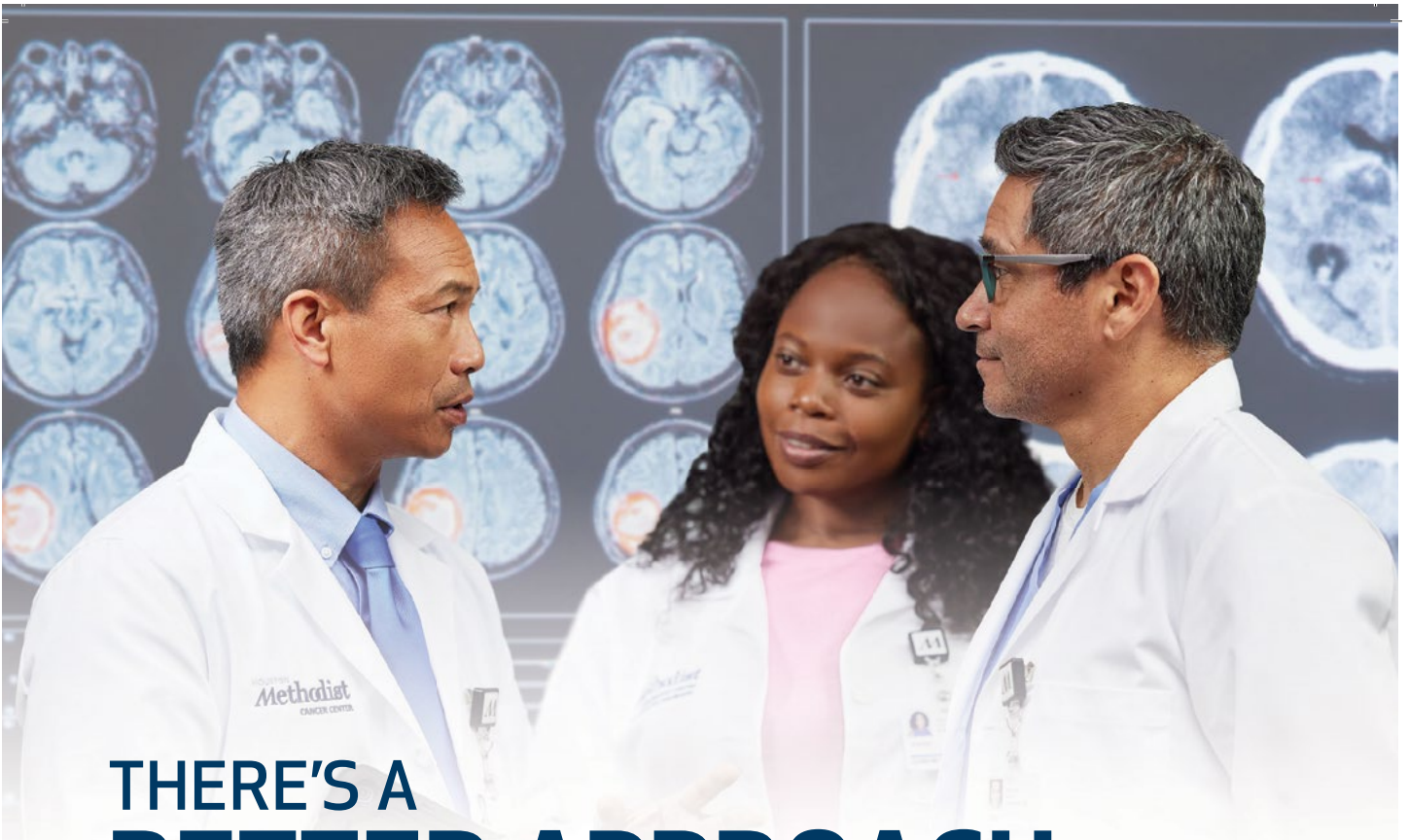
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Heard Under the Oak Tree

Terry Jeanes

Welcome, New Neighbors!

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

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1058 West 43rd

947 Althea

923 West 43rd

420 West 34th

4235 Apollo

539 West 34th

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855 Azalea

966 West 41st

1043 West 41st



Happy Birthday

Mark Sarmiento 3rd

Elizabeth Klein 4th

Katherine Knauth 4th

Avery T. 5th

Rick Knauth 9th

Tony Padon 23rd

Isabella R. 23rd.

Trent Salch 23rd.

Mary Beck 24th

Summer D'Amico 25th

Bridgette Martinez 26th

Emma Kathryn C. 28th

Debbie Padon 28th

Gretchen Dreher 29th

Carl Waters 29th

Happy Anniversary

Pat Buron & Shelley Rogers 5th

Out and About

Craig and M'lissa Dilley enjoyed Hawaii then a stop in California to visit longtime friends. **Cat and Jason Theriot** had a great time in Oregon. The **Theriot, Dilley, and Cracknell kids** had a great time at Camp Ozark. **Caroline, Sean, and Josh McLean** spent four days in Santa Monica to celebrate w21st birthday.

Amy Lee enjoyed her time at Buckeye Country Superfest. **Alisha Cunningham** visited Oklahoma City to help celebrate a friend's 50th birthday. The **Salch family** had a great time in Orange Beach. **The Seghers** were off to London and cruised out of Dover visiting Liverpool, Belfast, Iceland. **The McKeowns** had a fun time at Garner State Park.

Congratulations to

Max Curry and **Kate Christenbury** who were married June 1st. Congratulations also to **Angela Johnson Weltin** who wed **Brian Derkowski** recently in Playa de Carmen

Special Thoughts

To family and friends of **Al Jasso, David Cornelius, and Joanna Woods** who recently passed away.

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

Constable Statistics June 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 – 28
Burglary of Habitat - 1	Property Found Lost - 1
Check Park/School - 7	Stationary Visibility Patrol - 1
Civil Process - 6	Suspicious Person/Vehicle – 9
Contract Check – 94	Traffic Hazard – 1
Criminal Mischief - 1	Traffic Initiative – 2
Disturbance Loud Noise – 2	Traffic Stop - 12
Follow Up – 8	Vacation Watch –19
Information Call -5	Welfare Check - 3

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Choosing a Home Generator: Portable vs. Stand-by

Part Two of Three

Mitch Weigand

Last month we discussed the possibility of choosing a portable generator. The pros for this kind of generator can be found in its name. It's portable so you can use it while camping, operating power tools outside, or after a weather emergency when electricity is temporarily unavailable. Another plus is that portable generators use a variety of fuel, with propane being the most convenient and easiest to obtain.

What are the cons? Well, it creates a lot of noise while running, and the fumes can be toxic. A portable generator also requires constant monitoring and fuel refilling.

Let's now examine our other choice.

What is an automatic stand-by generator?

An automatic stand-by generator is a back-up electrical system which operates whether you are home or away. It literally stands at the ready, and within seconds of an electrical outage, automatically supplies power directly to your home's circuit breaker box. Once electricity is restored, the generator shuts itself off and waits for the next outage.

Stand-by generators operate on natural gas or liquid propane (LP)

gas and sit in the yard just like your central A/C system's outside condenser.

The American Red Cross recommends the stand-by generator over a portable generator as the superior method to provide back-up power to your home. Here's why:

1. With a properly installed stand-by generator, your home is free of potentially deadly carbon monoxide that a portable generator emits.
2. Using your home's natural gas fuel supply, it's less expensive to run than gasoline in a portable generator and does not need to be refilled constantly.
3. It eliminates the hassle of hauling a portable generator outside or running extension cords throughout your home.

Whether you're at home or away, a stand-by generator starts automatically within seconds of a power outage. Stand-by generators provide protection 24/7 and turn themselves off when utility power is restored.

This topic will conclude in next month's Garden Oaks Gazette.

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Air Wise owner Mitch Weigand



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August

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3 FarmStand 9am to 1pm 949 Wakefield
4	5	6 GOCC Meeting 7:00 pm Yard Waste & Garbage,	7	8	9	10 FarmStand 9am to 1pm 949 Wakefield
11	12 HISD School Starts	13 Yard Waste, Garbage, & Recycling	14	15	16	17 FarmStand 9am to 1pm 949 Wakefield
18	19	20 Yard Waste & Garbage,	21	22	23	24 FarmStand 9am to 1pm 949 Wakefield
25	26	27 Yard Waste, Garbage, & Recycling	28	29	30	31 FarmStand 9am to 1pm 949 Wakefield




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