



garden oaks *Gazette*

The newsletter of the Garden Oaks Civic Club

Oct 2024

Volume 46 Issue 10

GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!

The Azalea Street Beer and Wine Extravaganza is fast approaching! Scan the QR code below or mail your check using the ticket form included to get your tickets for \$100. Prices are going up on October 16th, so don't wait!

November 16th from 3:00 -6:00 PM on the 800 block of Azalea street.

We'll be featuring music by Taylor Marberry, and Briana K Photography will be there to capture the fun!

We will have delicious bites and fabulous drinks by these wonderful table hosts.

Upcoming Events

GOCC Meeting:
No October meeting

National Night Out
Tuesday Oct 1

ASBWE
November 16, 3-6pm
800 Block of Azalea

THE UPSIDE PUB
HIGH FIVE MINI BAR
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Scan to purchase tickets

Paper Ticket Form on page 5

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

Central City Air
Centralcityair.com

Great Heights Brewing Company
Ghbrewing.com

Nationwide Tools and Supplies
NationwideDist.com

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 – Paul Vincent 713.834.7249
vicepresident@gardenoaks.org

Treasurer – Brian Rabe
treasurer@gardenoaks.org

Secretary – Deepak Khosla 832.788.7201
secretary@gardenoaks.org

Committee Chairs

Beautification – Pam Parks 713 686 7728
beautification@gardenoaks.org

Constable Program - Terry Jeanes
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Membership – Dian Austin 713 691 6505
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Publication of any article or letter does not imply endorsement by the Garden Oaks Civic Club and is solely the opinion of the author.

President's Message

Mike Stephens, GOCC President

Hello everyone! I hope you had a good summer and I'm sure you're all looking forward to the more inviting outdoor weather conditions that are just around the corner!

It's head-spinning to realize that the inaugural year of the current Garden Oaks Civic Club team of officers, and committee chairs, is already in the home stretch of 2024. I am proud of the successes we have already experienced, the lessons we have learned for the future and thankful for the volunteers that make up the team.

With that, I want to mention a few events that will be occurring in the next few months, as well as some things that the GOCC officers and membership need to manage before the end of the year.

Apologies if this seems repetitive, along with other articles and posts that you have already seen, but two important events are occurring soon. First is National Night Out, which is on October 1st. There will be no monthly GOCC

meeting in October, in order to encourage members to gather with their neighbors for this great annual community event. Second is the Azalea Street Beer and Wine Extravaganza, which is on November 16th. This is the most important fundraising event of the year for the Garden Oaks Constable Program. Details can be found in the Gazette, or on Garden Oaks social media pages. You can also email gosocial@gardenoaks.org with questions or if interested in various forms of volunteering.

It's also time for GOCC membership to nominate, and vote on, officers for the GOCC Board of Directors for 2025. A Nominating Committee will present the slate of candidates at the November GOCC monthly meeting (November 5th) and members will vote on the officers at the December GOCC annual meeting (December 3rd).

(continued on page 4)

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(continued from page 3)

If you are interested in being an officer, or a committee member, please submit your name to secretary@gardenoaks.org and membership@gardenoaks.org. Most of the officers and chairs have agreed to serve another term, although please don't hesitate to submit your name if you have interest in ANY role. We do have two vacancies for 2025: Secretary and Social Chair.

Secretary primary duties: Keep the minutes of the monthly meetings of the Members, to be published in the Garden Oaks Gazette. As an officer, the Secretary also attends all meetings of the GOCC Board (typically once per quarter).

Social Chair duties: Lead planner for the annual fundraiser and social events for GOCC (for example Wakefield Shuffle, Azalea St. Extravaganza, Neighborhood Garage Sale, Parades, possible revival of Home Tour, etc.).

The current Board is working on the 2025 budget, which will be presented to Members at the November meeting, and voted on by Members at the December meeting.

Thanks for everyone who has signed up to be a dues-paying Member of GOCC in 2024 and attends our monthly meetings! We've had many attendees, like representatives from Council Members' offices, comment that it is one of best neighborhood civic clubs they have experienced in their Houston districts!

Looking forward to seeing you all at the November meeting!

Mike Stephens
President - GOCC
President@gardenoaks.org
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Garden Oaks Civic Club proudly presents...

AZALEA STREET BEER AND WINE

Extravaganza



NOVEMBER 16TH

3:00 - 6:00 PM

800 BLOCK OF AZALEA STREET

JOIN US ON NOVEMBER 16TH FOR A BLOCK PARTY TO SUPPORT THE GARDEN OAKS CONSTABLE PROGRAM.

PLEASE RESERVE _____ TICKETS AT \$100 A TICKET FOR A TOTAL OF _____

NAME: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____ EMAIL: _____

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HOUSTON, TX 77206

WE WILL ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR TICKET ORDER VIA EMAIL OR PHONE.
THIS IS AN ADULTS ONLY EVENT (21 AND OLDER)

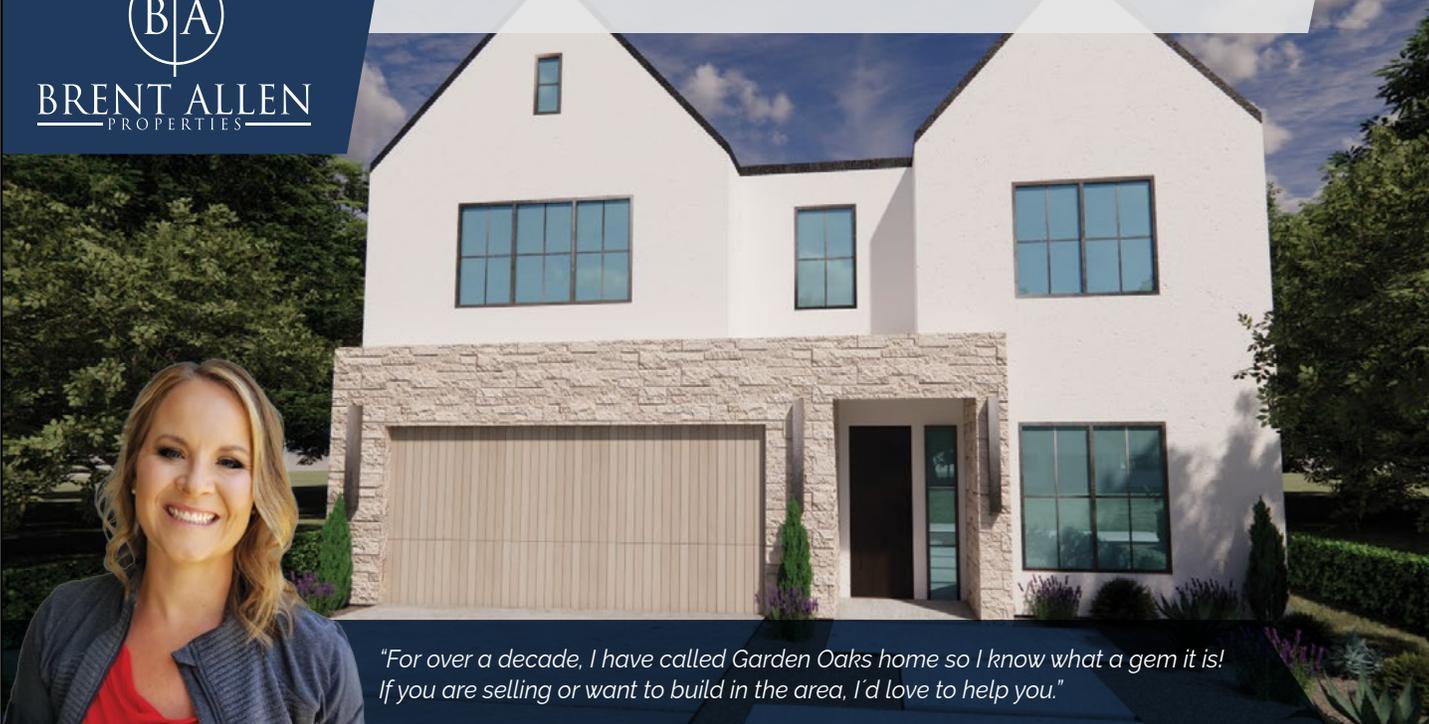


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2024 DUES STATEMENT (January – December)

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

2024 Azalea Street Extravaganza Sponsors

Cash sponsorships are the biggest part of our fundraising! Please thank these neighbors and patronize the businesses who support our Constable Program!

Diamond Sponsors (\$2500)

- The Law Offices of Hilda Sibrian
- Tyra Properties

Platinum Plus Sponsors (\$1500)

- Central City Air

Platinum Sponsors (\$1000)

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- The Rice Organization, Inc.
- Tonya L. Knauth, Attorney, PLLC

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Sponsorships can be purchased at gardenoaks.org. All proceeds are used to fund the Garden Oaks Constable Program. GOSocial@gardenoaks.org



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Gazette Volunteer Needed for Section 3

The Section Captain volunteer would deliver bundled Gazette newsletters to the 6 block captains in Section 3 (between Sue Barnett and Alba). Bundled newsletters would be delivered to you each month, and it would take you less than 30 minutes to deliver them. If interested, please contact gazettedelivery@gardenoaks.org



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Beryl's Lemons...to Lemonade

Tina Rowe, Section 1 resident

When Hurricane Beryl gives you lemons, you make lemonade. That's exactly what two Garden Oaks families did. A lightning strike during Beryl caused irreversible damage to a 40+ foot oak tree that sat on their shared property line. These neighbors didn't let the damaged tree sour their spirits. Instead, they collaborated and turned the tree into something positive and desirable.

Their partnership led them to hire Jim Phillips. Jim carved most of the famous Galveston sculptures after Hurricane Ike devastated many trees in 2008. They met with him, sketched a design and then started the process of turning their tree trunk into a masterpiece. Phillips' work can be seen all over Texas and now proudly in Garden Oaks.

John and Gina Greenslate and LizBeth Saracho, Garden Oaks Section 1 residents, let their creative juices flow and their design concept grew. They wanted a sculpture that blended in with the neighborhood, was imaginative, and one that could be seen and enjoyed by neighbors, children and passersby from all directions. Since Gina loves gardening,

the garden gnome sitting atop a mushroom was born. In Gina's own words, "Gnomes are whimsical dwellers of the earth, helpful garden protectors, and generally cheerful, so it fit naturally in the landscape."

Fitting naturally into the landscape is exactly what this beautiful tree sculpture does. It sits close to the street, and when you pass by, you will also see flowers, a butterfly, a dragonfly and my favorite, the squirrel. The sculpture is located at 507 W. 32nd St. It has already brought the neighborhood so much joy. Response has been overwhelmingly positive and put smiles on many faces.

And in case you are wondering, like I was, the gnome has a name. He is named "Gnomy" in honor of the Greenslate's late dog, Romy.



Pictured from left to right are GO resident LizBeth Saracho, carver Jim Phillips, and GO residents Gina & John Greenslate and their dog Barkley.

Constable Statistics July 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.

- Accident Minor – 1
- Alarm Local – 2
- Burglary of Habitation – 1
- Check Park/School - 16
- Civil Process - 5
- Contract Check – 131
- Disturbance Loud Noise – 2
- Follow Up - 6
- Illegally Parked Vehicle – 1
- Information Call - 1
- Meet the Citizen – 20
- Open Door/Window - 1
- Property Found/Lost - 1
- Stationary Visible Patrol - 27
- Stranded Motor Vehicle - 1
- Suspicious Person/Vehicle – 8
- Theft Other - 2
- Traffic Hazard - 1
- Traffic Stop - 10
- Vacation Watch –40
- Vehicle Speeding – 2



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Garden Oaks Civic Club Minutes

Deepak Khosla, GOCC Secretary

Tuesday, September 3, 2024 @ Great Heights Brewing

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Vice President Paul Vincent.

Paul welcomed Barry Ward, the Executive Director of Trees of Houston. Trees of Houston is now the largest regional tree planting organization in North America.

Barry provided a brief overview of his organization's goals and accomplishments, such as distributing over 100,000 trees on a \$4M budget. He mentioned the important things we need to do to take care of trees, including the three 'R's: Right Tree, Right Location, Regular Maintenance. He strongly recommended getting an arborist to look at our trees. A list of certified Arborists can be found at the International Society of Arboriculture web site - <https://www.isa-arbor.com/>. He also suggested planting only short trees near power lines to minimize impact of storms. A suggested list of trees for our area can be obtained by emailing Barry at barry@treesforhouston.org.

Anna Smith, external coordinator from Council Member Abbie Kamin's office, provided updates on efforts to help families recovering from Beryl, including getting refunds and speeding up storm debris cleanup, and also provided details of the Families with Pride event being sponsored by her office on October 26.

Russell Etherton from Councilman Mario Castillo's office mentioned their upcoming activities including a tree giveaway at Shepherd Park, a Spay & Neuter event, and a survey for district residents.

Christina Walsh, liaison for State Representative Penny Morales, handed out their newsletter and mentioned that her office was also pursuing Centerpoint on its handling of Beryl.

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

Paul next discussed the upcoming Azalea Street Beer and Wine Extravaganza on November 16th. Tickets are available online using the QR code on the front page of the Gazette or the GOCC web site. Early bird pricing ends October 15th.

Paul also reported good progress on PTO meetings to offer our support and is looking for volunteers to help liaison with these groups.

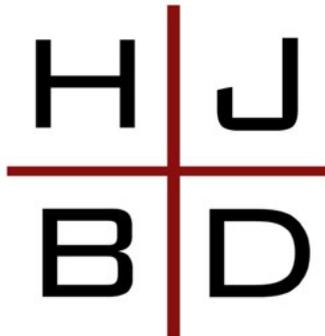
The upcoming National Night Out is on October 1, and everyone is encouraged to meet neighbors and spread the good work being done by GOCC. There will not be a GOCC meeting in October.

Paul discussed the formation of a committee to recruit candidates for GOCC officer positions for 2025. Members are encouraged to volunteer or nominate someone for each of the office positions. Candidates will be presented in November and voted on at the December meeting.

The \$25 raffle gift card, graciously donated by Darlene's Flowers & Gifts, was won by Section 1 resident David Fuentes.

Treasurer Brian Rabe presented the Treasurer's report and mentioned that the club is working with both District Council members in applying for a Department of Neighborhood grant.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.



H | J
B | D

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GO Creature Report: Gulf Coast Toad

Sophie Crow and Bernada Rubasingham, Garden Oaks Residents

After a steady downpour in the warmer months, the quest to locate and ‘rescue’ toads begins. In the evenings, they come out of their burrows and can be found sitting casually on the easements or in ditches of Section 4. Some carefree toads will venture off onto the road, in an attempt to soak in the warmth. With some gentle encouragement they can be convinced to hop back to safety. For the occasional stubborn toad for whom the warmth is too irresistible, our brave and experienced neighbor, Ms. Catalina, will carefully scoop them up and move them.

Creature Details:

The Gulf Coast toad is a species of toad that roams most of North America and Mexico. They come in brown, black, or yellow colors. Their diet mainly consists of almost any small arthropod it can swallow. On average they can live three to five years. Some of the only animals that will eat a gulf coast toad are birds and snakes. They usually make a loud “AUK” sound. They are not picky with habitats, which range from forests to urban areas.

Status: Least Concern by the IUCN Red List and has a NatureServe Global Conservation Status Rank of G5 (Secure). This is because they have a wide distribution, a large population, and can tolerate a variety of habitats.

Difference between Frogs and Toads:

1. Toads have thicker or bumpy skin while frogs have smooth or slimy skin
2. Toads spend most of their time on land while frogs spend most of their time in water

Here is a hint regarding the next creature report: OPSOUMS!



Unsplash images

GOMO Board Meetings

Propose 3rd Wednesday 6:30 pm of each month: Location: 1100 W 23rd St in the conference room	2025 January 15 February 19 March 19 April 16 May 21 June 18 July 16
2024	
October 16 Annual Members’ Meeting & Board Elections (Location TBA) November 20 December 18	Meetings are open. Questions: manager@gardenoaks.org

GOKids

Sara Mathias, President

GOKids' families have been enjoying the cooler weather and festivals and have shared some of their favorite Halloween activities. The Morrissett family visits Dewberry Farms every year, and the Abraham family organizes a Halloween-themed scavenger hunt for a party. The older kids work out the clues, and the littles happily follow along to get to the candy treasure (one for everybody, of course)!

Wesley, 6, Ellie, 3, and Collin, 1, love to carve pumpkins and then plant the pumpkin seeds. They also visit Home Depot and look at all the scary decorations. The Newsome family loves picking pumpkins and taking photos in the SRL pumpkin patch! The Mathias family hosts a backyard party with games like Pin the Eye on the Monster and bobbing for apples, and the kids love eating the Dirt Cake filled with gummy worms.

If you would like to join GOKids, our 2 biggest events of the year are in November and December. Find out more at <https://gardenoakskids.cheddarup.com>
GOKids' admins will also be attending National Night Out on the 900 block of Lamonte and the 1000 block of W. 41st Street and can answer any questions you might have.



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Constable Program

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

Neighbors Night Out - Tuesday October 1st (evening) Thank you to those hosting as of this writing 9/15/24. If your block isn't hosting, consider stopping in one of the gatherings you see in the neighborhood & meet some other neighbors. Hosts/Attendees please send your photos to constable@gardenoaks.org.

2024-2025 Constable Contract - The annual contract rate passed by Commissioners Court for FY2025 is \$124,100. The GOCC contract amount is \$99,280 (80%), per Deputy. This is a \$6160 increase per year, so more funds will be needed to cover our patrol deputy. FUNDS are Important!

The Constable Fall Fundraiser - Azalea SBW Extravaganza will be November 16th. Get your Tickets as per the information within this Gazette and stay tuned to social media. Early Bird tickets save \$25.00. Thank you to the generous sponsors. Sponsorships are still available at <https://www.gardenoaks.org/azalea-street/>

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.

958 West 42nd

408 West 31st

Happy Anniversary

Tony & Debbie Padon 6th

Elizabeth & Mark Klein 7th

Betsy & Gig Runge 9th

Jayne & Mike Maltbie 38th

Happy Birthday

Dian Austin 1st

Pene Carter 25th

Sue Schmidt 3rd

Linda Reichle 25th

Julian Seghers 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

Congratulations to

Reese Sherber and the St Rose of Lima Varsity Volleyball team, taking 2nd place at the IWA Tournament. **Reagan Sherber** obtained her driver's permit. **Abby O'Guynn** pledged ADP at the University of Texas. **Kate McKeown** pledged Delta Zeta at LSU. Happy 30th anniversary to **Tina Sabuco's Arts Alive!** **Shreda Paire and Erin Donahue** welcomed new family member **Luna**, a very lucky rescue pup.

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

Amanda and Robert Carlin celebrated Amanda's birthday at the Barry Manilow Concert. **Leslie Ryan and Carl Waters** celebrated Carl's birthday at an Astros game, including a win. **Heather McKeown and Kate McKeown** enjoyed LSU home season kickoff with tailgating. **Peter Vonder Haar** was seen in the crowd attending Jane's Addiction & Love and Rockets at 713Music Hall. The **Goads** enjoyed Labor Day weekend at Yogi Bear Park in Waller. **Kristina and Matthew Houston & family** made memories in Watercolor, FL and also on a trip to Oregon.

James Flowers enjoyed London sites and then delivered the keynote address at Oxford University. **The Dilley family** went to Colorado Spring /Broadmoor. **Jaime and Celeste Zamora** spent special time in Austin including visiting with their newest family member. **Kat Stinson** attended OATH fundraiser. **Elisa Cuellar** traveled to Scotland. **Dian Austin** traveled to Pennsylvania to attend a special event at Frank Lloyd Wright's Fallingwater.

GO resident Tim Pagel and former Garden Oaks residents Anita Cuevas, Jaime Pierce, and their spouses, reunited after many years in Asheville, NC. Both Anita and Jaime served as past GOCC presidents, and were involved with deed restriction enforcement and founding of the recycling program.

Mickey's Minute

Mickey Morales

The great thing about October is it ushers in both cooler weather and the Holiday season beginning with Halloween, which was my little sister's favorite. It also means we've somehow survived another Hurricane season. Between the windstorm in May and the Cat 1 hurricane that left behind all the damaged trees, we had more than our fair share of troubles. However, as usual, families, friends and neighbors came together, and we managed to get through it all.

I will be more than happy to be slinging breakfast tacos, migas and omelets without having to pick up a bag of ice to keep the cheese from melting, the cilantro from wilting, and having to stand in front of a fan so I don't melt myself. And, of course, Farmer Cathy will be happy because the cooler weather sees an increase in egg production and the summer veggies will flourish once again while she plants her fall and winter crops. And Elvira of Cake and Bacon won't have to move her tables around to keep the bread out of the scorching sun.

October also begins pumpkin recycling time. So bring those gently used gourds and place them around the old oak tree here on Wakefield. The egg producers (the hens) and the goats will thank you.

As usual, "Come soon, come often". No tricks, just treats are here at your local farmers market.

The market is located on Wakefield across from Great Heights Brewing and Decant Winery. It is open on Saturdays from 9 to 1 pm.

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What our clients have to say:

"Stephanie was AMAZING We cannot recommend her enough. She is so professional, thorough in her work, knowledgeable, and a true expert in every sense in the field. She is a great communicator, and always has your best interest in mind -- anyone that gets to work with her is lucky, as she takes such great care of her clients and homes. We were thrilled with her, and look forward to future work together, as well."
- E. Smith

"Stephanie was fantastic to work with. Very attentive, responsive and knowledgeable. She made us feel like we were her number one priority and made the home buying process a breeze. Would highly recommend Stephanie and will absolutely reach out in the future."
- Gerber Family

"I have been in real estate investment for over fifty years and in all of my experiences with real estate brokers and agents, I rank Stephanie at the top."
- C. Young



Protecting Your Air Conditioning System's Capacitors

Mitch Weigand

Previously, we discussed how to protect your A/C system during thunderstorms: when you hear thunder from an approaching storm, turn your A/C off. This helps protect it from power surges. Nearly 90% of all electrical-related damage occurs when your A/C is left on during thunderstorms. You are protecting your system's capacitors.

So what exactly is a capacitor?

A capacitor is an electrical device that stores an electrical charge. In A/C systems, they are used to turn on fan motors and compressors. Other motors such as an electric car engine, furnace, spa pump, and home generator have them too. Pretty much any motor that uses electricity to function has a capacitor or two built into it.

In A/C systems, capacitors come in two types: (1) start capacitors and (2) run capacitors. Start capacitors do just that - they start a motor. Start capacitors provide extra torque (power boost) at the start-up for the compressor. An internal relay automatically disconnects them from the compressor once the compressor starts.

Run capacitors are designed to keep the compressor running continuously while it is being powered. They maintain a relatively

constant voltage supply to the compressor.

Think of them as an internal surge protector. Because both capacitors involve electricity, they are susceptible to power surges which can occur during/after thunderstorms. Some have an interrupter, which causes them to fail before internal pressure causes serious damage to your A/C system. Another design causes the top of the capacitor to expand and break its internal wiring.

Over many years of use, the capacitor's strength reduces and it simply wears out. Then, the A/C motor may fail to start or run at full power. If a motor is running during a lightning strike along the power grid, the run capacitor might be damaged or weakened by a voltage spike, thus requiring replacement.

So when there's electricity in the air, turn your A/C off. Additionally, if there is a power outage, wait 20 minutes after power is restored to turn your air conditioner back on.

Mitch Weigand is the owner of Air Wise™.

Here's what our customers say about us:

Mitch has been my A/C guy for at least 15 years now.

Betty L., Southern Oaks

★★★★★ "Mitch has been my A/C guy for at least 15 years now, and I can't say enough good things about him. He has fixed problems both big and small, all at a fair price and with a quick response time.

I especially appreciate Mitch's advice in caring for my A/C unit, his interest in explaining how things work and the time he took to explain how to use my new NEST thermostat."



Air Wise owner Mitch Weigand



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October

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1 Neighbors Night Out Yard Waste, & Garbage,	2	3 Rosh Hashanah	4	5 FarmStand 9am to 1pm 949 Wakefield
6	7	8 Yard Waste, Garbage, & Recycling	9	10	11	12 Yom Kippur FarmStand 9am to 1pm 949 Wakefield
13	14 Indigenous Peoples' Day Columbus Day	15 Yard Waste, & Garbage,	16	17	18	19 FarmStand 9am to 1pm 949 Wakefield
20	21	22 Yard Waste, Garbage, & Recycling	23	24	25	26 FarmStand 9am to 1pm 949 Wakefield
27	28	29 Yard Waste, & Garbage,	30	31 Halloween		

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