



garden oaks *Gazette*

The newsletter of the Garden Oaks Civic Club

Jan 2025

Volume 47 Issue 1

GOCC 2024 accomplishments and 2025 goals

Mike Stephens, GOCC President

Hello neighbors! It is definitely cliché to talk about how time flies, but WOW, it seems like I was just writing the Gazette article to introduce myself as the new Garden Oaks Civic Club (GOCC) President, and now I'm thinking back on the full year that has passed.

For me, the experience as GOCC President in 2024 was a steep learning curve, but also rewarding, as I learned about how many long-time, dedicated volunteers we have in Garden Oaks. Yet, I also learned how hard it is to connect with the other hundreds of households that aren't aware of the civic club, and its importance in maintaining the things many may take for granted, like our dedicated Constable, or our beautiful parks.

In a year where the city experienced two significant storms, one of the most pleasing discoveries for me was that the City Council members who represent Garden Oaks are very involved with issues that impact our community. Representatives from their offices are present at most monthly GOCC meetings; they also come to our social functions, and they are also very responsive to issues that show up in their email inboxes.

Other successes and developments for GOCC in 2024:

- We developed a direct line of communication and a relationship with CenterPoint representatives in order to get better responses and problem solving specific to Garden Oaks. This was mainly due to aggressive and tactful interaction by some active residents. We still have a long way to go, but there has definitely been progress.

- We took the "rebranding" baton from the previous GOCC officers and continued moving forward, now focusing on neighborhood entry signage. One of the most significant developments was the introduction, guidance, and needed support from our City Council members to the Grant Program that exists, where the City provides financial support for projects just like this.

- We, once again, held successful fundraising events, including the Wakefield Shuffle and the Azalea Street Beer & Wine Extravaganza; both were essential for providing some of the funding necessary for the Constable program and the other functions of our civic club.

- We held the first Garden Oaks neighborhood-wide garage sale, which had great participation.

- We've supported the volunteers who are working through the challenging process of reviving the Home Owners Association for Garden Oaks.

- We expanded our social media activities on Facebook (Houston_GO) and Instagram (@gardenoakshouston) in an effort to reach residents who may not see neighborhood news via email, or in the Gazette.

Upcoming Events

GOCC Meeting:

Jan 7th at 7 PM

Great Heights Brewery

GOMO Board Meeting

Jan 15th at 6:30 PM

1100 W. 23rd St. Conference Room

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2025 Garden Oaks Civic Club CommUnity Partners

Thank you to the following neighbors and neighborhood businesses who are supporting our new CommUnity Partnership Program for 2025.

If you/your business is interested in joining our annual program, please email membership@gardenoaks.org.

Nationwide Tools & Supplies
NationwideDist.com

Deanna Zugheri, Keller Williams Metropolitan
Gardenoakshomes.com

Stephanie Pribble, The Pribble Group
www.Pribblegroup.com

Geordie Hrdlicka, Verde Wealth Group
www.verdewealth.com

Katie Hilburn, Katie Hilburn Interiors
Katiehilburninteriors.com

Great Heights Brewing Company
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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.

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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constable@gardenoaks.org

Membership – Dian Austin 713 691 6505
membership@gardenoaks.org

Webmaster – Pam Parks 713 686 7728
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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.

Garden Oaks CommUnity Partnership Program

Dian Austin, Membership Chair

Four years ago, the Garden Oaks Civic Club (GOCC) rolled out the GOCC CommUnity Partnership Program to better involve and recognize area businesses who support our neighborhood. Several nearby businesses have joined, and we appreciate your support!

For 2025, the GOCC will continue its focus on growing partnerships with nearby businesses, GO residents, neighboring civic clubs, area schools, and close-by neighborhoods, thus growing our community. The CommUnity Partnership Program will continue its emphasis on finding more connections between us all, and we will be listening to how we can be a better partner. It works both ways for all involved.

A Garden Oaks CommUnity Partnership is \$250 annually, from January to December 2025, and can be purchased at gardenoaks.org/memberships.

Benefits include:

- A monthly listing in the Garden Oaks Gazette newsletter for all of 2025.
- A visible listing on the gardenoaks.org website, with a link to the Partner’s website, if applicable. Partners will be listed in the order in which they join, not alphabetically, so it pays to be amongst the first! Listings will be visible for the full year of membership.
- Routine mention of our partners on our social media.
- Invitations and e-reminders to our regular monthly meetings and our separate in-person social events.

Questions: membership@gardenoaks.org

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Garden Oaks Civic Club Minutes

Deepak Khosla, GOCC Secretary

Tuesday, December 3, 2024 @ Great Heights Brewing

The meeting was called to order at 7:20 pm by President Mike Stephens. A motion to accept the minutes from the November 2024 meeting was made, seconded, and approved.

The slate of officers for 2025 as recommended by the nominating committee was presented for election. The floor was opened for anyone else wanting to run, but there were no other candidates. The following were approved for 2025 without objection:

- President – Mike Stephens
- Vice President – Paul Vincent
- Treasurer – Brian Rabe
- Secretary (Interim) – Deepak Khosla

Mike next individually recognized the efforts and support of the above-mentioned officers as well as committee chairs Terry Jeanes, Pam Parks, Christi Hartley, Emily Stephens, Dian

Austin, Brenda de Alba and Angela Winston. He also recognized resident James Elmore for his significant contributions to the community, including participation in GOCC committees and being a Board Member for GOMO.

Treasurer Brian Rabe gave the December Treasurer’s report. For the most part we are on budget, with Constable Program income slightly below budget, but much improved, thanks to the successful Azalea Street fundraiser.

A motion to pass the 2025 budget as presented in the November meeting was made, seconded, and approved.

Deputy Constable Kelley briefly reminded homeowners to use Vacation Watch service if out for the holidays. She also mentioned that “porch pirate” incidents are high, due to the holidays. She encouraged people to be vigilant about reporting suspicious people to the Constable and to promptly retrieve your packages from the porch.

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Social committee chair Emily Stephens mentioned the huge success of the Azalea Street festival that brought in just under \$30,000 for the Constable program. Please contact her for any suggestions for future events and activities.

Mike reminded all that the social media and Event coordination roles (both currently handled by Emily) will be split in 2025, and that we're in desperate need of volunteers to assist with event planning.

Mike also reminded members to participate in the GOMO homeowners survey and to encourage your neighbors to do so; the links are on the GOMO main web page. GOMO Board member James Elmore said the 2025 officer election is on January 15, 2025, and several open board positions need to be filled. He also mentioned the combined efforts by GOCC & GOMO to update contact information for all residents in Garden Oaks.

Russell Etherton from CM Castillo's office reminded people to call both 311 & their office for solid waste pickup com-

plaints. He encouraged attendance of the next townhall in the area at 10AM on February 15, 2025 at St. Rose of Lima. Christina Walsh, liaison for State Representative Penny Morales, will have 2025 calendars at next month's meeting. For anyone interested in knowing how our legislators voted on issues, her office can provide those details.

Mike mentioned that he had received information from CM Kamin's office regarding new focus by the City on Short Term Rental (STR) Regulations. If residents have opinions or feedback about STRs (for example Airbnbs), they can access a form at www.houstontx.gov/ara/business-licensing.html.

Mike then opened the floor for discussion.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM so we could enjoy a holiday dinner, sponsored by GOCC, and prepared by Micky Morales, with desserts by Angela Winston's Liberation Gluten Free Bakery.

BA
BRENT ALLEN
PROPERTIES

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2025 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)

\$ _____ **GO Kids Membership \$85**

\$ _____ **TOTAL**

Please mail this completed form along with your check payable to:
Garden Oaks Civic Club, P.O. Box 10273, Houston, TX 77206

-OR- **Pay online at gardenoaks.org**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

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

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Goals for 2025

- Find ways to increase GOCC visibility and increase the number of volunteers and members.
- Build relationships with the civic club and HOA officers in our neighboring communities. Learn from their successes and partner on mutually beneficial projects.
- Continue to become more familiar with the GOCC finances and cash flow and strive to balance the budget (currently running at a consistent deficit), while making sure the support is still there for the things that you've said are most important to you, such as the Constable Program and beautification of our parks and greenspaces.
- Increase interactions and involvement with local area school officials and PTOs.
- Finish the project to replace the neighborhood entry signs with signs that display the new Garden Oaks logo.
- Revisit the idea of establishing Garden Oaks as a Heritage District.

- Look for more social opportunities such as the quarterly happy hours we sponsored prior to the pandemic.
- Find ways to overcome the physical separation that Shepherd Drive creates for Section 1 and have more cohesive events, such as parades, etc.

None of the 2024 accomplishments could have happened without the time and efforts of the GOCC officers, committee members and other volunteers from the community. I also greatly appreciate those of you who were dues-paying members and attended the monthly meetings and community events.

Ideas, comments? Please send them to president@gardenoaks.org

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GOKids Update

Sara Mathias, Outgoing President

GOKids is excited for our 2025 events! We will be planning at least 6 events throughout the year. Families pay membership dues for the calendar year and then have access to the events which generally include an activity, crafts, snacks and sometimes a gift without additional attendance fees. GOKids brings a small town feel to the big city and brings families together while supporting the local businesses in our area. Most of our member families have kids aging anywhere from walking babies to about 9 years old.

In 2024, we hosted a Mom's Night Out, a Mardi Gras bike/wagon parade, Earth Day Celebration, Family Pictures, Park Playdate, 4th July bike decorating and breakfast, a volunteer event supporting Kids' Meals, Fall Festival Block Party and Reindeer Games with Santa pictures.

Our events were made possible by the following sponsors: CoCo's Donuts, Corey Allyn Photography, Deep Eddy Vodka, Frankie + Flora, Great Heights Brewing Company, Himari, La Mex, Portrait EFX, Primrose Garden Oaks, SK Designs, Spa 146 & Dr. Theresa Haring, The Dugout HTX, & Wakefield Crowbar.

You may pay your \$85 annual dues online at <https://www.gardenoaks.org/memberships-3/> or via check with the dues form included in this newsletter. If you would like to volunteer or sponsor an event, please reach out to Gardenoakskids@gmail.com.



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Recycling Dos and Don'ts

Excerpted from houstontx.gov/solidwaste/recycling

The city of Houston recycles:

- **Metal and cans:** aluminum cans, vegetable cans, fruit cans, coffee cans (all emptied and rinsed)
- **Cartons:** Both gable top and shelf-stable food and beverage cartons. Examples include milk cartons, juice cartons, soup cartons, soy milk/alternative milk cartons (all emptied and rinsed)
- **Glass:** Bottles, jugs and jars only (all emptied and rinsed, no lids)
- **Paper:** Newspaper, magazines, catalogs, junk mail, office paper
- **Cardboard:** Cardboard and cereal boxes (emptied of packing materials and flattened)
- **Plastic:** Bottles, tubs and jugs #1 - 5 and 7. Examples include water and soda bottles, milk jugs, yogurt cups, margarine tubs, detergent bottles, shampoo bottles. (emptied and rinsed). Do not recycle the plastic bottle caps.

Download the HTX Collects app to find out when your recycling day is.

Do NOT put these in the green recycling bin:

- Shredded paper
- Batteries and electronics
- Food/Liquids
- Trash and Bagged Recycling
- Scrap wood and metal
- Yard waste
- Pizza boxes and soiled paper plates and napkins
- Plastic dry cleaning bags
- Bottle caps



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Mulching Beds

*Pam Parks, Beautification Chair
with excerpts from thespruce.com*

So many mulching options, and what is the “right” way? The good news is that there isn’t a single right way, and many different ways work well. It depends on your goals and how much time and money you want to spend. Nature does a terrific job with the accumulation of leaves, and you can take a cue from that. Rake up your leaves and pine straw and layer down several inches around your prized plants. It looks fine, is great for plants, and you cannot beat the price. If you want to go whole hog and use your mulching program to minimize weed growth, supplement soil, reduce water needs and protect from excessive heat, there are better options. All of these are important to keeping our pocket parks looking sharp without breaking the bank. Here is the recipe:

1. Initial weed removal
2. Cover bare soil with 1-2 layers of cardboard.
3. 3-4” of hardwood mulch
4. Top with 3-4” of pine straw

Applied at any time of the year, it will last at least a year. Repeated yearly, we find that it reduces the time spent in weeding as much as ten-fold.

Below is some excellent information excerpted from thespruce.com that gets into the advantages of mulch and pine straw and discusses it from an either-or perspective. Other than cost, there are no benefits to only doing one or the other and in fact using both does a better job of building nutrition and keeping the mulch in good shape longer.

Pine straw mulch is made from fallen pine needles. After the pine needles have dried, they become pine straw. Pine straw can be used as a yard or garden mulch, much like wood mulch, straw, or shredded leaves.

Pine straw mulch and straw mulch are different. Pine straw mulch is made from pine needles, while straw mulch is made from wheat or oat stems.

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Benefits of Pine Straw Mulch

- **Dense:** Pine straw mulch holds tightly together to form a dense layer that holds in moisture and moderates soil temperature.
- **Porous:** Despite its density, pine straw mulch remains porous enough for water to easily soak through.
- **Loose:** Pine straw mulch remains loose and light even after it has been installed. It is easy to redistribute pine straw mulch if needed.
- **Attractive:** Pine straw needles are thin and brown or light red, an attractive complement that fits the look of most yards.
- **Stable:** Pine straw mulch's needles weave together, forming a stable mat that is difficult to wash or blow away.
- **Inexpensive:** Pine straw mulch can be produced from your own pine trees, for free pine straw mulch.

Pine Straw Mulch vs. Other Mulches

Mulches are either organic or inorganic. Organic mulch is derived from living things and imparts nutrients into the soil. Inorganic mulch, such as gravel or shredded rubber, conserves moisture and preserves existing soil nutrients, controls soil temperature, and limits weed growth. But inorganic mulches do not provide nutrients to the soil.

Organic Mulches

Shredded bark mulch: Shredded bark mulch is sourced from a variety of trees and comes in colors such as red, black, and brown. Shredded bark mulch decomposes slowly and lasts longer than some other organic mulches.

Wood bark: Larger than wood chips, wood bark mulch is made from hardwood waste. The large nuggets are an attractive ground cover, but they do have a tendency to form into an impenetrable mat that hinders plant growth.

Wood chips: Pruning trees or cutting down trees produces fine wood chips. Wood chips work well in areas with heavy foot traffic.

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Compost: As organic materials decompose, they turn into a rich, dark soil-like material called compost. Compost is an excellent source of nutrients for plants and can be worked into the soil to improve its structure.

Straw: The dried stalks of wheat, rice, or oats are often used for mulch. Straw is an affordable and readily available mulching material and is good for covering large areas.

Leaves: Fallen leaves can be shredded and used as mulch. Like compost, leaves are an excellent source of organic matter and can help make dense soils more porous.

Inorganic Mulches

Rubber mulch: Recycled rubber from tires and other sources is shredded and can be used as a long-lasting and low-maintenance mulch. Rubber mulch is an excellent choice for playgrounds or driveways.

Gravel or rocks: Best used as decorative mulch, gravel or rocks can be used in garden beds or around trees. Gravel helps retain moisture in the soil. Because gravel and rocks are inorganic, they do not decay.



Photo by Seth Cottle on Unsplash

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Mickey's Minute

Mickey Morales

A new year, and a new beginning! As some of you may recall, I don't make resolutions. I make changes. And one of this year's changes is relearning the art of saying "No". Four years ago my eldest brother was diagnosed with pulmonary fibrosis and asked me to be the executor of his estate. Unfortunately, I had no choice but to say yes. I say unfortunately because my siblings and I are beginning to run out of bloodline.

This is really a cautionary tale of what to do if you're asked this question. My advice is to turn and run and keep running until you find a brick or large stone, smash your cell phone into a thousand pieces and keep running. If you're like me and can't say no, make sure you take care of details before they are all needed. Make sure there's only one bank account, 401K and insurance policy. But most of all, execute a will today, along with a durable and medical power of attorney, medical directive and HIPPA document. And if you're the one asking this favor, it's as much your responsibility to get this done as your chosen one.

I don't mean this to be an advertisement, but if you need

help with such an effort, I highly recommend Tonya Knauth and Amanda Pierson of The Heights Law Group. These two pulled my cookies out of the fire when I needed it most and did it in one day, actually one afternoon. I don't recommend doing things last minute. In a perfect world all of this would have been done early, a family meeting would have occurred, and everyone would have understood what to expect. It didn't happen that way.

Okay, my sermon is over, and let's talk briefly about The Farmstand and its future. The buildout at Decant Urban Winery continues unabated. yet slow and steady. So it appears Farmer Cathy and I may have to endure a bit of winter weather until we can shelter inside on Saturdays. There will still be outdoor seating, so it still feels like a farmers market, yet we can hide inside on the worst of Saturdays.

As always, "Come soon, come often and get it done."

The Farmstand Market is open every Saturday from 9 to 1pm and is located on Wakefield across from Decant Urban Winery and Great Heights Brewing.

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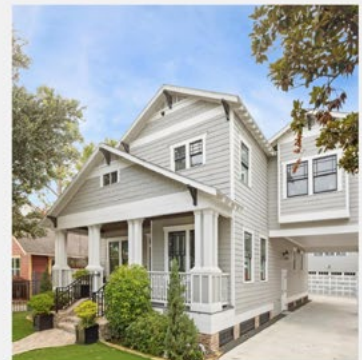
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What our clients have to say:

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"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." - R. Nguyen



Constable Program

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

2024-2025 Constable Contract - The FY2025 rate is \$124,100 and GOCC's portion is \$99,280 (80%). This covers one deputy at 40 hours per week. FUNDS are Important!

The Constable Fall Fundraiser – A rousing “THANK YOU” to all the generous sponsors, table hosts, attendees, and committee volunteers. \$29600 was raised at the Azalea Street event. Remember to support our Sponsors as they made a huge difference in our success.

Also, a Thank You to those who brought toys for the Precinct One Toy Drive for area children in need to the GOCC December meeting and also to the Constable/Dr Gleem Car Wash event.

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/>



Photo courtesy of Terry Jeanes

Constable Statistics November 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 – 3

Alarm Holdup - 1

Burglary of Motor Vehicle – 2

Check Park/School/Business -18

Civil Process - 7

Contract Check – 92

Disturbance Loud Noise - 5

DWI - 1

Follow Up - 9

Illegally Parked Vehicle – 1

Information Call - 2

Meet the Citizen – 14

Solicitors – 1

Special Assignment - 1

Stationary Visible Patrol - 7

Suspicious Person/Vehicle – 4

Theft Other - 2

Traffic Hazard/Initiative/Stop – 17

Vacation Watch –16

Welfare Check - 1



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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.

923 Gardenia	319 W 34th
975 W 43rd	807 Lamonte
914 Lamonte	1025 Lamonte
710 Sue Barnett	3302 Lawrence
319 W 32nd	335 W 34th

Happy Birthday

Evin Dunn 4th	Owen H 30th
Maeve Mc. 5th	Shellye Arnold 30th
Mae T 8th	Belated Birthday wishes to Jason Sherber – Dec 14
Diane Heath 9th	
Phil Ramirez 10th	
Erik Martin 24th	

Happy Anniversary

Alice & Mark Sarmiento 30th

Bonnie & Rudy Hernandez

Special thoughts to

Kate Vogel and family on the recent loss of Kate's mother.

Also to **Caroline McLean and family** on the loss of Caroline's dad.

Congratulations to

Alex Feit who made Varsity soccer at Duchesne Academy.



Out and About

Thanksgiving travels included Oregon for **Caroline Stender**, Fayetteville, Tx for **Tina Sabuco & Shellye Arnold**, and NYC for **Tina Rowe & Jim Dicola**. The **Theriot**s enjoyed the LSU game. The **Dilleys** welcomed longtime friend **Natalie** from London for the holiday festivities. **Carl Waters & Leslie Ryan** enjoyed Hilton Head for their 35th anniversary.

Jaime Zamora exhibited his concert photos at the Corpus Christi House of Rock.

Margie & John Hesse enjoyed the Weiden Christkindlmarkt, and celebrated John's birthday. **Doug & Julie Mischlich** traveled to Princeton, where son **Matthew** participated in the NWPC (Water Polo) Conference Tournament.

Celeste & Jaime Zamora & girls enjoyed NYC. It was an Austin Foodie Tour for **Heather & Kate McKeown**. **Cat & Jason Theriot** traveled to NOLA Superdome to see nephew play in & win the LA State High School Football Championship. The **Seghers** headed to the ACC Championship game. **Scott Matney, Katy Kyle, Kat Stinson & Terry Jeanes** attended the HLSR Breeders Greeters Christmas Party, readying for busy HLSR season just around the corner.

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 MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATION, INC. NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING & CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Dear GOMO Member,

The Annual Meeting and Election for Garden Oak Maintenance Organization, Inc., is scheduled for Wednesday, January 15, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. in the community meeting room at St. Stephens Methodist at 2003 West 43rd.

All members are eligible to run for the Board unless, as provided by Section 209.0051(b) of the Texas Property Code, the member was convicted of a felony or crime of moral turpitude within the last 20 years.

If you would like to run for the Board, submit your name, Garden Oaks property address, email address, and any candidate statement you wish to make to GOMO. Members may also stand for election to the board at the meeting. It is desirable but not a requirement that candidates be present at the meeting to run.

The QR code below is a proxy form that may be used by members to obtain authorization from other members to vote on their behalf.



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

Meetings are open.

Questions: manager@gardenoaks.org

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Recipe for a Brunch Classic

Kala Dunn, GO resident

At the recent Azalea Street Extravaganza, I shared a table with Plonk! Bistro owner Scott Miller and GO residents M'lissa and Craig Dilley. We got great feedback on the handmade buttery biscuits topped with warm brie, French ham, and honey that we served, and I thought I'd share the recipe here. Whether you tried Plonk! Biscuits at the Azalea Street event or not, freshly baked biscuits are a wonderful addition to any brunch and a generous, if somewhat messy and time-consuming, way to welcome houseguests or family members to a memorable morning.

Plonk! Buttermilk Biscuits (makes 9 large biscuits)

3 2/3 cups all purpose flour, plus more to flour work area

4 Tablespoons baking powder

½ teaspoon baking soda

2 teaspoons Kosher salt

12 Tablespoons cold, unsalted butter (1 ½ sticks), plus more for brushing on top of biscuits

2 cups cold buttermilk

Sift together dry ingredients (flour, baking powder, baking soda, and salt) into a bowl. Cut butter into ½ inch cubes and cut into dry mixture. (This can be done with a pastry cutter inside the mixing bowl, with your hands, or by transferring the dry mixture to a food processor, adding the butter, and pulsing 10-15 times. Any of those methods work, as long as the result is a crumbly mixture with pea-sized chunks of butter.)

Pour in cold buttermilk and mix just until the dough comes together – be careful not to overmix, or the biscuit will be lacking in flakiness!

Pre-heat oven to 350° F. Dust flour onto clean work surface and turn the mixture out of the bowl. With clean, floured hands, press the dough into a square about the size of a vinyl record cover. Use a spatula or scraper to fold the two outer thirds of the square in toward the center, overlapping with each other and the center third as if you were folding a sheet of paper to place into an envelope. Then use a floured rolling

pin to press the dough back out into a square and repeat the folding process two to three more times. The dough will be shaggy and difficult to handle the first time you fold it but it will become easier to work with each time you fold it. Finally, press the dough into a final, neat square. Cut into nine equally sized squares or use a round cutter for circular biscuits. Place the biscuits onto either a greased and floured sheet pan, a waxed baking sheet, or a silicone baking pad. Be sure to use a pan that can fit into your freezer or divide into smaller pans, because the next step is to place the biscuits into the freezer for ten minutes to firm them up before baking – this is a crucial step, so don't skip it! Once the biscuits are firm, brush them with melted butter and bake for 20-24 minutes – be sure to watch for hot spots and turn the pans accordingly! Enjoy!

And if this all sounds like too much work for you, watch social media for Plonk!'s next Sunday Morning Biscuit Pop-Up! We serve them hot and ready with flavorful toppings, including classic Sausage Gravy -- another recipe for another time!

Kala Dunn is a Garden Oaks resident and the Executive Chef at Plonk! Bistro on 1214 W. 43rd St., #100.



Photo by Jodie Morgan on Unsplash

January

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			1 New Year's Day	2	3	4 FarmStand 9am to 1pm 949 Wakefield
5	6	7 GOCC Meeting 7 pm Yard Waste, & Garbage,	8	9	10	11 FarmStand 9am to 1pm 949 Wakefield
12	13	14 Yard Waste, Garbage, & Recycling	15 GOMO Board Meeting 6:30 PM	16 Heavy Yard Waste	17	18 FarmStand 9am to 1pm 949 Wakefield
19	20	21 Yard Waste, & Garbage,	22	23	24	25 FarmStand 9am to 1pm 949 Wakefield
26	27	28 Yard Waste, Garbage, & Recycling	29 Lunar New Year	30	31	

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