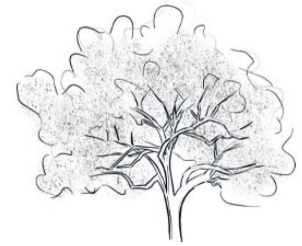


# Gardens of Oak Hollow

A SMALL COMMUNITY WITH A BIG HEART

## Neighborly News



### Pipes Don't Lie

How To Help Our Pipes

		
<b>POUR</b>	<b>CLEAN</b>	<b>DISPOSE</b>
cooled liquid grease into a sealable container	remaining grease and debris with a paper towel	of wipes and grease in your brown city trash bin

For this Newsletter, I checked in with the San Antonio Water System and found some useful information and reminders.

### Challenges to Sewer Our System

One of the biggest challenges to our sewer system is pre-moistened personal use and cleaning wipes.

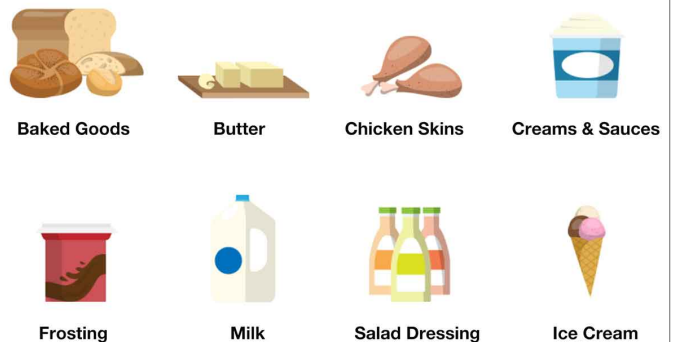
Even though most claim to be flushable, in reality, these wipes don't disintegrate like traditional toilet paper. Wipes bunch together

with grease and debris, creating long, mop-like clumps that then clog our pipes and damage the sewer system.

We know wipes can be convenient and handy, but never flush them down the toilet. The toilet is not a trash can.

### What Not to Put Down Drain

In addition to fats, oils and grease found in your favorite foods, products such as wipes can also cause our pipes to clog. Below are examples of what not to put down the drain:



## Mineral Water Spas of Texas

Once again, while I was looking for something on the internet, I tripped over an article that caught my attention.

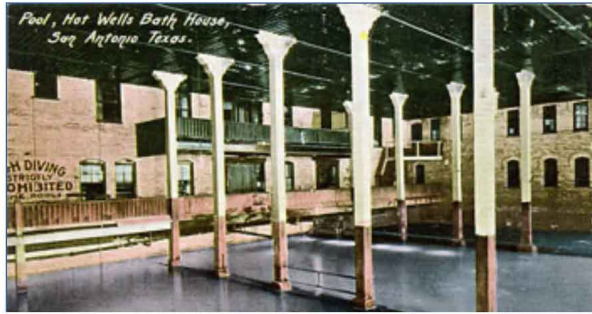
### Long History

Texas' many sources of fresh, sweet water have sustained human life for many thousands of years. Ancient Indian artifacts are clustered around freshwater springs in every region of the state and give mute evidence of camp sites used long before Anglo settlers arrived.

No one knows just when America's Indians first began using mineral waters for bathing and drinking, but as early as the Roman Empire, Europeans indulged in hot mineral baths. The elaborate network of hot mineral-water bathing facilities built by first-century Romans at Bath, England, is one of those early spas.

The owners of a few of Texas' mineral springs opened them to the public during the 1840s and 1850s; serious commercial

### Hot Wells Pool Then



### Hot Wells Pool in 2004



development began about 1860. The facilities around Sour Lake in Hardin County, though, were still relatively crude when Sam Houston spent a month there in 1863 taking mineral baths.

In 1892 a well was drilled to supply water to the new San Antonio State Hospital on South Presa Street near the San Antonio River. The site was near the saline/fresh water interface of the Edwards Aquifer, where hot, sulfurous wells are common.

Instead of sweet potable Edwards water, the well instead produced 104 degree water with a strong sulfur odor that was unfit for domestic use at the Asylum. The volume was copious - about 180,000 gallons per day, and since many people believed in the healing powers of hot waters, the medicinal and recreational potential of the strong-flowing well was recognized immediately.

Although the San Antonio area had at least three popular mineral-water spas,

neither of the others achieved the reputation for luxury of the Hot Wells Hotel and Bath House, which opened in 1900 near San José Mission.

Among the multitude of bathing facilities were three swimming pools, 45 private bathing areas and 200 individual dressing rooms, plus six different kinds of baths. "Taking the waters" was almost an afterthought in the three-story pleasure palace, which quickly became the place to be among San Antonio's social set.

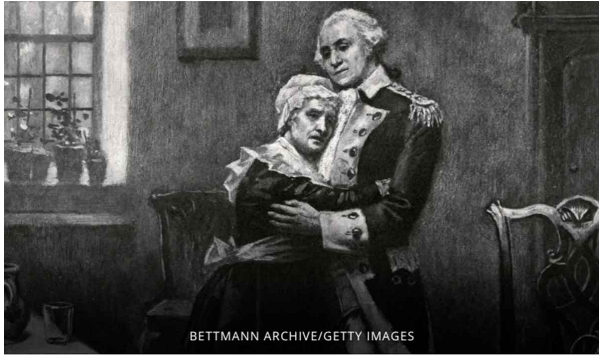
Besides dances, bowling, swimming, concerts, lectures, tea on the verandah, and domino parties, diversions included an ostrich farm, a small zoo and gambling at the Hot Wells Jockey Club, complete with full-time bookie.

The visiting celebrity list was long and included the likes of Teddy Roosevelt, Mexican dictator Porfirio Díaz, Douglas Fairbanks, Rudolph Valentino, Sarah Bernhardt, Will Rogers, Hoot Gibson and Tom Mix.

The Hot Wells' popularity died off by the early 1920s. Though the hotel may be gone and the well has been capped, visitors can now stroll through the historic grounds and experience the park - available to the public since its grand opening April 30, 2019.



## Washington's Mother



PRESIDENT GEORGE WASHINGTON AND HIS MOTHER.

As we look forward to celebrating Mother's Day next Sunday, I thought I would share some background about the mother of our country's first President, George Washington.

**MOTHER'S DAY**  
**Sunday, May 12, 2024**

In the history books, Mary Ball Washington has been cast as a villain and a saint—or written out entirely. In reality, she was an independent woman at a time when few others were.

“She has been the object of both meaningless praise and more often antagonism from writers who dreamed of a different mother for their hero George,” historian Martha Saxton writes in “The Widow Washington”, a biography of our first president’s deeply misunderstood mother.

### Mary's Childhood

When Mary was 12, her mother died, and she moved in with her half-sister. Her religious education deepened at this time. She read devotional books, and was moved by many of their teachings. In time, Mary's religious conviction gave way to a profound

and long-lasting sense of inner strength—a contrast to the traits of submissiveness once associated with pious women.

Mary was 22 when she married Augustine Washington, a 36-year-old widower. They moved to a spacious plantation and had George in 1732. Over the next ten years they would have five more children (one, Mildred, died shortly after childbirth).

### George's Childhood

In 1743, George was 11 years old when his father died. Mary was left to raise their five children and run Ferry Farm. While her property holdings (including roughly 20 enslaved workers) made her an eligible option for re-marriage, she chose not to do so. Rather than risk marrying someone unsavory and putting her children at risk, she decided to shoulder the burden of raising them on her own—another testament to her independent streak.

Despite her modest means, she did the best she could to provide her children with an improvised education. Although she could barely afford it, she loaned George money for dancing lessons, which she knew were essential for entrance into elite Virginia society. (He ended up paying her back.) Mary loved tea, and she trained all her children in the genteel art of tea serving and drinking, something George would carry with him his whole life.

### Historians Weigh In

As the years went on and her children grew up or died, money became increasingly tight for Mary. Money soon became a contentious issue between her and her oldest son. For the rest of her life, she would occasionally write to him asking for small sums of money.

At one point, in a letter George complained to his brother "It is too much while I am suffering in every other way (and hardly able to keep my own estate from sale) to be saddled with all the expenses of hers".

Historians point to this as evidence of Mary's avarice or ineptitude, while ignoring that George was famously penny-pinching, even though he was worth an estimated \$525 million in today's dollars.

"The problem with some of the material about her is that it can make both people look bad," Saxton says. *"For example, if you start to use evidence about George not wanting to give his mother any money, you run the risk of making him look awful. So you have to spin a story in which she's the villain."*

### **Mother's Day**

Once a year, countries around the world celebrate Mother's Day – a day dedicated to all mothers, so that we can show our appreciation. Mothers and mother-figures are indispensable. They're likely the first people we ever know when we enter the world, and they love and care for us as we grow up.

While Mary was not without short-comings (as we all are), she raised a son who became an exceptional leader for our Country. So this year, in addition to giving thanks for my own mother, I want to give thanks to Mary for raising her son, George.