



# THE GRAPEVINE

NOW OVER 1,400 HOUSEHOLDS SERVED

The Newsletter of the City of Garden Ridge

www.ci.garden-ridge.tx.us

January 2012

City Hall 651-6632 Lost Pet 651-6831 GRPD 651-6441

Non-emergency, after hours 651-6831

H

A

P

P

Y

N

E

W

Y

E

A

R



## Coming Events:

- 1 Jan — Happy New Year!
- 4 Jan — City Council meets, 6pm
- 9 Jan — Garden Ridge Republican Club Meets 7 pm, See article
- 9 Jan — Quarry Commission meets, 7 pm
- 10 Jan — Planning and Zoning Workshop, 6 pm
- 16 Jan — Martin Luther King, Jr. Day — City Hall closed and Library open.
- 19 Jan — GRCPAAA meets - 7PM - Community Center
- 19 Jan — Planning and Zoning meets, 6 pm
- 23 Jan — BVFD Board Meeting—7 pm, Fire Station
- 24 Jan — Water Commission meets, 6 pm
- 28 Jan — 5th Annual Wild Game Dinner (See article)

NOTE: Brush/Christmas Tree Disposal Dates (Municipal Parkway)

- |                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 7 - 8 January   | 14 - 15 January |
| 21 - 22 January | 28 - 29 January |

## FROM THE MAYOR

Another successful year in the history of our lovely City has come and gone. The City remains in an enviable financial situation, still claiming one of the lowest tax rates in the Metro Com area. Our largest challenge in 2011 was the management of our water resources during a record drought in Texas, incurring drought management rules for most of the year. I'm happy to report, with your support, we weathered the crisis and ended the year on a positive note regarding water resources. I wish all a very safe and prosperous 2012. Continue rain dances.

**Jay F. Feibelman**  
Mayor

## Library Footnotes

By Linda Crosland



The Library will be open Martin Luther King Day, January 16.

As always at this time of year, it is exciting to look back to see how the library has grown. A total of 1013 new books were added to the collection, for a total of 16,618, thanks to many fine donations; 140 new families became patrons for a total of 1014, which of course, represents many more individuals. Slightly over 7100 visitors checked out 9000 books and movies and logged hundreds of hours on the computers. By using the library our community saved at least \$135,000 by checking out vs. buying books and movies. Plus, no one had to figure out where to store them! Again, this year we wish to acknowledge our gratitude to the Lion's Club and Garden Ridge Women's Club for donations enabling us to buy the current **Bluebonnet** and **Lone Star Books** for Texas school children, and to the Knotty Knotters for their generous donation which has enabled us to buy some new movies on DVD.

The word "exceptional" means unusually excellent, superior. This word can only describe our Garden Ridge library volunteers. We have 32 people who have generously given almost 2100 hours of their time. If you think of them in terms of dollars and cents, they create a huge savings for the city. Without them our city simply wouldn't have the quality of access to the library which we now enjoy. Plus, they are just so nice! Be sure to thank them when you come in.

Another "thank-you" that we'd like to extend is to all who donated books this past year. Your generosity has enabled the library to have a very well-rounded collection. However, we have one request. Remembering that the main purpose of your donations is to place the books on the shelves for check-out, please take a good look at them. Would you be proud to see them in your library? Would **you** check out such a book? We really need newer books, and cannot accept text books, condensed books, magazines, VHS tapes, or especially books with mold or mildew.

The library has some new updates and modernization in store for 2012 that you'll want to be watching for. Soon you'll be able to access your account online, to recheck or reserve books. The 21<sup>st</sup> century is coming to the library! (Or is the library coming to the 21<sup>st</sup> century?) **Either**



## Oak Wilt Prevention this Winter

Prevention is the key to preventing Oak Wilt spread.



- Select Well seasoned firewood
- Safely store unknown sources of firewood
- Destroy diseased Red Oaks
- Avoid wounding oaks during vulnerable seasons (Feb—June)
- Paint all oak wounds including pruning cuts

Oak firewood is an important commodity to Texans, whether it is used for firing up the barbecue pit or for warming up the home on a cold winter day. By selecting well-seasoned, disease free firewood and following other disease prevention guidelines, homeowners are taking the correct steps to prevent a new oak wilt disease outbreak in their neighborhood. Please visit [www.texasoakwilt.org](http://www.texasoakwilt.org) for more information on this devastating tree disease.

## SPECIAL SCAM ALERTS From GR Police Department

Keep your cars locked and valuables out of view. Recent car burglars have only entered unlocked vehicles and taken things in plain view such as radar detectors and GPS units. Keeping garage doors closed when not in use, limits the opportunity to observe valuable items to steal or come back later and steal.

Please do not advertise new purchases by placing the boxes out for the trash pick-up. Placing them inside the trash receptacle or bringing them to the county recycling truck can eliminate this invitation and keep you from being a victim.

Last and probably most important, don't give any caller your personal information, date of birth, social security number or account numbers. If they are calling you to verify information, they should already have it. Same is true for e-mail inquiries.



## WELCOME TO GARDEN RIDGE

### New Residents:

John Axsom  
Wendell Butler  
Ed & Teresa Derryberry  
Robert Erickson  
Rose Murphy  
Jacinta Gaskin-Paulsen  
James & Phyllis Porter  
Charles & Kelle Salter



**NOTE:** Newcomers are identified by water service records. Consequently, not all names in the household will appear. Those not appearing are also welcomed!

The City of Garden Ridge requires that all dogs and cats be registered. Call 651-6831 for information.

### THANKS!!

#### Christmas Tree Decorating at the Community Center

The Garden Ridge Women's Club did a super job decorating the Community Center for the holidays! They deserve a special thanks for a job exceptionally well done.

### LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed at the library. If you are interested, call Linda from Noon till 5:00 pm Monday through Thursday at 651-6570 or drop by and see her.



#### Garden Ridge Women's Club Holiday Parade of Homes

A big thank you to the residents who opened their homes and all the folks who participated in the first GRWC Holiday Parade of Homes. The homes were decorated beautifully, sweet treats were enjoyed at all the homes, and participants gained lots of great decorating ideas for next year.

### Quarry Commission Happenings

The Quarry Commission held its monthly meeting on Dec 12, 2011. The Commission reviewed and analyzed the blasting data from the 10 blasts in Nov 2011. The blast on 8 Nov had a higher than normal Peak Particle Velocity due to the closeness of the monitor to the blast. The 9 Nov blast was remarkable due to a higher than normal air over-pressure due to a low cloud cover and an unexpected blast breach. The Commission received and discussed one Blast Report from a citizen on the 9 Nov blast. Feedback will be provided to the citizens who filed the report. The commission discussed draft Ordinance 34 recommendations from a Quarry Commission sub-committee on quarry environmental impacts. Their recommendations were approved and incorporated. The commission forwarded the revision to the City Council for action. The draft revision will be posted to the city web site following the legal review. A Public Input meeting will be held prior to City Council final approval. If you wish to complain about a blast or have comments for the Quarry Commission, contact City Hall at 651-6632 or visit the city's home page, where you will find the Citizens' Blast Report. If you are interested in learning more about the Quarry's operations and would like to tour the Quarry, please contact City Hall. Citizens are invited to attend the next Quarry Commission meeting on January 9, 2012 at 7 pm.



## Significant City Council Actions in December

### APPROVED:

- Planning and Zoning Commission recommendation on a petition by Linda and Daniel Brossman for a variance to Ordinance 13, paragraph 5.1.3.4: to construct a 4 bay attached garage which will face Timber Rose Dr.
- Planning and Zoning Commission approval recommendation on a petition by Christopher and Deborah Preston to replat the Eastern portion of Lot 3, Block 20, Garden Ridge Estates, Unit 5, Comal County, Texas located at 9499 Cinchona Trail, Garden Ridge, Texas.
- Planning and Zoning Commission approval recommendation on a petition by Christopher and Deborah Preston for a variance to:
  - Ordinance 7-042006, Section 7, Standards and Specifications, I. Lots. 1. Lots Size: for a residential lot size of less than required size of .75 acres and being .7431 acres in size and 2. Lot Width: for a residential lot of less than required 120 foot width fronting a public street and having a width of 95.28 feet at their property located at 9499 Cinchona Trail, Garden Ridge, Texas.
  - Ordinance 13-122008, Section 5, Residential, Paragraph 5.1.7.2.1 Lot Size for a residential lot of less than required size of .75 acres and being .7431 acres in size and 2. Section 5, Residential, Paragraph 5.1.7.2.2 Lot Width for a residential lot of less than required 120 foot width fronting a public street and having a width of 95.28 feet at their property located at 9499 Cinchona Trail, Garden Ridge, Texas.
- City Water Commission recommendation for approval on a request from Blue Haven Pools for a variance to Demand Reduction Measure Stages of Ordinance 61-082011 for the construction of a swimming pool at 19526 Creek View with water for construction and filling of the pool being trucked in from an outside source
- City Water Commission recommendation on amending Sections 4.04 – Water Rate Surcharges and 405 – Payment of City-wide Fines and/or Penalties of Ordinance 61-082011
- Ordinance 61-122011 establishing the drought management plan for the City of Garden Ridge; providing definitions, establishing trigger points for Stages 1 through 5, restricting the use of water upon implementation of specific stages of said plan; providing a variance procedure; providing a penalty clause; providing for severability and providing an effective date and amending Ordinance 61-082011, adopted August 29, 2011
- Tax Levy for 2011 as certified and submitted by the Comal County Tax Assessor-Collector in accordance with Section 26.09(e) of the Texas Property Tax Code
- Release of Garden Ridge Police Officer Cary Bostian from six month probationary period effective December 1, 2011 with 5% salary increase
- 2010 Storm Water Master Plan for the City of Garden Ridge
- Financial Statement and Investment Report
  - October 31, 2011
  - November 30, 2011

### TAX OFFICE DROP BOX IN GARDEN RIDGE

Comal County Tax Assessor-Collector Cathy C. Talcott wants to remind everyone that the 2011 property taxes are payable now, and must be paid by January 31 to avoid penalty and interest. She invites you to utilize the drop box, located in the parking lot of the Municipal Building. For a receipt, include a self-addressed stamped envelope. When mailing a payment, the envelope must be postmarked by January 31. Motor vehicle registration renewals may also be placed in the drop box. For more information, call the Comal County Tax Office at 830-221-1353.

### Garden Ridge Republican Club

The Garden Ridge Area Republican Club will meet on Monday, January 9, at 7:00 PM in the Bluebonnet Room of the Garden Ridge Community Center. As the Primary Election season approaches, several candidates have indicated they will be in attendance. Everyone is welcome to attend. Call Charles Flink at 210-651-6631 with questions.



### 5th Annual Wild Game Dinner

January 28, 2012

6-9pm

Garden Ridge Community Center

Cost: \$20

Tickets online at [www.gardenridgewildgame.com](http://www.gardenridgewildgame.com)

The annual Wild Game Dinner returns to the Garden Ridge Community Center this year featuring an exciting line up of entertainment, events, prizes and a menu teaming with wild game!

What to expect:

Raffles - Including Guns, Gear and much more....

Wild Game - We will have everything from Elk to Venison

Featuring inspirational comedian and entertainer Mike Williams.

Find us on Facebook "Like" us on Facebook—Garden Ridge Wild Game Dinner



### Thanks

To the Garden Ridge Lions for providing Christmas dinners and toys to 50+ surrounding area needy families

### PET REGISTRATION

City Ordinance requires all dogs and cats be initially registered on arrival and again each January thereafter. The cost is minimal (\$5.00) and provides a tag for each pet. This tag is on the animal when lost, literally guarantees expeditious return of your treasured pet! Please comply with the ordinance. For Info: 651-6831.