



THE GRAPEVINE

NOW OVER 1,400 HOUSEHOLDS SERVED

The Newsletter of the City of Garden Ridge

www.ci.garden-ridge.tx.us

September 2011



LABOR DAY
5 SEPTEMBER

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

Non-emergency, after hours 651-6831

DO NOT FORGET SEPTEMBER 11, 2001 !!

Coming Events:

- 5 Sep — Labor Day, City Hall and Library closed
 - 7 Sep — City Council Meets, 6 pm
 - 11 Sep — Patriot Day — “Lest We Forget September 11”
 - 11 Sep — Grandparents Day
 - 12 Sep — Quarry Commission meets — 7 pm
 - 13 Sep — Planning and Zoning Workshop — 6 pm
 - 15 Sep — Planning and Zoning — 6 pm
 - 15 Sep — GRCPAAA meets 7pm, Community Center
 - 23 Sep — Fall begins
 - 27 Sep — Water Commission meets — 6 pm
- NOTE:**
- 10 - 11 Sep — Brush, Metal, Appliances, Furniture
 - 17 - 18 Sep — Disposal 8 am to 5 pm (See Article)
 - 24 - 25 Sep

Significant Events in History
Sep 11, 2001 “9-11”

WELCOME TO GARDEN RIDGE

- Ronnie & Larisa Dankins
- Douglas & Pamela Faison
- Nelson & Maggie Froboese
- John & Evi Hancock
- Kim Kunbong
- Jonn & Steffany Lear
- Craig Reali
- Tom & Yvette Voyles



NOTE: Newcomers are derived from water service records and, thus, not all family members are included. Those not appearing are also welcomed.

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



39th Annual Fish Fry, BBQ and Auction

The Garden Ridge Lions Club presents their 39th annual Fish Fry, BBQ and Auction on Saturday October 1, 2011 at the Garden Ridge Community Center on FM 3009 by the Water Tower.

Dinner will be served from 3:30 pm till 7:30 pm
Adults \$10.00 Children \$5.00

Live Entertainment 4:00 to 5:30 pm
Silent Auction 3:00 - 6:30 pm
Live Auction begins at 6:30 pm
Raffle during the Live Auction
Super Raffle drawing after the Live Auction

This event is the primary fund-raiser for the Garden Ridge Lions Club. These funds support the following: Sight services, including eye glasses and exams for needy children; Youth Services, including the Texas Lions Camp for special needs children; Scholarships; and community Services including Thanksgiving and Christmas Food Baskets and Christmas toys for needy families.

Please come out and join us for some great fun, food, and friendship. Your valued support is very much appreciated. .

DROUGHT

As most are aware, South Texas is in the middle of one of the worst droughts in history. If the situation continues to worsen, please do not complain or blame the City for doing what officials are paid or elected to do. Instead you might look closely at those in the City, by visual examination of their lawns, who appear to be applying for a local Botanical Garden Society membership. This isn't a “my or your problem”, but an “OUR” problem. Please work to conserve and together we'll get through this!

FROM THE MAYOR

Putting it all in perspective, we have a lot to be thankful for. Even though we are now confronted with one of the worst droughts in Texas history, water supplies are ample to supply daily needs of the City. The fear is, if it continues into ensuing years, what actions may have to be taken to ensure water for basics: hygiene, cooking, etc. In a pie chart, landscaping takes up approximately 75% of City water resources. We need to work to reduce this figure. Although landscaping represents a capital investment, and is aesthetically pleasing, it could someday be prudent to adjust priorities. Rocks, native plants, and cactus require little water! Please do your part as we confront this problem. Water usage on weekends (no watering periods) is as high as on watering days. Make that extra effort and do all in your power to make it rain!

Jay F. Feibelman
Mayor

City Secretary Retires

Yolanda Benitez, Garden Ridge City Secretary, is retiring effective September 30, 2011. Upon retirement, she will have worked in Municipal Government for 22 years after having served in the cities of Lubbock, Pearland, Bunker Hill, Hondo and Garden Ridge where she has served since July 2009. Prior to entering municipal government, Yolanda worked for state and federal entities, as well as Texas Tech university in Lubbock and St. Mary's University in San Antonio. She most recently served as President of the Alamo Chapter of the Texas Municipal Clerks Association (TMCA) and served on several boards and committees of the TMCA. Although Yolanda was with us for two short years, we will miss her both professionally and personally, and wish her a happy and healthy retirement!!

GARDEN RIDGE COMMUNITY CENTER TELEPHONE CHANGE

The telephone number for the Community Center has changed. For your rental needs, questions or contact with the manager Kim Ryan, call 210-843-0509. This change achieves a savings of \$755 per year.

National Night Out THANK YOU !!

The City of Garden Ridge and GRPD, GR Explorer Scouts and GR Citizen Police Academy Alumni Association send our appreciation to the sponsors and participants of the National Night Out event.

Many thanks to all those who made this event happen and especially to all the workers, who helped with the setting up and taking down of everything and to the fantastic cooks and servers.

This year appeared to be a record crowd. We are so pleased to live and work in this city.

Pat Cook, Mickey Sanders, Lt. Gary Johnson, GRPD

QUICK NOTES



- **Caution** your children to look before stepping out from their school bus into a traffic lane. Many do not heed the law and still pass stopped busses.
- Make it a point to not utilize cell phones while operating a vehicle.

Texas National Night Out

October 6th is National Night Out in Texas. Citizens and/or neighborhood associations are encouraged to participate. For information or assistance contact GRPD, Lt. Gary Johnson at 651-6441

Significant City Council Actions in August Special Presentation

- National Payroll Week Proclamation

Update

- Public safety concerns in the Wild Wind Unit 3 Subdivision of Garden Ridge, Texas
- Work between City of Garden Ridge and Comal County Tax Office to provide tax office services in the city
- Report on status of Schedule of Events in regards to proposed amendments to Ordinance 34

Discussion and Reports

- Edwards Aquifer Management fee increase from \$39 per acre foot to \$116 per acre foot effective in 2012

Presentations

- Proposed Fiscal Year 2012 Budgets for the City of Garden Ridge General Fund, Water Fund, Interest and Sinking Fund and the Capital Improvement Fund
- 2011 Calculated Effective Tax Rate and Rollback Rate for the City of Garden Ridge

Approved

- Amendment to the Garden Ridge Community Center Contract concerning the hourly rate charged for security
- File all aforementioned proposed 2012 Fiscal Year Budgets with the City Secretary
- Proposal to adopt a tax rate of \$0.268796 for the 2011 tax year after compliance with all requirements related to the adoption of the proposed tax rate

Do You Desire to Serve on a City Commission?

The City of Garden Ridge has several Commissions that assist the City Council with making decisions for the betterment of our great city. Vacancies occur on these commissions from time to time and there is a need for citizens who are willing and have a desire to serve the city. City Commissions are the Planning and Zoning Commission, Quarry Commission, Water Commission and Impact Fee Committee. Anyone who has a desire to serve on a City appointed Commission should submit a resume or bio to the City Administrator. If you want more information, please contact City Administrator Nancy Cain at 210-651-6632 or at administrator@ci.garden-ridge.tx.us.

Quarry Commission Happenings

On August 8, 2011, the Quarry Commission met for its regularly scheduled monthly meeting. The Commission reviewed the blasting data for the six blasts which occurred in July, none of which were statistically remarkable. Four citizens did, however, file blast reports. The citizens' comments about the blasts were discussed and feedback will be provided to the citizens who filed the reports. The Commission did some initial planning for a public meeting, which will be structured to educate citizens about blasting issues. The meeting is tentatively scheduled for next February. The Commission also discussed adding some additional restrictions (e.g., dust limits) to the draft blasting ordinance. 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 web site, where you will find the Citizens' Blast Report. Citizens are encouraged to attend the next regularly scheduled Quarry Commission meeting which will be held on September 12, 2011 at 7 pm.



COMAL COUNTY TAX OFFICE SUPPORT IN GARDEN RIDGE

Effective October 1, 2011 Garden Ridge residents will have the convenience of leaving property tax payments and vehicle registration renewals in the drop box located at City Hall. The drop box is located in the center island of the drive into the City Hall parking lot. Garden Ridge residents can leave envelopes containing Comal County Tax Office business in the top slot of the box marked for Comal County business, the lower slot is for City Hall business. A representative from the Comal County Tax Office will check the box daily and take tax payments and vehicle registration renewals to the tax office for processing. The City Administrator is currently in the process of finalizing plans with the Comal County Tax Office to provide walk-in services for tax payments and vehicle registration renewals in the City Hall Administration Office at least two times per week. It is hoped that these services can be provided by the beginning of 2012. Additional information as these services will be provided as they progress.

Holiday Marketplace

The Garden Ridge Women's Club is looking for vendors who would be interested in participating in our Holiday Marketplace this year. The date for the event is **October 15, 2011, hours: 10 am – 4 pm**. We still have a few spaces (indoor and covered outdoor) available for vendors for this event. We have spaces for 60+ vendors to offer unique, one-of-a-kind items. Call or email today to reserve your space. This is the fifth year for this event, and we are hoping to make it even better than last year. The marketplace will be held at the Garden Ridge Community Center. All our profits from this event will be donated to local charities.

CONTACT INFO: Theresa Birkle, 210-651-3915,
theresabirkle@gmail.com

GARDEN RIDGE WOMEN'S CLUB



TICK TOCK....TICK TOCK TICK TOCK....TICK TOCK

**Time is running out for ALL RSVP's to the Thursday,
September 22, 2011
Fall Business Lunch and Fashion Show**

**RSVP & payment must be received by September 15th,
2011 – NO EXCEPTIONS!**

Cost: Members: \$23.00
Non-members: \$28.00

Please make check payable to GRWC and send to:
Diana Scott

21916 Deer Canyon Dr
Garden Ridge, TX 78266

Location: LaFontana Springs, 27618 FM 3009,
just 6.0 miles north of GR City Hall, on right
11 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. (10:30-11:00 mix & min
gle)

Time: Questions: Contact Diana Scott at 651-3320,
vadiana44@yahoo.com
or Missy Lantzy at 651-3531,
mmlantzy@hotmail.com

Library Footnotes

by Linda Crosland



School is back in session, and it seems that our lives become more crowded. No more lazy days to sit and relax! However, we hope that no one gets so busy that they put their reading on hold.

Your library has added some great titles to the collection.

Portrait of a Spy – in both print and audio versions is the 11th book of the Gabriel Allon series, set in the disparate worlds of art and intelligence. Highly-acclaimed David McCullough's new book, **The Greater Journey** tells of adventurous American artists, writers, doctors, politicians and others of high aspiration who set off for Paris between 1830 and 1900, ambitious to excel in their work. There is a new fictional story of Monet and his struggles to have his art be accepted. It is the touching story **Claude & Camille**. In case you can't find time to sit and read, there are fourteen new audio books on CD to "read" on the run.

If you like a particular author's writing, sooner or later you will run out of his or her work. Did you know there are several websites which can help you in looking for another writer, but who will be similar to your favorite one? You can simply Google "authors similar to ____" for a host of ideas. Or use one of these websites:

similarauthors.com (very easy to use); whatshouldireadnext.com (75,000 different titles and more than a million reader recommendations).

We are still gathering names for our Veterans Day celebration. If you haven't registered with us, please do so. We are looking forward to a special day November 11.

WATER USAGE

The city staff monitors the top monthly water users in the city with the hope that education and discussion may reduce usage. Many do not realize steps that can be taken to discover leaks or cut back on non-essential usage. If you feel you may have a leak and don't know how to check, contact the City Water Department at 651-6831.

The top 50 users this month ranged from 159,000 gallons to 65,000 gallons with 13 over 100,000.

Disposal of Brush, Metal/Appliances and Furniture

Dumpsters for brush disposal will be provided on the following Saturdays and Sundays during the month of September: 10-11, 17-18, and 24-25. Dumpsters will also be provided for the disposal of metal, appliances, furniture and wood. Disposal will only be allowed between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on the specified dates, the site will be locked at all other times. Garden Ridge residents must show proof of residency to utilize the disposal site.

Monthly Coffee Club

Edward Jones offers a monthly Coffee Club at 19115 FM 2252, Ste 5, the first Friday of each month from 10 am to 11 am. Financial Advisor Elsa Cranford leads the discussion on current events. Come join us on Sep 2nd. Coffee and donuts are served. RSVP at 651-1742.



Give water to the wildlife!