



THE GRAPEVINE

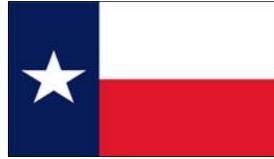
NOW OVER 1,400 HOUSEHOLDS SERVED
The Newsletter of the City of Garden Ridge
www.ci.garden-ridge.tx.us

March 2011

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

Non-emergency, after hours 651-6831

Happy
St. Patrick's
DAY
March 17th



Texas Independence Day March 2

Coming Events:

- 2 Mar — Texas Independence Day
- 2 Mar — City Council meets, 6 pm
- 5-20 Mar — Spring Clean-up Dumpsters on Municipal Pkwy
- 8 Mar — Planning and Zoning Workshop, 6pm
- 9 Mar — Ash Wednesday
- 13 Mar — Daylight Savings Begins - Spring Forward
- 14 Mar — Last Day to File for City Election
- 14 Mar — Quarry commission meets, 7pm
- 17 Mar — St. Patrick's Day
- 17 Mar — Planning and Zoning meets, 6 pm
- 17 Mar — Garden Ridge Police Academy Alumni Meet 7 PM
- 19 Mar — City Library Annual book sale
- 19 Mar — City Wide Garage Sale (See article)
- 20 Mar — First Day of Spring
- 21 Mar — Last Day to File for Write-in — City Election
- 22 Mar — Water Commission meets, 6 pm

Significant Past Events in March

- 2 Mar 1836 - Texas declares independence from Mexico
- 3 Mar 1931 - Star Spangled Banner made US national anthem
- 6 Mar 1836 - Fall of the Alamo

WELCOME TO GARDEN RIDGE

New Residents:

- Vanessa & Gregory Douglas
- Anthony Garcia
- Peggy Goldstein
- Georgette Haislip
- Mary Lou Huntsinger
- Richard Kopp
- Katherine Leigh
- Yvonne Mann
- Stephen Schmitz & Melody Scott



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 initially registered and again each January thereafter. Call 651-6831 for information.

Long Term Care Planning Meeting

Please join Graceland Assisted Living on March 24th from 6:00-7:30pm for a Community Education Presentation on LTC Strategy Planning with guest speakers from Edward Jones Financial Advising & Genworth LTC. Please RSVP to Michelle Sutton @ 210-651-6377

FROM THE MAYOR

As many know, there will be a city election in May. Additionally, there will be an Emergency Services District (ESD 6) issue on the ballot. I encourage all eligible voters to exercise the privilege we have as Americans and vote. Voting is one, if not the most important, means for citizens to be heard. For more information, see the article in this month's newsletter.

The city remains stable in all areas. We have weathered the recession well, and even though new home starts have been down, I am confident they will pick up soon.. As always, if you have any questions, call me.

Jay F. Feibelman
Mayor



CITY WIDE GARAGE SALE

Sponsored by
Garden Ridge Women's Club



Date: Saturday, March 19, 2011

Time: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Location: Garden Ridge Community Center

Don't miss the fun & fantastic finds!! Plan to come and shop for some amazing treasures. With 70+ vendors, you are sure to find some very special items.

Questions? Call June at 210-651-9111



SPRING GARDENING EVENT

Would you like some advice from a Master Gardener about San Antonio's gardening challenges? Please join us for a fun, informative morning. Refreshments will be served.

Date: Thursday, April 7, 2011

Time: 10:00 am – 12:30 pm

Place: Antique Rose Emporium,
7561 E. Evans Rd, San Antonio, TX

Cost: Members: \$10.00
Non-members: \$15.00

Reservation and payment due by April 1, 2011

Make checks payable to **GRWC** and send to:

Judi Hanna
13622 Hercules Lane
Universal City, TX 78148

Questions: Call Judi at 210-658-0819

QUARRY COMMISSION HAPPENINGS



On Feb 3, 2011, the Quarry Commission met in special session. The special session was called as the result of an exceptionally strong air blast on Jan 25th. The Commission reviewed and analyzed the data from the five blasts that occurred in January, but focused on the Jan 25th blast. That blast, which had a relatively low ground effect, had an air blast component that was significantly above the US Bureau of Mines' standard and was thought to be the strongest air blast in recent history. The large number of citizens who attended the meeting was told by the Quarry's Manager that the blast was "unacceptable" and the quarry would do everything it could to prevent a blast of that level from ever happening again. As a result of the blast, the Quarry temporarily ceased blasting operations and reviewed the blast planning and execution processes. The review led to five changes to current procedures that will limit the effects of future blasts on homeowners. The Quarry also intends to reconsider which blasting company they will use in the future. Based on the citizens' comments at the meeting, the Quarry Commission will meet again in special session on Feb 28, 2011 to discuss the citizens' comments, suggestions, and concerns, and determine what actions the Commission can take to implement the citizens' recommendations. If any citizen had a window broken or other damage as a result of the Jan 25 blast, please contact the Quarry at (210) 651-7468. The Quarry Commission would like to thank the citizens who attended the special meeting and we encourage all citizens to also attend regularly scheduled meetings. 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 having a seismograph placed on your property or would like to serve on the Quarry Commission, please contact City Hall. Citizens are encouraged to attend the next Quarry Commission meeting on February 28, 2011 at 7 pm.

Library Footnotes

by Linda Crosland



"The more that you read, the more things you will know.
The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."

Do you recognize this quotation from Dr. Seuss? Do you prefer the Lorax or the Sneetches? I think all of us have enjoyed the delightful poetry, the unique artistry and fantastic stories from the imagination of Dr. Seuss. He was born 107 years ago on March 2, and we would like to keep his work alive. If you come to the Library this month, be sure to look over our collection of his books on display and take a few minutes to read one or two books. Be sure that your children and grandchildren are well-acquainted!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, DR. SEUSS!

Another birthday on March 2 is that of Texas Independence. Are you aware that the Library has a section of Texana books? These are non-fiction books about our great state. You can read about the history of San Antonio or Ft. Sam Houston, or you can read articles by witty Texas writers. If you weren't born here and haven't been "baptized in the Brazos River", you can find out all kinds of information and perhaps insights into a Texan's way of thinking.

Please note that the Library will have its semi-annual book sale on March 19, the same day as the city-wide garage sale. We have great prices and a wide selection of hardbacks, paperbacks, and videos. After the 19th, most of our VHS tapes will be gone. Take advantage and stock up while they last!

Update on Fire/Emergency Services Plus Election Notice

After a well-attended Town Hall Meeting, the Board of Commissioners of Comal County Emergency Services District No. 6 (ESD 6) voted Feb. 8 to call an election, asking voters for authority to go above the current tax rate of 3 cents per \$100 of property value. Faced with flat property values and declining sales taxes, ESD 6 officials have identified the need for resources to add personnel and replace outdated equipment to continue to assure reliable and timely fire protection and emergency medical response. Under state law, the May 14 ballot language will ask voters to decide on a new maximum tax rate of 10 cents per \$100 of property value, the same cap rate that other ESDs within Comal County presently operate under. ESDs may not need to levy at that 10 cents cap rate in any particular year.

Significant City Council Actions

UPDATE:

- Public safety concerns in the Wild Wind Unit 3 Subdivision of Garden Ridge, Texas
- Status of Water System capital projects

APPROVED:

- Annual Audit Report for the period ending September 30, 2010 for the City of Garden Ridge
- Planning and Zoning Commission recommendation to amend Ordinance 7-092008, Amendment #2 regarding water and subdivision development
- Ordinance 7-022011, Amendment #3 amending Ordinance 7-042006, 7-092008 and all amendments thereafter adopted, related to the rules and regulations governing plats, plans and subdivisions of land within the incorporated area and the extraterritorial jurisdiction of the City of Garden Ridge, Texas; establishing a requirement to provide transferable water rights or other water resource acceptable to the city as an alternate water source to add to the water system infrastructure, to allow ample water supply to the subdivision, applicable to all subdivisions of land as provided.
- Ordinance 161-022011 ordering a General Election on May 14, 2011 for the City of Garden Ridge for the purpose of electing the Mayor and Aldermen to City Council Places Two and Three
- Resolution 234-022011 requesting CPS Energy to fund an electrical infrastructure project consisting of seven decorative street lights at various locations in the city
- 2010 Racial Profiling Report
- Garden Ridge Chief of Police's recommendation to place stop signs at intersections of Bindsiel Road at Bat Cave Road and Water Wood Drive at Schoenthal Road to address visibility/safety concerns.
- Authorize the Garden Ridge Chief of Police to submit a grant application to the Southwest Border Anti-money Laundering Alliance and authorize acceptance of the grant funding by the City of Garden Ridge should the grant be awarded to the city
- Release of Garden Ridge Police Officer Kevin Hendricks from 6 month probationary period effective February 5, 2011
- Release of Garden Ridge Public Works Service Representative II Stanley Georg from 90 days probationary period effective January 18, 2011

TABLED:

- City Water Commission recommendation on request by Tony Overman for an adjustment to the December 2010 water bill for the Dawn Meadows office complex located at 19115 FM 2252 B

QUICK NOTES

♦ **SCAM ALERT!** Always check to assure that the credit card you provide for any payment is the card you receive back at restaurants, stores, etc.



♦ **Filing for City Election for May 14, 2011**

The General Election for the City of Garden Ridge will be held on Saturday, May 14, 2011. The positions up for election, for two year terms, are: the Mayor and City Council, Places 2 and 3. Individuals interested in filing for a place on the ballot can do so beginning February 12th, with the last date to file being March 14th. The last date to file for a write-in is March 21st. The filings can be done at City Hall during regular business hours, which are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. For any questions regarding the election, please call the City Secretary, Yolanda Benitez, at (210) 651-6632.

♦ **EARLY VOTING for City and ESD Elections** will be held on 2 through 10 May in the City Council Chambers. Hours will be 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday through Friday. Exceptions will be May 3rd and May 5th when the voting hours will be 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM.:



Quarry Blast 2/18/2011

The quarry blast on Friday February 18th had an above average air over pressure of 127. The frequency and peak particle velocities were in the lower ranges. The blasting contractor brought an air over pressure specialist to the site last week to do a study of the area currently being blasted. In addition to the regular blast set up they drilled what is called a signature hole. This single hole is placed in the active blasting area and is designed to give the blasting contractor specific data for their study. Single hole blasts typically have elevated seismic or air over pressure readings. We have been told that the single hole data and the report from the air over pressure consultant have given them sufficient data to make meaningful changes to their blasting operation going forward. This will be discussed at the February 28th special session of the quarry commission.