



THE GRAPEVINE

NOW OVER 1,400 HOUSEHOLDS SERVED

The Newsletter of the City of Garden Ridge

www.ci.garden-ridge.tx.us

January 2011

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

Non-emergency, after hours 651-6831

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Coming Events:

- 1 Jan — Happy New Year! Library closed
- 3 - 9 Jan — Brush and Christmas Tree dumpsters on Municipal Parkway
- 5 Jan — City Council meets, 6pm
- 10 Jan — Quarry Commission meets, 7 pm
- 11 Jan — Planning and Zoning Workshop, 6 pm
- 17 Jan — Martin Luther King, Jr. Day — City Hall and Library closed.
- 20 Jan — Planning and Zoning meets, 6 pm
- 20 Jan — Garden Ridge Police Academy Alumni Association Meets, 7pm Community Center
- 25 Jan — Water Commission meets, 6 pm

Thanks

To the Garden Ridge Lions for providing Christmas dinners and toys to 60 surrounding area needy families

City Employees Hired/Appointed During 2010

| Name | Position | Date |
|-----------------|---------------------|----------|
| William Spiller | Police Officer | 04-08-10 |
| Timothy Simkins | Police Officer | 07-08-10 |
| Kevin Hendricks | Police Officer | 08-05-10 |
| Stanley Georg | Public Works Rep II | 10-18-10 |
| Viviana Jenkins | Court Clerk | 11-22-10 |
| Donna O'Conner | Police Chief | 12-01-10 |

SPECIAL SCAM ALERTS From GR Police Department

We have recently answered calls regarding a truck selling furniture. The truck advertises North Carolina Furniture. This company does not have a solicitor permit in the City and is not affiliated with North Carolina Furniture Direct in San Marcos. If you place an order, you may never receive the product. If you make a purchase, there is no quality guarantee and you cannot resolve the issue through the store.

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.

City of Garden Ridge Impact Fee Committee Vacancy

Garden Ridge residents with real estate, development, or building industry background and an interest in serving their community should submit a resume or bio to the City Administrator. Or for additional information contact 210-651-6632

FROM THE MAYOR

Even though the economy remained sluggish in 2010, the city fared well and continued to be in excellent fiscal condition. Some projects and upgrades had to be cut from the budget, but nothing that can't be done at a later date. All in all, 2010 was a good year with significant strides to insure water resources and availability for the future. The tax rate remained low and significantly below the majority, if not all of the surrounding cities. This administration and City Council pride ourselves in working hard to ask for only those taxes needed to sustain our vibrant, growing city. As always, citizen and community support place us in an enviable position - the volunteers, the donations, and our overall effort to make this a great place to live. They are not just words when we say "a way of life...not just a place to live." Have a great 2011 and may we be blessed with good health and prosperity.

Jay F. Feibelman
Mayor

Library Footnotes

By Linda Crosland



As always at this time of year, it is exciting to look back to see how the library has grown. New books added to the collection totaled 1122, for a total of 15,605, thanks mostly to donations; 150 new families became patrons for a total of 874. Slightly over 6,000 visitors checked out 8039 books and movies and logged many hours on the computers.

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 to enable 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 40 people who have generously given almost 2500 hours. Without them our city simply wouldn't have the quality of access to the library which we now enjoy. Be sure to thank them when you come in.

And, when you come in, you might wish to see some of the newest additions. For elementary school readers, we now have the latest Rick Riordan book, **The Lost Hero** which is Book 1 of his new series. We also have the new **Wimpy Kid, the Ugly Truth**, along with three new **Mercy Watson** books. Garden Ridge's own author, Bob Doerr, has added his two new books, **Loose Ends** and **Dead Men Can Kill**, to the shelves. In case you want to get a head-start, we have all of the **Women's Book Club Selections** for the upcoming year. While looking back is interesting, the library is eagerly looking forward to an even better year in 2011. **We hope that you will be a part of it.**

Remember, Groucho Marx said, "Outside a dog, a book is man's best friend. Inside a dog, it's too dark to read."



WELCOME TO GARDEN RIDGE

New Residents:

Orville & Anne Buchhorn
Douglas Dumas
Aristides Jimenez
Kevin Klueh
Brittany Lemmons
Arturo Montelongo
Alisha Sanders



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.

Garden Ridge Women's Club

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

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.

Secret Shopper / Mystery Shopper Scams: A Job That Only Pays The Scammer!

Have you heard that you can get paid to shop, as a mystery shopper or secret shopper? If you have received unsolicited emails or seen newspaper ads that claim you can earn a living as a secret or mystery shopper by dining at elegant restaurants, shopping at pricey stores, or checking into luxurious hotels, beware! The Federal Trade Commission (FTC), the nation's consumer protection agency, is warning consumers about scams in this area.

Consumers who try to get a refund from promoters of mystery shopping jobs are almost always out of luck. Either the business doesn't return the phone calls, or if it does, it's to try another scam.

Quarry Commission Happenings

The Garden Ridge Quarry Commission held its monthly meeting December 13, 2010. The Commission welcomes new commissioner Andrew Dalton and the renewed commitment of commissioners Jerry Warden and Johnell Holly. No citizens were present and one citizen blast report was reviewed and discussed. There were seven blasts during the month of November. Blast data for the month was presented by Roman Luther of Vibra-Tech. The most noticeable blast occurred on November 2, all blasts were discussed. Bruce Northrup with Austin Powder presented several aspects of blasting and discussed issues associated with moving boulders, charge placement, and wind monitoring to help control blasting effects.



We thank the residents for their submission of blast reports. We encourage continued submission of the Blast Report found on the City of Garden Ridge website and appreciate your attendance at the next Quarry Commission meeting January 10th at 7 P.M.

Significant City Council Actions in December

APPROVED:

- Renewal of Services Agreement between the City of Garden Ridge and Blackboard Connect for a period of three years and such service being for the emergency notification system utilized by the city
- Ratification of the contract agreement between the City of Garden Ridge and Du-Mor Enterprises, Inc. in the amount of \$46,444.50 for the construction of a 143 linear feet of a 16 inch water line to connect the city's new elevated water tower with the current Trinity well site infrastructure
- City Quarry Commission recommendation to reappoint Quarry Commissioners Jerry Warden and Johnell Holley to the City Quarry Commission for a two year term.
- Resignation of Lil Metzger on the City Impact Fee Committee effective November 1, 2010
- Resignation of Jack Moss as City Architect effective November 16, 2010
- Appointment of Donna O'Conner to fill the Office of Chief of Police, effective January 1, 2011, supported by area police chief review panel recommendation, and recommendation to set the salary for said position as presented in the 2011 Budget
- City Administrator's recommendation to select Donna O'Conner as Acting Chief of Police effective December 1, 2010 at the same salary determined for Chief of Police
- Ratification of employment of Viviana Jenkins as Municipal Court Clerk effective November 22, 2010 with a 90 day probation period and 5% reduction in salary during probationary period
- City Quarry Commission recommendation to appoint Andrew Dalton as a Commissioner on the City Quarry Commission to fill a vacancy for a two year term of office expiring September 30, 2012

UPDATE:

- Public Safety concerns in the Wild Wind Unit 3 Subdivision of Garden Ridge, Texas

DID YOU KNOW?

Each day 10,000 humans are born in the U. S. — and each day 70,000 puppies and kittens are born. As long as these birth rates exist, there will never be enough homes for all the animals. As a result, millions of healthy, loving cats, dogs, kittens and puppies face early deaths as a form of animal control. Others are left to fend for themselves against automobiles, the elements, animals and cruel humans. What can you do to stop the suffering? **Spay and neuter your pets!**

An unspayed female cat, her mate and all their offspring, producing 2 litters per year, with 2.8 surviving kittens per litter can total:

| | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| 1 year: 12 | 6 years: 66,088 |
| 2 years: 67 | 7 years: 370,092 |
| 3 years: 376 | 8 years: 2,072,514 |
| 4 years: 2,107 | 9 years: 11,666,077 |
| 5 years: 11,801 | |

More information available at www.homesforpets.org.

"There is no psychiatrist in the world like a puppy licking your face." *Ben Williams*

Garden Ridge Wild Game Dinner

January 29th from 6pm to 9pm at the Garden Ridge Community Center will feature guest speaker Hank Hough and his champion hunting Labrador dogs. There will be plenty of wild game and raffle prizes including guns, tools and much more. Advance ticket sales available at www.gardenridgewildgame.com. Tickets are \$10/person, with limited space available.

Hank Hough and his AKC/UKC master level competition dogs have traveled all around the world demonstrating the discipline and leadership required to be a champion. Hank, has taken the talents of his Labradors and his success, as a well known trainer and created an opportunity to share his gifts with people all over the world. "Profit" is a recognized AKC Hunting Retrieving Champion and a UKC Master Level Competition dog that will amaze you with his training and discipline. This is an opportunity to watch a champion perform that you will not want to miss.



News from the Texas Forest Service

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 for more information on this devastating tree disease.