



# THE GRAPEVINE

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The Newsletter of the City of Garden Ridge

## JULY 2017

[www.ci.garden-ridge.tx.us](http://www.ci.garden-ridge.tx.us)

City Hall (210) 651-6632

Garden Ridge Police Department, general information (210) 651-6441

Police emergencies /assistance - 911 or (830) 609-3921

Water, Animal Control (including after hours/holidays) (210) 651-6831



### FOURTH OF JULY EXTRAVAGANZA!

Come join your neighbors at Paul Davis Park for a spectacular old-fashioned 4th of July picnic to commemorate our nation's birthday. In addition to traditional activities, this year your Parks Committee will have face painters, games for all ages, and drawings for attendance prizes and watermelons. Get your tickets for the drawings at the Information Booth. Other new attractions at this year's 4<sup>th</sup> of July picnic include an ice cream cart, photo booth, and trophies for the best decorated bicycle, vehicle/float and most patriotically-dressed adult and child (infant to 12).

Wear your red, white, and blue, but bring a little green. The Garden Ridge Citizen Police Academy Alumni Association appreciate donations for the burgers, hot dogs, and drinks. Also, our terrific librarian, Linda Crosland, will be selling her book on the history of Garden Ridge with \$7 per book going to the GR Library. See you there.

### GOING ONCE! GOING TWICE! THE WINNER IS!

The Silent Auction is coming to the Paul Davis Park on July 4<sup>th</sup>. Bidding begins at 10 am and closes at 12:30 pm. The Garden Ridge Citizen Police Academy Alumni Association is sponsoring this event. Food and drinks are available for donations. See you at the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration.

### GOING ON VACATION?

The summer is here and it seems everyone is planning vacations. Before leaving town, make sure to take advantage of a special program the Garden Ridge Police Department offers. If you complete an out of town form at City Hall or on the city website, an Officer will check on your house while you are out of town. Each out of town form is secured and treated with the utmost confidence. It is then forwarded to patrol so that your house is checked daily. Every house in Garden Ridge is eligible with one exception: If you have someone staying at your house, it is not eligible because Officers often check houses in the middle of the night. This is not a drive-by check; it is an Officer who physically walks your property checking doors and windows for any damage so take advantage of the program.

Another thing to consider whether you are out of town or not is lighting. Exterior lights are very important because thieves prefer to operate where no one can see them. There are many options out there from landscape lighting to motion activated flood lights. Timers for interior lights while out of town are cheap and effective for keeping your house looking occupied. Also, to prevent your house from looking vacant, ask someone to retrieve packages and your mail daily. It keeps your house from looking like no one is there and secures your identifying information, which is very popular among today's thieves.

Daniel Bellinger, Lieutenant

### FROM THE MAYOR

**Communication:** such a simple word and concept but we all know that's where the simplicity ends. For most of us, effectively communicating can often be a challenge. Today our technology makes it easy for us to circulate info as fast as electricity through a wire, but that ease and speed doesn't necessarily correlate to effectiveness or accuracy. We readily share online where we are, where we're going, what we're eating and often what we've "heard." It's easy to read something online, assume it's true, and pass it on to someone else with little critical thought. Perhaps too easy. In my time on Council and now as Mayor, I've been amazed to what extent people will rely on social media rumors when they have questions regarding what's going on in our community. Mayor Knaus spoke to this a few months ago in this space when she remarked on "Rumors, Rumors, Rumors" and the problems with "have you heard?" shaping our perceptions and actions. She asked for us to all work on this. I'll tag on and ask you again to consider not promoting the rumors but to turn to more reliable sources. If you are concerned about a project, an ordinance, or a "what you're hearing," consider contacting me, anyone on your City Council or Staff.

Beginning in July, there will be a few new opportunities for us to communicate – in person. First is "Coffee with the Mayor." I invite you to come up to City Hall Mondays, anytime between 9:30-11:00, to have a cup and discuss with me and other neighbors whatever is on your mind. Call first to make sure something hasn't come up and keep in mind these discussions are open to all. Second is "Mayor's Office Hours" from 1-4pm on Mon, Tues and Fri. Call/write and set up an appointment during these times for a more private discussion with me. If none of this works for you, contact me and we'll figure something out.

So...come in/write/call me or any of your council. Otherwise you might start believing we're setting up speed cameras on 3009 (no), selling our water to Austin (no) or we've set up an extraterrestrial check station in PD Park (?). Let's communicate and work together to continue to make our Garden Ridge *a way of life, not just a place to live*. See you on the 4<sup>th</sup>!

larry

### WELCOME TO GARDEN RIDGE

#### New Residents

MICHELE BADTKE  
DAVID BELVAL  
ANNA BRISKEY  
JAMES M. GURGANUS  
VIRGINIA JACKSON  
ANGELA SIMMONS  
KAYLA ZEGELS  
REYNALDO & REBECCA CORONADO

WILLIAM K. BAXTER  
AMI BLAKESLEY  
DAVID GILBRETH  
RICHARD HEARD  
ELIZABETH JOHNSON  
DEWAYNE SIMMONS  
RUTH & RAYMOND JOHNSON

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.

### LIBRARY FOOTNOTES

Do you know why Garden Ridge decided to incorporate to become a city? Did you know that there once was a slug-fest at a City Council meeting? It's here at last – our very own history book, *Garden Ridge, a Look at the People, Times and Places!* This book is full of fascinating facts including who marched up the Camino Real (FM 2252), the German influence, founding of Bracken, and most importantly, the beginnings of our city 45 years ago. Included are both little-known tidbits and well-known stories which we hope will weave a tapestry and form a picture. The back of any tapestry may have loose threads and snags, but what we really want to see is the front -- the depiction of what Garden Ridge is, how it came to be and how it operates today.

Our very successful local author, Bob Doerr, has published another book in the Jim West series.

Don't forget our great craft classes for adults: **Card-making with Angie** (3rd Tuesday of each month @ 1:30) – Angie brings all the materials to make beautiful cards; **Crafting with Morena** (July 19 @ 1:00) – registration fee of \$10.00 covers instruction and all materials needed to make a lovely glass magnet.

The children's **Summer Reading Program** will end July 28 with a GREAT celebration on Saturday, August 5.

The Library's change of furniture is set for the end of July or early August. We will have to close several days, but more information will be forthcoming.

### QUARRY COMMISSION

During the May 2017 Quarry Commission meeting, the Vibra-Tech blast monitoring Technical Services Manager conducted a very informative training session on blast engineering and the factors considered in planning each blast to maintain blast effectiveness and stay within ordinance limits. Commissioners agreed that it would be very beneficial for Garden Ridge residents to see this presentation to understand all of the scientific and technological aspects implemented in this process. A more detailed explanation of one aspect of the blasting process will be presented in another training session at the next Commission meeting, which will take place on Monday, July 10th at 6:00 PM. Residents are encouraged to attend.

### 2016 WATER QUALITY REPORT

The City of Garden Ridge is pleased to report that testing in accordance with EPA and TCEQ guidelines has shown that our drinking water is safe and exceeds all federal and state requirements.

To view the report and learn more about your drinking water, visit the 2016 Water Quality Report link on the City website at <http://ci.garden-ridge.tx.us/DocumentCenter/View/1439>.

The City of Garden Ridge no longer mails printed copies of the report to its customers. However, you can request a copy be mailed or emailed to you by calling (210) 651-6831 or emailing [Water@ci.garden-ridge.tx.us](mailto:Water@ci.garden-ridge.tx.us) and providing us with your name, address and/or email address.

### SEVEN WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

- ≈ Keep a pitcher of water in the refrigerator instead of running the tap till the water's cold.
- ≈ Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when full.
- ≈ Fix leaky toilets. Upgrade older toilets with water-efficient models.
- ≈ Keep showers under 4 minutes. Purchase a low-flow showerhead.
- ≈ Turn off the water while you brush your teeth, shave, and while you lather up when washing your hands.
- ≈ Plant native and drought tolerant plants. Only water your lawn when needed.
- ≈ Install a rain barrel to collect rainwater from your gutters and use the collected water to water your plants and/or wash your car.

### GARDEN RIDGE WOMEN'S CLUB

#### HOLIDAY MARKETPLACE

#### SAVE THE DATE

Join us on Saturday, October 14 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for the GRWC annual **Holiday Marketplace** at the Garden Ridge Community Center located at 9500 Municipal Parkway. There is a silent auction, original Knotty Knotted's hand-made quilt raffle and delicious food. You will find over 50 vendors with unique, one-of-a-kind gifts for those on your shopping list. Mark your calendar today so you won't miss this wonderful event.

Admission is \$3 (17 and older). Free parking. All proceeds donated to local charities.

Vendors Contact: Linda Potts @ 210 602-2364, [grwcmarketplace@gmail.com](mailto:grwcmarketplace@gmail.com)

#### Significant Actions - June City Council Meetings

- *Approved*
  - Additional funding for Parks Committee
  - Amendment to Ordinance 55-Sign
  - Amendment to Ordinance 7-Subdivisions
  - Amendment to Ordinance 13-Zoning
  - Amendment to Ordinance 96 - Water Master and Capital Improvements Plan
  - Appointed Kay Bower as City Councilmember, Place 5
  - Awarded a contract for Municipal Parkway seal coating.
  - Elected Councilmember McCaw as Mayor Pro-Tem
  - Interlocal Cooperation Agreement with Comal County for Fire Code Enforcement
  - Official City of Garden Ridge Seal
  - Ordinance 201 establishing the position of Fire Marshal
- *Discussions*
  - TCEQ Air Quality Permits for two plants outside of Garden Ridge city limits
  - 501.(c)3 for the Parks Committee and the Library
- *Presentations*
  - Life Saving Award – Sgt. Keith Osborn
- *Updates*
  - CIP Projects (2013, 2015 & 2016)      Council Communication
  - Garden Ridge Parks Committee      Master Land Use Plan

#### FIVE SUMMER PET TIPS!

- ♥ Make sure your pet has plenty of clean, fresh water and set up bowls so they cannot be tipped over.
- ♥ Shade is important. While dogs and cats like to sunbathe, direct sunlight can overheat them (especially dogs) and cause heat stroke.
- ♥ Use caution exercising your pet in warm weather. Stay in the shade whenever possible.
- ♥ Keep the paws cool. Surfaces such as asphalt or metal (including truck beds) get very hot and can burn a pet's paws as well as increase their body temperature.
- ♥ Don't leave your pet in a hot car. Temperatures can rise quickly and leaving a window down does very little to dissipate heat from a vehicle.

#### PACK THE BUS

Communities in Schools of South Central Texas will set up a collection box for school supplies for distribution to at-risk students. Supplies can be dropped off at City Hall from Monday through Friday between 8:00AM and 5:00 PM throughout the month of July.

\*\*\* SAVE THE DATE \*\*\*

#### TOWN HALL MEETING:

**PRESENTATION OF DRAFT MASTER LAND USE PLAN  
AUGUST 28 AT 6:30 P.M. AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER**

# July 2017

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>All meetings are subject to change, please refer to calendar on City website.</b>                      ** All activities that are underlined will occur at the Library **</p>						1
2	3	<p><b>4 <u>HAPPY 4TH OF JULY!</u></b>                      Celebration Activities                      9:00am Paul Davis Park                      City Hall-CLOSED                      Library-CLOSED</p>	5 City Council @ 6p.m.	6 <u>Board Games Day (ages 6+) 10am-Noon</u>	7 <u>Preschool Storytime 10:30am</u>	8 <u>Pokemon Club (ages 6-13) 10am-Noon</u>
9	10 Quarry Commission @ 6p.m.	11 <u>Lego Robotics Free Play (ages 6+) 10am-3pm</u> P&Z Commission @ 6p.m.	12	13 <u>Board Games Day (ages 6+) 10am-Noon</u>	14 <u>Preschool Storytime 10:30am</u>	15
16	17 Wildlife Mgmt. Advisory Commission @ 6p.m.	18 <u>Lego Robotics Free Play (ages 6+) 10am-3pm</u> <u>Card Class w/ Angie @1:30 pm</u> Budget Work Sessions 10:00a.m.	19 Morena Hockley Crafting Class @ 1pm (Registration & Fee Required)	20 <u>Board Games Day (ages 6+) 10am-Noon</u>	21 <u>Preschool Storytime 10:30am</u>	22
23	24	25 <u>Lego Robotics Free Play (ages 6+) 10am-3pm</u> Water Commission @ 6p.m.	26	27 <u>Board Games Day (ages 6+) 10am-Noon</u> Budget Work Sessions 10:00a.m. Court @ 6p.m.	28 <u>Preschool Storytime 10:30am</u> <b><u>SUMMER READING ENDS!</u></b>	29
30	31 LIBRARY CLOSED FOR ENHANCEMENTS	<p><b>*** SAVE THE DATE ***</b>  <b>TOWN HALL MEETING:</b>  <b>PRESENTATION OF DRAFT MASTER LAND USE PLAN</b>  <b>AUGUST 28 AT 6:30 P.M.</b>  <b>COMMUNITY CENTER</b></p>				