



THE GRAPEVINE

NOW OVER 1,600 HOUSEHOLDS SERVED
The Newsletter of the City of Garden Ridge

APRIL 2020

www.ci.garden-ridge.tx.us

City Hall (210) 651-6632

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

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

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

Library (210) 651-6570

WELCOME TO GARDEN RIDGE

New Residents

PATRICK ATKINSON BRYAN & VERONICA CAMPOS
SERGIO & VALERIE CANTU JOSE LICERIO
CRAIG & LINDA MCKINLEY ARGELIA ROWE
SHARON SMITH

NOTE: Newcomers are derived from water service records, and thus, not all family members are included. Those not appearing are also welcomed! Please remember the City requires that all dogs and cats be registered annually. Call City Hall for information.

TEXAS WILDLIFE ASSOCIATION

With school closures and students stuck at home, the Texas Wildlife Association has provided along some options for **FREE** digital learning. On-demand Webinars are interactive, available anytime, and include a follow-along worksheet for students to copy. Your children can watch at home by going to this website: <https://www.texas-wildlife.org/program-areas/youth-on-demand-webinars>. There are an array of webinars to explore. You can learn about armadillos, bats, and even complete metamorphosis! These webinars also allow you to track their learning with a worksheet or by making a quiz. The Texas Wildlife Association also has programs for adults, which can be found here: <https://www.texas-wildlife.org/resources/webcasts/category/webinars/>.

Go check out this amazing Texas Association!

OPEN POSITION

COMMUNITY AND EVENT CENTER MANAGER

The City of Garden Ridge is seeking a Manager for the Community and Event Center. The Manager will be responsible for marketing, scheduling, and booking public and private events, as well as managing day to day operations of the Community and Event Center. The Manager is an individual with professionalism, effective and efficient communication skills, and a self-starter who promotes a vibrant event experience to include high standards of employee and customer safety, satisfaction, and service. For more information, contact City Hall or email Nancy Cain at administrator@ci.garden-ridge.tx.us.

HANSON AGGREGATES 7TH ANNUAL FOOD DRIVE POSTPONED

For the past six years, Hanson Aggregates – Servtex Quarry has organized a food drive every spring which collects thousands of pounds of food for RACAP, the Schertz-based food pantry serving our area. Due to the coronavirus outbreak, Servtex Quarry is postponing this community-wide effort and will reschedule as soon as possible. In the meantime, Servtex Quarry is donating food and funds to help RACAP feed people in need during this time. If you are interested in helping, please go to www.racap.org to learn more.

POLITICAL SIGNS WITHIN GARDEN RIDGE

Many residents have signs placed in their yards to either endorse a candidate or an idea. Though these signs are permitted during elections, they are not permitted after. Please be reminded that Ordinance No. 55 regulates all aspects of sign placement within the City of Garden Ridge. Most residents have removed their political signs and that is greatly appreciated; however, there are still a number of properties displaying signs in violation of the ordinance. If you have temporary signs in your yard or on your property, and they have been there for more than 30 days, please remove them. We are asking everyone to please voluntarily comply with the ordinance so further action is not necessary from the Police Department. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

COVID-19... As we all know, the current situation is evolving quickly, so much so that any updates on numbers, procedures or restrictions I write here may be outdated before you finish reading this. For that reason, my intent is to assure you first and foremost that your City has, and will continue to, work hard to help prevent the spread of this virus and protect our community. Further, I want you to know we are focusing considerable effort to ensure our website has the most current information and pertinent links to give you a central resource for the facts. We want to help make your search for Covid-19 information simple and easy. Please go to www.ci.garden-ridge.tx.us often for local updates and for links to Federal, State, County, and other sources.

As I mentioned, your City Staff is working hard to maintain services to our community and to ensure they are here for you as much as permissible. Our admin professionals are still answering phones and email, and accommodating appointments for those few who require face-to-face business. Our Library's online e-book and audio book systems are up and running. Our Police Officers are still keeping our community safe and secure. Our Water Department is still ensuring our water is still as available and safe, while our Public Works staff are still maintaining (and sanitizing!) our property and facilities.

For more information about the City's response to COVID-19, head over to one of the sites below to view a video message from me.

- City's [Website](#)
- City's [Facebook](#)
- City's [YouTube](#)

CITY OF GARDEN RIDGE COVID-19 ANNOUNCEMENT

The City of Garden Ridge is being responsive to the citizens of our community and surrounding areas with the goal of limiting any potential community transmission. We are following local, state, and federal guidance. This guidance includes recommending that people not congregate in groups and observe social distancing.

City Hall lobby is closed to the public until further notice; however, you may contact us through email or by phone. Please call (210)-651-6831 to contact City Hall for any questions or to set up an appointment. Email addresses for all City employees can be found here: <https://www.ci.garden-ridge.tx.us/directory.aspx>.

Please visit the Comal County Public Health Department for more information about COVID-19 in our county. If you have COVID-19 related questions, please call the Comal County Hotline at (830)-221-1120.

The Mayor declared a local disaster for the City of Garden Ridge, effective March 20, due to the current health emergency in our nation. The City Council held a special meeting on March 24, to continue the Declaration of Local Disaster.

The City of Garden Ridge continues to heed all warnings from the President and the CDC. We will resume normal operations as soon as possible. We ask for your cooperation and patience through this process.

DO YOU HAVE DOCUMENTS TO SHRED?

If you do then stop by the City Hall parking lot on **Saturday, May 9, 2020, if not cancelled due to COVID-19!** Garden Ridge residents are welcome to bring documents for shredding to our Shred Day event from **10am to 1pm**. The Shred Day event is courtesy of the Suzanne Kuntz Real Estate Team. This event is open to Garden Ridge residents **only** and commercial businesses will not be allowed. Please follow the rules below:

NO BINDER CLIPS OF ANY SIZE

NO BINDERS AND NO WET DOCUMENTS



SAVE ANOTHER DATE!!!

The Parks Committee has postponed, not cancelled, the **1st Annual EGGstravaganza!** The tentative date is **Saturday, Sept. 12, from 10am to 1pm.** Join us at **Paul Davis Park** for an old-fashioned “Scrambled Egg Hunt” followed by an all-important salute to Earth Day’s 50th Anniversary (BELATEDLY...but it’s always Earth Day)! Our vendors, sponsors, and contributors have all been great! Hopefully they are all available to come back. We are still in need of volunteers to participate on the Parks Committee to make all these events possible. We hope to see you there!



GARDEN RIDGE WOMEN’S CLUB

Update on the New Members Tea:

Please be informed that the New Member Tea previously scheduled for Sunday, March 22, is being postponed until further notice. If you had planned to attend and bring a potential new member, please bring them to the Spring Luncheon scheduled for May 5 instead.

Garden Ridge Women’s Club Annual Luncheon and Fashion Show will be held on Tuesday May 5, 2020 at Olympia Hills Golf and Country Club at 10:30am. The luncheon fee is \$24 for members and \$27 for non-members. Please make checks payable to GRWC and mail to June Fordiani, 8824 Garden Ridge Drive, Garden Ridge, TX 78266. Checks must be received by April 27 and there will be no last minute admittance.

LIBRARY FOOTNOTES

COVID-19 – it will long be remembered. Please be aware that the Library is closed until at least April 30 and possibly beyond. We have taken some steps to help you with your account. First, there are several places to go for electronic books which you can see on the City’s website under Departments, Library, and Events. You can still email us at library@ci.garden-ridge.tx.us for help in setting up the program on your devices or renewing your account. We have extended everyone’s due dates out to May 1 and all accounts have been extended to May 15. We also added autorenewal and set overdue fines to \$0. However, we have removed the ability to reserve books online. You are encouraged to read all emails that come from the library to get updates – and hopefully, when there is good news. I’d like to thank our City leadership for making some really hard choices for the good of all the citizens of Garden Ridge.

Yes, COVID-19 will long be remembered. But we hope it is for seeing our community and country coming together in unity to defeat an ugly foe, for many acts of kindness, and for the goodness we see in others. Who knows? Maybe some of you will write a book about it!



The Garden Ridge Lions showed their muscle on three beautification projects in Garden Ridge. The first on Jan 25 was partnering with the ‘Families of Garden Ridge’ group for road clean-up along FM2252. The second was a Garden Ridge Lions road clean-up event along Bat Cave Road on Feb 22. The third was a clean-up at the Paul Davis Park on Feb 29, trimming trees and clearing areas for future park usage.

Due to concerns over the Coronavirus, there will be no Garden Ridge Lions General Membership meetings in March or April. **The next scheduled meeting will be May 13.** For additional information, call President Bill Swint 210-867-0580 or email: swint01@hotmail.com

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION

As we move forward in this difficult time, please consider restoration of a Wildlife habitat in a portion of your yard as a safe, rewarding, and enjoyable activity. You can plant Texas native trees, shrubs, flowers, and milkweed to attract more birds, butterflies, and native bees to your yard. It will provide years of enjoyment to you and your family while promoting diversity for the wildlife of Garden Ridge! As a bonus, our wildlife will thank you!

In honor of Earth Day, the Wildlife Commission is making 50 one gallon native trees available free of charge to the residents of Garden Ridge! Some species we have are Anacua and Cedar Elms, though all the trees available are considered “non-susceptible” to oak wilt. If you are interested in picking from the variety of trees, please contact our Assistant City Secretary at asstcitysecretary@ci.garden-ridge.tx.us to find out how!

Lastly, feel free to visit the Wildlife Management Plan on the City’s website for fun activities to complete at home.

SIGN UP FOR ELECTRONIC BILLS

The City of Garden Ridge is working towards “E-Government” by providing more information, forms, and applications through our website. We are also trying to go paperless! Are you interested in receiving your water bill through email? Well, we have exciting news for you then! Go paperless and sign up for e-billing services. It’s a wonderful step in saving the planet and even saving your own time! You can sign up through this link, <https://www.ci.garden-ridge.tx.us/FormCenter/EBill-Sign-Up-13/EBill-Sign-Up-55> or fill out the form at City Hall. Please call City Hall or email the Utility Clerk at water@ci.garden-ridge.tx.us if you have any questions.

QUARRY COMMISSION HAPPENINGS

At the Quarry Commission regular meeting on March 9, the monitoring company reviewed blasting analysis data from 22 blasts over a period of 2 months (January and February). All air overpressure and ground vibration readings were well under the U.S. Bureau of Mines (USBM) limits and the levels set forth in Garden Ridge City Ordinance 34. Blasts were concentrated primarily on the south wall and occasionally on the west wall of the quarry property. It was reported that near term future blast will remain focused in this same area. There were no citizen blast impact reports in the months of January and February. The next Quarry Commission Regular Meeting is scheduled for Monday May 11, 2020, at 6pm.

NEW PARK SIGNS FOR GARDEN RIDGE

Check out the new signs at every park in Garden Ridge for practicing social distancing, as we follow federal guidelines to protect the citizens of our wonderful city.

“We encourage using our Parks, but groups of more than 10 are prohibited. Remember social distancing. It’s important. We’re sanitizing as often as we can, so please...think it through. Thanks, and be well, from your City’s government and staff.”

Significant Actions–March City Council Meeting

Approved

- Ordinance No. 226-032020
- Accept Shred Day Event sponsorship proposal
- Exception to Ordinance No. 22-012020 for G.R.E.S

Discussion and Updates

- CIP Projects
- City Board and Commissions
- City Council Projects
- Parks Committee
- City Administrator Projects
- City Facilities
- Mayor Projects
- Volunteer Garden Ridge!

COMMUNICATIONS

Person to Person: City Hall lobby is closed through April 2020.

Mailing Address: 9400 Municipal Parkway, Garden Ridge, TX

Website: www.ci.garden-ridge.tx.us

Social Media: Facebook-City of Garden Ridge, Nextdoor.com, Twitter

Citizen Comment Period: All Council and Commission meetings are cancelled through April 2020.

Citizen Concern/Citizen Input: Interactive communication form <http://ci.garden-ridge.tx.us/forms.aspx?fed+65>

Phone: (210) 651-6831 (24/7 line)

Coffee With the Mayor: Cancelled until further notice.

Coffee with a Cop: Cancelled until further notice.



We encourage all citizens to *stay informed*.

A great place to start is to read Ordinance 227-032020 in its entirety on the City’s website. This Ordinance, approved by the City Council on March 24, 2020, details current rules and regulations along with measures previously taken by your city. Additionally, you can access other helpful information and resources through the Garden Ridge City website by clicking on the article titled **“COVID-19 / Coronavirus”**.

**The following are excerpts from the Ordinance.
Please refer to our website for the complete text.**

Ordinance No. 227-032020 (Title):

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARDEN RIDGE, TEXAS, EXTENDING A DECLARATION OF LOCAL DISASTER; ESTABLISHING RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE DURATION OF THE DISASTER; RESTRICTING CERTAIN ACTIVITIES; PROVIDING A CUMULATIVE AND SAVINGS CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND DECLARING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Declaration of Local State of Disaster (Section 2 of Ordinance):

The local state of disaster due to this health emergency declared by Mayor Thompson for the City of Garden Ridge, Texas, pursuant to §418.108(a) of the Texas Government Code, is hereby renewed and extended by the consent of the City Council of the City of Garden Ridge, pursuant to §418.108(b) of the Texas Government Code, including all rules and regulations attached hereto as **Exhibit A**. This extension shall run concurrent with Governor Abbott’s Emergency Declaration issued on March 19, 2020 [Executive Order GA-08], subject to being extended, modified, amended, rescinded, or superseded by the governor.

Local State of Disaster Rules and Regulations (Exhibit A of Ordinance):

1. In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), people shall avoid social gatherings in groups of more than ten (10) people.
2. In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, people shall avoid eating or drinking at bars, restaurants, and food courts, or visiting gyms or massage parlors; provided, however, that the use of drive-thru, pickup, or delivery options is allowed and highly encouraged throughout the duration of this Declaration.
3. In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, people shall not visit nursing homes, retirement facilities, or long-term care facilities unless to provide critical assistance.
4. In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, schools shall temporarily close.



Precautionary Public Health Measures (Exhibit B of Ordinance):

Implemented on March 13, 2020

- Limit public contact, public access into City offices, and face to face meetings to essential only. Police Department procedures implemented by Chief of Police.
- City Hall Lobby and Offices disinfected multiple times daily, hand sanitizer available to the public and employees, and gloves available to employees. Limit contact for employees with immune deficiencies.
- Garden Ridge Library closed through March 2020, including all Library activities.
- Coffee with the Mayor, Coffee with a Cop, and courses offered to the public cancelled until further notice.
- Rentals for the Garden Ridge Community and Event Center Wildflower Room and reservations for Paul Davis Park Pavilions/Concession Hut cancelled through March 2020, with fees and deposits refunded.
- City Commission and Committee meetings cancelled through March 2020.
- Garden Ridge Municipal Court postponed until May.
- Water bill late fees/notices not issued during March 2020. No water cut-offs during March and April 2020.
- Public Works, Water, and Police Departments vehicles and equipment sanitized after use.
- VPN's set up for Department Heads to allow ability to work from home, if necessary.

Approved by City Council on March 17, 2020

In addition to continuing all Precautionary Public Health Measures implemented on March 13, 2020, City Council approved the following Precautionary Public Health Measures on March 17, 2020:

- Water bill late fees/notices will not be issued during April 2020.
- Extend the closure of the Garden Ridge Library through April 2020, including cancellation of all Library activities.
- Extend cancellation of City Commission and Committee meetings through April 2020.
- Extend cancellation of rentals for the Garden Ridge Community and Event Center Wildflower Room and Bluebonnet Room through April 2020.
- Extend cancellation of reservations for Paul Davis Park Pavilions and Concession Hut through April 2020.
- Close City Hall Lobby through April 2020 with public access on an appointment only basis.
- Place signs at City parks encouraging citizens to follow all guidelines and recommendations set out by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- Approval of employee pay during self-quarantine, forced quarantine, or shutdown.
- Discourage public gatherings within the City that violate federal and/or state guidance.