



THE GRAPEVINE

NOW OVER 1,500 HOUSEHOLDS SERVED

The Newsletter of the City of Garden Ridge

November 2015

www.ci.garden-ridge.tx.us

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

Non-emergency, after hours



Coming Events

- Nov 3rd Election Day (see article)
- Nov 4th City Council meets, 6pm
- Nov 10th Water Commission meets, 6pm
- Nov 11th Veteran's Day –City Offices will be closed
- Nov 17th Planning and Zoning Commission meets, 6pm
- Nov 26th Thanksgiving
- Nov. 26th and 27th City Offices will be closed

Dumpster Weekends– Nov. 7-8, 14-15, 21-22 and 28-29

NO TRASH PICK UP NOV 26TH

NOTE: All meetings subject to change!

Upcoming Election

A General and Special Election will be held on Tuesday, November 3rd. The ballot will consist of Statewide Constitutional Amendments and a County-wide bond election for a new Jail.

**PCT. 205 voting will be held at Garden Ridge Community Center
7am-7pm**

Please visit the Comal County Election Administrator's website <http://www.co.comal.tx.us/Elections.htm> for a sample ballot and to learn more about the new eSlate Voting Machine.

See you at the polls!

WELCOME TO GARDEN RIDGE

New Residents

SHERRY BARWICK DAWNA NEWSOME
KEITH & MELISSA FITZGERALD DR. KEITH SCUDDAY

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, and each January thereafter. Call 651-6831 for information.

Significant Actions - October 7th City Council Meeting

- Approved
 - Designation of New Braunfels Herald as official newspaper
 - Hiring of Police Officer Jesus Sanchez
 - Hiring of Police Clerk Marisa Spencer
 - Award of bid for Trinity Wells 9 & 10
 - Annexation portion of 107.14 acres (Woodlands of Garden Ridge)
 - Ordinance 22-102015 additional Thru Truck Traffic Signs
 - Ordinance 11-10215 amending Park Fees and Building Permit Renewal Fees
 - Lease of 200 acre feet of Edwards Water Rights
 - Appointment of Greg Czerniak to Planning & Zoning Commission
 - Appointment of Albert Haddad to Quarry Commission
 - Reappointment of David Heier and Richard Holloway to Water Commission
- Updates
 - CIP Projects
 - Garden Ridge Parks Committee
 - Trinity Wells
 - Deer Management
 - Northeast Bible Church Drainage

Mayor's Desk

Fall is in the air and with it comes all of the community events. Watch the Grapevine, City signs and newspapers for all the action. Some of these will be old favorites, but there are a few new things planned for the holiday season.

November is also time to remember and thank our Veterans for all they have done. I hope you will take time out to attend one of the Veterans events or to thank someone you know who has served.

Help keep Garden Ridge beautiful-remember to trim all low hanging trees and bushes from roadways and right-of-ways.

Just a reminder about a favorite after Thanksgiving tradition with many families in Garden Ridge - the "neighborhood walk" after the big dinner. As you or your family drive around the City on Thanksgiving, be especially attentive not only to the deer but to families and small children out and about.

Wishing everyone a safe and happy Thanksgiving!

Nadine

Right-of-Ways and Easements

Please assist the City of Garden Ridge in keeping the City beautiful and safe. We ask that you maintain your trees and shrubs located in the right-of-ways and easements. By doing this it will help with some of the issues that impair the vision of motorist and traffic signs, as well as reducing the damage to vehicles. For more information see the letter in the utility bill envelope.

WEBSITE

Have you checked us out lately? We are constantly updating and making changes to ensure that you get accurate and immediate information. www.ci.garden-ridge.tx.us or like us on Facebook

Police Department



The holiday season is just around the corner and with that comes a spike of criminals looking to take advantage of good people. Stopping thieves from the desire to steal from others is nearly impossible, but we can all find ways to make our homes and community a less desirable place to commit these crimes. Open garage doors are always an issue, but during the holiday season they are especially inviting to the opportunistic burglar. Our city is steadily growing and we have more outsiders driving through Garden Ridge than ever before. I encourage each of you to close your garage doors and to ask others to do the same. That rule of thumb applies to your vehicle as well; leaving valuables in plain sight is never a good idea.

Deer Management

Thanks to all who participated in our deer survey. We received over 500 responses. The results will be discussed at the next City Council meeting. Additionally there will be another Deer management meeting in November. Look for the notice online and on the City bulletin boards and signs.

From TPW:

Is Fertility Control a Management Option?

Currently, fertility control is not a management option in Texas. Fertility control is often a popular request from urban residents wishing to manage overabundant urban deer herds. Fertility control does not reduce the number of deer in a population, and it will not help in a situation where deer are already overpopulated. Fertility control can only be used to reduce a population's growth rate, and is therefore only appropriate to maintain a deer population at its current level. Fertility control is a viable option under certain conditions only; for example, in a geographically closed population with a small number of deer. Another limitation of fertility control is cost, which is estimated to run at \$350+ per doe per year for chemical birth control to in excess of \$2000 per doe for spaying. This program would cost the city between \$350,000 to \$2.0 Million.

Hello Neighbors,

Please help us cover the homeless again this year. As we near the cold weather season, we are asking for your help. We are accepting new or gently used blankets, coats and sleeping bags. Periodically we deliver them to homeless individuals in San Antonio.

If you would like to contribute, please bring them by 9450 Cinchona Trail. You can leave them in the storage container on the front porch. If you have any questions, please call Mary Rethman at (210)396-1208.

Thanks to the generosity and support from all of you, we delivered over 100 articles last year!

Don't forget to like the City of Garden Ridge on Facebook

♪Oh Christmas Tree♪

A 22 foot Christmas Tree of Lights, Garden Ridge Elementary School students singing Christmas carols, a visit from Santa, and FOOD TRUCKS! Oh by gosh by golly you won't want to miss Garden Ridge's First Annual Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration on Tuesday, Dec. 1st at City Hall beginning at 6 PM. Yes Virginia, the City's largest ever Christmas Tree, covered with nearly 5,000 lights, will be lit by Mayor Knaus and one other lucky person. Come early so you can enter the free drawing to help Mayor Knaus light the tree. **Remember,** it's not too late to get on Santa's 'Nice List'. If you make a minimum donation of \$5 to help purchase Christmas decorations the Parks Committee will give you a certificate, signed by Santa and Rudolph, that officially puts you on Santa's 'Nice List'. Drop off your donation at City Hall or the library. Why risk being on Santa's 'Naughty List'? As a community service project to help the Parks Committee, Cub Scout Pack 828 is accepting donations over \$50 and they will make sure residents and local businesses receive special recognition for donations of \$100 or more. Our recent Parks survey told us citizens wanted more organized activities, so we created this, our 1st event. Email councilpl2@ci.garden-ridge.tx.us and let us know what you think. Check out the City website for more information. ♪ Christmas Time's A Comin' ♪

Quarry Commission Happenings

The Quarry Commission will now meet every other month, unless a special meeting is called. The next Quarry Commission meeting will be on Dec 14, 2015, at 7pm.

At the December meeting, the training topic will be *Structural Responses to Blasting Activity*; i.e., how our homes react to the effects of blasts. Please join us if you are interested in learning more about blasting and its effects.

LIBRARY FOOTNOTES

Mark your calendars for November 10 from 1-3 pm for a Veterans Day Celebration, to be held in the City Council Chamber Room.

A big thank you to all the people who have bought bookplates. This has allowed us to buy some lovely new books. Among them are: **The Secret Chord**, by Pulitzer Prize winner Geraldine Brooks, a gritty story of King David of Israel; **The Martian**, by Andy Weir, which is a just-released movie where the hero must survive alone on Mars; **Killing Reagan**, by Bill O'Reilly; **Twain's End**, by Lynn Cullen, a biography of that famous author; **A Higher Call**, by Adam Makos, an incredible true story of combat and chivalry in the war-torn skies of WWII; the latest books by popular authors such as **C.J. Box**, **Sue Grafton**, **Jan Karon**, **Lee Child**, **Catherine Coulter**, **Kate Morton** and **J.A. Jance**. The bookplates are a way to honor someone or remember a loved one. "Books for all Reasons; Books for all Seasons." Remember, **a book is a gift you can open again and again.**

Be looking for Elf Pammy and Santa Claus on December 5, at 10:30 am.



THANK YOU!

A big thank you to all the volunteers who made the GRWC Holiday Marketplace a tremendous success! We couldn't have done it without you! We appreciate all you ladies and guys who helped load and unload, helped with parking, and clean up. Special thanks go to Albert Haddad, Vaughan Ruple, Larry Scott, Mike Shands, and Ray Lindberg.

Winterizing Tips

- Ensure there are no gaps in insulation or crawl spaces that expose pipes to cold air, which could put the pipes at risk of freezing and bursting.
- Have your heating system checked by a licensed technician before cold weather requires daily use.
- Block drafts around doors, windows and baseboards with weather stripping, window film and caulk to control heat loss.
- Install storm doors and windows to improve energy-efficiency and get rid of drafts.
- Have chimneys cleaned by an experienced chimney sweep to prevent the risk of a fire from buildup or blockages.
- Spray door locks with powdered-graphite lubricant to prevent freezing and sticking.
- Set ceiling fans to rotate clockwise to force rising warm air back towards the floor.



Going Out of Town?

Stop by City Hall and complete an Out of Town Notification. The Police Department will do drive bys and check your home while you're gone. You can also complete the form online.