



THE GRAPEVINE

NOW OVER 1,400 HOUSEHOLDS SERVED

The Newsletter of the City of Garden Ridge

www.ci.garden-ridge.tx.us

MAY 2011

City Hall 651-6632 Lost Pets 651-6831 & GRPD 651-6441
Non-emergency, after hours

May 8



Mother's Day



ARMED FORCES DAY
MAY 21

Remember with great
gratitude and honor all
members of our
Armed Forces
Especially those who
fought & died serving
America!



Memorial Day
May 30

Coming Events:

- 2 May — Meet the Candidates 7 PM Community Center
- 2-10 May — Early voting (See Article)
- 4 May — City Council meets 6 PM
- 7 May — Bracken VFD Firefighters Festival (See Article)
- 7-15 May — Brush Disposal — Municipal Parkway
- 8 May — Mothers' Day
- 9 May — Quarry Commission Meets, 7 PM
- 10 May — Planning and Zoning Workshop 6 PM
- 14 May — Election Day City Hall 7AM to 7 PM
- 19 May — Planning and Zoning Meets, 6 PM
- 21 May — Armed Forces Day
- 24 May — Water Commission Meets, 6 PM
- 30 May — Memorial Day observed; "Lest we forget"
City Offices and Library closed

FROM THE MAYOR

Many that know me are aware of my warm feelings regarding animals. In that regard, City Ordinance #18 outlines the requirements for registering pets with the city. This registration is not designed to bring in revenue as the \$5.00 yearly fee does not really play in the budget. It does, however, perform two important functions. It aids in reminding owners of vaccination requirements, and in my mind importantly, aids in returning pets to their owners in a timely manner. The system/ordinance compliance is performing marginally, at best. So far in 2011, 27 dogs have been impounded and returned to owners by the city. Only 3 of these were registered. Luckily, through other means — tags, micro chips, etc. — we were able to return these animals, although in most cases, it could have been done more quickly if the animals had been registered. Please — regarding your pets, in particular dogs — register at City Hall each January. All that is required is a few minutes of your time, \$5.00, and proof of rabies vaccination. Your cooperation is most appreciated.

Jay F. Feibelman
Mayor

WELCOME TO GARDEN RIDGE

New Residents:

- Heather Gearhart
- David & Robyn Hall
- Viviana & David Jenkins
- Angela Lesko
- Andrew & Diane Nehls
- Leo & Carlye Pavlas
- Byron & Sally Smith
- Michael & Wanda Stover



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.

House Addresses

For many homes, it is extremely difficult to immediately determine the address in case of an emergency. If you have not, please display your address prominently on your home or in the yard. Precious time can be saved for EMS and/or Police response. Address plates are available at the Bracken VFD and will be sold at the Firefighters Festival on May 17.

Library Footnotes

By Lynne Dean

Is summer here? These random hot days followed by cool nights have me guessing, but the date signals that school will soon be out and the dog days of summer will begin.

One sure sign of summer is the visit of Bonzo Crunch, the wonderful clown from Ringling Bros. Circus, who will once again kick off the circus reading program. Your children can earn free tickets to the circus by reading as few as 5 "J" books or 10 "E" books. And again, only one adult ticket must be purchased for every three children's free tickets — a vast improvement!

With the persistent drought, and water rationing looming, why not forgo toiling in the yard and instead retreat to the cool peace and quiet of the library, a place where all your unfinished projects can fade to insignificance. Reacquaint yourself with a favorite author or investigate earth shattering or trivial pursuits (Did you know the expression "So be it" is actually one word, sobeit, not three?); encourage exploration with your children or just relax and read Green Eggs and Ham. Why not come in and enjoy all we have to offer?

We are doing a little rearranging as we purge the library of the VHS tapes. We have moved the biography collection to those rapidly emptying shelves.

We have gratefully received a donation of a most remarkable book, Unbroken, by Laura Hillenbrand, the highly acclaimed author of Seabiscuit. It is the harrowing and yet uplifting true story of Louis Zamperini, former Olympian for whom the four minute mile was within sight, the World War II bombardier, who shared a raft in the shark infested waters of the Pacific, dodging gunfire for over 90 days, the longest survival at sea on record, and the POW of several Japanese prison camps, whose captors targeted the "celebrity" with unrelenting torture. "Driven to the limits of endurance, Zamperini would answer desperation with ingenuity; suffering with hope, resolve, and humor; brutality with rebellion. His fate, whether triumph or tragedy, would be suspended on the fraying wire of his will." At the age of 94, Louis Zamperini is currently touring the country giving lectures on the endurance of faith and the power of forgiveness.

People have come up to him after his lectures and said that reading his story has made them rethink their lives.

Maybe you're ready for some life altering literature, either in print, audio, or online. Hope to see you soon!

Quarry Commission Happenings



On April 11, 2011, the Quarry Commission met for its regularly scheduled monthly meeting. After opening the meeting, the Commission went into a closed executive session to discuss the Commission's proposed rewrite of Ordinance 34, the City's Blasting Ordinance, which establishes the rules and limits for blasting in Garden Ridge. Following an in-depth discussion with the City's attorney in executive session, the regular open meeting was reconvened. After reviewing the blasting data for March, the Commission held a lengthy discussion about Ordinance 34. After voting on several key issues and modifying the draft rewrite based on the results of the votes, the Commission recommended the City adopt the modified rewrite of Ordinance 34. 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 strongly encouraged to attend the next regularly scheduled Quarry Commission meeting which will be held on May 9, 2011 at 7 pm.

Quick Notes



- Oak Wilt: The season is upon us. The disease could devastate our oak tree population. Insure all wounds are painted immediately!
- Conserve Water!! Please adhere to watering rules and conserve our water.

BRACKEN VFD FIREFIGHTER'S FESTIVAL

"Mark the day! This year's annual Bracken VFD Firefighter's Festival will be held on Saturday, May 7, at the **Garden Ridge Community Center**. A fajita dinner will be served from 4 - 8PM, with to-go orders available. There will be a live auction beginning at 6PM, a silent auction, raffle and other booths. Please come to eat well, have fun and support **YOUR** Volunteer Fire Department.



GRACELAND Mother's Eve Event

Graceland Assisted Living will host this event on May 7th from 2-4pm. There will be complimentary hand treatments, shopping, treats, door prizes, and more - all to pamper the mom's in our community. Our address is 19095 FM 2252 in Garden Ridge of course. 210-651-6377

GARDEN RIDGE WOMEN'S CLUB MEMBERSHIP DRIVE



The Garden Ridge Women's Club is starting our "GRWC 2011-2012 Membership Drive," and we are looking forward to welcoming new members, as well as keeping our current members. We plan to continue many of our traditional activities and special interest groups, but are always open to new ideas and fresh input.

Save the date and mark your calendars for the Fall Luncheon & Fashion Show, which will be held on Thursday, September 22, 2011! The following month, on October 15, 2011, we will be holding our ever-popular Holiday Marketplace Event!

If you are interested in joining our club or are already a member and have any questions, please contact our **Membership Chairman, Judi Hanna, 210-658-0819**. **Dues are only \$20 per year**, and the new year is June 1, 2011 - May 31, 2012. Membership renewal forms will be mailed during the month of May to current members. Please return them by July 1, 2011, along with your check for \$20 payable to GRWC to:

Judi Hanna
13622 Hercules Ln.
Universal City, TX 78148.

NUISANCE ABATEMENT PROGRAM ORDINANCE 162-04201

The City of Garden Ridge has determined that nuisances are detrimental to the safety and welfare of the public and tend to reduce property values; therefore a Nuisance Abatement Program has been established with the adoption of Ordinance 162-042011 on April 6, 2011. The program defines nuisances, sets out notification requirements, hearing procedures and establishes fines and penalties for the abatement of nuisances. The adoption of Ordinance 162-042011 further repeals Ordinance 27 and is now in effect. The program covers junked vehicles, the accumulation of garbage, trash, weeds, brush and other matters and general nuisances. Citizens are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the Nuisance Abatement Program and can view Ordinance 162-042011 on the city's website, www.ci.garden-ridge.tx.us, or obtain a copy at City Hall. Citizens can contact either the City Administrator or the Chief of Police with questions concerning the Program.

Significant City Council Actions in April:

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:

- Proclamation naming the month of April as "Sexual Assault Awareness Month" in the City of Garden Ridge
- Proclamation recognizing the month of April as Child Abuse Prevention Month

UPDATE:

- Update on public safety concerns in the Wild Wind Unit 3 Subdivision of Garden Ridge, Texas

APPROVED:

- Resolution No. 236-042011 finding after reasonable notice and hearing that CenterPoint Energy Entex and CenterPoint Energy Texas Gas South Texas Division requested increases to its natural gas rates and charges within the City should be denied
- Request to waive building permit fees and inspection fees for a residence to be constructed at 8716 Verano Drive by Homes for our Troops
- Request by HighPoint Church to lease the former City Council Chambers and Library buildings located at 9357 Schoenthal Road and owned by the City of Garden Ridge and authorize the City Administrator to negotiate a lease agreement between the City of Garden Ridge and HighPoint Church for the above mentioned property
- Ordinance 162-042011 establishing a nuisance abatement program for the City of Garden Ridge, Texas; declaring junked vehicles a public nuisance; prohibiting the accumulation of garbage, trash, weeds, brush and other matters; establishing general nuisances; setting forth public hearing and abatement/removal regulations and requirements; establishing criminal and civil penalties for violations
- Ordinance 101-042011 amending the Schedule of Fines for certain offenses on pleas of guilty or nolo contendere prior to trial and repealing Ordinance 101-052008 passed and approved May 7, 2008

REPORTS:

- City of Garden Ridge Police Department General Manual
- Report on status of Water System Capital Projects

TABLED:

- Possible action regarding pursuit of an injunction against the Bracken Rifle & Pistol Recreational Range
- Request from Regency Oaks Homeowners Association for the City of Garden Ridge to cover the financial responsibility of seven (7) street lights within the Regency Oaks subdivision

Bicycle Rodeo

Community Bicycle Rodeo, May 21st at Garden Ridge Elementary School. Registration will begin at 8:30AM. Event is open to children kindergarten to fifth grade. Children must bring bicycle, helmet and be accompanied by a parent. Home school and private school students are invited to attend. For additional information or registration: contact GRES PTA President Kathy Riley twitchets@aol.com or Police Chief Donna O'Conner police@ci.garden-ridge.tx.us.

Train Collectors Association

The Train Collectors Association's annual spring event is returning to Garden Ridge Community Center on May 14. Operating layouts, Buy/Sell toy and model trains, door prize, raffle, silent auction, refreshments. Open to the public from 10:30 am to 4:00 pm. Come and enjoy.

Voting Schedule

City of Garden Ridge, May 14, 2011, General Elections

Early Voting

May 2	8:00 am — 5:00 pm
May 3	7:00 am — 7:00 pm
May 4	8:00 am — 5:00 pm
May 5	7:00 am — 7:00 pm
May 6	8:00 am — 5:00 pm
May 9	8:00 am — 5:00 pm
May 10	8:00 am — 5:00 pm

Election Day

May 14 **7:00 am — 7:00 pm**

All voting will be conducted in the Council Chambers at Garden Ridge City Hall, 9400 Municipal Parkway, Garden Ridge, Texas 78266. If you have questions, please call Yolanda Benitez, City Secretary, at 210-651-6632, Monday through Friday, between 8 am and 5 pm.

ESD #6 Tax Election

You can decide the future of your fire protection and emergency medical service. To add firefighters and modernize equipment, Comal County Emergency Services District No. 6 is asking voters to allow it to go above its current tax rate of 3-cents-per-\$100 in property value. Early voting runs May 2-10 at the Garden Ridge City Hall. Election Day is 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, May 14 at City Hall. For more details, go to www.brackenvfd.org.



Garden Ridge Lions Club

For membership and information contact
 Dick Vogt at 651-5894