



THE GRAPEVINE

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The Newsletter of the City of Garden Ridge
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January 2007

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NEW CITY MUNICIPAL COMPLEX 9400 Municipal Parkway



NEW LIBRARY



NEW CITY HALL

Watch for the Grand Opening and Open House for the new City Offices, Police Station, and Library to be held in January or early February. Sorry for the delay, we want to be settled before the event. Watch the City sign for the date.

Coming Events:

- 1 Jan — Happy New Year! City Offices and Library closed
- 29 Dec — 8 Jan — Christmas Tree dumpsters at FM 3009 Water Tower/Community Center site.
- 2 Jan — City Library reopens after relocation
- 3 Jan — City Council meets, 7 pm — New Court Room
- 8 Jan — Republican Club meets, 7 pm
- 8 Jan — Quarry Commission meets, 7 pm
- 9 Jan — Planning and Zoning Workshop, 7 pm — Old Courtroom
- 15 Jan — Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. City Hall and Library closed.
- 18 Jan — Planning and Zoning meets, 7 pm — Old Courtroom
- 23 Jan — Water Commission meets, 7 pm — Old Courtroom

COMAL COUNTY RURAL RECYCLING

► **NOTE CHANGE** ◀ (830)620-1494
WHEN: Tuesdays
HOURS: 6:30 am — 11:30 am
LOCATION: New Municipal Complex Parking Lot
EFFECTIVE DATE: Tuesday, January 2, 2007

In Memory

We mourn the loss of Ed Olesen who passed away in December. Ed was a long time resident of Garden Ridge and active in supporting our city. He will be sorely missed.

FROM THE MAYOR

Santa made his annual visit to our area on December 2 in conjunction with the Pony Express Trail Riders. The children and parents had a great time, with pictures on Santa's lap, on horseback, and tours of the Bracken Volunteer Fire Department fire engine and Garden Ridge police cars. Special thanks to Santa (Joe Britan) and the Fire and Police Departments for a good time. The turnout was wonderful!

Thanks to all for all your support for a great, prosperous 2006.

Jay F. Feibelman
Mayor

Library Footnotes

By Nancy Feibelman

Thank you for your patience as the monumental task of moving a library to the new municipal complex is completed. Closing of the library exceeded our expectations as we discovered our facility has grown to over 10,000 books plus a large video section and audio books. We will be open on January 2.

Additionally, we are converting to a computer program which will allow your selections to be checked out by bar code.

New oak book shelves are now in the children's area which were donated by J. R., Inc., whose president is Garden Ridge resident Jesse Rodriguez. He also gave us a children's table and chairs. Thank You!

Library hours are Monday through Saturday 10:00 am to 12:00 pm and on Thursday nights from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. We are considering a change in hours and would like your input. Please fill out a questionnaire at the check out counter when you visit.



GARDEN RIDGE WOMEN'S CLUB

The Garden Ridge Women's Club HEB Central Market cooking class will be January 25, 2007, from 11:00 am until 1:00 pm. Members are \$30, non-members are \$35. Send checks to Diana Schonhoff at 13014 Tonne Drive East, New Braunfels, TX 78132 to reserve your place. First come, first reservation. Call Diana at 830-609-2972 (metro) for further information.



WELCOME TO GARDEN RIDGE

New Residents:

Natasha Acevedo
Steven & Maria Chandler
Raul & Bertha DeLaRosa
Marino & Carolina Diaz
Peter Diaz
Dave McCune
David and Karen Nicholas
Douglas Small



Note: Newcomers are derived from water service records and, thus, not all family members are included.

Background on the Quarry and Its Operations

Every few months, the same issues regarding quarry mining operations (that have been explained and discussed previously, in detail) again reappear. The city administration understands the frustration of citizens but is powerless to do any more than work to minimize the impact of the mining operation. This we have done with some success through a Quarry Commission that has obtained concessions from Quarry management through negotiation and keeping lines of communication open.

SOME FACTS AND ISSUES EXPLAINED:

1. The quarry is legally mining their property and the city cannot initiate action to shut them down without basis. There is a process that involves condemnation that could be applied. The city would be required to pay fair market value for the land and lost revenue for raw materials that could have been derived — a significant cost to taxpayers.

2. City officials have been continually asked why we allowed the Worley Ranch to be purchased by the quarry. This purchase did allow mining operations to move closer to residential areas. The answer remains constant — we did not know the property was on the market and were not aware of the sale until after the fact. A new rumor has surfaced that the city owned the property in question and sold it to the quarry. Absolutely untrue.

3. The city did grant a 15 year non-annexation on the above property to the quarry for land that currently houses the entire city municipal complex, library and community center. Had the city annexed the property after the sale and zoned it, we would have nonetheless been unable to prevent or restrict mining operations.

4. The question has arisen regarding passing a city ordinance addressing the nuisance factor caused by a mining operation. As a General Law city, we cannot pass such an ordinance. As a "home rule" city, such an ordinance may be possible, but without a population of at least 5,000, we don't qualify.

5. The City of Shavano Park filed a lawsuit against the quarry adjacent to their city and after expenditures approaching \$500,000 received concessions that are less than what we have accomplished through handshakes and open lines of communication.

6. The city always remains open to constructive criticism and suggestions to minimize the impact on our citizens. It is frustrating to be continually bombarded and accused as we are basically powerless. Many concessions have been gained through the hard work of our Quarry Commission. City officials have an open door policy and are available to discuss and clarify any aspects of this issue.

Jay F. Feibelman
Mayor

Significant City Council Actions in December

Approved:

- Lease negotiation with the Garden Ridge-Bracken Lions Club regarding the former library building.
- City Quarry Commission recommendation to reappoint Jerry Warden as Quarry Commissioner with term of office expiring September 30, 2008
- City Water Commission recommendation for the study and upgrade to the City's Trinity well

Disapproved:

- Request from Diamond Association Management on behalf of Georg Ranch Property Owners Association for the refund of security deposits on water meters located in Georg Ranch landscape islands.

Garden Ridge Women's Club Annual Citywide Garage Sale

As you look over those not-so-great Christmas gifts, remember that we are approaching Garden Ridge's Citywide Garage Sale on March 17 !! Each year the garage sale gets bigger and bigger, so start planning for it. Member reservations will begin on January 10th, so if you are planning to rent a booth and you are not a member, contact Tanya Haddad, our membership representative at 651-9241 to become a member. Non-member reservations will not begin until February 10th.

Members: Inside \$25.00 Outside \$30.00
Non-members Inside \$35.00 Outside \$40.00

For more information, call Juli Betz at 651-3406.

QUICK NOTES

- Remember to shred it! Shred all documents that contain personal information, including pre-approved credit card offers, insurance forms and financial statements.
- January is pet registration month. Contact City Hall at 652-6831 for information. Registration can assure the prompt and safe return of your pet and is required by City Ordinance.
- Recycle your Christmas trees at the FM 3009 Community Center area.
- The ball moss is thriving in the City. Although the moss does not directly kill, it deprives the tree of moisture and sunlight that will! Remove ball moss for healthy trees.



QUARRY BLASTS

Each quarry blast is monitored at three separate locations and reports are rendered to the city. One monitor is at a permanent location, another at the closest residence to the blast and a third is placed at the discretion of the Quarry Commission. Citizens desiring to have a monitor placed at their residence may do so by contacting a commissioner, City Hall, or sending an email request to: quarrycom@ci.garden-ridge.tx.us.

The Quarry Commission will do its best to honor all requests as availability allows.

For more information about the quarry and the Quarry Commission go to:

<http://www.ci.garden-ridge.tx.us/commissions.htm>