

GARDEN RIDGE

Community, wildlife flourish in Garden Ridge

Located in a beautiful, rural setting two and half miles west of Interstate 35 on Farm Road 3009, Garden Ridge residents stress community, with an emphasis on home life and neighborliness.

Approximately seven and a quarter miles square, the affluent city of Garden Ridge is still growing with the development of many subdivisions. But small retail development is in the city's near future. City government includes a mayor and five council members. The mayor is Jay Feibelman, and the city administrator is Nancy Cain.

New subdivisions under development include Arrowood Estates, Wild Wind, Oak Meadows, Forest of Garden Ridge, Forest of Garden Ridge Two, Creekview and the Enclave of Garden Ridge. There are plans for the formation of Villa of Garden Ridge, space for commerce at 3009 and Farm Road 2252. The population is at 3,500.

With such an increase in growth it would seem the wildlife in the area would be one of the first fatalities. Not so with Garden Ridge. Local city officials have always kept the environment in the forefront, while dealing with the inevitable growth of the community.

Officials do warn residents about the surging deer population. People are told to take precaution when deer appear. Homeowners are also asked not to feed deer in particular deer corn, which can be toxic.

The city is using a master street plan that projects vehicle usage for a 20-year period and recommended necessary improvements. The plan calls for the widening of Schoenthal and Bat Cave Roads and the construction of a road parallel to Bat Cave Road to take some of the pressure off of FM 3009 and Bat Cave Road.

There are also quite a few places to shop in the area. Rolling Oaks Mall is nearby on Nacogdoches Road and Loop 1604. In the past few year I-35 has grown economically to

provide an H-E-B, money institutions as well as several other shops and fast-food establishments. Bracken Village contains small shops and restaurants in the unincorporated community of Bracken. The aesthetics convey a serene atmosphere in a late 19th century setting. The Village has been popular over the years with residents and visitors alike.

Churches in the area include the Triumphant Lutheran Church, Bracken United Methodist, Northeast Bible Church, Garden Ridge Church of Christ and Covenant Baptist Church. Schools are in the Comal Independent School District, with children attending Comal Elementary, Canyon Middle School and Canyon High School.

Civic and volunteer organizations in the area include the Garden Ridge/Bracken Lions Club, Garden Ridge Women's Club, the Garden Ridge Republican Club and the Bracken Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary.

Garden Ridge has its own Police Department, which has chief, regular officers and reserves. Although the city does not have a fire department, the Bracken VFD supplies fire protection to Garden Ridge.

The water company is city owned and the water supply was named "superior". Gas is supplied by CenterPoint Energy, electricity by CPS Energy and garbage collection by Waste Management.

The beautifully landscaped Paul Davis Park is located on Blue Bell and Grass Creek. The park is host to the city's annual Fourth of July celebration and is available for rentals.

A new community center was constructed four years ago. The building is located just off of 3009 on Municipal Parkway near the city's water tower and city hall. The center is available for rentals and community events.

Mayor Jay F. Feibelman