



THE GRAPEVINE

NOW OVER 1,400 HOUSEHOLDS SERVED

The Newsletter of the City of Garden Ridge

www.ci.garden-ridge.tx.us

December 2010

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

Non-emergency, after hours 651-6831



Happy Holidays

and

A Very Merry Christmas to All !!

Coming Events:

- 1 Dec — City Council meets - 6 pm
- 2 Dec — First Day of Hanukkah
- 7 Dec — Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day- 1941 "Lest we forget"
- 13 Dec — Quarry Commission meets, 7 pm
- 14 Dec — Planning & Zoning Workshop, 6 pm
- 16 Dec — Planning & Zoning Meets, 6 pm
- 16 Dec — Garden Ridge Police Academy Alumni Christmas Party, 6:30 pm (See Article)
- 17 Dec — Garden Ridge Employee Christmas Party - City Hall closed at 1 pm
- 18 Dec — Library Story Telling Hour 10:30 to 11:30 am. Santa at 11:30 (See Article)
- 21 Dec — Winter begins
- 23 Dec — City Hall and Library closed at Noon
- 24 Dec — Christmas Eve — City Hall closed and Library Closed
- 25 Dec — Merry Christmas — City Offices and Library Closed
- 26 Dec — Kwanzaa begins
- 28 Dec — Water Commission meets, 6 pm
- 29 Dec — Open House at City Hall — Farewell to retiring Chief of Police 1:30 to 3:00 pm
- 31 Dec — New Years Eve - City Offices and Library closed

Precinct 205 Election Summary

2830 voters voted in the 2010 General Election. This was 58% of our registered voters! This compared to 47% county-wide and 37% state-wide. Once again Precinct 205 exceeded all expectations! We had 1799 early voters, 977 voters on election day and 54 mail-in ballots. In the Governor's race, Perry had 2165 or 78% of the vote. White had 541, or 19% of the vote. "Others" had 89, or 3% of the vote. Other races generally followed those percentages. Thanks to everyone who took the time to vote. Feel free to call Charlie Flink at 651-6631 with questions on the results.

GRCPAAA Christmas Party REMINDER

When: Thursday, December 16, 2010 6:30 P.M.
 Where: La Fontana Springs
 27618 Natural Bridge Caverns Rd/FM3009
 (On the right just past The Vineyards)
 Why: Recognition Dinner in appreciation of our Garden Ridge Police Department
 Cost: \$25 per person (Due by December 3, 2010)
 Money may be given to any of the committee members:
 PAT COOK PRISCILLA ZARR
 MICKEY SANDERS PEGGY CAMPBELL
 Checks should be made out to Peggy Campbell.
 Payments may also be mailed to:
 Peggy Campbell
 % GRCPAAA
 9400 Municipal Parkway
 Garden Ridge, Texas 78266

Don't miss out on the festivities and fun!

REMEMBER PEARL HARBOR

By Nancy Feibelman

On Pearl Harbor Day, 7 December 1941, the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. Surviving the attack was the U.S.S. Raleigh. On board that ship was Garden Ridge resident G. C. Lilley who recently passed away. He was a true patriot. For more information on the Pearl Harbor attack, read **The Broken Seal**.

FROM THE MAYOR

'Tis the Season!

During this time of year, thefts increase, no doubt due to those "no goods" who try to illegally obtain money for the holidays. We are already seeing instances of car and garage break ins, all of which so far have occurred on unlocked or open garages and unlocked cars. Please be vigilant and take that extra step to protect your valuables. For cars parked outside, always remove the garage door opener, if possible, when not in use. For further tips or info, call the Garden Ridge Police Department at 651-6441.

The new water well we have been pursuing at the old city hall complex did not work out. Water in the strata we were trying to tap just was not there. Consequently the well will be capped for possible future use in the Edwards Aquifer. We have had a share of successes. This one just didn't pan out. Have a great Holiday Season and Christmas.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL!

Jay F. Feibelman
MAYOR

SELECTION OF NEW POLICE CHIEF

As many know, after many years of service to the city, Chief Victor Mata is retiring at the end of the year. Following the policy of hiring from within when possible, an inter-office memo was sent to all Garden Ridge Police Officers to ascertain interest in the position. Two applications were received — Lt. Gary Johnson and Detective Donna O'Conner. Both are highly qualified so the decision for selection was chosen to be three Police Chiefs from surrounding cities to conduct a board and interview both and provide the staff with their recommendation. The result was Detective O'Conner who will assume the position on January 1, 2011. Both applicants were satisfied and pleased with the process and the transition will go smoothly. Congratulations to both for their professionalism and dedication to Garden Ridge.

Jay F. Feibelman
MAYOR

GARDEN RIDGE COMMUNITY CENTER

Reminder to all Garden Ridge residents that you receive a discount when renting the community Center. Dates are available for holiday needs or any other occasion. Call Kim at 651-7440 or 843-0509 for information.

Thanks to members of the **Garden Ridge Lions Club** who assisted and delivered Thanksgiving dinners to 13 area families, the majority in Bracken. Joe Britan, President -Garden Ridge Lions Club

THANK YOU!

Many thanks to our City Library volunteers and the library supervisor, Linda Crosland, for the display, entertainment and decorations to honor our area veterans on Veterans Day, November 11. An Open House was conducted from 11:00 am to 7:00 pm with wonderful refreshments. An excellent turnout resulted.



Mayor Jay Feibelman, a veteran of the Armed Forces for over 30 years and his wife Nancy on Veterans Day at the City Library.

QUARRY COMMISSION HAPPENINGS

The Garden Ridge Quarry Commission held its monthly meeting on November 8, 2010. There was no meeting in October since the meeting date fell on a city holiday (Columbus Day) and city offices were closed. Citizens expressed concerns about the unusual blast during the month. There were 5 blasts in September and 5 in October. Hanson, Vibra-Tech and Austin Powder representatives reviewed the analysis data for the blasts in each month. Blasts in September were noted to have frequencies below or equal to 10 Hz but the PPV was very low comparatively which may be the result of small loads. Blasts in October were noticeably different. Hanson's analysis of blast data reported only one site with a frequency below or equal to 10 Hz and the PPV was low with the highest measurement still below guidelines. Even with these low readings, the quarry had very poor blast results. During the month of October each blast uncovered unexpected clay and voids creating very annoying blasts and large clouds of dust. These blasts were discussed by the Quarry Commission with Hanson and Austin Powder representatives. The current methods used by Austin Powder to keep blasting effects to a minimum are working when clay deposits and void are not unexpectedly discovered. The area with these unknowns is being cleared and is not expected to continue. Hanson personnel are continuing to review geological data attempting to insure blasting effects are kept to a minimum. Anyone interested in serving should submit short bio to the City Administrator. We thank residents for their submission of blast reports. We encourage continued submission of the Blast Report found on the City of Garden Ridge website and appreciate your attendance at the next Quarry Commission meeting December 13th at 7 P.M..

WELCOME TO GARDEN RIDGE

New Residents:

Thomas & Denise Arko
Paul & Claudette Clark
Hal & Nancy Fieseler
John & Cathy Hendriks
David & Denise Henry
Charles Medbury III
Billie Stone
Rose Marie Wallace



NOTE: Newcomers are identified by water service records.

Consequently, not all names in the household will appear. Those not appearing are also welcomed!

The City of Garden Ridge requires that all dogs and cats be registered. Call 651-6831 for information.

Graceland Christmas Open House

You are invited to join the Graceland community for their Christmas Open House December 16 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. and from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Graceland will be transformed into a dazzling Christmas Wonderland. There will be live entertainment, visits with Santa Claus, and refreshments.

If you cannot make it to the festivities on December 16, Graceland Assisted Living will welcome you any time from December 12 to 26 during normal business hours.

For more information please contact Michelle Sutton at 210-651-6377 or visit their website www.gracelandassistedliving.com.

TRIUMPHANT LUTHERAN CHRISTMAS EVENTS

The community is invited to the following Christmas events at Triumphant Lutheran Church, 21315 Bat Cave Rd:

Hanging of the Greens and Advent Festival—Saturday, Dec 4th, at 5:00 PM.

Christmas Cantata – "Noel Celebration" - Sunday, Dec 12th, 8:30 & 11:00 AM.

Children's Christmas Program –Sunday, Dec 19th at 9:45 AM.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services – Friday, Dec 24th, 7:00 & 10:00 PM.

Christmas Day Communion Service –Saturday, Dec 25th at 10:00 AM.

For more information please call the church office at 210-651-9090, or visit us on line at: www.triumphantulheran.org

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Sherman Krause for his election as Comal County Judge.

Scott Haag upon his election as Precinct 2 County Commissioner.

The City of Garden Ridge looks forward to working with both elected officials.

Detective Donna O'Conner of the Garden Ridge Police Department for her selection as our next Police Chief.

Bracken Volunteer Fire Department

Christmas Party Reminder

For Members and Firefighter Festival Workers

Friday, December 3, 2010 at 6:30pm

Garden Ridge Community Center

Meal will be catered.

Favorite homemade desserts are always welcome but not necessary!

For more information, call Mary Lou Henschel at 651-6854.

Significant City Council Actions in November

SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

- Recognition of Connie Furbish as Manager of the Jay F. Feibelman Garden Ridge Community Center from November 2003 to October 2010
- Recognition of the Garden Ridge Police Explorers accomplishments during recent competition on October 16, 2010

UPDATE:

- Update on public safety concerns in the Wild Wind Unit 3 Subdivision of Garden Ridge, Texas
- Status of Water System Capital Projects

PRESENTATION:

- CPS Energy presentation on Windtricity and the Monthly Windtricity Partner program

APPROVED:

- Removal of Garden Ridge Police Officer William Spiller from six month probation period effective October 8, 2010 with 5% salary increase
- Resignation of Nellie Kretzschmer as Municipal Court Clerk effective November 3, 2010

TABLED:

- Approval or denial of the City of Garden Ridge's participation as a Monthly Windtricity Partner

QUICK NOTES

- Due to printer limitations during the holidays, the cutoff date for the January issue of the *GRAPE-VINE* is December 15. 
- Please register your pets in January per city ordinance. 651-6831
- City Offices closed Friday, December 17 at 1:00 pm for employee Christmas party.
- We know that all cannot be familiar with city ordinances. If building, adding or whatever, contact the building inspection department to determine if a deposit is required.

NORTHEAST BIBLE CHURCH

Invites you and your family to attend one of their three Candlelight Christmas Eve Services. Friday, December 24, 2010.

4-5pm

5:30-6:30pm

7-8pm

Library Footnotes

By Suzanne McCandless



Attention Little Ones: Santa Claus is coming to town-- YOUR TOWN, Garden Ridge. He will be stopping by the Garden Ridge Library on December 18th, listening to your wish list and handing out goodies. Story Hour starts at 10:30 a.m. and Santa arrives at 11:30 a. m.

Numbers of books have been rolling into the library until the shelves are fairly bulging.

You'll find 1 new cosy mystery by Diane Mott Davidson called *The Main Corpse*.

Bob Doerr, our local Garden Ridge author, has added to his shelf 2 new books which are called *Dead Men Can Kill* and *Loose Ends Kill*.

The George W. Bush family has written 3 books which we have acquired. Former President George W. Bush most recently wrote in *Decision Points* his view of his years in office. Former First Lady Laura Bush covers much of her life in *Spoken From the Heart*. And their daughter Jenna Bush tells of her experience with a young girl in Latin America in *Ana's Story*.

New picture books number 4 with *Owen*, a Caldecott Honor book by Kevin Henkes leading the way.

Continuing the number count, we have 5 additions to the Nancy Drew collection for the nostalgic, 6 new Junie B. Jones for early readers, and 7 audio books for travelers and commuters. But double that number to 14 for the number of uplifting books by Karen Kingsbury.

Double again plus a few, to reach the number of DVDs---34---that have come into our collection. Look for "Crazy in Alabama," "Atonement", "Analyze This", and "Eight Men Out." "Painted Lady" stars Helen Mirren and "The Clearing" stars Helen Mirren and Robert Redford. Several of the new DVDs are for the youngsters including one baby Einstein which even a baby younger than a year will watch with interest and it won't drive you nuts, either.

This just scratches the surface of the many fine items you will find in your library. Our collection continues to grow, thanks to the generous donations from the residents of Garden Ridge. Thanks to our many volunteers who keep the doors open. Won't you join us too as a reader, a donor, or volunteer.

City of Garden Ridge Impact Fee Committee Vacancy

Garden Ridge residents with real estate, development, or building industry background and an interest in serving their community should submit a resume or bio to the City Administrator. Or for additional information contact 210-651-6632

