



THE GRAPEVINE

NOW OVER 1,500 HOUSEHOLDS SERVED

The Newsletter of the City of Garden Ridge

SEPTEMBER 2017

www.ci.garden-ridge.tx.us

City Hall (210) 651-6632

Garden Ridge Police Department, general information (210) 651-6441

Police emergencies / assistance - 911 or (830) 609-3921

Water, Animal Control (including after hours/holidays) (210) 651-6831

Library (210) 651-6570



WELCOME TO GARDEN RIDGE

New Residents

Edward & Dana Dahl	Casey Garcia
Daniel & Angela Hager	William Harkins
Clay & Rebecca Haverlah	Aleksander & Amy Layne
Melanie Lorson	Raymond Price
David & Wendy Nosal	Gloria & Chad Wiley
Mervin & Janet Rose	

NOTE: Newcomers are derived from water service records, and thus, not all family members are included. Those not appearing are also welcomed! Please remember that the City of Garden Ridge requires that all dogs and cats be registered. Call (210) 651-6831 for information.

VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER

The Veterans Service Officer will not be available in September due to annual training from September 18-22. The New Braunfels office will likewise be closed that week and re-open Monday, September 25, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. The Garden Ridge representative will be back on October 18, 2017.

POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS

The Garden Ridge Police Department will be joining agencies across the State of Texas by celebrating National Night Out on Tuesday, October 3, 2017, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The event will be held at the Garden Ridge Community Center. National Night Out is a historic event designed to create a closer knit community.

The 2017 National Night Out event will consist of civic organizations that focus on making the community a better place to live. Many of these organizations will have a table at this event and representatives to answer questions about what services they have to offer as well as how they can help in a time of need. Bring the kids with you for face painting and magic tricks. This is a great way to teach them how the community comes together to help others and what resources are available. Food and drinks will be supplied by the Garden Ridge Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association.

YOU ARE INVITED! LIBRARY OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, September 17, 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

To Celebrate the **Library Transformation** from a quiet, charming place to check out books to a Modern, Dynamic Place to Be –

GARDEN RIDGE CENTRAL

Be sure to watch for new classes, programs and activities. There will be something for EVERYONE. We hope you'll read the article on the back of the large invitation: *A Library Is More Than Just for Checking Out Books*. Find out how our library can be a **THIRD PLACE** and part of your "way of life."

REMINDER...

Beginning THIS MONTH, 10-digit dialing will be required for making outbound calls in the local area.

FROM THE MAYOR

Our taxes are going up. ...Now that I have your attention – perhaps you want to know more but haven't had the time to attend our six Budget and Tax Rate public meetings/hearings. So, let's look at why, by how much, and how we compare...

First, a few points...While many use the "cents per hundred" tax descriptor, that number has never been as "real" to me as simply how much I'll pay, or what the tax is in terms of an average home value. So, I'll use "cents per" but I'll relate it to our city's Average Assessed Home Value of \$448,667. Also, my intent here is to be brief and give a sense of scale while not getting too detailed. I'll gladly talk specific numbers to anyone, anytime, but space is limited here.

Why are our taxes going up? Simply, our income continues to be outpaced by our expenses. Most of our income is from property tax. Unfortunately, our residential areas are nearly built out, so the income growth we've long relied upon is flattening out. Meanwhile, expenses continue to increase, particularly the increased costs of the existing services we all expect. Although we haven't increased staff (we need to), our Personnel Services continue to increase considerably, particularly our mandatory benefits and essential training. In addition, we have added a few items I believe critical, such as Planning, Communications/Outreach and Emergency Management. While I can confidently report our budget is conservative and responsible, our bills have increased and our income must follow.

How much of a tax increase? In "cents per hundred," it's \$0.004841 (from \$0.318305 to \$0.323146), or as I look at it, \$21.72 for that average Garden Ridge home. The increase is small and so is the portion that goes to our City. Consider last year, excluding exemptions, our portion to our City was 15.18% of the total we paid. Meanwhile, 65.3% went to CISD, 13.76%, 3.41% and 2.35% to C. County, ESD and Lateral Road respectively. Out of \$7,570 in taxes, our average home contributes only \$1,449 to our city – for what we get it's a darn good value!

How do we compare? The most recent numbers again, in cents per hundred, are: San Antonio-55.8, New Braunfels-49.8, Schertz-49.1, Universal City-56.1, Live Oak-44.3, Garden Ridge-32.3 and Selma-20.1. Along with some perspective, the last one shows that a city our size can reduce its property tax burden with sales tax income. Of course, we don't plan on race tracks or malls, but you can see why our Master Land Use Planning for our future is key to stabilizing and possibly reducing our tax burden.

In closing, I hope you see what we've been doing and why. I thank you for your confidence and trust as we move forward as the stewards of our tax dollars and as important, the future of our city. Also, it's my hope that you also see the importance of *Volunteer Garden Ridge!* in the context of building our community and securing a great future for our families, while keeping expenses down. Finally, remember you can call, write or come on in and discuss this or anything you like. "Coffee with the Mayor," Office Hours, email, and phone calls are just a few opportunities for us to work together to keep our Garden Ridge *A way of life, not just a place to live!*

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PARKS COMMITTEE NEWS

After a well-deserved post 4th of July break, the Garden Ridge Parks Committee is back in action.

First, thank you to the City for its increased support. City actions will help get the long-awaited Paul Davis Park trail upgrades underway by providing funds and manpower.

Second, committee members Lisa Swint and Denice Fox have volunteered to attend a grant-writing seminar enabling them to serve as valuable resources to the Parks Committee and to the City. Tapping into grant opportunities will be a huge benefit to all.

Third, Shelby Trial and other committee members have unleashed their creativity to highlight Garden Ridge parks and events. Check out the 4th of July video on the City web page and be on the lookout for more to come. The videos can be found on the top right of the City web page, www.ci.garden-ridge.tx.us

Finally, save the date for the third annual, and best ever, Christmas Tree Lighting on Tuesday, December 5. More information and new attractions will be detailed in the October and November issues of *The Grapevine*.



Members and guests are cordially invited to the GRWC Membership Meeting Thursday, September 14, 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., at the Garden Ridge Community Center. Come meet the new Board, have coffee and a snack and learn what we do, what activities there are, and how you can participate. Your inventive and new ideas will contribute to the Club's growth.

My hope, as President, is to inspire you; inspire you to get involved; and inspire more women to become part of this wonderful organization. We hope to see you there!

Pat Ramirez, 2016-2017 GRWC President

Mark your calendars for October 14th. GRWC will be having our annual Holiday Market Place at the GR Community Center from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. There is a silent auction as well as a raffle for an original hand-made quilt by the Knotty Knotters. Over 50 vendors with unique gifts. Cost is \$3 (17 and older). Free Parking. All proceeds are donated to local charities.

QUARRY COMMISSION

At the upcoming Quarry Commission Meeting, Vibra-Tech will present a program on the blasting process. Commissioners requested that the training session also cover information about the role of blast frequency on residents' perception of blasting impact. Residents are encouraged to attend so they can better understand some of the scientific and technological aspects considered and implemented in this blasting process. The meeting is scheduled for September 11, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at Council Chambers in City Hall.

24/7 NON-EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

For after hours animal control or water emergencies you can reach the City of Garden Ridge Water Department or Public Works (Animal Control) at (210) 651-6831.



SAVE THE DATE – OCTOBER 7, 2017

The GARDEN RIDGE LIONS CLUB presents their 45th ANNUAL FISH FRY BAR-B-Q & AUCTION on Saturday, October 7, 2017, at the Garden Ridge Community Center. Approximately 80+ items up for bid in our Live Auction. Adults - \$10.00 and children - \$5.00

Dinner is served 3:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Silent Auction is 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Raffle Drawing at 6:30 p.m.

Live Auction begins at 6:45 p.m.

Super Raffle Drawing following Live Auction.

STAGE 1 WATER RESTRICTIONS!!

Reminder: We are currently in Stage 1 Restrictions to conserve water. Watering with an irrigation system or sprinkler is only permitted between the hours of 12:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. once per week according to the last number of your address. Please check the City's website for your watering day.

Watering with a handheld hose or drip irrigation is permitted any day, any time. Stage 1 will continue until there is an announcement that Stage 1 has been cancelled or that Stage 2 is in effect.

Further information can be found on the City's website.

Significant Actions-August City Council Meetings

Approved:

- FY 2018 Budget
- 2017 tax rate proposal of \$0.323146
- Announced dates and times of public hearing and adoption of the proposed FY2017 Tax Rate.
- Reappointed Commissioners Heier, Holloway, and Harshbarger to Water Commission.

Denied:

- A water bill adjustment request

Public Hearings held:

- FY 2018 Budget
- 2017 Tax Rate

Updates:

- CIP Projects
- Mayor's communication efforts
- Upcoming public hearings on proposed tax rate
- Volunteer Garden Ridge
- Master Land Use Plan
- Parks Committee

BUILDING INSPECTIONS

If you are a home owner and take out a permit for a project at your house please remember the following:

1. All permits must be signed by both the home owner and the contractor.
2. All permits should be posted in the front yard of your home.
3. To ensure that your project is completed correctly, be sure to obtain a **final inspection** from the City Building Department before paying your contractor.

GARDEN RIDGE RECYCLES

Please keep in mind that our residential trash service includes curbside recycling each week on the last day of your weekly trash collection service. Visit the City's website or call City Hall for a list of acceptable recycling items. If you do not have or need a replacement recycling container please contact City Hall at (210) 651-6632. Thank you for recycling!

COMMUNICATIONS

Person to Person: 9400 Municipal Parkway, Garden Ridge, TX

Website: www.ci.garden-ridge.tx.us

Social Media: Facebook-City of Garden Ridge, Nextdoor.com, Twitter

Citizen Comment Period: Opportunity to speak at all City Council and Commission meetings

Citizen Concern/Citizen Input: Interactive communication form <http://ci.garden-ridge.tx.us/forms.aspx?fed+65>

Phone: (210) 651-6632 (8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday)

Coffee With the Mayor: Mondays, 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Mayor's Office Hours: Mon/Tues/Fri, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

DUMPSTER WEEKENDS - Sept. 2-3, 9-10, 16-17, and 23-24

September 2017

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>All meetings are subject to change, please refer to calendar on City website. ** All activities that are underlined will occur at the Library **</p>					1 <u>Preschool Storytime</u> <u>10:30AM</u>	2 DUMPSTERS!
3 DUMPSTERS!	4 LABOR DAY City Hall—Closed Library—Closed	5	6 City Council @ 6:00PM	7	8 <u>Preschool Storytime</u> <u>10:30AM</u>	9 <u>Pokemon Club</u> <u>10:00AM - Noon</u> DUMPSTERS!
10 DUMPSTERS!	11 Quarry Commission @6:00PM	12 <u>Lego Robotics</u> <u>3:00PM-4:00PM</u> <u>5:30PM-6:30PM</u> P&Z Commission @6p.m.	13	14	15 <u>Preschool Storytime</u> <u>10:30AM</u>	16 DUMPSTERS!
17 <u>Library Open House</u> <u>2:00PM - 4:00PM</u> DUMPSTERS!	18 Wildlife Mgmt. Advisory Commission @6:00PM	19 <u>Card Class w/Angie</u> <u>@1:30PM</u> <u>Lego Robotics</u> <u>3:00PM-4:00PM</u> <u>5:30PM-6:30PM</u>	20	21	22 <u>Preschool Storytime</u> <u>10:30AM</u>	23 DUMPSTERS!
24 DUMPSTERS!	25	26 <u>Lego Robotics</u> <u>3:00PM-4:00PM</u> <u>5:30PM-6:30PM</u> Water Commission @6:00PM	27 <u>Crafting With Morena</u> <u>1:30PM - must</u> <u>register</u>	28	29 <u>Preschool Storytime</u> <u>10:30AM</u>	30