



WWW.OHNA.US

OHNA
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eMail

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OHNA Website:
webadmin@ohna.us



Web

OHNA Website:
<http://www.ohna.us>

City of Garland:
<http://www.GarlandTX.gov>

City Maps;
<http://www.garlandgis.com/>

Jul / Aug / Sep 2013

Garage Sale

If you drove around Garland this past weekend, how many garage sale signs did you see? Did it seem like one on every corner? Maybe two? Ok. How many Orchard Hills Neighborhood Garage Sale Signs did you see? Exactly none. That's because Orchard Hills Garage Sale signs are very special. They are not as rare as the bloom on a century plant. But---they only appear once a year. That makes them very special. They only appear at special times, in special yards, of special people.

So--how does one get this special sign? Only by being a special person.
This is special X 3.

- I One must live in the very special Orchard Hills Neighborhood.
- II One must be a member of the Orchard Hills Neighborhood Association.
- III One must sign up to take part in the garage sale.

The special weekend is **October 4 and 5**. You are already I and II. Join us for III. See details on page 3 of newsletter.

And some other special reasons:

- 1) an incentive to clean the house, garage, attic, back yard, storage building;
- 2) an opportunity to let someone else enjoy your treasures;
- 3) a chance to make a little extra money; ---and---and---
- 4) a really good time to meet neighbors.

So now it's not special X 3, it is special X 7 or 8 or 9. Hope to see you at your own garage sale or checking out the special deals around the neighborhood. Or maybe you can do both. Another special reason for the annual Orchard Hills Neighborhood Association Garage Sale. As you can see, those special reasons are adding up or multiplying, however you look at it.

Betty Roberts

Rise and Shine, Rain or Shine!

I set the alarm for 4:00 am, giving myself plenty of time to load my truck and be ready for the OHNA picnic. The alarm went off, and so did the electricity, as a thunderstorm had just begun! Fortunately the storm blew through quickly, the electricity was restored, (within an hour) and the OHNA annual picnic went on as planned.

Some 75 friends and neighbors came out to a rain-fresh picnic area.
Hot dogs, sloppy joes, baked beans, chips, and fried apple pies were enjoyed by everyone!



The fire department entertained children and adults until they were called away for an emergency.

Children enjoyed activities including a water balloon fight!

The balloon lady returned this year and was a big hit.



Thank you to all those who made this year's picnic a great success!
And thank you to all those who came and enjoyed the picnic!



Eula Axe
OHNA Co-chair
Picnic Coordinator

Tuesday

9

Calendar

2013

Aug

17 Workday

Sept

12,26 Recycle
9 Board Meeting

Oct

10,24 Recycle
4,5 Garage Sale
14 Board Meeting

Nov

7,21 Recycle
9 Work Day
11 Board Meeting

Dec

5,19 Recycle
6 Christmas Party
9 Board Meeting
27 Trash Pickup



Join us on Facebook
"Orchard Hill Neighborhood Association"



Phone

Police Non-Emergency
(972) 485-4840

Animal Services
(972) 205-3570

Code Enforcement
(972) 485-6400

Narcotics
(972) 205-2098

Graffiti
(972) 205-3999

Streets
(972) 205-3555

Neighborhood Patrol Officer
Jeff Summers
summersj@ci.garland.tx.us
(972) 485-4814

Summer 2013 District 5 Update

When you drive down your street, or around your neighborhood, do you ever think "I wish the city would fix that pothole!"

It is a question of funding.

As of this writing, the State Legislature is into its third special session of 2013, specifically tasked with finding additional funding for our state highway system. On a local level the City of Garland, and the City Council, faces similar challenges. Garland does not need an additional \$5 billion per year to keep pace with ongoing maintenance needs, which is what the Texas Department of Transportation says it needs to just keep up with maintaining highways in Texas, but Garland does have a funding shortfall in our street department.

At the August 5, 2013 council work session, city staff provided a good overview of how we prioritize and fund street repairs and street reconstruction. The presentation is available online at <http://garlandtx.swagit.com/play/08052013-959> under item three, part one.

This presentation lays out, in a straightforward way, how much we spend on streets in Garland (over \$10 million for fiscal year 2013-2014) and how much more we need to spend every year just to keep up with the annual deterioration (in the neighborhood of an additional \$3 to \$4 million).

The good news is, there are options about how to fund this growing need. I hear from residents and businesses about street repairs frequently. When streets are decades old, it is only natural that they need attention. Most cities issue debt to pay for street projects. This includes many of the ongoing projects in Garland. That debt is paid by a portion of the property taxes we all pay every year. A few cities in Texas use a fee paid through the water bill to raise money for street projects. This is known as a Transportation User Fee, or TUF. The last option, and to my mind the worst, is to not increase funding for the Street Department, and allow our street and alley network, valued at over a billion dollars, to deteriorate even more.

Part of the August 5 discussion included going to the voters with either raising the property tax rate and dedicate that additional revenue strictly to street repair and replacement activities, or the TUF option, or both. Each method has pros and cons. The important point is, if we do nothing more than we are now, our streets and alleyways will get worse. I like the idea of presenting to the residents and voters of Garland what our options are, especially since the need for more street repair work is one of the most frequent problems I hear from District 5 residents.

A property tax rate increase of \$.02/\$100 of valuation would cost the owner of a \$100,000 home \$18.40/year and allow the city to issue \$26 million in debt for street projects. That work out to \$1.53/month. A TUF of \$6/month on residential property and a corresponding, formula based fee on commercial property, would raise \$5 million per year, and that money could only be spent on street projects. That example would cost every homeowner \$72/year.

Those are our best options, as presented to date, for increasing funding to our Street Department. The conversation has just begun, and the voters will have a decision to make. My question to everyone reading this is: Which option do you like? Adjusting the property tax rate to allow for more debt funding of street projects? An additional fee on the water bill that provides significant additional yearly revenue to be used for street projects? Or doing nothing and allowing our streets and alleyways to continue to deteriorate?

I encourage everyone who has driven over a pothole in Garland, and wanted it fixed, to watch the presentation mentioned above. Then I'd like to hear from you. This question impacts every resident and business in Garland. We all benefit from our streets.

John Willis - Garland City Council - District 5 - 214-957-7979 Cell - council5@garlandtx.gov





Mark your Calendar:

Garage Sale

Friday, Oct. 4th
Saturday, Oct. 5th

For details email: garagesale@ohna.us
 or call:
 Betty: (972) 278-3096 or
 Christi: (972) 822-4262

ORCHARD HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
 +
Pecan Grove Neighborhood Association

Adopt a Garden

Neighborhood Garden Work Days - mark you calendars
 We meet Saturday 8 AM - 12 PM at the south entrance to Rick Oden Park.

Dates: **Aug. 17th** and **Nov. 12th**

Bring some garden tools, some old clothes and prepare to get to know some of your neighbors as you help out with some of the neighborhood gardens.

If you cannot make it to the workdays but would like to help, consider adopting an area in the neighborhood that you would weed and pickup trash.

If interested please email adopt-a-garden@ohna.us



Woody's Makeover, Inc.
1005 Saturn Springs Dr.
Garland, TX 75041

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The Orchard Hills Neighborhood Association is wanting to fill some volunteer positions.

If you have desire to help out your neighbors by volunteering your time and ideas on making this a better place, please attend one of our monthly meetings and see what is going on in our neighborhood and let us know how you would like to help. We meet the second Monday of every month at the Saturn Road Church of Christ starting at 7 PM.

Pals-By-Number Hand Painted Custom Portraiture

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Thank You
for
sponsoring
our Picnic

Thanks to:
**Saturn Road
Church of Christ**
for hosting our monthly meetings!

3030 Saturn Road
Garland, Texas 75041

Services:
Sunday Morning
8:15 am & 10:45 am

Sunday Evening
6 pm

Hispanic Assembly
10:30 am & 6:00 pm

<http://www.saturnroad.org>



EL RIO GRANDE
Latin Market



Special Thanks to Donna
the "balloon lady"



To join or submit membership changes (address, email address) send email to membership@ohna.us