



OHNA Quarterly Newsletter

Second Quarter 2019 | All of this rain has been a fantastic start to the upcoming summer season. Luckily, most of our neighborhood programs were not impacted by the wet weather. Both our annual plant sale and annual meeting were held in April and now we are preparing for our OHNA annual picnic this weekend! Read more about these events and the momentum that our neighborhood is gaining for new economic and volunteer opportunities within this quarter's newsletter.

Upcoming Events

June

6/8 Annual Picnic
6/18 NUSA Award
Recognition
6/13 and 6/27
Recycling Days
6/10 Board Meeting

July

7/11 and 7/25
Recycling Days
7/08 Board Meeting
7/13 Community
Work/Care Day
7/18 Crime Watch
Meeting

August

8/8 and 8/22
Recycling Days
8/12 Board Meeting

September

9/5 and 9/15
Recycling Days

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www.ohna.us



We Remember

Flags were placed throughout the neighborhood for Memorial Day to honor and remember those who died in the military while serving their country.

A great big thank you to all the volunteers who placed and picked up the flags.

OHNA Picnic

April showers bring May flowers but June brings the Orchard Hills Neighborhood Picnic!

Join us Saturday, June 8th from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at Rick Oden Park

Bring your family to the park for great food, beverages and games! You do not have to be a member to attend so please encourage your neighbors to join in on the fun.

We would like to thank the Saturn Church of Christ for providing a convenient location for our monthly board meetings. The meeting is open to anyone, not just OHNA members.



2019 Annual Meeting Report

OHNA held their annual meeting in April and have many updates to share...

On Thursday, April 18th, the Orchard Hills Neighborhood Association gathered for the 19th Annual Meeting at the First Sagrada Familia Lutheran Church. Surrounded by garden themed decorations, we gathered for a casual meal followed by the meeting which began with the posting of the American Flag and the Pledge of Allegiance led by Bill Sisk, a veteran of The Korean Conflict. To kick off the evening, Betty Roberts, lead a "Find your Matching Garden Quote" game to grow relationships within our community.



Recognition

The current OHNA board was introduced and recognized for their tremendous service to the neighborhood. Evidence of their efforts as well as all of the neighbors who volunteer in so many ways, we had two awards on display from the City of Garland:

2018 Neighborhood of the Year

2018 Neighborhood Publication of the Year

But that's not it! We not only won Neighborhood of the year from the City of Garland, but continued on to win a NATIONAL award.

Thank you
Angela Crum & Jim Neargarder for your
excellent work in
neighborhood
communications!

Jim Simmons
won the Volunteer
Appreciation
Drawing

Thank you to all the
volunteers to help
make our neighbor-
hood an AWARD win-
ning place to live

Crime Watch

Officer Mike Pesta provided a Crime Watch update where he happily reported that following the last annual meeting, no criminal activity occurred for eight months. Since December, there has been 13 car break-ins, over half of the vehicles were unlocked. The biggest takeaway is to first reach out to Officer Pesta with concerns and to dial 911 for criminal activities instead of solely posting on Next Door. Neighbors were reminded to enroll in the Citizens on Patrol program, which is a four-hour training class and to also let the Garland Police Department know if you have a security camera so that it could be used as a resource to help find offenders.

Annual Meeting Continued....

Plant Sale Recap

Rhonda Spence provided an update on the annual plant sale – which was a success (see 'Annual Plant Sale' article on page 8)! The proceeds from the sales on April 27th will be used in maintaining the six landscape beds throughout the neighborhood. In addition, she shared an opportunity for anyone interested in having a raised garden bed of their own at the Saturn Road Church of Christ Community Garden for only \$10.00 a year.

Contact Jeff McClure, the Community Garden Liaison for the church, for details.

District 5 Update

Councilman Rich Aubin gave his annual report on the state of our district and also passed out booklets with information on the specifics of the bond election.

LBJ/635 Improvement Project: The deadline for bids was April 29, 2019 and will follow with a month of review in order to award the final contract. It is estimated that the work will begin this summer and it will take four years for the completion of the project. With the improved freeway frontage access, economic development will be guaranteed.

Former Hypermart site: The property was purchased by the City of Garland and is being studied as to how it will be best developed with the additional access from LBJ/635.

Shiloh Road: Shiloh is being widened to six lanes from LBJ to Kingsley with plans to be extended further at a later date.

Skate Park: The skate park, which was part of the 2004 Bond Program, will now be located at Rick Oden Park. Over 90 citizens attended the planning meeting and agreed that it should be the largest in the area, over 40,000 square feet. This skate park is expected to be an economic boost to the surrounding area due to the large number of visitors expected.

Garland Police Department: There has been another Mental Health Officer added to the Garland Police Department. This is a continuing concern with the many needs of the homeless individuals that can be found along the Dallas and Garland borders at the Ferguson/Centerville & LBJ area.



Annual Meeting Continued....

District 5 Update Continued

Bond Changes & Projects: Facing the proposed change in revenue sources from the property tax overhaul by the State of Texas, the City of Garland is concerned. On Councilman Aubin's recommendation, John Willis was appointed to work on the Bond Committee. The \$1.2 billion recommended for projects was reduced to \$425 million with a focus on fast implementation.

Two projects that need immediate completion are the construction of a new Pet Shelter and a new, improved Police Department Property Room. Since the bond passed, property taxes will be raised 8 ½ cents per \$100.00 of property evaluation. This increase will be an approximate additional assessment rate per month of \$3.00 for seniors and \$7.00 for all other property owners.

Drainage Projects: The drainage projects included in the bond are those streets surrounding and downhill to Saturn Springs that were not addressed in the Parkmont Bond Project as well as across the creek to Overhill and to the streets that intersect Overhill.

Flooding: The bond includes funding to buy some of the most flood prone properties along Glenbrook as the most financially feasible solution to the flooding experienced by many of those residents.

Rick Oden Park: The bond will also make major improvements at Rick Oden Park including a splash pad, improved and enlarged tennis center, walking trails, complete improvement of entry points and roadway throughout, and improved parking. The new park will improve economic development in the surrounding areas. Councilman Aubin also voiced that with the loss of a neighborhood library, locating a Library Kiosk at Rick Oden Park would be ideal as well as the benefits of having an area set aside for a food truck court in the park.



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Annual Meeting Continued....

Get to Know Mayor Elect LeMay

Mayor Elect Scott Le May shared his background that brought him in service to the City of Garland. With his wife, Tippy, who is employed by Richardson ISD, they bought their first home on the Garland side of Jupiter Road eighteen years ago. After living in his new neighborhood for only two years, he responded to a flyer that was left on his door to attend the Camelot Neighborhood Association meeting. He quickly got to know many of his neighbors and after learning more about the needs of his neighborhood, he became active in the association. Eventually, he was elected to the board and then became president of the association. This involvement encouraged him to run for City Council in 2007, which was unsuccessful, but he was later appointed to the Planning Commission. This appointment opened his eyes to the needs of the whole of Garland. He served from 2007-2012 on the Planning Commission and then decided to resign to run again for City Council. He

was successful and has served since then until his decision to run for mayor this year. He voiced that his service has been a great experience and that he loves Garland, which is his forever home. Running unopposed for mayor, he never thought that service would be his life's ambition, but he is happily committed to that now. Mr. Le May set his to-do list as those eight proposals included on the bond which focus on the economic, philosophical, and political problems Garland faces which define the quality of life for its citizens. The bond addresses many needs that will help bring a new face to our city - prioritize, plan, and most importantly produce. Councilman Aubin said that Mayor Elect Le May will make a fabulous mayor. To ensure the success of the bond proposals, if passed, managers will be hired to focus full time on their completion.

The more you get involved in service, the more you want to serve because the needs are ever changing." - Scott LeMay

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Annual Meeting Continued...

THANK YOU ,THANK YOU, THANK YOU to the generous contributors who donated **food, gifts, door prizes and services** for our annual meeting.

First Sagrada Familia Lutheran Church for our annual meeting place

Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers, Migalito's and Intrinsic Brewery for food and drinks.

Dos Banderas, Rosalind Coffee Company, Roach Feed & Seed, Karin Wiseman Collection, the Frocksy, Kelley & Pam Payne, Intrinsic Brewery and Celebration Station for donating all of our amazing door prizes.



the **FROCKSY**

ROACH FEED

Kelley & Pam Payne



KARIN WISEMAN
collection



Annual Meeting Continued...

Council Elections

Councilman Aubin officiated the OHNA board election process which occurs every two years. The newly elected board is:

Co-Chairpersons:

Margi Bice
Email: margi@ohna.us

Betty Roberts
Email: betty@ohna.us

Secretary:

Cathy Stark
Email: cathy@ohna.us

Treasurer:

Rhonda Spence
Email: rhonda@ohna.us

Members at Large:

Jan Alexander
Email: jan@ohna.us

Mike McBride
Email: mark@ohna.us

Open Position for Member at Large

Conclusion

Drawings were held throughout the evening from the gifts generously donated by businesses and neighbors. The 2019 annual meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.



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Annual Plant Sale

Thanks to all who contributed, volunteered or attended to make this year another successful plant sale! We had so many people contribute to another successful sale:

Karen Forbes/Naaman Forest High School
4843 Naaman Forest Blvd, Garland, TX,
75040

Suburban Plants Garden Center located at
1810 La Prada Dr. - Mesquite, TX 75150

This years' plant sale signs were designed by Jan and were placed throughout the neighborhood to advertise the event by Jan and Margi.

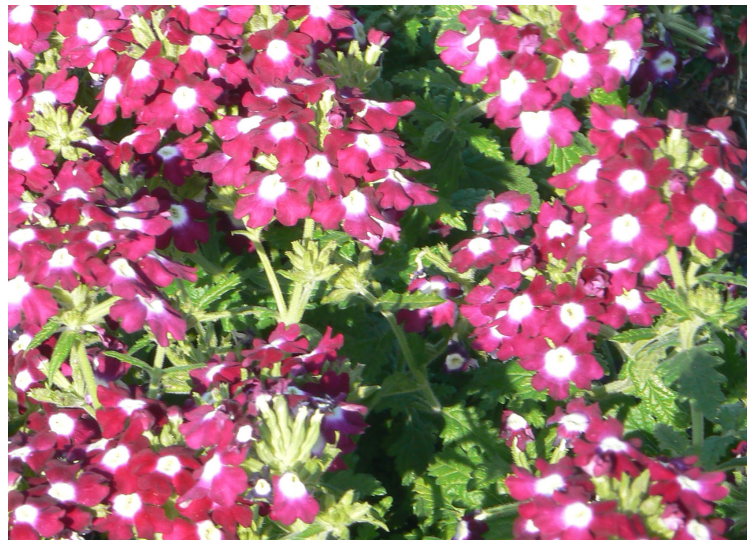
On the Friday before the sale, Christi, Sylvia and Rhonda picked up some donated plants from Naaman Forest High School. Karen Forbes' program there is AMAZING and we are thankful for her generosity! The sale featured tomatoes, herbs, petunias, verbena, zinnias, trees, native plants and more – pretty much anything that you could want, we had it!

On Saturday, Tina, Jonathan, Betty, Margi, Cathy, Sylvia and Christi helped to set up, sell and clean up. Throughout the day, we saw so many WONDERFUL plants go to so many WONDERFUL neighbors. It seems like the plant sale is the only time we see some of our neighbors – but its great to catch up.



The weather was perfect with the exception of some gusty winds. Did you know that canopies can fly? At one point, it was taking four people to literally hold down the fort so the decision was finally made to just take it down and put it away. We all got a good dose of Vitamin D for the rest of the day.

It's never too late to start planning for next year's sale. Take a look around your yard and if you have too much of something – bring it to the sale! If you need pots, let us know and we hope to see you next year!



FREE GAMES, FOOD & PRIZES

2019 OHNA
**ANNUAL
PICNIC**

SATURDAY
JUNE 8TH
10:00AM - 1:00PM

The Orchard Hills Neighborhood Association
welcomes you to join us at

RICK ODEN PARK

Bring your families for an afternoon of food and fun.
You do not have to be a member to attend.