



Orchard Hills Neighborhood Quarterly Newsletter

First Quarter 2020 | Happy New Year! We are starting to see the temperatures warm up and lots of spring showers. Our neighborhood is covered in blooming bulbs and trees beginning to bud. Many of our annual events, such as the annual meeting and plant sale are coming up so we hope to see you all soon.

Upcoming Events

February

- 2/06 Recycling Day
- 2/10 Board Meeting
- 2/20 Recycling Day
- 2/29 Garden Work Day

March

- 3/5 Recycling Day
- 3/9 Board Meeting
- 3/19 Recycling Day
- 3/21 Garden Work Day

April

- 04/02 Recycling Day
- 04/13 Board Meeting
- 04/16 Annual Meeting, Crime Watch & Recycling Day
- 04/25 OHNA Plant Sale
- 04/30 Recycling Day

May

- 05/01 Recycling Day]
- 5/11 Board Meeting
- 05/15 Recycling Day
- 05/16 Garden Work Day
- 05/29 Recycling Day

June

- 06/06 Annual Picnic
- 06/08 Board Meeting
- 06/11 Recycling Day
- 06/20 Garden Work Day
- 06/26 Recycling Day



OHNA Annual Meeting

April showers bring May flowers but April also brings the OHNA Annual Meeting!

Whether you lived in Orchard Hills all your life or moved here last year, come gather with your neighbors to learn about what lies ahead for our neighborhood. YOU are an important part of the next chapter in the history of the Orchard Hills neighborhood.

We look forward to seeing you on April 16th at the Saturn Road Church of Christ.

Margi Bice and Betty Roberts, OHNA Co-Chairs
margi@ohna.us or betty@ohna.us

We would like to thank the Saturn Road Church of Christ for providing a convenient location for our monthly board meetings. All OHNA members are invited to our gatherings.



Looking Back

A human interest piece by Gary Turnipseed

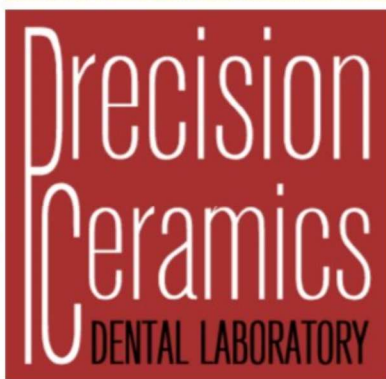


*Superior Printing Baseball Team,
Photo Courtesy of Gary T.*

A few years back I posted a series of seven installments on Facebook that got a great reception from friends I grew up within the Orchard Hills part of town. As a kid, I spent a lot of time at Mr. Harris' Rexall, the Dairy Queen and Piggly Wiggly. We lived a stones throw from Orchard Hills Baptist in my childhood home on Beasley Drive.

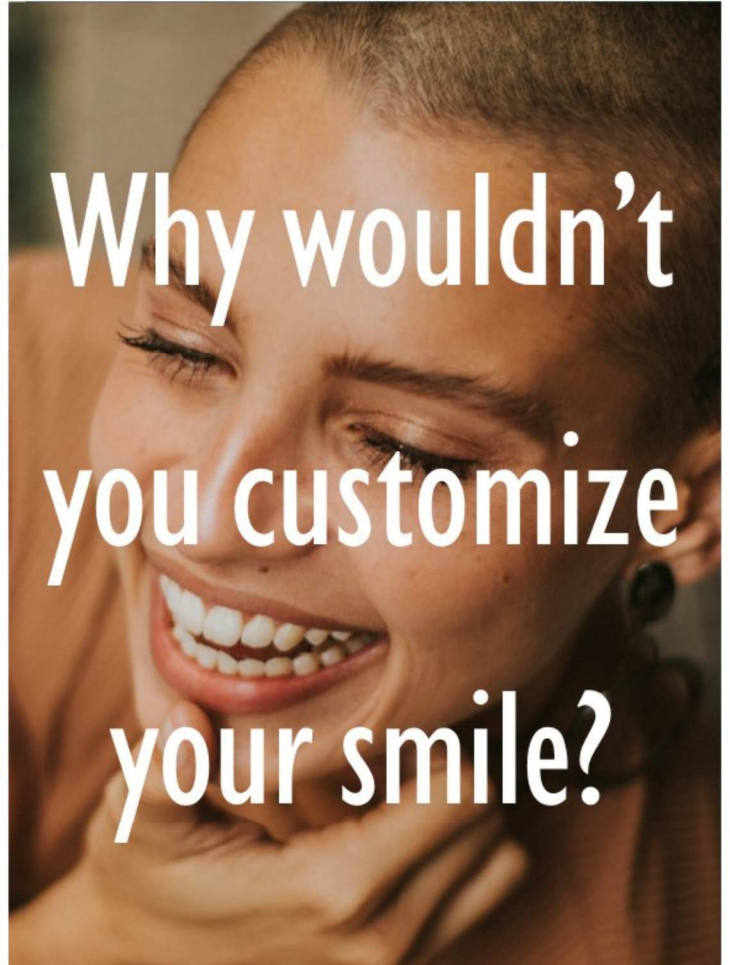
My installments are centered around my Little League baseball memories in South Garland. All my teammates also grew up in/near Orchard Hills. My path from Little League in South Garland ultimately led me to graduating from GHS in '72 and then the U.S. Air Force Academy in '76, from which I ultimately went on to be a career fighter pilot in the Air Force. As my installments unfold, I definitely tie my childhood experiences, growing up in this neighborhood, to successes I achieved later in life.

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Looking Back Continued...

Among my earliest recollections was a hill in my backyard in Texas. It wasn't an anthill or molehill. It was a pitcher's mound with a brick for a pitching rubber. Constructed diligently by my Dad that summer of '60 so our backyard baseball field would be more complete. That little elevated parcel of the yard didn't grow much grass that summer. We'd convene games on no particular schedule and pretend we were Mickey Mantle or Yogi Berra or Tony Kubek. We loved the Yankees for many reasons but mainly because they were always on TV and they always won. When the guys weren't around, I'd practice my delivery against the backyard porch and to my Mom's credit she rarely made me quit even though the sound of a 30 mph fastball banging off the back door was intrusive.

The biggest controversies that summer weren't over batting averages but who was responsible for all the broken windows, mainly those of the next door neighbors who didn't like baseball. It fell upon my Mom and Dad to be a screen for us. Our league continued unabated throughout the summer despite the protests from next door. I don't remember how I paid off my broken window indebtedness but somehow my parents devised a working agreement. I do remember walking over with my Mom or Dad on several occasions and standing with them while they explained that the window would be replaced. I didn't have any remorse except for putting my folks out.

Homes should never be built so close to baseball fields!

Hitting a home run back then was a big deal to a six year old. The parameters were narrow. The baseball had to clear the back fence. The side fences didn't count. The trees were also a factor. The hackberry tree in left center robbed me of more home runs than Willie Mays could have. But the thrill of a dinger is timeless and ageless! Didn't matter whether you were dressed out in cut-offs and a T-shirt or, as in a year later, a "real" uniform of cut-off elasticized

blue jeans and a T-Shirt with a sponsor's name on it. We might as well have been in Yankee Stadium as the backyard of 2860 Beasley Drive. We just imagined the façade across the backyard fence.



Backyard Baseball, Photo Courtesy of Gary T.

That first summer of baseball awareness came even before thoughts of school since kindergarten wasn't invented yet and first grade was just a reality we faced the first week of September after our first season was over. Although I didn't discover it until 30 years later, Mickey Mantle cried more over the stunning loss of the '60 World Series at the hand of Bill Mazeroski and the black Pirates than I did on the first day of first grade. By the time of Maz's fateful 9th inning walk-off homerun, I was more worried about getting my mouth washed out with soap by my teacher Mrs. Cotton than I was about what had happened in the World Series in my distant corner of a six year old's universe.

- Gary Turnipseed



First Grade, Photo Courtesy of Gary



Did you Know...

How did Rick Oden Park get its name?

Rick Oden Park was once known as Cole Park, for developer M.C. Cole who gave the park to the city in 1955. It was renamed the following year as a dedication to a child who passed away in a fatal baseball accident.

Richard Roy "Rick" Oden, was an 11 year old boy who played on the West Garland Little League team. Rick's father, Jack Oden, was co-manager of the team.

On June 29th of 1956, Rick was up to bat and was hit by the ball in the back of the head, which caused his death a few days later.



Google Map of Current Park

Source of information: "On Track" - Garland Landmark Society Newsletter at <http://www.garlandhistorical.org/on-track-newsletter?download=19:volume-8-issue-4a&start=20>

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It's time to renew your OHNA Membership!

Your \$20 per year contribution goes towards the newsletters and flyers distributed to your doorstep as well as events such as the annual meeting, plant sale, annual picnic, neighborhood garage sale and Christmas party. They also cover admin. costs and matching funds for grant funded improvements such as sidewalks and landscaping. Your support helps the OHNA board to develop new initiatives to make Orchard Hills welcoming and safer including communication through newsletters, monthly meetings, an active website and up to date social media. Your contributions are valuable and necessary to the continual development of our neighborhood.

Thank you for your support and please renew or sign up today!

3 Ways to Renew!

Option 1: Go to ohna.us and click "JOIN"

Option 2: Go to the direct site, join.ohna.us

Option 3: Send a check to OHNA, P.O. Box 472685, Garland, Texas, 75047, or pay at one of the OHNA events.

WWW.OHNA.US MEMBERSHIP FORM



Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ eMail: _____

The Orchard Hills Neighborhood Association newsletter and reminders of our meetings and events will be sent to you by email if you have a current e-mail address, otherwise we will deliver newsletters and notices to your door.

The annual fee is \$20 per year for household, renewed annually at the annual meeting in April.

Send completed form along with a check made payable to
Orchard Hills Neighborhood Association (OHNA) to
P.O. Box 472685 Garland, TX 75047-2685.
or join/renew at join.ohna.us with credit card



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New Year & New Opportunities – Get Involved and Volunteer

There are opportunities big and small to get engaged in the neighborhood and make a difference. Please consider serving at any capacity on the OHNA board or on a committee.



- Open Board Position 2020: Member-at-Large
- Open Board Position 2021: Co-Chair

There are also several committees to fill for 2020 that coordinate events:

- Plant Sale
- Flyer Distribution (deliver flyers to homes in the neighborhood)
- USA flag Display (put out flags 3x a year)
- Annual Summer Picnic
- Annual Fall Garage Sale.

There are so many places where you can join in, meet some neighbors and bring about the change you want to see in your neighborhood! We promise you will have fun! Contact us at Board@OHNA.us for more information



District 5 Update from Rich Aubin

Council gave preliminary approval in early February for a new sidewalk program has been in development in our Subcommittee on Transportation, Infrastructure, & Mobility. We had wanted to look at the program given the influx of available money for sidewalks from the 2019 Bond Program. The prior program was not well utilized, and I think everyone knows our sidewalks need some help, particularly in some of our economically disadvantaged neighborhoods.

In areas where we have -no- sidewalks, we will look at areas where there is a mobility need (a bus stop, park, school, a worn path, etc.) to target new sidewalk funds. For rebuilding sidewalks, we use a 50/50 program, splitting the cost between the owner and the City with the average cost of a total project being about \$2,200. The new program, which is not final, will change the split. 50/50 is the base, but if the home has a homestead exemption (i.e., not rented) the City takes on another 15%; located in an economically disadvantaged census tract (CDBG), then another 15%; and Senior/Disability exemption another 10%. That's a potential 90/10 split. You won't even need to ask or apply for the split - it all comes off of DCAD and your address.

This is a massive change in approach and a major step towards recognizing sidewalks as an important component of our transportation and mobility network in Garland. This program will be of enormous benefit to the neighborhoods of District Five. One last adjustment will aim to encourage neighbors to band together to get long stretches of sidewalks fixed. We expect a large uptick in demand and we will be ready and funded to do ten times the number of sidewalks that we have done over the last few years.



Rich Aubin, Councilman for District 5

Council5@garlandtx.gov

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OHNA Plant Sale 2020

Are your house plants taking over your house? Is your mint running amok in your yard? It's time to head them up and move them out for the neighborhood plant sale!

What: Annual OHNA Plant Sale

When: Saturday, April 25th

Time: 9am – 2pm

Where: First Lutheran Church Parking Lot, 2800 Saturn Rd.

The plant sale is scheduled for Saturday, April 25th, which gives you plenty of time to start corralling your plants. If you need pots, of any size, let us know! It's always interesting to see what plants show up. If you don't have a green thumb, plan on coming anyway to visit. Hope to see you there!

Reminders: Please put all plants in pots (no bare roots) and label all pots with plastic knives, forks or spoons (mark with a Sharpie or for dark pots, use a white china marker)

Contact Christi Baughman at Christi@ohna.us, 972-822-4262 or Rhonda Spence, 972-864-0718 (leave a message) if you are interested in donating plants or helping out. Any assistance will be appreciated!



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Go-Karts - Bumper Boats - Miniature Golf - Train - Laser Tag - Eurobungy - Batting Cages - Paintball - Video Arcade

2019 OHNA Holiday Party

Orchard Hills' neighborhood family gathered to share the holiday spirit on the evening of Saturday, December 7, 2019. Todd and Alyson Brown hosted the party in their beautifully remodeled home on Carney Drive.

Two dozen friends greeted one another with hugs or handshakes and introductions were made all around. Non-perishable food items were collected to donate to the Good Samaritans food pantry in Garland. An array of tantalizing savory and sweet treats, each made with love, beckoned all to the kitchen. The house was filled with laughter, conversations of the year gone by, and plans for the year ahead. And again...we were reminded - the best gifts are not found at the store!



OHNA Board

Co-Chairman: Margi Bice
margi@ohna.us

Co-Chairman: Betty Roberts
betty@ohna.us

Secretary: Cathy Stark
cathy@ohna.us

Treasurer: Rhonda Spence
rhonda@ohna.us

Member at Large:
Jan Alexander, jan@ohna.us

Member at Large:
Mike McBride, mike@ohna.us

Member at Large: Open

Stay Connected

OHNA Historical Committee
Email: history@ohna.us.

Website: history.ohna.us

OHNA Website: ohna.us

OHNA Facebook Page
facebook.com/groups/ohna.us

OHNA Garage Sale
garagesale@ohna.us

OHNA Flag Committee
flags@ohna.us

Garden Work Days

Join us for our upcoming Garden Work Days where we will do some Spring cleaning in the 7 gardens around our neighborhood.

We will be gathering February 29th and again March 21st.

Bring gloves and water but most importantly, just bring yourself.

We will meet at the Rick Oden Park entry garden at 9am.

Garland Neighborhood Parking Enforcement

At the November 5th City Council meeting, the members voted unanimously to implement a parking enforcement program administered through the City Marshal's office. The goal of the program is to increase compliance with existing City parking ordinances and State laws already on the books.

A few of our neighbors have already received warnings for blocking sidewalks. Take a few minutes and review the information at :

garlandtx.gov/3668/Neighborhood-Parking-Enforcement

Important Contacts

Garland Non-Emergency:	Code Enforcement:
(972) 485-4840	(972) 485-6400

Neighborhood Patrol:	District 5 Councilman:
Officer Matt Pesta	Rich Aubin
(972) 485-4896	(972) 325-2529
PestaM@GarlandTx.gov	council5@garlandtx.gov

