



Orchard Hills Neighborhood Quarterly Newsletter

Upcoming Events

April

- 04/01 Recycling Day
- 04/12 Board Meeting
- 04/15 Recycling Day
- 04/15 Annual Meeting**
- 04/17 Garden Work**
- 04/29 Recycling Day

May

- 05/10 Board Meeting
- 05/13 Recycling Day
- 05/27 Recycling Day

June

- 06/10 Recycling Day
- 06/14 Board Meeting
- 06/24 Recycling Day

July

- 07/8 Recycling Day
- 07/22 Recycling Day



First Quarter 2021 | We are only 12 weeks into the new year and although it doesn't feel much different (except for our recent blizzard), we are hopeful that soon our lives will begin to 'normalize'. This quarter, let's focus on what we can control and spend less energy on what we cannot change. **Let's lean on the strength of our local community which is our people.** As the weather starts to warm and everyone ventures out for walks and bike, spread cheer, and wave or smile to others. Take a moment and pick up trash along your daily route or volunteer to help with one of our neighborhood gardens to improve our streetscape. Support local businesses in Garland, as many of them live next door to you. We can all make a difference, large or small. There are so many ways to get involved in this quarter's newsletter and we look forward to seeing you (even if it's at a distance) in 2021.



Icebergs in the creek, snow princesses and snow-covered cactus are a rarity for OHNA

OHNA Annual Meeting & Crime Watch

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, you are invited to join your neighbors at our Annual Meeting (this year on Zoom). You are an important part of the next chapter in the history of the Orchard Hills Neighborhood.

Save the Date: Thursday, April 15th, via Zoom



Join us online:

6:30pm - Meet and Greet

7:00pm – Updates from the board, discussions with Officer Maldonado, Mayor Lemay, Councilman Aubin and more! More info. to be shared through the networks below.

- Email - subscribe.ohna.us
- Facebook - facebook.com/groups/ohna.us
- Nextdoor - Orchard Hills
- Twitter - [@OrchardHillsNe1](https://twitter.com/OrchardHillsNe1)

Neighborhood Newsletter of the Year!

Orchard Hills Neighborhood Association was awarded the City of Garland's Neighborhood Newsletter of the Year for 2020.

The quarterly newsletter is a collection of articles and information contributed by our neighbors and approved by our board members.

Starting in 2017, Angela Crum has volunteered to design, layout and edit our neighborhood publication every quarter. Because of her contributions and support from Jim Neargarder, we have received this award for both 2018 and 2020.

Our 2020 newsletters will now be submitted by the City of Garland to Neighborhood USA (NUSA) to compete with other newsletters across the country as part of the "Neighborhood Newsletter Competition". They will be judged on: Branding, Aesthetics & Design, Technical Layout, Content-Informational, and Content-Outreach & Involvement. Thank You Angela for your labor of love to the neighborhood.



Article Contributed by [Jim Neargarder](#)



New Year & New Opportunities – Get Involved

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

Board Positions to be filled at the annual meeting:

- Co-Chair 1 & Co-Chair 2
 - *Leads the general membership and board of directors' meetings and helps to support/coordinate with the other board position or volunteer groups as needed*
- Secretary
 - *Takes meeting notes at the general membership and Board of Directors meetings, maintains the membership list and other official records of the Association*
- Treasurer
 - *In charge of all funds including tracking of all receipts, disbursements, and expenditures of the Association. The Treasurer provides a financial report update at each general membership and Board of Directors meeting.*
- Member-at-Large, Member-at-Large 2 & Member-at-Large 3
 - *Assists in management of the business and affairs of the Association*

There are also several committees to fill for 2021 that coordinate events:

- Publication Distribution (help deliver newsletters and flyers to homes in the neighborhood)
- USA flag Display (help put out flags 3x a year)
- Annual Summer Picnic
- Annual Fall Garage Sale
- Garden Work Days



We are (Still) Here

We haven't seen many people this year, but we hope you all remember where we are! We are all part of the Orchard Hills Neighborhood, one of the most beautiful areas in Garland. We are a neighborhood, deeply rooted in tradition (literally...with some of the most beautiful trees), where people walk together, walk their children and their dogs, ride bikes and skateboards. You could say we are just ordinary people in an ordinary neighborhood.

Ah, but there really is ONE REALLY BIG difference. Our homes, families and animals are all part of the land cared for by the **Orchard Hills Neighborhood Association**. And what is that?

OHNA is a volunteer organization made up of members and a dedicated board. The board volunteers their time to meet monthly to discuss and take action on topics that impact each one of us. In my opinion, our current chairperson is Wonder Woman and our Media Consultant is Super Man. The remainder of us on the board are the ordinary folks.

Besides meeting and keeping people informed, what else did OHNA do this year? Well, we did spend a little time moaning and groaning because of the impact current restrictions had on our planned events like the annual meeting in April, plant sale in April, picnic in June and Holiday party in December. But it didn't stop us!

We still had a postponed annual meeting in July via ZOOM which included reports from our city councilman, mayor and NPO. We even had door prizes! In addition to this, we still held four crime watch meetings (which are open to all) as well as four scheduled garden workdays and a few unscheduled ones to tend to our seven flower beds around the neighborhood (which are open to all). Flags were displayed along our streets on three separate occasions including Memorial Day, July 4th and Veterans Day. We featured a 'Yard of the Season' for both summer and fall. (Make sure to check out Yard of the Winter in this issue). The neighborhood garage sale was still successfully held in October. Since the holiday party in December was cancelled, we still came together by hosting a food drive that benefitted the Good Samaritan's of Garland.

Throughout the year, the board met for 12 monthly meetings (2nd Monday of each month). We met at the Saturn Road Church of Christ, in backyards and in our own living rooms via ZOOM. Everyone is invited to join.

This year, we improved communications on social media to connect more often. We also created and distributed four newsletters. One newsletter was delivered by hand to every house (600+) in the neighborhood and all the others were distributed digitally. Because of the Media Wizards, the newsletter was awarded First Place by the Garland Office of Neighborhood Vitality and will be entered into a national competition.

And like many this year, we checked in on neighbors, helped deliver groceries, took people to doctor's appointments, talked to people as we walked and visited in front yards at a distance.

We are here doing what 'ordinary people' do. We are here in Orchard Hills and glad to be here.



Article Contributed by [Betty Roberts](#)



Installment V

A human interest piece by Gary Turnipseed

This quarter's installment is dedicated to the memory of Eldon Morris Holman Jr of Garland TX, May 24, 1954 - Nov 19, 2020.

When I think back to why I love baseball so much, I think of my Mom and Dad who supported me on the way up. Dad built the pitcher's mound in our backyard and caught for me more times than I can remember. He made as many of my games as he could given his responsibilities as a manager at work. Mom was a perennial Team Mom and she made the best uniform pants out of a pair of blue jeans that you'd ever see. Not to mention the countless miles she put on our family car shuttling us to and from practices, games and team picnics. As you already know, she was an above average hitter. Our neighbor Frances Mays was also a huge influence on



me. Frances, her husband Lawrence and son Mike lived three houses down from us and they were wonderful neighbors. Frances loved baseball with a passion and she loved to watch Mike play baseball with an even greater passion. Her enthusiasm for the game was as infectious as the fried okra she used to make us on Saturday afternoons before the Baseball Game of the Week. She was as colorful as Pee Wee Reese and Dizzy Dean who provided play-by-play calls for those games I imagined I was playing in back in the early to mid-sixties.

We'd set up our baseball cards on the floor to mirror the starting lineups and flip them to the dugouts when lineup changes were made. Frances loved the Yankees and had an encyclopedic knowledge of their history. Naturally a lot of it rubbed off on us so we knew a lot more about Mickey Mantle than say, Detroit Tiger Rocky Colovito, whom she also loved. She scoffed at Joe Pepitone, though, and she used to tell us he cared more about chasing women than playing baseball. Frances was almost always right about baseball matters and was especially partial to The Mick because he lived in Dallas during the off-seasons. Her son Mike was three years older than us and was a role model. He was a good athlete and pushed us to try harder, to hit faster pitching, to stretch out an infield hit, to slide a little dirtier. And he'd sometimes beat us up for not doing well or for about any other reason twelve-year olds pick on nine year olds. I remember how big a deal it was when we could finally wear metal cleats like he did, a blessed event two years into my future.

Installment V Continued...

Frances, like my parents, nurtured our sports interests but in particular, those surrounding baseball. She could always be found in the concession stand hoopin' and hollerin' and making corny dogs and French fries and she loved every minute of it. She made no apologies and was happiest when she could park behind home plate in her lawn chair and see all the game. With a fan like Frances I tried even harder to do my best and my love of the game was fuller because of her. Frances was there when I came home early from school in 4th grade when we were released to go home after the Kennedy assassination. When I walked in the living room Frances and Mom were watching TV in the living room, crying.

My two remaining seasons with Jackson Chevrolet seemed to go by in a flash. Coach Shipley guided us to a league championship in 1965, in a very competitive league! He became like a second Dad to all of us. I played every game at shortstop and don't recall bugging Coach to let me pitch that season after my drubbing the season before. My friend Greg Preston played third base. His Dad, Ray, was our Borden's milk delivery man and his wife Bonnie could often be seen with her lawn chair unfolded somewhere behind the backstop near home plate, watching us duke it out on that field of friendly strife in South Garland. One of my biggest thrills was hitting my first home run over a fence. The ball grazed the top of the chain link fence in centerfield but bounced over it. Russell Mayerhoff, another Orchard Hills "veteran", was the pitcher that night and recalled the heinous event. I think back on it and wish it'd been "cleaner" but a home run is still a home run! A thrill for the hitter and a dirt-kicker for the pitcher.



I also remember when I was 11 that I envied the 11-year olds Kenny Quesenberry and Jimmy Reagan who made the All-Star team on a team comprised mainly of giant 12 year olds. They'd also be my teammates on the All-Star team when I was 12 and both their Dads were our All-Star coaches. That's another lesson I carried with me from baseball. Show up, play your heart out to support the team, keep learning and your day in the sun follows. As you can see from the pictures, I was happier than a pig in poop to be an All-Star in South Garland Little League in 1966. That was the magic of three years of Little League alchemy.

Installment V Continued...



That magic was being worked on you and you didn't know it at the time. We played two games in the post-season before we were eliminated by the slightly-across-town East Garland Little League team. Fast forward exactly 30 years! My son Brian as a 12 year old not only made his own All-Star team from the only Little League Franchise in Panama City, Florida, he and his team made it all the way to the 1996 Little League World Series in Williamsport, PA!!! For me as a Dad that was an infinitely beautiful symmetry, to see my Son fulfill a dream that for me as a 12-year-old would have been like summiting Mt Everest!

Coach Shipley, my great teammates and friends, and the parents that supported South Garland Little League between 1964 and 1966 formed bedrock for me as far as baseball was concerned. My favorite thing about my solo All-Star picture at home plate is seeing the parents in the background because they were the support team that invariably works in the background to form that bedrock. In this case it was All-Star teammate Terry Jones' Mom talking with one of our All-Star coaches Mr. Reagan, with milkman Ray Preston behind him, but it could easily have been any parents there at the games supporting their kid's endeavors. The smile on my face says it all, even after all these years. Pride of place, accomplishment, and belonging. Like family. Like growing up in Orchard Hills.

In Orchard Hills of Garland Texas, from 1964 to 1966, Little League WAS family...and I suspect I fell further behind Johnny in the reading program, thinking about baseball.



Article Contributed by
Gary Turnipseed



Neighborhood Food Drive 2020

The 2020 OHNA Christmas party was cancelled due to COVID-19. However, in the spirit of the giving season, we had a food drive instead! From sunrise to sunset on Saturday, December 5th volunteers manned the front porch of 2701 Fairfax Drive collecting donations of non-perishable food items and handing out chocolate chip cookies as a thank you. The weather was sunny and brisk. Neighbors made new connections, uninhibited by wearing masks and staying six feet apart. Two hundred and twenty pounds of food and monetary donations benefited the Good Samaritans food pantry in Garland. All who participated were blessed by blessing someone else.



Article contributed by [Margi Bice](#)



Home Improvement Incentive Rebate for 2021

There are 385 properties in Orchard Hills Neighborhood that meet the qualification of being over 40 years old and valued below \$175,000. Are you one of them?

The city is offering a 50% cash rebate (up to \$10,000) on approved exterior remodeling. All applications must be approved prior to any work starting. Minimum investment for this program is \$1,000.

Items covered:

- Re-shingle roof with 30-year shingles
- Replace windows with energy efficient windows
- Replace exterior doors, including garage door
- Replacement of soffit and fascia
- Replace entire driveway with concrete
- Replace or repair fence
- Replace siding
- Add or repair garage
- Install or replace gutters
- Add or repair front porch
- Foundation repair
- Removal of accessory buildings

For more details, download pdf at the link below

<http://www.garlandtx.gov/DocumentCenter/View/6459/Homeowner-Improvement-Incentive-Program-Policy-PDF>



District 5 Update



Rich Aubin

Phone: [972-325-2529](tel:972-325-2529)

Council5@garlandtx.gov

On January 13th, we officially broke ground on the first phase of Rick Oden Park. As many of you know, the actual work started in December; the progress has been impressive, with much of the drainage and earthwork complete. The first phase will include the skate park, food truck court, open-play field and part of the trail system; it should be complete around this time next year, with additional phases to immediately follow.

Subsequent phases will include MD Williams Field (a championship baseball facility), a large playground, a large splash pad, an additional basketball court, and additional picnic areas. The Tennis Center will be moved, but at least some of the tennis courts are likely to remain. In sum, this is about a twenty-million-dollar project.

Also getting underway this year is the design phase of the Saturn Springs Drainage Project. This is a twelve-million-dollar project to address drainage issues from Overhill, down to the creek, and up to Carney. Actual construction is still a few years ahead of us.



Rick Oden Park Construction Aerial Photo, courtesy of Bobby Hensley

District 5 Update Continued...

Library services are returning to our area in the form of a library kiosk at Lon Wynne Park. This will be the first kiosk in the City (think Redbox for Books) and should be installed by the end of the year. Lon Wynne will also be getting a splash pad (smaller than the one slated for Rick Oden), a new playground, and a trail connection through Duck Creek to the other side of Centerville Road.

Speaking of trails and libraries, the Council recently considered new master plans for each. The library master plan calls for the eventual construction of another library with a location between "Centerville and Miller Roads" - which likely means in District Five and possibly in the general vicinity of the former branch at Ridgewood Shopping Center. The trails master plan calls for greatly improved bicycle mobility throughout the City, including a veloway along the entire length of Duck Creek.

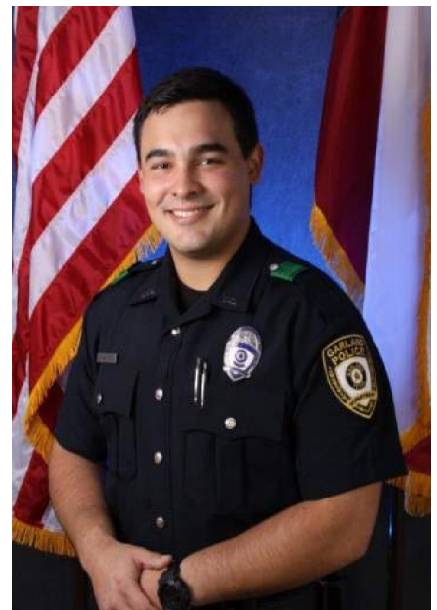
Projects like this are underway across the City as part of the 2019 Bond Program. Despite the difficulties everyone has endured over the past year with COVID, it is a great time to live in Garland.

Neighborhood Police Update

Officer Caleb Maldonado, our NPO, updated Orchard Hills neighbors at the January 14th Crime Watch meeting with the latest crime statistics for our area. Five cars were broken into in the last month. Of those five, four were parked on the street. Criminals are looking for quick and easy opportunities. Always lock your car. Take your things out of the car. And hide from sight anything inside your car.

Neighbors expressed concern about crime in our streets, alleys, and parks, namely cars speeding and running stop signs, gang activity, drugs and homeless camping. Officer Maldonado reported that there has been no trouble with gangs in our neighborhood for over a year. The GPD narcotics unit is watching one house for drug activity. The police patrol Rick Oden Park regularly to keep unlawful activity under control.

Home safety tips to consider: lock your house and car doors, get a dog, alarm system, cameras, know your neighbors and be vigilant. And as always, if you see something happening that does not look right, call 911.



Contact: C. Maldonado
MaldonadoC@garlandtx.gov
 972-485-4841

And the Yard of the Season Goes to...A Winter Wonderland



No, this is not two feet of snow and sleigh rides. It is green trees, green shrubs, green plants, green ground cover, a startling contrast to the deciduous landscape of winter. The neat yellow house trimmed with white and black seems to be set in a forest. Nearest the street are new thunder head pine. The walk to the front door and areas along the front of the house are lined with cherry holly, boxwood holly, hawthorne, arizona cypress, bald cypress, caladiums, ferns, magnolia tree, alverica pine, japanese aralia. Mrs. Jared says she is sorry she doesn't know the names of some other plants. A very small area is grass. *"We don't have much to mow."*

As soon as entering the yard, one can hear the sound of bubbling water. A fountain is hidden between the porch and shrubs. It doesn't drown out the sound of cars driving by, but it certainly lessens the sound. It is a lovely welcome to the house. Jennie Jared lives at 1304 Parkmont. She moved into her house in October, 1954. There were six houses between Saturn Road and Larry Drive. Jennie Jared was Jennie Spoon when she and her husband moved here from Indiana. Her parents, siblings, and grandparents all came for new jobs and to get away from the cold weather.

The Spoons raised eight children in the house. Jennie now has 14 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren. All live close by except one daughter in Lubbock. Jennie says they have all liked to come to play in the backyard. And why wouldn't they! It is a summer wonderland. There is a very neat garden shed set into profusion. There is an abundance of tables, chairs, swings, grills, firepit and plants. One part of the yard is being renovated around the pool and deck area. It is a yard where one can sit, eat, swing and swim. It is a retreat.



Article contributed by [Betty Roberts](#) and [Jan Alexander](#)



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, 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



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

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:

Greg Alford, greg@ohna.us

Social Media

Website: ohna.us

Facebook Page

facebook.com/groups/ohna

Twitter: [@OrchardHillsNe1](https://twitter.com/OrchardHillsNe1)

Contact Us

Send a Historical Article

history@ohna.us

Volunteer to Distribute Flags

flags@ohna.us

Nominate Yard of the Season

yard-of-the-season@ohna.us

Submit a Newsletter Article

newsletter@ohna.us

Subscribe to the newsletter

subscribe.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
next on April 17th**

Bring gloves and water but most importantly, just bring yourself. We will meet at the south Rick Oden Park entry garden at 9 am.



More shenanigans during our week of severe winter weather

Important Contacts

Garland Non-Emergency:

(972) 485-4840

Code Enforcement:

(972) 485-6400

Neighborhood Patrol:

Officer Maldonado

(972) 485-4841

MaldonadoC@garlandtx.gov

District 5 Councilman:

Rich Aubin

(972) 325-2529

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