



Upcoming Events

June

06/05 OHNA Annual Picnic

- 06/11 Recycling Day
- 06/19 Garden Work Day
- 06/21 Board Meeting
- 06/25 Recycling Day

July

- 07/05 OHNA Flag Display
- 07/08 Recycling Day
- 07/10 Garden Work Day
- 07/15 Crime Watch Mtg
- 07/19 Board Meeting
- 07/22 Recycling Day

August

- 08/05 Recycling Day
- 08/16 Board Meeting
- 08/19 Recycling Day

September

- 9/02 Recycling Day
- 09/11 Garden Work Day
- 09/16 Recycling Day
- 09/20 Board Meeting

Orchard Hills Neighborhood Quarterly Newsletter

Second Quarter 2021 | We are rolling into the summer with so much energy and excitement about what is in store for our neighborhood! We are happy to share updates from the Annual Meeting that include introductions to the newly elected board in addition to all the amazing programs and projects that are going to bring positive change and growth to our south Garland community. We are thrilled to announce that Orchard Hills was recognized AGAIN nationally and received an award from NUSA. And best of all, the OHNA picnic returned and was a huge success. Read about all of this and more in this quarter's newsletter.



*Article Contributed By:
Angela Crum, Member
At Large*

We look forward to seeing you all more often as we Slowly return to normal. Stay well (and cool) this summer.

Neighborhood Newsletter of the Year!

Orchard Hills Neighborhood Association was awarded the City of Garland's Neighborhood Newsletter of the Year for 2020 & Won third place NATIONALLY in May.

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 was then 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 were judged on: Branding, Aesthetics & Design, Technical Layout, Content-Informational, and Content-Outreach & Involvement. OHNA took home third place! Thank You Angela for your labor of love to the neighborhood.



Article Contributed By: Jim Neargarder

Meet the OHNA Board

At the annual meeting, the Orchard Hills Neighborhood Association elected their new board for the 2021-2023 term. Congratulations and we look forward to great things to come!

Betty Roberts, Co-Chair



Gerow and I moved to our house 49 years ago, during spring break. We raised our four young children here. Gerow worked as an electronics engineer and I was a teacher. Gerow was a member at large on the first board. Then he was treasurer. Except for a very brief time, one of us has been on the OHNA board since the beginning. We got to do all the fun things: work at picnics, garage sales, plant sales, get signatures for sidewalk grants, put out plants and pull weeds. Our family has been blessed with good neighbors and good friends. Serving on the board is a great opportunity to meet people. Thank you for the privilege.

Jason Lain, Co-Chair



Jason Lain has worked with OM Housing in various capacities for close to a decade. He has 20 years of experience in residential development, brokerage and construction. With graduate degrees in Business Administration, Divinity and Clinical Psychology, he brings quite a diverse background to OM Housing. Jason is responsible for sourcing acquisition opportunities and hopes to deliver developments in strategic locations to not only improve communities but more importantly the lives of residents and neighbors. In his personal time, he is involved in youth ministry. He has spent eight years serving youth and public speaking to 3,000+ students at a time. This is Jason's first position on the board.

Rhonda Spence, Treasurer



In a previous life, I was in Credit and Collections. When you are calling someone for money, you need to make sure of the amount owed and other important details. Accounts need to balance...to the penny! Close only counts in horseshoes and hand grenades.

My previous life helped me to decide to volunteer my time as treasurer for OHNA. At each monthly meeting I give a report on income and expenses that occurred since the last monthly meeting. That report matches the bank balance that I print on that day.

(Continued on next page)



Rhonda Spence Continued...At the annual meeting, I give a summary of income and expenses that occurred since the last annual meeting. The balance from the previous meeting plus income and expenses during the year equal the current bank balance.

I also enjoy helping with the upkeep of the neighborhood gardens. A number of us work really hard on these gardens. I hope that all of you are enjoying the gardens too!

Cathy Stark, Secretary



I have served as secretary for the OHNA board the last 2 years and have volunteered to serve again for 2 more years. My job is to take notes at each meeting and have the minutes ready to review at the upcoming board meeting. My fellow members of the board have been a joy to work with and I feel I have made some great friends. As a member of the board I get to hear first hand of what's going on in our neighborhood and be a part of the decision making. I like knowing that I have contributed in some small way to keeping our neighborhood desirable. I also coordinate the distribution and help distribute the U.S. flags three times a year to the yards of all our neighbors.

My family moved to 2609 S. Glenbrook when I was 5 years old and I lived there until I went off to college in Austin. I have so many great memories of this neighborhood. There were at least 20 of us kids living in the neighborhood and we all played together off and on. It was a wonderful place to grow up. I moved back to my present home on Carney Drive in 1987. I have truly seen this wonderful neighborhood grow and change and hope all of you will help preserve its beauty and charm and continue to stay involved.

Nicolas Grant, Member At Large



Nicholas Grant, has lived in DFW his entire life. Most recently he and his two children moved from Arlington to their current house, here in Orchard Hills, on S. Glenbrook (the one with the solar panels.) They also have an Au Pair, Kayla, who is here until August. We will be very sad when she leaves.

Nicholas works in Cyber Security for Bank of America and has been in the industry over 20 years. He runs quite frequently, so you might see him out and about around the neighborhood.

If he doesn't wave, he's probably in the zone! He plans to run another virtual half marathon in May. And his ultimate goal for 2021 is Boston Marathon qualification. Also, he is very involved with the Neurodiversity (ND) networks at work. However, he would like to get more involved in the ND community locally. He was diagnosed ASD-1 (Aspergers Syndrome) less than 2 years ago, which has been a contributing factor to being involved.

Evangeline (4) and Maxwell (3), love to watch playdoh videos, Blippi, and a few other shows; but this changes frequently. Evangeline, Evie for short, will be starting Pre-K in the Fall. Maxwell, Max for short, has one more year, has anyone created a pause button?

As a family, on their spare time, Nicholas and the children can be seen going on "stroller runs," with one or both of the children. Don't hesitate to wave or chat about!



Angela Crum, Member At Large



Angela moved to Orchard Hills with her husband about ten years ago and over the years, a lot has changed. They now share their home on Fairfax with two children and their pup. In the past, she has volunteered with the neighborhood gardens and quarterly newsletter but has not officially held a board position, until now, as one of the members at large.

In her professional life, she is a Senior Associate at an architecture firm, CallisonRTKL, where she has focused on the planning and design of healthcare interiors for over twelve years.

If you see her walking in the evenings around the neighborhood – please say hello! She's been working from home for what seems like FOREVER and would love some friendly company.

Greg Alford, Member at Large



Greg Alford moved to Orchard Hills 2 years ago. He became active on the board filling a vacant Member at Large position in 2020 and has volunteered for the position another term.

You have probably seen him riding his bike through the neighborhood or admired his yard which is always decorated for every season and holiday.

Greg works professionally for Hafele America Co., promoting products and services to the furniture, cabinet, architectural/builders and access control industries within the United States.

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.

Volunteer with the Flag Committee

Our American Flag – By The American Flag Foundation

*Stirring are the stories of my stars and stripes.
I represent the Declaration of Independence.
I stand for the Constitution of the United States.
I reflect the wealth and grandeur of the great Land of Opportunity.
I signify the Law of the Land.
I tell of the achievements and progress of the American people in art and science, culture and literature, invention and commerce, trade and industry.
I stand for peace and good will among the nations of the world.
I believe in tolerance.*

One of the many things we do in Orchard Hills is display American flags three times a year, celebrating Memorial Day, Fourth of July, and Veterans Day. You have seen these flags at 578 homes in the front yards, all put out by neighborhood volunteers. But we can always, always use more help. It's a great community service project for your kids, as a family activity or just for some exercise and a chance to maybe meet some new neighbors. To see all the flags up and down our streets is a beautiful thing.

Much thanks to all of you who have made it possible! If you would like to help distribute flags or coordinate this project, please contact

cathy.stark55@yahoo.com OR flags@ohna.us



Article Contributed By: Cathy Stark, Secretary

Yard of the Season – Spring 2021

The Yard of The Season for Spring goes to Linda & Sherrill Brown of 1000 Carney Dr. Both are retired, Linda from GISD and Sherrill from his florist business. They have lived here for 43 years. They have one son who resides in Rowlett.

They have many beautiful flowers blooming in the front as well as the back, most of which were passed down. The irises were from Linda's mother's garden, her brother's yard and her godmother's yard. The pink running rose bushes are from her mother's yard fifty years ago. Their oleander is also fifty years old and came from her Grandmother. Linda and Sherrill planted the azaleas and the Japanese maple tree 30 years ago.



Many of the flowers and plants are over fifty years old!



Yard of the Season Continued...



Also, in the front yard are hydrangeas, Gerber daisies, red salvia, begonias, hibiscus, and pink and white oxalis. More from Linda's mother's yard are swamp irises, and bearded irises in colors of white, magenta, purple and blue as well as larkspurs. There are also phlox and triple day lilies from Linda's aunt. There is a holly on the side of the garage that has been there for 43 years and the red tip photinias along the street were there when the Brown's moved in.

In the backyard, are two red oaks that were planted by the birds. Also, in the back-yard are Turks caps, flowering quince, hyacinths and peonies. Five rose of sharons, also given to them by Linda's mother, grace the backyard, along with a coral berry bush and more larkspurs.

"We both like to work in the yard. It's our pastime and I share when I can" said Linda. As her neighbor, I can attest to that. So many flowers, plants and trees were handed down from loved ones and that's what makes this yard so special to the Brown's.



Article Contributed By: Cathy Stark, Secretary





2021 OHNA Annual Meeting Minutes

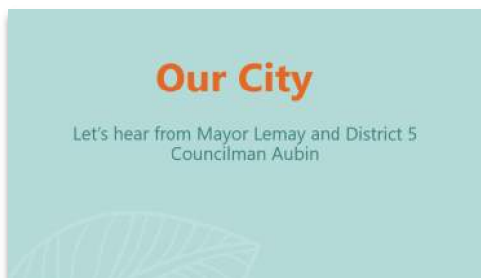
We all joined virtually this year on April 15th and started the program with some much needed conversation and introductions of new neighbors.

The official 2021 Annual meeting was called to order by Betty Roberts at 7:00 p.m. via zoom. We had many in attendance virtually including our OHNA Board: Margi Bice, Betty Roberts, Rhonda Spence, Cathy Stark, Jan Alexander. Others in attendance included: Jim & Sylvia Neargarder, Rich Aubin, Angela Crum, Mayor LeMay, Ziad Kharrat, Ray Bice, Stephanie & Ted Hutchinson, Vicki Askew, Nicholas Grant, Eula Axe, Hunter & Sarah Bryant, Sylvia Torres, Rocio Bernal, Byron & Jennifer of Saturn Springs, Jason Lain, Madeline O'Neil, Cle Kimble and Officer Maldonado.

This year's virtual presentation was shared by Jim Neargarder and began with an introduction of "Our People" where the current board was introduced as well as some fun facts about the size of our neighborhood and current membership.

Did you know that 48 households have an OHNA membership?

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Select images taken from this year's annual meeting presentation



2021 OHNA Annual Meeting Continued...

We then looked back at “Our Year” highlighting some photography and infographics showcasing how even during a pandemic, we stayed active. Our activities this year included a canned food drive, we posted 24 seasonal ‘design a sign’ messages, shared 4 newsletters (which received an award and trophy through the City of Garland), launched the new Yard of the Season program, attended Crime Watch meetings, welcomed our new NPO, showcased our flag distributions which were done three times this year, held six neighborhood garden workdays, hosted twelve board meetings AND had a successful annual garage sale. We were not able to have our annual picnic or plant sale due to covid-19 last year but it was still a busy one. One of the goals Angela Crum mentioned for 2021 is to finally have our OHNA block party this year. The City of Garland party trailer is now available for rent according to Mayor LeMay.



City of Garland Party Trailer is now available for neighborhood events.

This section of the program also included the 2019 Annual Meeting recap and Treasurer’s report. The minutes from last year’s annual meeting were read by Cathy Stark, Secretary. Our Treasurer, Rhonda Spence, reported an ending balance of \$4872.38 with deposits of \$1250.00 and expenses of \$1384.59 and an ending balance of \$4737.79.

The program continued with “Our City” which focused on updated from our Mayor Scott LeMay, Councilman Aubin and Ziad Kharrat from the Parks Department. Mayor Scott Lemay mentioned that the Garland Baylor Hospital is now the Garland V.A. Hospital and is expanding services. The surrounding properties have been purchased to renovate and are moving ahead. The animal shelter and skate park (at Rick Oden) is underway. He stated that Covid-19 vaccination site will shift from the mass vaccine location to smaller venues. Garland has given vaccines for 12 weeks so far and will give them to anyone who wants them.



Councilman Rich Aubin spoke about Mayor LeMay being up for re-election so get out and vote. He also talked about the Saturn Springs Drainage Project which is under active design from Overhill down to the creek and back up Carney. Rick Oden Park is underway and in February or March will have a ribbon cutting ceremony for the skate park section. Trails will be built to connect Rick Oden Park and Central Park. The Tennis Center will be moved to Tuckerville Park but with some courts remaining. The new tennis center will be named the Bob Day Tennis Center. 635 is under construction and intersection improvements are going on. The City Council is undecided about what to do with the old day labor center on Saturn Road. Duck Creek erosion is being looked at. The energy service is being looked into about the February snowstorm crisis.

Ziad Kharrat from the Parks Department reported that Rick Oden Park is part of the 2019 Bond Program and is in phase I, which is from the tennis courts to Miller-mostly sewer and water pipes. Parts of the skate park will get poured soon. The skate park ranked top 3rd out of 5 in Texas.

Showing us a map, he explained where everything was going to be located.



2021 OHNA Annual Meeting Continued...



Off-Street Trails

59 miles of proposed Off-Street Trails

- 31.9 miles of proposed Spine Trails
- 27.1 miles of proposed Sideways



On-Street Bikeways

73.1 miles of proposed On-Street Bikeways

- 60.5 miles of proposed Shared-Use Lanes
- 10.3 miles of proposed Bike Lanes
- 2.3 miles of proposed Cycle Track



Enhanced Sidewalks

68.5 miles of proposed Enhanced Sidewalks

Phase II of the park will take a couple of years to finish and plans are currently being drawn. Ziad stated that they had a great team working on this project. He showed us a foot and bicycle trail plan which will go under Miller from Briarwood to Central Park. There will be 6-8 stalls for food trucks at Rick Oden Park and the park will be on the Dart line. Maintenance will be higher for trails because of the flooding issue. The trails and bikeways master plan is under way. Lon Wynn Park trail construction is well underway. It will connect to the Duck Creek Greenbelt. Lon Wynn Park will get a splash pad about the size of the pool and a new playground. Existing pool will be removed. A library kiosk will be built near. There's a long term plan to build a new library branch near the area, possibly at the old branch location in Ridgewood Shopping Center.

2021 OHNA Annual Meeting Continued...

The program continued with a report from Office Maldonado. Officer Maldonado reported that overall the neighborhood has been fairly quiet although there have been some hit and runs, and car thefts are still occurring. Street racing is police's top priority. Hot spots are Lavon Dr. and 190. Police are visiting sites on a weekly basis. Stop signs on Glenbrook are being targeted for about 2 weeks at a time. Let Officer Maldonado know of incidents we see. an Alexander suggested putting in a crosswalk at Glenbrook & Briarwood. Jason Lain asked about street humps installed and not at the expense of residents. Transportation is looking into speed bumps. Councilman Aubin thinks we will have to pay for them ourselves. We need to let Officer Maldonado know of the vehicles that speed continuously if possible. Speed bumps won't be installed on streets where fire, police, and EMS must travel quickly like Glenbrook. It was suggested that we make a list of constant speeders and stop sign runners and give to Officer Maldonado.

The presentation highlighted two new initiatives which included our Yard of the Season Program and Design A Sign. Remember that all neighbors are encouraged to make a sign for the message boards if interested! We also highlighted our improved communications for 2020 which included a new sign for when volunteers are active in the neighborhood and OHNA posit- it notes. We also premiered the new welcome brochure.

Images from our new welcome brochure.

Fun fact, can you believe that last year we had over 43 Facebook posts and over 6,075 emails distributed?

In our final part of the presentation, we focused on “Our Future”. The available board positions were presented and filled. The new OHNA board members elected for this year are:

Co-chairs: Betty Roberts and Jason Lain
 Treasurer: Rhonda Spence
 Secretary: Cathy Stark
 Members at Large: Greg Alford, Angela Crum, and Nicholas Grant

Betty Roberts explained the committees and reminded all that volunteers are needed and much appreciated. Margi Bice thanked the board members for years of hard work for over the last 20 years.



Article Contributed By: Betty Roberts, Co-Chariman



Garland is a Big City With a “Next door” Community Feel

As so many of you have discovered, your neighbors aren't just those geographically living next door to you. In Orchard Hills, I have met so many new neighbors and discovered their unique talents, life experiences, work history, volunteerism, and most important their love for Garland and their neighbors.



After having COVID back in April of 2020, I became one of those “long termers” who has struggled to get back to some sort of normal. My need for exercise was a double-edged sword. I needed to walk but I have been challenged with balance, weakness, light headedness, and breathlessness post COVID. After four months of home healthcare, I was desperate for some exercise and knew I needed a walking partner. I also had several bad experiences being alone in public in the past, so now that I was even more vulnerable, I was determined to find the answer.

I decided to ask for one in the “Nextdoor”, an app for neighborhoods where you can get local tips, buy and sell items, and more for Orchard Hills and surrounding neighborhoods. I immediately received so many touching volunteers to walk with me and recommendations for flat walking trails that would help avoid me tripping. I was even offered a stationary bicycle. Others like me in need of therapeutic exercise, posted that they also benefitted from the discussion and found walking friends also using walkers. Others like me knew what I spoke of in feeling fearful recommended open-air walking paths. I was also reminded of indoor opportunities to walk in plain sight like health clubs, YMCA, and NorthPark that allows the mall for walkers from 8-10am. Others shared that the Arboretum has hours before opening just for walkers who are members.

Over 110 responses later, I found a walking partner who lives in Pecan Grove. She is not a slow stroller, like I am, but is a kind neighbor who knew she could offer me exercise, friendship, security, and a companion. We have visited many different trails recommended by my “Nextdoor” neighbors in addition to forming a very special connection as friends.

Thank you to all of my neighbors next door or across town who offered so much in my time of need, I count my blessings for all of your kindnesses.



Article Contributed by Jan Alexander



OHNA Board

Co-Chairman: Betty Roberts
betty@ohna.us

Co-Chairman: Jason Lain
jason@ohna.us

Secretary: Cathy Stark
cathy@ohna.us

Treasurer: Rhonda Spence
rhonda@ohna.us

Member at Large: Angela Crum
angela@ohna.us

Member at Large: Nicholas Grant,
nicholas@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 this summer next on
 on July 10th & September 11th.**

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

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Working together we get things done in Orchard Hills. We would like to recognize the most recent team effort. These wonderful neighbors stepped up and delivered the 1st quarter edition of our newsletter to all 603 houses in the neighborhood. Phillip & Rebecca Paris, Todd Alexander, Leah Holderbaum, Susan Thompson, Meghan & Josh Powers, Tina Guinn, Angela Crum, Greg Alford, Rhonda Spence, Cathy Stark, Maria King, Deborah & Ray Bond, Jim Simmons and Margi Bice. Thank you all for the gift of your valuable time. If you would like to sign up to help deliver flyers or flags on your street, contact: margi@ohna.us.



Article Contributed By: Margie Bice

Important Contacts

Garland Non-Emergency:

(972) 485-4840

Code Enforcement:

(972) 485-6400

Neighborhood Patrol:

Officer Maldonado

(972) 485-4841

District 5 Councilman:

Rich Aubin

(972) 325-2529

