



UPCOMING EVENTS

November

- 07 Recycle
- 12 Board Meeting
- 16 Garden Work Day
- 21 Recycle

December

- 05 Recycle
- 07 Block Party and Food Drive
- 10 Board Meeting
- 19 Recycle

January

- 02 Recycle
- 14 Board Meeting
- 16 Crime Watch
- 16 Recycle
- 30 Recycle

February

- 11 Board Meeting
- 13 Recycle
- 22 Garden Work Day
- 27 Recycle

Recycle Calendar
(2024):

https://www.garlandtx.gov/DocumentCenter/View/16285/2024-BYCalendar_ENG-v4

ORCHARD HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD Quarterly Newsletter

Fourth Quarter 2024

Orchard Hills is celebrating fall all through the neighborhood. Halloween brought over-the-top decorations and buckets of candy to happy trick-or-treaters. Before the sugar rush subsided, the neighborhood saw Christmas lights and even a decorated tree or two glistening in front windows. As we approach the season of Thanksgiving, I want to thank all our good neighbors for looking out for one another, keeping a tidy yard, attending city meetings, volunteering at OHNA events, and showing love to our neighborhood in your own special way. Hope to see everyone at the block party on December 7th.

Blessings to all this holiday season and in the new year!

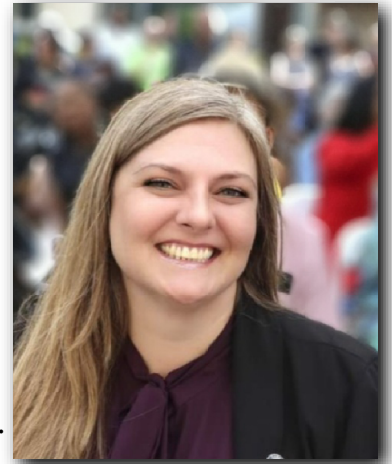
[Margi Bice](#), Co-Chair of OHNA



District 5 Update

Happy Holidays, OHNA!

It has been busy these last few months. I completed the Citizens Fire Academy with the Garland Fire Department and am now a proud member of the Citizens Firefighters Club of Garland. City Council finalized the Operational Budget and will be moving into the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Beginning in January and finalizing on February 6th, 2025. In the meantime, Council is focused on creating a new Comprehensive Plan and finalizing the Economic Development Bond. The Comprehensive Plan sets forth our vision for the next decade. It determines how tax dollars are spent and how zoning decisions are made. Your input is invaluable to this process. Please visit GarlandForward.com for more information. The Economic Development Bond Committee has been working hard to determine the parameters of the Economic Development Bond that will be on the May 2025 ballot. Funds for esthetic improvements, land acquisition, corridors, and gateways will be the focus of the bond. City Council will finalize the bond proposition this December.



Miller/Glenbrook Construction

This project has been challenging, to say the least. Scheduled completion is March 2025. Thankfully, when it is over, there will be dedicated left turn lanes on Miller for access to Glenbrook.

Saturn Springs Drainage Project

Three streets were added to the project and that has delayed the 60% project completion date. Once the construction plans hit 60%, residents will be able to set up one-on-one meetings with the Project Management Office. I will notify OHNA and post on social media when the time comes.

Notable Upcoming Events:

Small Business Saturday

Saturday, November 30th 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Downtown Garland

Start at the Garland Visitor Center for free swag and warm drinks.

A Garland Christmas on the Square

Thursday, December 5th 5:00 – 10:00 p.m.

Downtown Garland

There will be a tree-lighting ceremony, live music, live reindeer, a snow hill, photos with Santa, and much more! Garland Firefighters will be collecting toys for their annual toy drive.

Pancakes with Santa

Saturday, December 7th 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Central Fire Station, 1019 Austin St

Presale tickets are \$6.00. Visit GarlandFireClub.org for more information.

Continued on next page...



District 5 Update (continued)

Community Presentation: Garland's Land Use Fiscal Analysis (LUFA) Results

Wednesday, December 11th 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

City Council Chambers, 200 N. Fifth St

This presentation will focus on Garland's current fiscal health, affordability, and taxpayer return on investment. This and future presentations will steer Council in forming the guidelines of the Comprehensive Plan.

Wishing you all a joyful holiday season, and I look forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming events!

Yours in cheerful service,
Margaret Lucht
Deputy Mayor Pro Tem
District 5 City Council
[469-264-3556](tel:469-264-3556)
Council5@garlandtx.gov



Margaret's VCARD (QR Code)

BEGIN:VCARD

VERSION:4.0

FN:Margaret Lucht

N:Lucht;Margaret

TITLE:Deputy Mayor Pro Tem - District 5 City Council

TEL;TYPE=cell:(469) 264-3556

EMAIL;TYPE=work:council5@garlandtx.gov

END:VCARD

OHNA - Tri-City Cleanup - Saturday 10/5/24

The neighborhood came together on Saturday, October 5, 2024 to do some cleaning in Duck Creek and clearing out at Robert's Rest Stop. We also had several people from the Pecan Grove neighborhood come to help!

A lot of trash was cleared out from the creek. The most interesting things we pulled from the creek were what appeared to be a fireman's hose and an inflatable air cushion. The rest area and garden across the street are looking neat and tidy. Keep an eye out for future volunteer opportunities to help keep the neighborhood looking good!

Submitted by Samantha Youngblood



Yard of the Season goes to... 2929 Old Orchard Rd.

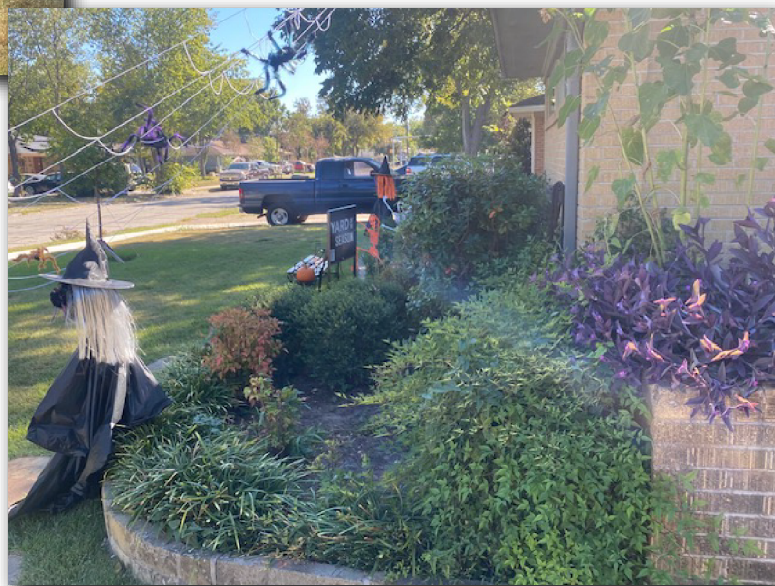
Congratulations to the OHNA Fall 2024 Yard of the Season: 2929 Old Orchard. This lovely residence belongs to Ismael Canava and his family. They moved here in February of 2023.

In their yard they are growing purple heart flowers and sunflowers. Needlepoint holly hedges and Japanese holly line the front of their house.

Also growing in the front yard is sacred bamboo and a beautiful dogwood tree. Their lawn is lush and well-manicured.

We are happy to have them join our neighborhood and spread some beauty.

Submitted by [Cathy](#)



To nominate a Yard of the Season, send the physical address
to: yard-of-the-season@ohna.us



Tribute to the Agave

Seven years ago, three Agave Americana, also known as century plant, were installed at Roberts Rest Stop garden. They grew up to be magnificent show-stoppers at the corner of Glenbrook and Briarwood. At Christmastime, they were adorned with colorful ornaments for the enjoyment of all.

And then, in early April 2024, something magical began to happen. One of the agave produced a spectacular, towering stalk that quickly grew to 28 feet tall. Next to appear were over 60 flower clusters, abuzz with bees and hummingbirds reveling in the abundance of nectar. Residents and passersby alike were in awe of this grand display of nature. Children and grownups were curious and asked: What is this plant? What is happening? Can I have some seeds? They were witness to an event that took 10 - 40 years in the making.

When the devastating storm of May 28th came through Garland and destroyed many large trees, the agave bloom stood unscathed. It was a reminder to our neighborhood to take heart, that we are strong survivors.

The blooming of an agave plant is a beautiful but sad event often referred to as a "death bloom" or "doom bloom". The flower stalks can grow impressively tall, and the sweet nectar of the flowers attracts all sorts of pollinators. The blooms then turn into seedpods which are clones of the mother plant. When the mother plant can no longer support its towering stalk, it topples over, propelling the seeds or offspring to the ground. The agave dies after blooming because it has dedicated all its energy to producing the blooms and then the seeds.

As summer wore on, the life cycle of our agave came to an end. On August 14 the fallen and spent agave was ceremoniously removed to make way for new plantings. Seeds were shared with folks hoping to grow a spectacular agave of their own.

Article contributed by
[Margi Bice](#)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agave_americana



Neighborhood Vitality Matching Grant

The City of Garland is offering a 50% cash rebate (up to \$10,000) on approved exterior remodeling of single family detached homes. All applications must be approved PRIOR to any work being started.

Application window opens January 14, 2025

Eligible exterior repairs include, but are not limited to:

- Windows
- Roofing
- Fences
- Exterior Painting
- And More (see program policy for all eligible repairs)

To be eligible for this program, applicants and homes must meet the following criteria:

- Single family house within Garland city limits
- The total appraised value of the property according to DCAD cannot exceed \$300,000
- The dwelling must be at least 30 years old (506 Housed qualify in our neighborhood)
- The dwelling cannot be a mobile home, duplex, or townhome
- If dwelling is a rental property, the owner must be registered with Code Compliance as an active participant in the Landlord Certification Training program
- Applicant must be current on all payments for property taxes and utilities
- No work prior to application approval will be considered

Applications will be available on January 14, 2025

Visit GarlandNeighborhoods.org to learn more and view the program policy

Crime Watch

Hope everyone is doing well and enjoying the cooler weather. With the nice weather, it's good to see more people out and about in the neighborhood. That gives more eyes on the street to see what is going on and happening around the neighborhood.

At our last crime watch meeting, Officer Sherry said things were quiet; however, there were some stolen vehicles with no license plates found on the streets around here. If you notice any vehicles parked around that do not look like they belong here and do not have plates, call the Garland Police Department Non-Emergency number ([972-485-4840](tel:972-485-4840)) or the Office of the City Marshal ([972-205-2222](tel:972-205-2222)). If you happen to see someone removing the plates, call [911](tel:911) to report what you see.

Officer Sherry also reminded us to be more vigilant about packages left on porches with the holiday season coming up.

Hope to see everyone at the block party and food drive on December 7th. We hope to have a fire truck and our very own Officer Sherry in attendance.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas!!!

[Jimmy Hooten](#)

Crime Watch Coordinator



Garden Workday



Don't get lost in the weeds

Garden Workdays

February 22nd
March 15th

9 am to 12 pm

meet at Robert's Rest Stop
Briarwood and Glenbrook



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For information on how to become more active in crime prevention in your neighborhood, go to <https://garlandtx.gov/461/Citizens-on-Patrol-COP>



A Bit of History

Garland Residents are no strangers to insurance rate increases.

On November 30, 1889, a fire in downtown Garland destroyed several buildings. Due to the fire, businesses faced high insurance rates. These rates could be reduced if a reliable water system was available for firefighting. However, the volunteer fire department in Garland lacked adequate equipment to handle large fires, and the city had millions of dollars in cotton that required insurance.

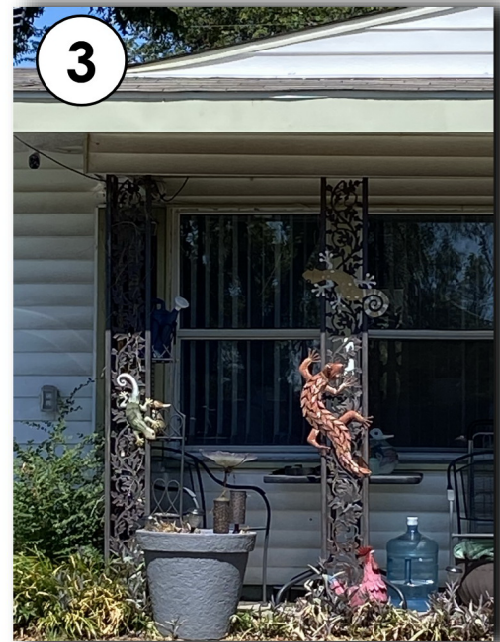
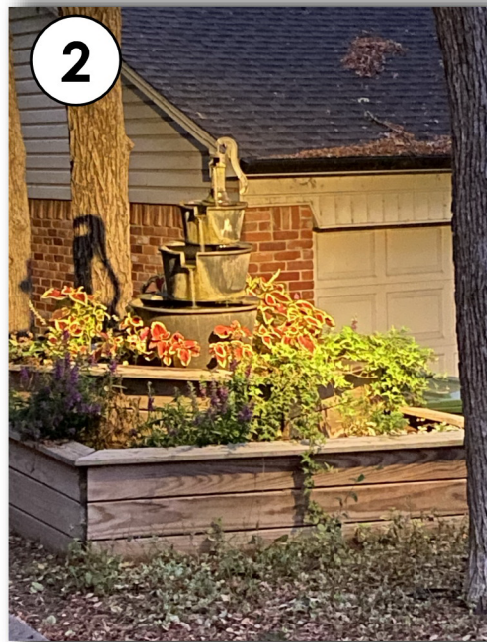
To address these issues, a \$100,000 bond issue was approved to construct an underground and above-ground storage tank capable of holding 150,000 gallons of water. This water supply would serve the fire department and some residents. Electricity for the water pumps was to be provided by Texas Power and Light, and a 75-horsepower generator was acquired to ensure a backup power source in case of an outage, meeting the insurance companies' requirements to lower rates. A 2,300-foot well was drilled to supply water to the storage tanks, and a 75-horsepower pump was installed. However, Texas Power and Light would not offer a commercial rate for running the pump, and a residential rate would have cost \$800 per month for continuous operation, which the city could not afford.

With most of the bond money already spent on constructing the system but no funds available to operate it, 20 local businessmen contributed \$1,000 each to finance a power company to run the pump. On April 1, 1923, Garland Power and Light successfully brought a 115 kW generator online.*

How to decrease your insurance costs with some insurance companies:

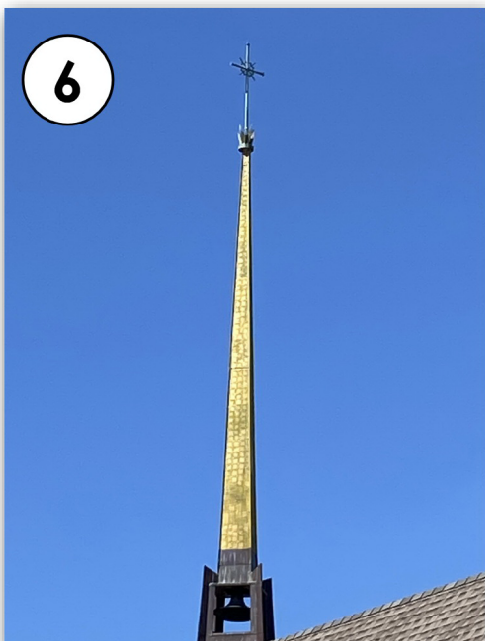
- avoid high-risk additions (swimming pool, playground set, trampoline)
- boost your credit score for new business
- bundle car and home insurance
- look for discounts
 - residence with no smokers
 - home is less than 5 years old
 - pay premium upfront (usually new policies)
 - paperless billing
 - sign up for automatic payments
 - retiree
 - central alarm system online that reports to your local police department
 - loyalty levels (ie. 9+ years, 20+ years)
- improve your home security
- increase your deductible
- make home improvements
 - Class 4 roof (impact-resistant)
 - shatterproof glass and storm shutters
 - update old electrical, HVAC, or plumbing
 - install a fire sprinkler system
- rethink small claims
 - claims can raise premium by 20% and remain high for up to 5 years following a claim
 - have an estimate done prior to filing a claim with the insurance company; if the estimate is lower than the deductible, then do not file a claim.

*from Charlie Newman and the Town Pump by Bill Lord (1966)



Get out and explore our neighborhood!

Please Note:
All items are visible from the sidewalk/street.
There will be no need to go on any property.



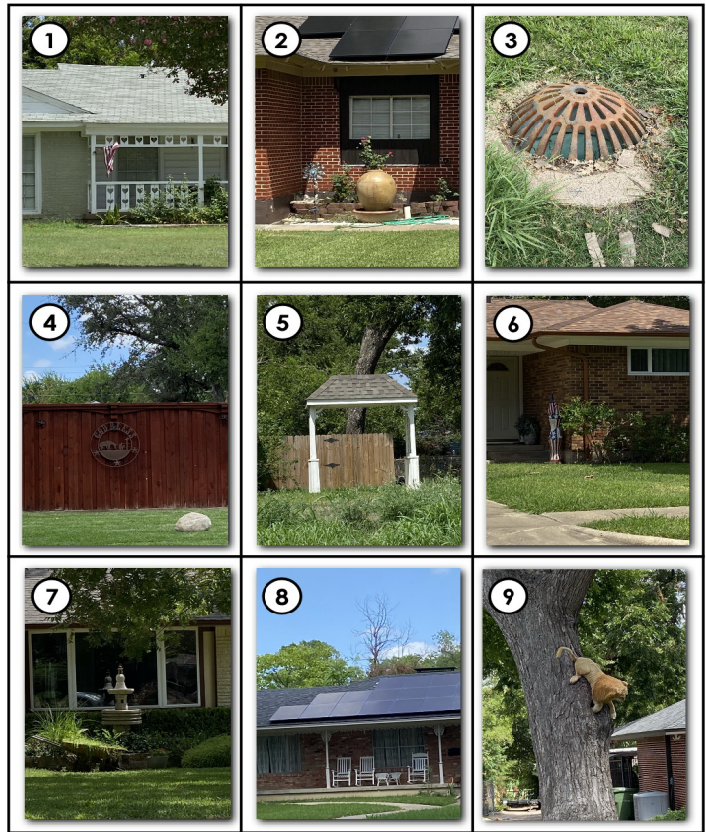


Where is Leo
the lion
today?

Need a hint?

<https://www.ohna.us/wordpress/scavenger-hunt/>

3rd Quarter Scavenger Hunt Answers



- 1 900 Briarwood Dr.
- 2 2612 Larry Dr.
- 3 1224 Carney Dr.
- 4 1309 Dale Dr.
- 5 1309 Parkmont Dr.
- 6 2944 Old Orchard Rd.
- 7 819 Peach Tree Ln.
- 8 2630 S. Glenbrook Dr.
- 9 2828 S. Glenbrook Dr.

Notes

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Kingsley Rd.

Submitted by [Rhonda](#) and Samantha

Tea in the Garden

On Sunday, October 27, 2024 from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m., 34 family members, neighbors and friends gathered at Roberts Rest Stop for a celebration of community service in memory of Betty Roberts.

Among the guests were Betty's daughter and son-in-law, Geri and Keith Wyatt, grandchildren Sheridan, MacKienzie, Kaelyn, and Cameron, great-grandson Caden, and Deputy Mayor Pro Tem and District 5 Councilwoman, Margaret Lucht.

The crowd was welcomed by Cathy Stark, OHNA secretary:

Exactly six years ago, the garden located at 2428 S. Glenbrook Drive was dedicated to Betty Roberts and her husband, Gerow, in honor of their lifetime of community service. The plaque marking that day is just off the path by the sign board. The Orchard Hills neighborhood greatly misses our faithful co-chair since her passing in May of this year, but, by her example, we continue to serve our neighborhood and love our neighbors. One of the ways we do that is by having tea! We are so happy that you are here to share tea, homemade cookies, and scones sent with love all the way from Minnesota by Eula Axe.

Thanks were extended to: The City of Garland Office of Neighborhood Vitality for their continued support of our neighborhood; Jan Alexander, who designs and produces all the fabulous signs in the garden signboard each month; All the garden volunteers, who worked many hours to evict the wasps and beautify the garden; The OHNA Board for hosting the event: Margi Bice, Cathy Stark, Rhonda Spence, Cle Kimble, Leslie Cooper, and Donna Fielding.

Rhonda Spence shared a tea toast:

"Lord, grant us all a good long life for you are surely knowing,
That earth has angels all too few while heaven's overflowing."

And then, the Betty stories came pouring out. Nearly everyone had a Betty story to share. We laughed and we cried and we celebrated a life well lived.

Margi Bice, OHNA co-chair, thanked everyone for coming and sharing their stories. A basket full of vintage-style tea bags, made by Eula Axe, was passed around for each guest to take one home, have a cup of tea, and reflect on today's remembrance of Betty. Margi closed her Betty story with, "I hope you are inspired to reach out to someone new this week and simply encourage them, like Betty did for all of us. The legacy of Betty Roberts is alive and well in the Orchard Hills neighborhood."

Article contributed by
[Margi Bice](#)



Betty Robert's Neighborhood Memorial (cont.)



OHNA Block Party & Food Drive

Saturday, December 7, 2024
12:00 – 3:00 p.m.
945 Old Orchard Dr. in the circle

The holiday food drive and block party is back in 2024! Our goal is to beat last year's donation total of 401 pounds of food. The folks from Good Samaritans will be there with their truck to collect donations curbside. Needed items: creamy peanut butter, dry pasta, tomato sauce, canned carrots, sweet peas or corn, canned beans (garbanzo, black, pinto, white northern, red kidney), pop-top canned soups and pastas, tuna in water, and 4 oz. fruit bowls. In addition to food, diapers and wipes are also appreciated. To see Good Sam's complete Amazon wish list or to make a cash donation go to: goodsamofgarland.org

The Garland Firefighters and Garland Policemen will be there to visit with the kiddos and answer questions. There will be games, music, hot dogs, hot chocolate, and more! So bring the kids, a neighbor, a friend, out of town relatives – everyone is welcome! We look forward to celebrating the holiday season with you!

If you would like to lend a helping hand with the block party, call or text Margi Bice [214-587-5206](tel:214-587-5206).

Article contributed by
[Margi Bice](#)

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2024 Block Party



Some Garage Sale Items (September 27th and 28th)



Saturn Rd.

W. Kingsley Rd.

Proposed OHNA Event Calendar for 2025

January

- 14 OHNA Monthly Board Meeting
- 16 Crime Watch meeting

February

- 11 OHNA Monthly Board Meeting
- 22 Garden Work Day

March

- 11 OHNA Monthly Board Meeting
- 15 Garden Work Day

April

- 08 OHNA Monthly Board Meeting
- 12 Garden Work Day
- 17 Annual Meeting & Crime Watch meeting
- 26 OHNA Plant Sale

May

- 03 Garden Work Day
- 13 OHNA Monthly Board Meeting
- 24 Garden Work Day
- 26 Flag Display

June

- 10 OHNA Monthly Board Meeting
- 21 Garden Work Day

July

- 04 Flag Display
- 08 OHNA Monthly Board Meeting
- 17 Crime Watch Meeting
- 26 Garden Work Day

August

- 12 OHNA Monthly Board Meeting

September

- 09 OHNA Monthly Board Meeting
- 20 Garden Work Day
- 26,27 Garage Sale

October

- 04 Work Day
- 14 OHNA Monthly Board Meeting
- 16 Crime Watch Meeting

November

- 11 OHNA Monthly Board Meeting
- 11 Flag Display
- 15 Garden Work Day

December

- 06 Block Party / Food Drive
- 09 OHNA Monthly Board Meeting

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December

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Board Meetings Events Garden Work Day Holiday/Misc.	April 17 Annual Meeting 26 Plant Sale September 26,27 Garage Sale December 7 Block Party / Food Drive
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Advertise with Us!

Are you a business or individual who would like to advertise in our 2024 newsletters? Our newsletter distribution is as follows:

The 1st quarter is printed and delivered to around 600 houses in the Orchard Hills Neighborhood Association (OHNA) boundary.

It is also featured on the OHNA website, emailed to subscribers, and posted on Nextdoor, Facebook, and X.

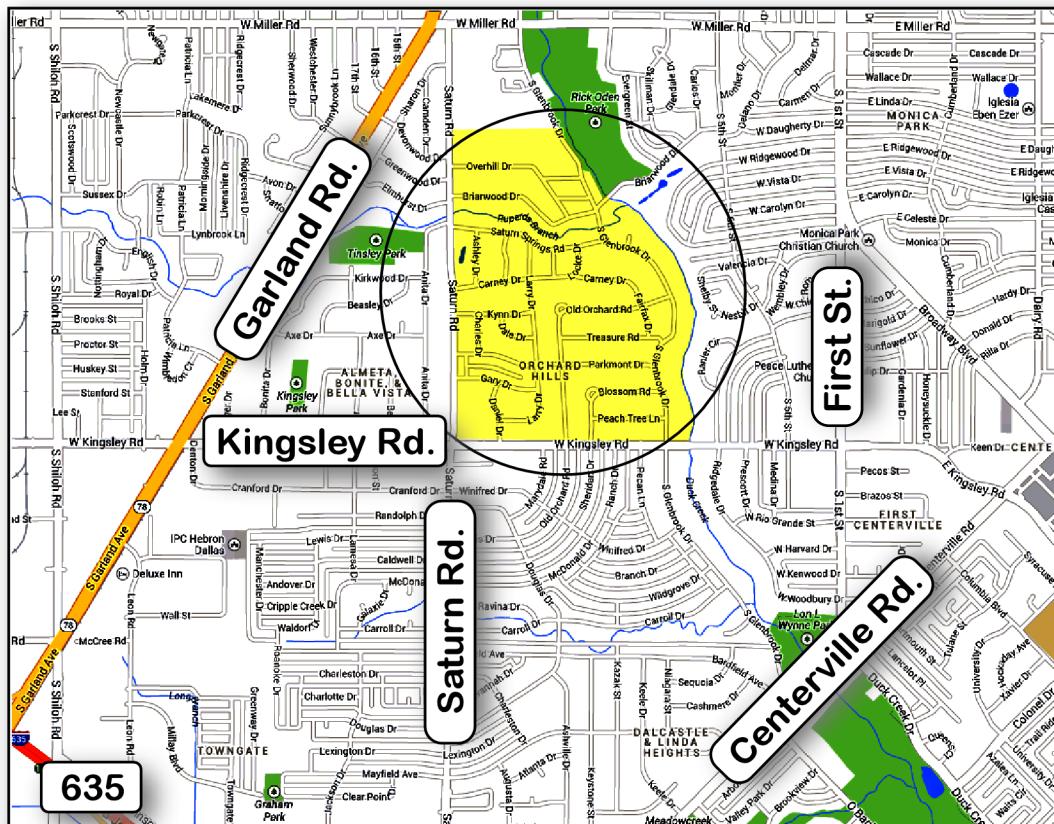
The 2nd, 3rd, and 4th quarter newsletters are distributed digitally through email as well as posted on publicly accessible platforms, such as the OHNA website, Nextdoor, Facebook, and X (Twitter).

(Email distribution is sent to all subscribers. They do not have to be members of OHNA.)

Price of Newsletter Ads:

- \$25 Business Card Size
- \$45 Quarter Page
- \$60 Half Page

See details at: ads.ohna.us



Orchard Hills
Neighborhood
Association
Boundaries



Membership



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, or our social media groups on Facebook, Nextdoor, Website or X. 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

Neighborhood Opportunities



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 an event committee.

- **Publication Distribution** (help deliver newsletters and flyers to homes in the neighborhood)
- **USA Flag Display** (help put out flags 3x a year)
- **Annual Block Party**
- **Annual Fall Garage Sale**
- **Garden Work Days**
- **Newsletter Articles**
- **Social Media Postings**



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 Volunteer@OHNA.us for more information.





Co-chairman - OPEN

Co-chairman - Margi Bice
margi@ohna.us

Secretary - Cathy Stark
cathy@ohna.us

Treasurer - Rhonda Spence
rhonda@ohna.us

Member at Large - Cle Kimble
cle@ohna.us

Member at Large - Donna Fielding
donna@ohna.us

Member at Large - Leslie Cooper
leslie@ohna.us

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

Social Media

Website
ohna.us

Facebook Page
facebook.com/groups/ohna

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

Get Involved!

There are opportunities big and small to get engaged in the neighborhood. Consider serving in any capacity on the OHNA board or on a committee. Meet your neighbors!

Important Contacts

Garland Non-Emergency
[\(972\) 485-4840](tel:(972)485-4840)

District 5 Councilwoman:
Margaret Lucht
[\(469\) 264-3556](tel:(469)264-3556)
council5@garlandtx.gov

Code Enforcement:
[\(972\) 485-6400](tel:(972)485-6400)

Neighborhood Patrol
Officer Nicholas Sherry
[\(972\) 205-4024](tel:(972)205-4024)
sherry@garlandtx.gov

