



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### December

- 04 Recycle
- 09 Board Meeting
- 18 Recycle

### January

- 02 Recycle
- 13 Board Meeting
- 15 Recycle
- 22 Crime Watch
- 29 Recycle

### February

- 10 Board Meeting
- 12 Recycle
- 26 Recycle
- 28 Garden Work Day

### March

- 10 Board Meeting
- 12 Recycle
- 21 Garden Work Day
- 26 Recycle

Events on Website:

<https://www.ohna.us/wordpress/events/>

## ORCHARD HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD Quarterly Newsletter

### Fourth Quarter 2025

You may wonder what exactly is the Orchard Hills Neighborhood Association (OHNA). By definition, an association is a unified body of individuals, such as people with common interests living in a particular area.

Orchard Hills is our particular area. OHNA members have a great opportunity to volunteer for a common purpose. That purpose is to create and maintain an atmosphere of community, connecting neighbors to keep our neighborhood clean and safe. We come together in times of need, like last year's storms. We donate time to beautify our neighborhood gardens. We encourage friendships with block parties. We help those in need with food drives. We provide safety tips and information at crime watch meetings. We provide citywide information at meetings.

We encourage neighbors to watch out for one another and help one another. Your neighbors and your neighborhood need you. We need your voice, especially those who are fluent in Spanish. We need your time. We need your hands. We need your help.

For \$20 a year, your neighborhood association provides a valuable opportunity to make new friends, strengthen your community, and take pride and ownership of your neighborhood-to be the best it can be, for you and for me. No experience required. Just show up. You can do this, too.

Submitted by [Donna](#)

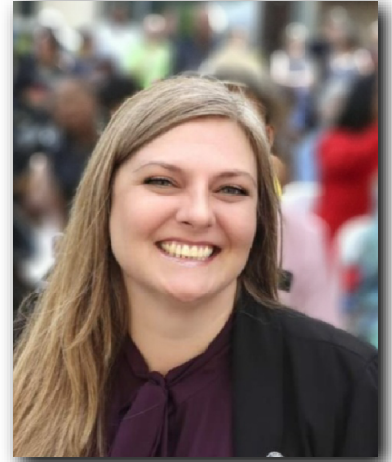


## District 5 Update

### Hello, Orchard Hills!

From neighborhood improvements to citywide initiatives, Garland continues to make steady progress toward improving access, safety, and quality of life for all residents. We are fortunate to have an incredible team of city staff who keep everything running behind the scenes. Every day, we drive on streets, turn on lights, and enjoy amenities made possible by their dedication. Their work allows us to live our best lives, and I am consistently humbled by their commitment and tenacity.

I want to thank the Orchard Hills Board of Directors and volunteers for their tireless efforts to bring the neighborhood together through the block party, the beautiful lawn flags that honor our veterans and country, and the maintenance of the gardens that so perfectly enhance our community. It is because of them and all who dedicate their time to Garland that this is a place where we can live our best lives.



### DISTRICT 5 AND ORCHARD HILLS UPDATES

#### Tax Rate Swap

In November 2026, the City of Garland will ask voters to consider a tax rate swap designed to address long-term funding needs without increasing the overall tax rate. The proposal would shift a portion of the tax rate from debt service to operations and maintenance, providing greater flexibility in how the city maintains and repairs streets.

The current tax rate remains at 0.6897. Under state law, operations and maintenance are capped at a 3.5 percent annual increase, while debt service is not capped. This creates a challenge when balancing the need for new projects with the ongoing maintenance of existing infrastructure.

The tax rate swap would not change the total amount paid by residents but would create a more sustainable funding model for critical infrastructure and street maintenance over time.





## District 5 Update (continued)

### Saturn Springs Drainage Improvements

Project design is currently at 60% completion. The city held one-on-one, in-person meetings with interested property owners on September 30 and October 2 to review the proposed plans and gather feedback. The City expects to bid the project by October 2026, with construction beginning in February or March 2027. These improvements are part of Garland's 2019 Bond Program and are among the last few projects to close out the program.

### Parks and Recreation

#### Staff

Garland's Parks and Recreation Department continues to expand with experienced leadership. Kari Pacheco, Parks Operations Director, brings more than twenty years of experience in municipal parks management. She began her career in aquatics with the City of Plano and has held leadership roles in Garland, Rowlett, and Sunnyvale. Albert Montero, Recreation Director, is a United States Marine Corps veteran with more than two decades of experience in community engagement and recreation, including fifteen years with the YMCA.

### Senior Center

Construction is underway, and the new center is expected to open in September 2026. The facility is being built on the same site as the previous center, with the new entrance located on Avenue B. The building will be significantly larger and better-designed to serve the needs of Garland's senior community.

Exterior amenities include a drop-off area, ADA parking, bus parking, a landscaped courtyard, and pickleball courts. Interior features will include a large multipurpose room, classrooms, a library, an immersive experience room, arts and crafts spaces, and a gym with an indoor walking loop.



## District 5 Update (continued)

### Rick Oden Park

#### Splash Pad

Rick Oden Park will soon include an 8,500-square-foot splash pad. The project budget is \$3,092,000, and it is currently in the design and funding evaluation phase.



### Jon Comer Skate Park

To address security concerns, the Jon Comer Skate Park fence installation has been completed. Final finish-out items have been completed by the contractor, and new signage is in design and fabrication. Security cameras are scheduled to be installed by the end of the year.

### MD Health Pathways

Garland residents will soon have a new option for basic healthcare through a partnership with Tap Telehealth. MD Health Pathways was developed by Dr. Dirk Perritt, a North Texas emergency physician who spent more than ten years in the ER at the former Baylor Medical Center in Garland and continues to practice in Dallas.

Tap Telehealth provides an affordable way for families to reach medical professionals quickly and to receive care when they need it. This partnership was created to expand healthcare access, as nearly 40 percent of Garland residents are uninsured or underinsured.

The service is scheduled to launch in late spring or early summer 2026 and will appear as a separate line item on residents' City of Garland water bills. The monthly fee will begin at six dollars for the first two years, increase by one dollar per year in the following years, and remain capped at nine dollars. The fee covers up to ten people per household, regardless of insurance coverage, age, or participation in Medicare or Medicaid.

## District 5 Update (continued)

Residents can text, call, or video chat with a North Texas-based doctor, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner in minutes. Prescriptions can be sent directly to local pharmacies, and there are no copays or insurance requirements. Tap Telehealth is not intended for emergencies but is well-suited for common illnesses, minor injuries, prescription renewals, and general health questions.

**Participation is optional. Residents can opt out at any time** by calling [972-688-6330](tel:972-688-6330) or emailing [optout@garlandtx.gov](mailto:optout@garlandtx.gov) with their name, address, phone number, and utility account number, if available.

Before the launch, Garland households can try the service free through a pilot program available to the first 10,000 families who sign up. The pilot operates daily from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., including weekends and holidays. For more information or to register for the pilot program, visit [taptelehealth.com/garland](https://taptelehealth.com/garland) or scan the QR code below.



### All Abilities Committee

City Council has established the All Abilities Committee to advance inclusion and accessibility across Garland. The committee will evaluate existing conditions, identify barriers, and recommend practical steps to ensure city programs and services meet the needs of every resident. Applications will be accepted from November 12 through December 3 on the City of Garland [website](#). After the application period closes, Councilmembers will review applicants and make their selections by December 16. Appointments will be presented for approval at the January 6 Council meeting. The Committee represents an important step toward ensuring Garland remains a welcoming and supportive community for residents of all abilities.

### Upcoming City Events

#### A Garland Christmas on the Square

Thursday, December 4, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Downtown Garland Square

Celebrate the season at Garland's annual Christmas on the Square. Enjoy live music, ice skating on an actual ice rink, real reindeer, a snow hill, Santa photos, and the official tree lighting ceremony. This free, family-friendly event also features local food vendors, Downtown dining, and holiday shopping.



## District 5 Update (continued)

### Sensory Friendly Christmas

Thursday, December 11, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Garland City Hall, 200 N. Fifth Street

This event offers a calm, inclusive holiday experience designed for individuals with sensory sensitivities and their families. Activities are tailored to provide a comfortable, welcoming environment for all participants.

It has been my absolute pleasure to serve you on City Council. My focus remains on revitalizing areas in need of investment in District 5, advancing economic development, supporting public safety initiatives, and improving the aesthetic value of our city through art, landscaping, hardscaping, and strong code enforcement. The work is far from done, and I will continue to advocate for us. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to make our home a better place. Please contact me if you have questions, concerns, or just want to chat about what's going on in our city.

Yours in cheerful service,

Margaret Lucht

Mayor Pro Tem

Garland City Council, District 5

[469-264-3556](tel:469-264-3556)

[Council5@garlandtx.gov](mailto:Council5@garlandtx.gov)



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## Yard of the Season - 806 Blossom

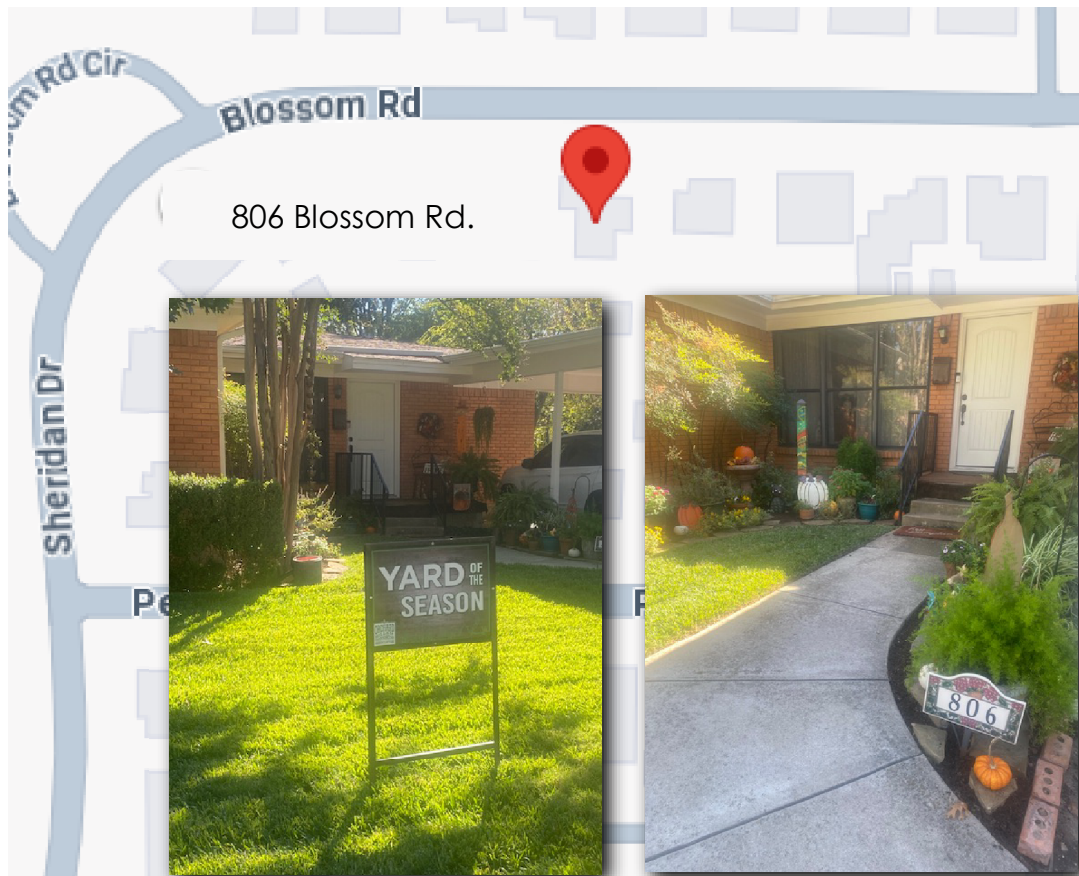
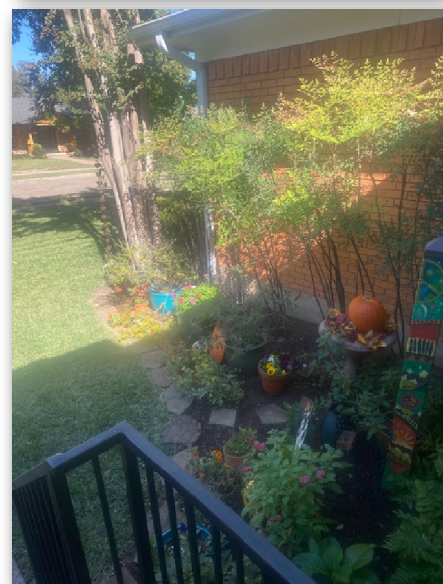
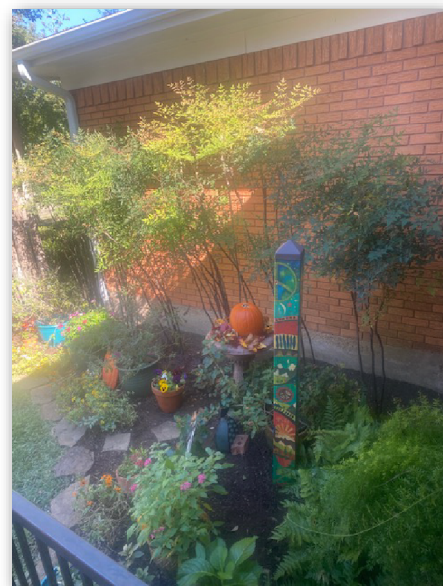
Our Yard of the Season recognition for Fall 2025 goes to the home of Susan and Frank Thompson at 806 Blossom. Susan grew up in this house from the age of 6 years old. Later, when her parents decided to sell the house, she and Frank purchased it. Together, they have raised their two girls and have lived here for 39 years.

Susan has only been gardening the past three or four years. The yard has beautiful, thick grass with a large crape myrtle and a young red oak. The front of the house is lined in boxwoods and nandinas. Blooming in the flower beds and pots are pink begonias, yellow and orange zinnias, red and white pintas, salvia, hydrangeas, and a pink Indian Hawthorne.

Some autumn ferns are in the bed next to the house as well as asparagus ferns in pots. There are two butterfly bushes, one pink and one purple. Multicolored pansies are in small pots along with pink and red dyanthis, impatiens, and geraniums. Ajuga covers an area by the front porch. An airplane plant, a Boston fern, and a hanging basket of creeping ginny surround the porch.

Please take some time to look at their peaceful, beautiful yard that has graced Blossom.

Submitted by [Cathy](#)



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

## Garden Workday - Winter 2025 and Spring 2026

### Calling All Garden Lovers and Community Helpers!

We're thrilled to announce our **Neighborhood Garden Workdays** happening this fall and into next spring! Come join your neighbors for mornings filled with fresh air, teamwork, and the joy of making our community bloom.

#### Workday Dates:

- Saturday, November 15, 2025
- Saturday, February 28, 2026
- Saturday, March 21, 2026

**Time: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM**



**Meeting Location:** Robert's Rest Stop at the northeast corner of Glenbrook and Briarwood.

These workdays are a wonderful chance to help **beautify our neighborhood**, connect with neighbors, and make a lasting impact. Whether you enjoy planting, mulching, weeding, or simply lending a hand, there's a place for everyone!

Please bring **gloves**, **gardening tools** (if you have them), and **plenty of water**. We also suggest wearing **sun protection** and clothes you don't mind getting a little dirty.

Let's work together to make our neighborhood spaces shine. See you in the garden!

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## Crime Watch

Hello, Orchard Hills neighbors and friends! Hope everyone is doing well!

We made it through another Texas summer, and cooler weather is here! At our last crime watch meeting, Officer Sherry addressed several issues we've had in the area, such as jugging, sliding, package thefts, and theft of belongings from unlocked cars. For those unfamiliar with these terms, jugging is the targeting of individuals when they are withdrawing cash from a bank or ATM, and sliding is quickly stealing valuables from unlocked cars, typically at places like gas stations.

To protect yourself, make sure your doors are locked while you are outside your car. With the holidays upon us, be aware of leaving your packages in plain sight in your car. If possible, cover them, or put them in your trunk. Also, be aware of when your packages are delivered at home and get them inside as soon as possible. Be sure to lock your cars and take all valuables out. Make sure all your doors are locked at home as well.

Hope everyone has a great and safe holiday season!

Jimmy

Crime Watch Coordinator

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





## Block Party and Food Drive Review

Block Party / Food Drive Review - [Donna Fielding](#)

With rain in the forecast and every canopy from the block party trailer set up, we hosted a successful event in the circle of Old Orchard Road. Due to great teamwork and creative engineering from the setup crew in anticipation of the rain, we were able to enjoy the party even when the rains came.

Our talented neighborhood DJ, Toney Smith, put together a playlist that included the perfect songs for those so inclined to dance in the rain. One member decided to not let a little rain dampen spirits by coming dressed in costume as a Cloud With a Silver Lining.



Despite the rain, 50 people attended representing 16 streets in our neighborhood. Our District 5 Councilwoman, Margaret Lucht, attended. We were excited to see new faces of neighbors who had not attended prior events. Neighbors connected with one another, more children attended than in the past, and we gained two new members!

Animal Control came to educate us on pet safety. Our NPO, Nick Sherry, played football with kids and answered questions. Yard games were played in between rain showers. Jim Neargarder and Jimmy Hooten grilled hot dogs on-site, and we served Cathy Stark's

homemade cookies alongside store-bought chips, cookies and ice pops. A BIG thank you to Piefalootin' for their donation of 12 slices of pie to our cache of prizes. All attendees won a door prize, and Halloween treat bags were handed out to all the kids.

Our food drive was a success, donating 513 lbs to Good Samaritans of Garland, exceeding last year's 347 lbs. Some neighbors opted to stay dry while donating food at our curbside drop-off without participating in the rain-soaked celebration.

We announced our Veterans Day flag display coming in November and recruited new volunteers to help with that neighborhood project.

We will continue to invite neighbors to our events, loving and serving them as we have for the past 25 years. And you can do this, too. Come join the fun.



**Good Samaritans  
of Garland**

Piefalootin is located at:  
2441 Goldfinch Lane,  
Garland, TX 75042

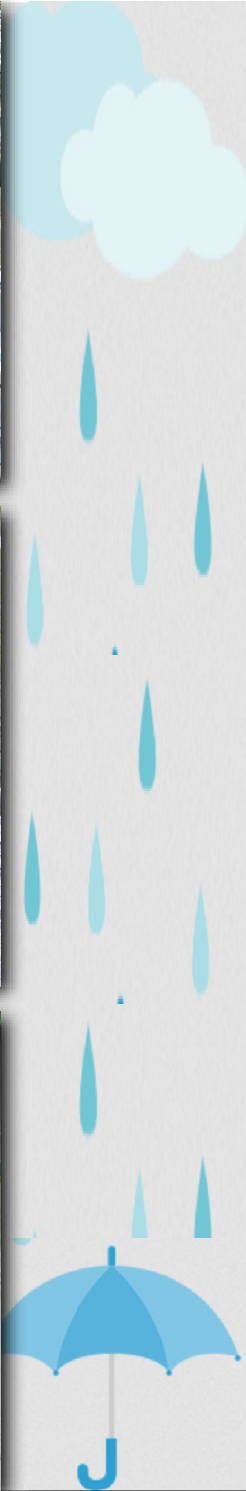


"Pie makes everything better."





Photos from Block Party and Food Drive





## 2025 Neighborhood Garage Sale Review

Beautiful weather and plenty of shoppers helped to make the 19th Annual OHNA Garage Sale a success. Neighbors look forward to this event each year for the deals that abound and the new people that they meet. Were you one of the 14 houses that held a sale or one of the many shoppers?

Thank you to the generous people who volunteered their time to organize and execute this event. Thanks to Todd, Hillary, Clarice & John, Leslie, Susan, Nancy, Teresa, Vickie, Rhonda, Deborah & Ray, Mollie, Donna, Cle, Maria, and Margi for delivering flyers to every house in Orchard Hills. Thank you, Rhonda Spence for getting the city permits, handling the record keeping and handing out the signs on your front porch on Thursday evening. Thank you, Jan Alexander for creating a beautiful sign for our message board at the corner of Glenbrook and Briarwood. Thank you, Jim Neargarder for designing and printing the map that showed us the way and posting our ad on social media. Thank you Donna Fielding for arranging for the charity truck. Thank you, Donna and Margi for collecting all the signs after the sale was over. And thank you to the 9 people who donated their leftover items to Arms of Hope charity.

As you can see, many people pitched in to make this year's garage sale happen. We look forward to your participation and enjoyment of this event next September!

Submitted by: [Margi](#)





2025 Neighborhood Garage Sale Photos





## Veterans Day: Honoring Those Who Served...

Each year on **November 11**, Americans come together to honor the men and women who have served in our nation's Armed Forces. Veterans Day is a time of reflection, gratitude, and unity-a day to recognize those who have dedicated themselves to the defense of our freedom and the ideals we hold dear.

### A Brief History

Veterans Day originated as **Armistice Day**, marking the end of World War I. The armistice that brought the conflict to a close was signed on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918. In 1954, following World War II and the Korean War, Congress renamed the observance "Veterans Day" to honor **all** American veterans-past, present, and future-who have served in the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and now the Space Force.

### Our Neighborhood Tribute

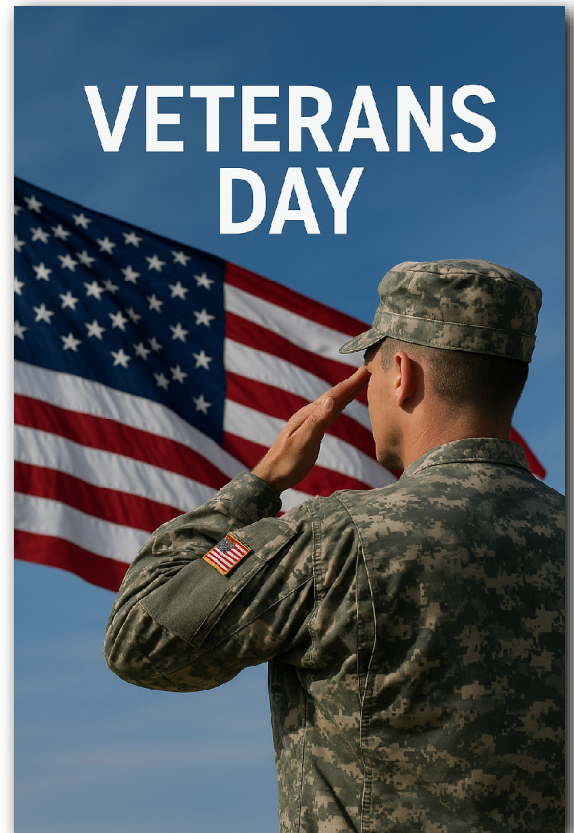
In recognition of Veterans Day, our community honors those who have served by **placing American flags in front of each home**. This collective display of red, white, and blue is a meaningful reminder of the courage, sacrifice, and dedication of our nation's veterans.

As our neighborhood comes together in this act of remembrance and respect, let us also take a moment to personally thank the veterans among us-our neighbors, friends, and family members-who have worn the uniform of our country.

May the sight of our flag-lined streets serve as a visible symbol of gratitude, unity, and a reminder that freedom is never free.

### Happy Veterans Day Honoring All Who Served

If you would like to volunteer placing flags in the neighborhood, please email [flags@ohna.us](mailto:flags@ohna.us)



## Reach Your Neighbors with OHNA Newsletter Ad



Quarter Page = \$45

Business Card = \$25

Half Page = \$60

Looking to share your business with the Orchard Hills community? The **2026 OHNA newsletters** are the perfect way to get noticed!

### Where Your Ad Appears:

- 1st Quarter: Printed and delivered to ~600 homes.
- 2nd-4th Quarters: Digital distribution.
- All: posted on the OHNA website, emailed to subscribers, and shared on Nextdoor, Facebook, and X.

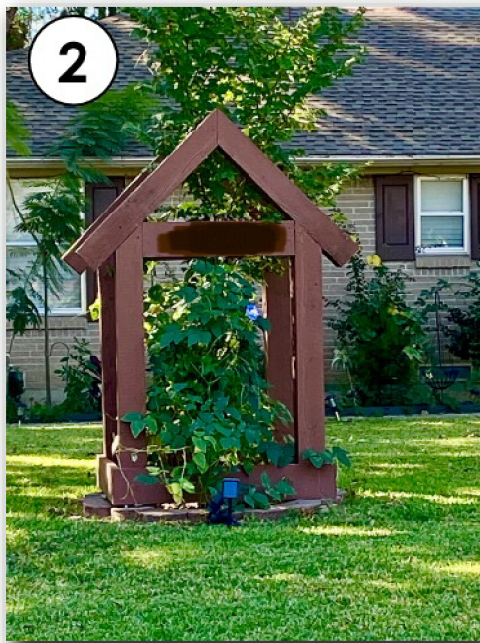
### Ad Rates per calendar year:

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

Get started today! Details and submission at: [ads.ohna.us](https://ads.ohna.us)

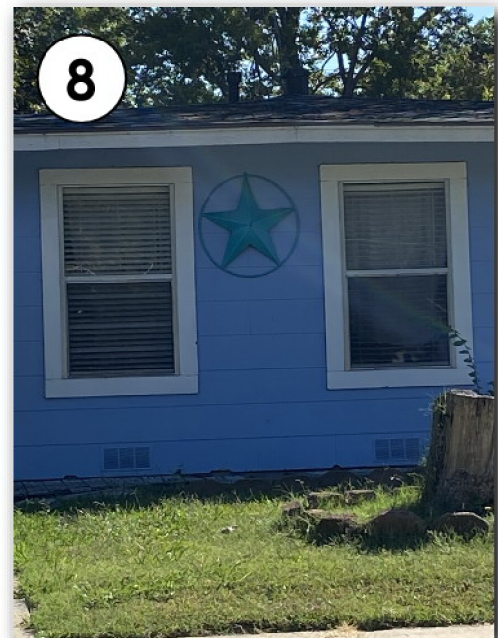
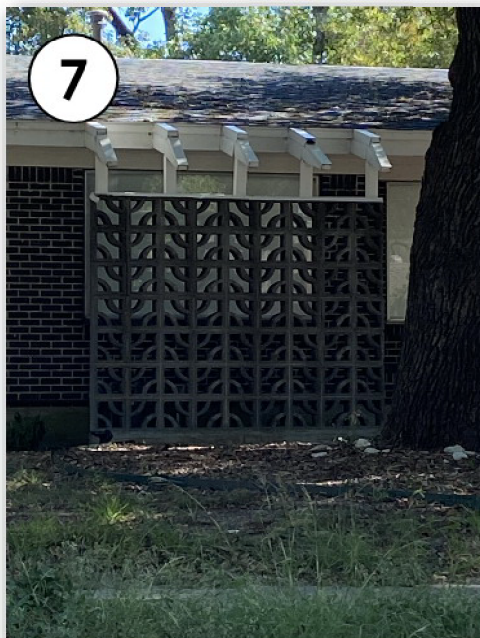
Show your support for Orchard Hills while connecting with your neighbors!



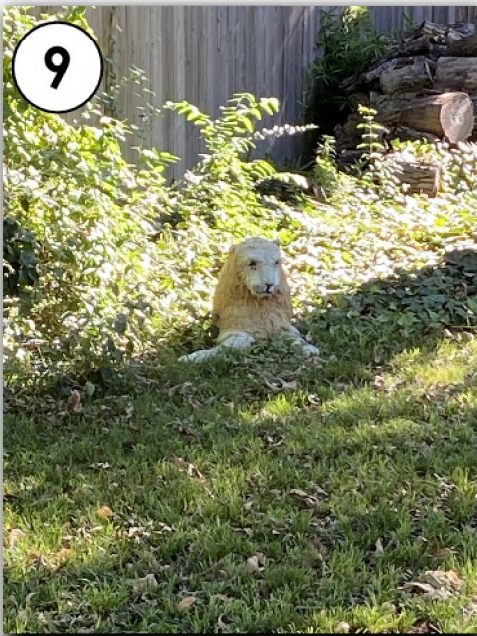


Get out and explore our neighborhood!

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







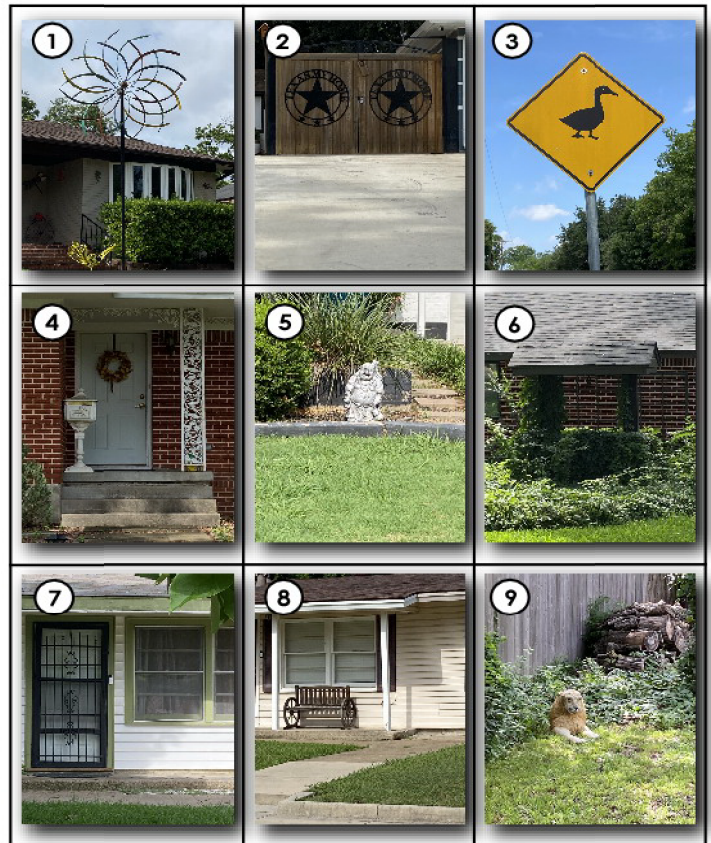
Where is Leo  
the lion  
today?

Need a hint?:



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

## 3rd Quarter Scavenger Hunt Answers



- 1 904 Parkmont Dr.
- 2 1201 Briarwood Dr.
- 3 1242 Saturn Springs Dr.
- 4 2805 Fairfax Dr.
- 5 2829 Old Orchard Rd.
- 6 2832 S. Glenbrook Dr.
- 7 2905 Charles Dr.
- 8 2921 Larry Dr.
- 9 2828 S. Glenbrook Dr.

### Notes

- 1
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Saturn Rd.



Duck Creek

Kingsley Rd.

Submitted by Rhonda and Samantha



## Get involved in Your Neighborhood

There are many ways - big and small - to make a difference in Orchard Hills. We encourage you to serve on the OHNA board or join an event committee and help shape our community.

Opportunities include:

- Publication Distribution: Help deliver newsletters and flyers to homes.
- USA Flag Display: Assist with placing flags three times a year.
- Annual Block Party & Fall Garage Sale: Lend a hand in planning and execution.
- Garden Work Days: Beautify our community spaces.
- Newsletter Articles: Share stories, tips, and updates.
- Social Media Postings: Help keep neighbors informed online.



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](mailto:Volunteer@OHNA.us) for more information.



"Let's give 'em pumpkin to talk about!"



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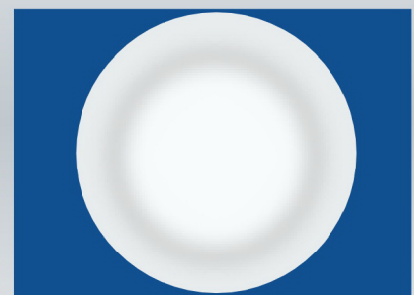


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## OHNA Board

Co-chairman - Donna Fielding  
[donna@ohna.us](mailto:donna@ohna.us)

Co-charman - Margi Bice  
[margi@ohna.us](mailto:margi@ohna.us)

Secretary - Cathy Stark  
[cathy@ohna.us](mailto:cathy@ohna.us)

Treasurer - Rhonda Spence  
[rhonda@ohna.us](mailto:rhonda@ohna.us)

Member at Large - Cle Kimble  
[cle@ohna.us](mailto:cle@ohna.us)

Member at Large - Leslie Cooper  
[leslie@ohna.us](mailto:leslie@ohna.us)

Member at Large - Maria King  
[maria@ohna.us](mailto:maria@ohna.us)

## Important Contacts

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

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

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

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

## Social Media

**Website**  
[ohna.us](http://ohna.us)

**Facebook Page**  
[facebook.com/groups/ohna](https://facebook.com/groups/ohna)

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



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  
916 Old Orchard Rd., Garland, TX 75047-2685.  
or join/renew at [join.ohna.us](http://join.ohna.us) with credit card