

Ranch Reporter



Volume VI, Issue 3

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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to All!

Special Issue on Local Volunteer Opportunities

Since we are approaching the beginning of a new year, I thought that it would be helpful to inform Georg Ranch residents about local volunteer opportunities for anyone who would like to contribute to our community. This could be a good way to give back to our community and help people in the new year. I have solicited input from representatives of various local organizations and have tried to make a fairly complete directory of local volunteer opportunities. I have purposely left out local churches, because I did not want to cross religious or denominational lines, and it would also have been difficult to determine which churches are considered local and which aren't.

Comal County Emergency Services District #6

Emergency Services Districts (ESDs) are political subdivisions of the State of Texas. They support or provide local emergency services, including emergency medical services, emergency ambulance services, fire prevention and control services, and other emergency services authorized by the Texas Legislature. ESDs may impose a sales and use tax and/or property tax to support or provide these services.

ESDs can contract with volunteer fire and emergency medical services departments and provide a stable funding source for these entities as well. ESD tax revenues mean more time to focus on training and the provision of emergency services rather than fund-raising and other activities for these volunteer fire and emergency medical services organizations. Through these powers and stable funding, ESDs have considerably reduced fire and medical response times, provided stable funding for volunteer and other fire and EMS departments, and allowed local entities to provide enhanced services - thus saving lives, property, and funds for local citizens.

The Comal County Commissioners Court appoint five individuals who serve two-year terms as Commissioners on the Emergency Services District Board starting January 1.

There are seven ESDs in Comal County. Garden Ridge and the surrounding area are in ESD #6. ESD6 is the grassroots government organization responsible for providing fire protection and emergency medical services for a 75-square mile area of southeastern Comal County. ESD6 contracts with the Bracken Volunteer Fire Department and the City of Schertz EMS to provide fire and emergency services. ESD6 Commissioners help provide the best possible rescue services for all of the citizens in ESD6's area of responsibility.

For more information about ESD6 volunteer opportunities, call ESD6 Commissioner Kerry Ledford at 210-656-1873 or visit the ESD6 link at www.brackenvfd.org.

Bracken Volunteer Fire Department

The Bracken Volunteer Fire Department (BVFD) provides fire protection and first responder medical emergency services for about 7000 people within the City of Garden Ridge and the surrounding area. It is manned by a combination of paid staff and volunteer firefighters. It is funded primarily by a combination of ESD6-provided property and sales taxes. It also receives grants and contributions. The BVFD Board of Directors meets the 4th Monday of every month at the fire station at 7 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend these meetings. There are several volunteer opportunities within the BVFD:

1. **Volunteer Firefighter** - The Bracken VFD is always in need of volunteer firefighters. Training is provided and you would help fight fires and support rescue situations.
2. **Bracken VFD Member** - Any person can be a member of the BVFD. Membership cost is very nominal.
3. **Bracken VFD Board of Directors** - The Board of Directors consists of nine members and manages the BVFD. Each director serves a three-year term and three members are elected in October of each year.

For more information about any of these volunteer opportunities, call the Bracken Volunteer Fire Department at 210-651-5762 or visit their website at <http://www.brackenvfd.org/index.html>.

Garden Ridge City Commissions

The City of Garden Ridge has several Commissions that assist the City Council with making decisions for the betterment of our great city. Vacancies occur on these Commissions from time to time and there is a need for citizens who have a desire to serve the city and be closer to the action. The City Commissions are the Planning and Zoning Commission, the Quarry Commission, the Water Commission, and the Impact Fee Committee. Positions on these City Commissions are appointed by the City Council for two year terms of office. All Commissions have regularly scheduled monthly meetings that generally last one to two hours.

The Planning and Zoning Commission is a recommending body to the City Council. The Commission plans and manages the growth and development in the city by means of the city's Zoning Ordinance, Subdivision Ordinance, Street Master Plan and Sign Ordinance.

As a recommending body to the City Council, the City Quarry Commission acts as a liaison between the City and the Hanson Quarry by monitoring blasting conducted at the quarry and its effects on the residents of the City of Garden Ridge.

The City Water Commission is another recommending body to the City Council. The Water Commission manages and monitors the city's water system and water needs through the Water Master Plan, the Drought Management Ordinance, and the Water Company Ordinance.

Another recommending body to the City Council is the Impact Fee Committee. This Committee manages and adjusts water and street impact fees paid by developers as they relate to the planned infrastructure of the city's Water and Street Master Plans.

Anyone who has a desire to serve on a City-appointed Commission should submit a resume or bio to the City Administrator. If you desire more information please contact City Administrator, Nancy Cain, at 210-651-6632 or at administrator@ci.garden-ridge.tx.us.

Garden Ridge Library

Garden Ridge has a small but wonderful library. It has been assembled by our entire community with donations of both books and volunteers' time. While we have 30 volunteers, there is always a need for more, as some come in only for a couple of hours a month. Others have to discontinue helping due to illness or even moving away. Right now the biggest need is Saturday mornings from 10 to 1, but we can use people on other days as well. Most Saturday volunteers come in only once a month, so it is not burdensome. The work is easy and fun. Newcomers meet new friends, and old-timers learn new skills. Please call the library at 651-6570 or Linda Crosland at 830-632-5622 to volunteer.

Garden Ridge Lions Club

The Garden Ridge Lions Club has over 80 service-minded people. They serve their community without personal financial reward, but thoroughly enjoy the personal satisfaction of helping those in need. Examples of a few of the many volunteer activities that the Garden Ridge Lions engage in are:

- ▶ Hearing testing in Comal County elementary schools
- ▶ Working at the Texas Lion Camp for Crippled and Diabetic Children to prepare it for the summer campers
- ▶ Providing food to needy families at Thanksgiving
- ▶ Providing toys and food for needy families at Christmas
- ▶ Providing financial support to many sight and youth services, and awarding scholarships to deserving high school students

We are proud of our support to over 28 youth, community, and sight services, and to Lions Foundations, such as the Texas Lions Foundation, Lions Club International Foundation, and the Texas Multiple District 2 Building Fund.

We meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month, at 6:30 p.m. at the Forest Waters Lodge, Duck Blind, 21320 Water Wood in Garden Ridge. If you are interested in joining the Garden Ridge Lions Club please contact Wayne Tyson at 651-4534 or Dick Vogt at 651-5894 to make arrangements to attend one of the Lions Club meetings.

Garden Ridge Women's Club

The Garden Ridge Women's Club is an unincorporated organization whose purpose is to promote civic improvements, charitable activities, and social interaction for the benefit of the citizens of the City of Garden Ridge and the surrounding areas.

Founded in 1975, the club was originally the Garden Club created by a small group of "city folk" who had moved to the "country." The women wanted to learn what to plant in their new environment while getting to know their neighbors. As the club evolved, its purpose and membership expanded, so the name was changed to the Garden Ridge Women's Club (GRWC) in 1982. From its original membership of five women the club has grown to more than 160 women today. The tradition continues. The club is a great group of women, each one sharing her unique talents while learning, working, and having fun together, but never losing sight of the common goal of giving back to the community. During the last year, the GRWC raised and donated over \$12,500 to our local community.

The GRWC includes several other groups that meet on a monthly basis, such as:

- ▶ Knotty Knotters - A group of about 40 women who meet the first Monday of each month at the Bluebonnet Room of the GR Community Center. They work on hand work such as quilting, making homemade items for Threads of Love, and many other worthy organizations.
- ▶ Lunch Bunch - A group of ladies gather at a different restaurant on the second Tuesday of each month to chat or talk about up-and-coming events in our community.
- ▶ Book Club - Meets on the third Monday of each month at the GR Community Center, where they choose an interesting book to read and discuss at the next month's meeting.
- ▶ Bridge Club - Gathers at the Community Center on the third Thursday of the month to have a challenging game of Bridge with friends.
- ▶ SEW - A group of ladies who gather to discuss sewing or machine embroidery techniques. They meet on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 10 a.m. Since this is a small group we meet in our homes.
- ▶ Bunco Club - A promise of laughter playing a fun-filled game. About 20 ladies gather at 7:00 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of each month at the GR Community Center for a few hours of enjoyment.

The GRWC also has a group of ladies who gather once a month at a private home and make lap quilts for our wounded warriors at BAMC. They use mostly their own fabric but also use some donated fabric.

We are not without having fun in the GRWC. There are scheduled events throughout the year. On September 22, at La Fontana Springs on FM 3009, we had our Fall Luncheon, which includes a wonderful Fashion Show, great food, fun, and door prizes. Our annual Holiday Marketplace was on Saturday, October 15th at the Community Center. There were about 50 vendors. It is a great place to do one-stop shopping for the holidays. Then in February we have a Central Market Cooking Class. Yum, we are always served a delicious lunch from one of their great chefs on staff. And March brings spring, a time to clean out your closet, garage, and attic for our Annual Citywide Garage Sale, also at the Community Center. There is always a treasure to be found. Later in the spring we have a Spring Gardening Coffee at the Antique Rose Emporium, where we have a speaker come in and talk to us about what types of vegetation are best grown in our area. And, if that's not enough, we have other activities such as day trips, a Fourth of July Picnic, a decorating party for Christmas at the Community Center, and just so much more. If you have any questions about the GRWC, please don't hesitate to call Sharon Duemler at 651-0654.

Garden Ridge Citizen Police Academy Alumni Association

The Garden Ridge Police Department will be holding another Citizen Police Academy class. This class is held only once every year or two, and the next one is scheduled to start in March. I attended the class several years ago and found it to be very informative and enjoyable. I not only learned about behind-the-scenes police procedures, but I also met and gained an appreciation for the GRPD officers and met many other Garden Ridge residents. Since my wife and I plan to live in Garden Ridge for quite a while, it is nice to learn more about the city and get to know more of the residents.

The class normally includes several guest speakers. Some of the subjects covered in this class are:

- ▶ Selected statutes and common misunderstandings about The Texas Penal Code
- ▶ Rules of criminal evidence
- ▶ The Texas Family Code, Domestic Violence, and Juvenile Procedures
- ▶ Garden Ridge City Ordinances
- ▶ Traffic laws and their enforcement, GRPD traffic stop procedures, and common misunderstandings
- ▶ Crime scene investigation
- ▶ GRPD special services, including Home Security Service, Operation COYN (Check On Your Neighbor), the COPS (Cellular on Patrol System) Patrol, Neighborhood Watch programs, and Crisis Intervention
- ▶ Texas Weapons Laws, pros and cons of Concealed Carry Permits, and the Firearms Training System
- ▶ Drug laws and their enforcement
- ▶ Police dog use and demonstration

The student activities in this class are all voluntary. If you want to shoot a police pistol or go on a short ride with a police officer, you can, but if you don't want to, you don't have to.

This class will probably be held on Thursday evenings at the Garden Ridge Community Center, and will run for eight weeks, from 7:00 p.m. until about 10:00 each night. There are currently about 15 students signed up. The exact starting date is yet to be determined. The GRPD would like to have about 25 participants. This class is held only every 1-2 years, and is FREE.

Once you complete this class, you will have the option of joining the Garden Ridge Citizen Police Academy Alumni Association (GRCPAAA). This group holds a meeting every two months where we have guest speakers and learn about new police equipment and procedures and about any crime problems in our city. You will also have the option of attending a Saturday-morning class to qualify to go on COPS patrols to look for suspicious activities in our city and inform the GRPD about them. It is also a good way to keep up with new developments and other changes in the city.

Please feel free to call me if you have any questions about this. To sign up for the class call Lt. Gary Johnson, GRPD, at 651-649-0446, or Kerry Ledford, GRCPAAA President, at 656-1873.

Garden Ridge Area Republican Club

The Garden Ridge Area Republican Club is a political and civic club for all Garden Ridge area residents. The club meets on a quarterly basis in January, April, July, and October. The club meets the second Monday of those months at 7 p.m. at the Garden Ridge Community Center. Guest speakers have included many local, county, and state-wide elected officials. The club also works to help elect conservative candidates at all levels of government. Everyone is invited to become a member. There are no dues. For questions concerning the Garden Ridge Area Republican Club, contact Charles Flink at 210-651-6631.

Garden Ridge Elementary School

Garden Ridge Elementary School welcomes volunteers from the community. Volunteer opportunities exist from helping out in the library to helping out during special events at the school. To become a volunteer at the school, please fill out a volunteer form located at the PTA district Web site at (http://www.comalisd.org/Schools/GRES/GRES_PTA.asp) [scroll down to the bottom of the page, the volunteer form is located under "forms"] and submit it to the school. All Comal ISD volunteers must also submit a background check, which also can be completed online at (https://www.comalisd.org/Volunteer/Volunteer_Form.asp). Once these two forms have been completed and submitted, the PTA will contact you when there is a need for volunteers. Thank you for your interest!

Georg Ranch Amenity Center Committee

The Amenity Center Committee seeks to improve the value of the Amenity Center to the Georg Ranch Community. Our goal is to make the Amenity Center a showplace of relaxation and a safe gathering place for all Georg Ranch residents. The Committee is open all Georg Ranch residents and all ideas on how best to improve the utility of the Center. The Committee is responsible for proposing and prioritizing Amenity Center projects and working with the Property Owners Association Board to identify funding sources.

Georg Ranch Architectural Review Committee

The Georg Ranch Architectural Review Committee (ARC) is a neighborhood committee appointed by the Property Owners Association Board to ensure and maintain the appearance of the neighborhood as set forth in the neighborhood covenants. The committee's duties include the reviewing of applications from property owners for various improvements including fencing, overall landscape design, home additions or renovations affecting the exterior of the home, and the review of plans for new homes to be constructed. The ARC members are also involved in working with the current covenants to make sure they stay current with the ever-evolving building technologies and legal requirements. We work closely with the Board Members and the Property Management Company. The ARC generally meets every other month based on the amount of applications to review, but handles most applications by email to expedite the approvals as quickly as possible.

The ARC is required to have a minimum of three members but currently has five active members to maintain a balanced perspective. The ARC is always looking for new members who are dedicated to preserving the appearance and quality of our neighborhood and encourages anyone who is interested in joining to contact Shawn Willis at shawn.willis@acuform.com.

Georg Ranch Safety Committee

The Georg Ranch Safety Committee was created to organize neighborhood and/or street watch/safety groups to help keep our neighborhood safe and to keep the board informed of security concerns/issues. This committee currently has no members. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please send an e-mail to Rodney at damctx@aol.com, our management company.

Georg Ranch Social Committee

The social committee was organized to recommend and organize social events for the residents of Georg Ranch. We currently have a small budget set aside to assist in activities. The committee has a clean canvas from which to start, so let your ideas flow. This committee currently has no members. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please send an e-mail to Rodney at damctx@aol.com, our management company.

Seminar for Gardeners

Backyard Vegetable Gardening Seminar, presented by Comal Master Gardeners, Saturday, February 11, 2012, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Featuring: Daphne Richards, Travis County AgriLife Extension Agent, as seen on Central Texas Gardener on PBS; Patty Leander, contributing writer to Texas Gardener Magazine, a Master Gardener Vegetable Specialist with a B.S. degree in Food and Nutrition from Texas Tech University. Hands-on activities, detailed handbooks, door prizes, raised beds, drip irrigation. Registration begins Sept. 15. Fee of \$47 includes lunch, at New Braunfels Convention Center, 375 S. Castell Ave., New Braunfels. For more information: <http://txmg.org/comal/future-events/seminar>, e-mail: seminar@mastergardener.comal.tx.us, 830-620-3440.

Notes from the Board

A reminder to all dog owners in Georg Ranch that they should clean up after their dogs when walking them, whether it is in the street or on neighbor's lawns.

The next POA Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 12, at 6:00 p.m. in the Bluebonnet Room of the Community Center. Residents are invited to attend and address the board, if they desire.

New Georg Ranch Residents

Please meet and welcome these new residents to our community: Carl and Jeanine Claus, 8508 Verano Drive; John Lear, 22175 Via Posada (Mr. Lear is not a resident yet. That is a vacant lot.)

POA Board Contacts

President: Rod Apgar, beachbumsdr@mindspring.com

1st Vice President: Ken Kneupper, klkneupper@yahoo.com

2nd Vice President: Tony Bishop, abishop11@satx.rr.com

Treasurer: Ernest Valdez, evaldezattorney@sbcglobal.net

Secretary: Dorothy Hopkins, pinky5754@aol.com

Web site: <http://www.georghanch.com>

POA Management Company Contact

The contact information for our POA Management Company is:

Diamond Association Management & Consulting

6391 De Zavala Road, Suite 223D

San Antonio, Texas 78249

Phone: 210-561-0606

Fax: 210-690-1125

E-Mail: damctx@aol.com

Committee Chairpersons

Amenity Center Committee: Linda Valdez

Safety Committee: Open.

Social Committee: Open.

Architectural Review Committee: Shawn Willis

If you would like to help us by serving on a committee, please contact a POA Board member.

Newsletter Contact

The Writer/Editor for this newsletter is:

Kerry Ledford, Ph.D.

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Newsletter Writer's Comment: For Your Information

It will sure be nice when the FM 3009 construction project is finally completed! I called the local TxDOT engineer for that project and found out that the current scheduled completion date is **March 31, 2012**. By the way, there is also a proposed plan to rebuild the FM 2252 and FM 3009 intersection. That project, if approved, would probably begin in early 2013 and would take about 18 months.

Resident-Owned and Resident-Recommended Businesses and Services

Listed below are the resident-owned and resident-recommended businesses and services that I have been informed of. Appearance in this list does not constitute endorsement of a business or service by the Property Owners Association or the writer/editor of this newsletter. Any other recommendations of residents are solicited and appreciated.

Resident-owned:

Acuform Architecture, Shawn Willis, 210-829-1600.

Advanced Orthopedic Designs, Orthotics, and Prosthetics, Kevin C. Matthews, CO/LO, 657-8100.

A-OK Mini & RV Storage, 200 FM 3009, Schertz, TX, Keith and Karrie Sanders, 659-4492.

Aramendia Plumbing, Heating, and Air Conditioning, John and Anne Aramendia, 654-1034.

Century 21 Realty, real estate agent and professional home stager, Denise Shepherd, 274-1910.

The Claus Team Real Estate, Keller Williams Realty, Jeanine Claus, www.clausrealty.net, 566-6355.

DIGIKIDS, a missing child recovery program, Jentry Poss, 200-8458, www.digikids-id.com.

Estate Liquidation, Lynda Martinez, 651-7593.

Farmers Insurance, Robert "Bob" Martinez, 349-2631.

Mark Friesenhahn, full service accountant and tax service, 651-6290.

Help U Sell San Antonio Hill Country, 290 S. Business IH35, New Braunfels, sergio@qsptx.com, (830) 214-7876.

Kimavema Homes, LLC, buys, fixes, and rents family homes in the area, KimavemaHomes@satx.rr.com, 213-7438.

Live Oak Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery Center, 11515 Toepperwein Rd, Live Oak, 314-6897.

LiquorMax liquor store, Lewis Syring, in the HEB center at I-35 and FM3009, 590-6299.

Loka Studios, Yoga & Pilates, 18817 FM 2252 (in front of Grumpy's), www.Loka-Studios.com, 653-5652

Mary Kay Cosmetics, Irene K. Harrington, Independent Beauty Consultant, 380-8689.

North East Air Conditioning, Heating, and Plumbing, Linda McClain, 658-0111.

QSP Insurance Services, 290 S. Business IH35, New Braunfels, Sergio Martinez, sergio@qsptx.com, (830) 214-7876.

Schertz Chiropractic, by Shipley's Donuts near I-35 and FM 3009, 646-6000.

Superior Homes Realty, Rose Delaney, Owner/Broker, 455-6895.

Texas Gives Back, discounts from local businesses, goes to schools and charities, Jim Lee, www.texasgivesback.com

Ernest G. Valdez, Attorney at Law, 1616 Broadway, San Antonio, 223-1776.

Voter registration - Denise Miner-Williams, deputy voter registrar, will provide help, 651-9823.

Resident-recommended:

A-1 Fixit Shop, 8546 FM 78, Converse, 662-8084. Repair of chain saws and similar items.

Billy's Window Cleaning, window/mirror cleaning, power washing. 287-8433. Great service!

BUILD IT RIGHT Construction Inspections, LLC, www.hillcountryinspections.com, Don Sweet, 632-2322.

Centex Hydro-Flo, septic system maintenance. Carl Scheel, 830-438-7329.

Custom Decks by J.R., stain and seal, arbors, patio covers. Free estimates. Jose Reyna, 566-5677.

Findtoto.com, lost dog, cat, or missing pet amber alert recovery phone service, 877-738-8686.

Five-Star Home Inspections, Mark Eberwine, 654-8833.

Guajardo Grass and Landscaping, new grass installation, sprinkler work, Gregory Guajardo, 599-8147.

Hierholzer Construction, Randy Hierholzer, 7925 Bindseil Lane #1, Garden Ridge, (210) 725-2886.

Invisible Fence of San Antonio (pet containment), 979-7387, www.invisiblefence.com.

K & R Pressure Washing, Driveways, houses, commercial. 279-5305. Reasonably priced, new equipment.

Landscapes by Johnson, Jerry Johnson, 410-7347.

Liberty Bistro, 200 N. Seguin Ave., New Braunfels, TX 78130, 830-624-7876, www.mylibertybistro.com.

Lone Star Tile and Grout Cleaning, cleaning, sealing, and polishing of hard surfaces. 375-5229.

Ray Lopez, Registered Massage Therapist, home 659-2686, cell 663-9688.

Master Service Pest Control, 410 E. Lindbergh Blvd., Universal City, 659-3875.

Mr. & Mrs. Alba, housecleaning, 662-9564.

Mr. Erwin, Inc., air conditioning and heating, 1008 Beckett St., San Antonio, 349-4081.

My Day Cleaning Service, Sandra and Daniel Adam, 979-0232, cell: 861-2970.

PESTPRO Services of San Antonio, Pest Management & Window-Cleaning Services, Jehu Perez, 861-4328.

Seal It International, deck sanding, staining, and sealing. Terry and Cincy Beall, 219-8419.

Sterling Group Realty, Scott Varney, 17156 IH-35 N, Schertz, 945-2230.

TC Heating and Air Conditioning, 325-5014. Fast response, good service at a reasonable price.

Tennis lessons, Lou Silvester, former international touring pro, at Forest Waters Club, beginner to pro, 651-9578.

Tri-County Sprinklers, 403-3898.

Ultra Power Service, lawn mower repair, 116 E. Lindbergh Blvd., Universal City, 658-8850.

Vacek Home Visions, home network/communications/security, 159 Louisiana Ave., N.B., (830) 708-1426.

Water softener/filter, BioTech Water Researchers, Hank Deutsch, 12612 Nacogdoches, 599-0048.

Westlund's Pest Control, 830-931-6330.

Window by Window, Rick Russell, 834-7409.