



El Comunicador

Garland Association for Hispanic Affairs E-newsletter

www.gafha.org

July 2008

Meets

GAFHA meets every 2nd Wednesday of the month at the Garland Woman's Activity Building, 713 Austin St.

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President's Note



The July heat did not keep the crowds from attending the many wonderful events sponsored by the City of Garland last week. Thanks to the many GAFHA volunteers who assisted in making the Star Spangled Fourth and Naturalization Ceremony a success. I visit my family in the Valley this time of year, but did make it back in time for the fireworks and concert.

I hope everyone is enjoying the Summer. Take advantage of the two water parks in Garland to stay cool.

The GAFHA board and planning committees have been meeting all Summer to work on upcoming events. Many volunteers will be needed. Mark your calendars and thank you in advance for your time. You make GAFHA a great organization.

Javier

Calendar of Events

GISD Board Meeting....July 24th, August 7th

Harris Hill Administration 6:00 pm

GAFHA Meeting.....August 13th

Garland Woman's Building 7:00 pm

GISD First Day of School....August 25th



Picture by Linda Jaresh
The Garland News

Folklorico dancer performers at the Star Spangled Fourth Celebration



Picture by Linda Jaresh
The Garland News

Kelly Garcia sings the National Anthem at the Naturalization Ceremony

Where To Find It

GAFHA

www.gafha.org

City Of Garland

www.ci.garland.tx.us/Home

Garland I.S.D.

www.garlandisd.net

DFW International Community Alliance

www.dfwinternational.org

Earn an online degree

www.earnmydegree.com

If you know of a web site of interest, please let Javier or Sylvia know.

Mission Statement

Non-profit organization that serves as an advocate and change agent for the Garland Hispanic community. GAFHA focuses on promoting education and problem solving on related issues.

New Members

Obed Balderas

Jennifer Benavides

Aurora Valdivia

GAFHA Officers

Javier Solis, President 972-487-3262

jsolis@garlandisd.net

Tony Torres, VP of Development 972-495-5154

ttorres316@aol.com

Joe Olivares, Executive VP 972-860-7449

jxo1153@dcccd.edu

Sylvia Valle, VP of Communications 972-495-5070

vall1017@aol.com

Joe Garcia, VP of Community Outreach 972-414-9737

jgarcia@garlandisd.net



Liliana Ponce, VP of Education 214-860-3659

lponce@dcccd.edu

Jaime Ornelas, President Emeritus 469-223-7065

Scarlet.jaime.ornelas@verizon.net

Luz Villegas, VP of Finance 972-761-6874

luzv@dcccd.edu

July Meeting

Obed Balderas, Inspector with the Code Compliance Department spoke on the responsibilities of his job. Code Compliance is a division of the Health Department and responsible for upholding the living standards in Garland. Obed answered questions from members on issues in their neighborhoods. Elderly Lawn Care and Code Cares are two programs started by the inspectors to assist citizens in hardship cases who can not keep up their properties. Department volunteers cut lawns, paint, fix fences, and clean up trash for residents who have been notified of a violation but need assistance. Obed welcomes GAFHA volunteers to help. Dates will be provided by newsletter.



Main office 972-485-6400

210 Carver suite 101

Garland, Texas 75040

Steve Killen, Director of Code Compliance 972-485-6408

Rick Barker, Neighborhood Standards Manager 972-485-6411

Rio Orticio, Housing Standards Manager 972-485-6424

Nuisance Inspectors

Oswaldo Rodriguez 972-485-6420

Field Supervisor

Volunteering creates a national character in which the community and the nation take a spirit of compassion, comradeship, and confidence.

Brian O'Connell

President 'Independent Sector' 1980-1995



Invite a friend to the next meeting..

Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars for the following events. Volunteers will be needed for each to be a success. Look forward to your participation.

New Teacher Reception

September 3rd Special Events Center 4:00-6:00 pm

Meet and greet for all new GSD teachers. Opportunity to welcome teachers to the community and solicit new members.

Hispanic Parental Involvement Workshop

September 27th Special Events Center 9:00-1:00

Opportunity for Hispanic parents to get the necessary information to better get involved in their child's education. Will need volunteers to greet and direct parents. Will seek speakers as the program is developed.

Hispanic Parent College Fair

October 4th Special Events Center 9:00-1:00

College workshop in Spanish for parents of Hispanic Seniors and Juniors. Will need assistance greeting and directing parents. Expect over 600 in attendance.

Hispanic Heritage Awards

October 4th The Atrium 7:00-11:00 pm

Scholarship benefit banquet celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month. Will need assistance soliciting sponsorship and ticket sales to businesses.

Fiesta In The Park

October 12th Garland Central Park 1:00-8:00 pm

Cultural event to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. Day long celebration of music, food, and dance. Will need many volunteers to help solicit sponsorships, set up chairs/tables and provide support throughout the day.

GARLAND

CODE COMPLIANCE

“Helping Garland Citizens Maintain and Improve the Neighborhoods They Call Home.”

972-485-6400 - codenfc@ci.garland.tx.us

Did you know?

Common Code Violations



Oversized Vehicles

Oversized vehicles are prohibited in residential areas. Examples of oversized vehicles are a truck tractor, road tractor, semi-trailer, tow truck and passenger motor vehicles designed to carry more than 16 persons (including the driver). Oversized vehicles parked on public property can be **towed** without notice.



Parking on Unimproved Surfaces

It is illegal to park any kind of vehicle (car, truck, boat, motorcycle, utility trailer, or recreational vehicle) on the grass or dirt in a residential area.



Junk Vehicles

A vehicle on private property is considered a junk vehicle by City ordinance if the vehicle has an expired registration or inspection and is wrecked, dismantled, on flat tires or not moved within the last 60 days. Vehicles parked on the street must have current registration and inspection stickers and must move every 48 hours.



Vehicle Encroachment

When vehicles are parked so that they extend over the sidewalk, they can become a hazard for pedestrians and other vehicles. At no time should vehicles be parked so as to extend over the sidewalk or off of the property.



Limb Encroachment

When tree limbs and bushes are allowed to grow over the street, alley, or sidewalk, they too can become a hazard for pedestrians and vehicles. This is important because many of the city's fire trucks, service vehicles, and school buses are very large and require a clearance of 14 feet over the street and alley. Sidewalks must have a clearance of 8 feet.



High Grass

As a resident or property owner in Garland, it is your responsibility to keep the lawn on your property maintained. Maintaining the alley or utility easement to the midpoint and the entire parkway (the area from the curb to the sidewalk) is also your responsibility. Violations occur when the grass and/or weeds reach over 12 inches in height.

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August 18-21 Staff Development
 August 22 Teacher Preparation Day
 August 25 **First Day of Class**
 First Grading Period Begins

September 1 **Labor Day**
 September 26 First Grading Period Ends
 September 29 Second Grading Period Begins

October 6 **Fair Day**
October 7 **Staff Development**
 November 7 Second Grading Period Ends
 November 10 Third Grading Period Begins
 November 25 *Early Dismissal*
November 26-28 **Thanksgiving Break**
 December 19 Third Grading Period Ends
Early Dismissal

December 22-January 2 **Winter Break**
 January 5 Grading/Recording & Staff Development
 January 6 Fourth Grading Period Begins
 January 19 **Martin Luther King Jr. Day**
February 16 **Staff Development**
 February 20 Fourth Grading Period Ends
 February 23 Fifth Grading Period Begins
March 16-20 **Spring Break**
 April 9 Fifth Grading Period Ends
April 10 **Staff Development**
 * **Bad Weather Day #2**
 April 13 Sixth Grading Period Begins
May 25 **Memorial Day**
 June 3 **Last Day of Class**
 Sixth Grading Period Ends
Early Dismissal
 June 4 Grading/Recording
 * **Bad Weather Day #1**

Note About Bad Weather Days:
 These are "makeup" days if schools must be closed due to bad weather during the year. Please take these two dates into account when planning summer activities.

School Hours:
 AM Pre-Kindergarten 8:00 a.m.-10:55 a.m.
 PM Pre-Kindergarten 12:15 p.m. - 3:10 p.m.
 Elementary 8:00 a.m. - 3:10 p.m.
 Middle School 8:50 a.m. - 3:50 p.m.
 High School 7:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Early Dismissal Times
 Elementary 1:15 p.m.
 Middle School 2:00 p.m.
 High School 12:30 p.m.

