

ONA Invoice

On page 15

“Spring Fling”

Thursday May 20th

Details on page 2



Oakridge News

Vol. 18, No. 05

May 2010

<http://oakridgeNA.org>

Observations

By Mike Rose, ONA President

I wrote in the April issues about an exciting addition to our community that being a beautiful Oakridge Community sign (similar to what one sees when entering Ridge Oak off of Jupiter) possibly lighted and landscaped to be located at the southeast corner of the Beltline and Jupiter intersection. Unfortunately this will be a project for the incoming ONA Board to bring to fruition. Cooperation between the City of Richardson, the City of Garland, GP & L and the Oakridge Golf Club is tedious, frustrating and involved. Some on the ONA Board thought that now is the time to have such a sign installed as it would undoubtedly be the least expensive time to accomplish this project. Perhaps this new entrance feature to the City of Garland and the Oakridge Community could be part of our next neighborhood vitality grant application.

There are several projects that the current ONA Board has been

working on and intends to authorize contractors to commence work very shortly. The first undertaking will be the repainting of the bridge over Duck Creek. Your ONA Board took positive action at its recent meeting and work should begin as soon as the contractor works it in his schedule. The second will be the upgrading of the entrances located at Laurel Oaks/Beltline and the other at Ridge Oak/Jupiter. Both of the entrances are aging and in need of enhancement. Again your board awarded a bid for the upgrading of the entrance at Laurel Oaks but decided that the entrance at Ridge Oak is in need of further study. One can see by the pie chart (see our Treasurer's article) the majority of the ONA's funds are spent on

landscaping requirements. As is stated in our by-laws (found at www.oakridgena.org) the Oakridge Neighborhood Association is

Continued on Page 13

District 7 Council Report

By Rick Williams, District 7 City Councilman

We just amended the junked motor vehicle (JMV) ordinance and the most significant change was tightening the definition. Previously, a JMV had to have at least one out of date sticker AND it had to be inoperable for 60 days. That was changed to 30 days which allows Code to more quickly address this nuisance. Some other administrative changes will also help Code be faster and more efficient when addressing a JMV complaint, and in general, the ordinance is simply easier to read now.

If you are interested in learning more about how you can become involved in making your neighborhood better, Garland has a series of “Garland Neighborhood Management Academy” classes which are interesting. If interested, just go to Garland's web site <http://www.ci.garland.tx.us> and type GNMA in the search block.

Snoopy Pet Grooming just opened in the northeast corner of Arapaho and Jupiter. Took my Jack Russell there last week, and they did an excellent job.

Historically, GP&L has had two rates—a “on peak” rate and an “off peak” (Nov 1 – May 31) rate, and the “on peak” rate has been about a penny higher. In a recent meeting, I learned that the plans for this year are to keep the lower “off peak” rate in effect after May 31.

I recycle religiously, but still manage to create a lot of trash. Consequently, I have two of those large 90-gallon green containers. Environmental Waste Services is considering a change whereby

those with two containers may pay an additional \$7.00 more each month, and those with only one container may actually pay a little less. I'm told that Houston did this and about 20% of the two container owners turned back in one. Anyhow, this is just a proposal being kicked around at the moment, and it has not been presented to Council for formal discussion. Got an opinion? Send me an email.

I had always heard that at one time the city limit between Garland and Richardson was in the middle of Jupiter Road, but Garland ceded our half to Richardson, so now they own all of Jupiter.

That is actually true for part of Jupiter, but not the part between Buckingham and Beltline. Because there was an issue regarding the sidewalk area outside the western brick wall surrounding Oakridge, we did some research, and here's what we discovered. In 1960, Garland annexed land to increase the size of the City. The western border of Garland for the area between Buckingham and Beltline was the eastern edge of the Jupiter Road right of way (ROW). The ROW includes not just the road but the area on each side which is used for sidewalks, utility lines, etc. Bottom line is that the brick wall along Jupiter is on private property and in the City of Garland, but everything outside of that wall is the City of Richardson and it has been that way since 1960. By the way, prior to 1960, the Oakridge area was unincorporated (i.e., just in Dallas County, but not in a City).

The Office of Neighborhood Vitality is recently announced the bi-

Continued on Page 8

Oakridge Spring Fling

MUSIC

FOOD

Thursday May 20th 7:00PM

Oakridge Country Club Parking Lot

7:00PM Directly after the ONA General Membership meeting

Catered by Desperado's Mexican Restaurant

Games for the kids and music for the adults

Please come out and show your support for your neighborhood

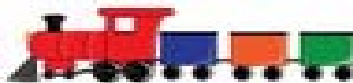
Sponsors: ONA, The Daytimers & The Oakridge Women's Club

Bring lawn chairs and any other special needs

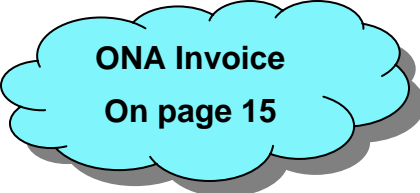
It will be cancelled if the weather is bad



FUN



GAMES



Membership Drive Begins—Goal 500

By Cecile Labossiere

I hope that all of you survived the winter snow and are enjoying the beautiful spring weather. Our membership campaign is also getting ready to spring into action!

Your Invoice is in this newsletter on Page 15

We are trying something new this year so inside this edition of the newsletter you'll find our membership application. We included it with the newsletter this year in an effort to reduce our costs for printing and postage. We will not be mailing a separate invoice so please make sure you fill out the application that is enclosed in the newsletter and mail it back to join or renew your membership.

A drawing will be held during the Thursday MAY 20TH "SPRING FLING"

As an added incentive to join, we have been fortunate enough to receive donations from local businesses that will be used as drawing prizes for members that join or renew by May 20th. We have some great giveaways and you can participate simply by joining or renewing now. The drawing will be held at the Spring Fling and you do not need to be present to win!

Why should I join the Oakridge Neighborhood Association?

- We make sure that all the landscaping, flowers, plantings, sprinklers and lighting are maintained year round at all of the entrances and common areas. We take care of it so you don't have too. And honestly, who would take care of it if we didn't.....
- We welcome new neighbors to Oakridge. This sets us apart for most neighborhoods. We are a community and many of us know our neighbors and enjoy being part of a community that looks out for one another. Oakridge isn't just a place to live it is home, family and community.
- We stay in contact with the City of Garland so that we can be sure they consider the best interest of Oakridge when making decisions about city planning and appropriating funds.
- We keep a close eye on crime and unusual activity in the neighborhood and we communicate that information to our members. This really helps to keep our crime rate low and residents feel safe here. Just take a look around and you can see that many of our neighbors are out walking, jogging, etc. during the day and evening hours.
- It's only \$60.00 a year! That's a real bargain just \$5.00 a month makes all of this possible. Your financial support and willing volunteers make Oakridge a special place for all of us. Don't rely on your neighbor to pick up the cost. We need every resident to do their part by becoming a member this year.

Where does the dues go?

As with any contribution, you should be concerned about how your money will be spent. Take a look through the newsletter for the Treasurer's report which provides a detailed description of how your dues dollars are spent.

A special thanks to our members that continue to support us by renewing their membership in the ONA. For those who have not been members in the past – why not give it a try – it will make you feel good about becoming a part of your community and you could be just the person we need to get us to our GOAL 500!

OAKRIDGE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION ELECTION NIGHT

THURSDAY MAY 20, 2010 6:30 PM OAKRIDGE COUNTRY CLUB

MEMBER VOTING AT 6:30 PM INSIDE THE COUNTRY CLUB FOLLOWED BY AN EVENING BUFFET AND ENTERTAINMENT

Candidates for Open Positions to be voted on:

PRESIDENT	OPEN
VICE PRESIDENT	Jack Lang
SECRETARY	Sylvia Rhode
DISTRICT 1	Deb Pandak
DISTRICT 3	Lori Oswald
DISTRICT 5	Felix Rotello Jr.

Returning Board and Committee Positions:

TREASURER	Dave Morgan
DISTRICT 2	Becky Thomas
DISTRICT 4	Dan Nichols
DISTRICT 6	Mark Edwards
DISTRICT 7	Sharon Parrish
MEMBERSHIP –WELCOME	Cecile Labossiere
ENVIRONMENTAL	Joe Fagan
CRIME AND SAFETY	Bill Olive
COMMUNICATIONS	OPEN

Treasurer’s Corner – May 2010 ©

By Dave Morgan – Treasurer – Oakridge Neighborhood Association

Well, it’s that time of the year to reflect on the ONA’s fiscal year for the twelve months ended May 31, 2010. Our next articles will fall into the next fiscal year when mailed. First, it has been an honor to serve as Treasurer. JoAnn Williams was the Treasurer for prior several years, and she kept the records in stellar shape giving me a solid foundation to make my year much easier.

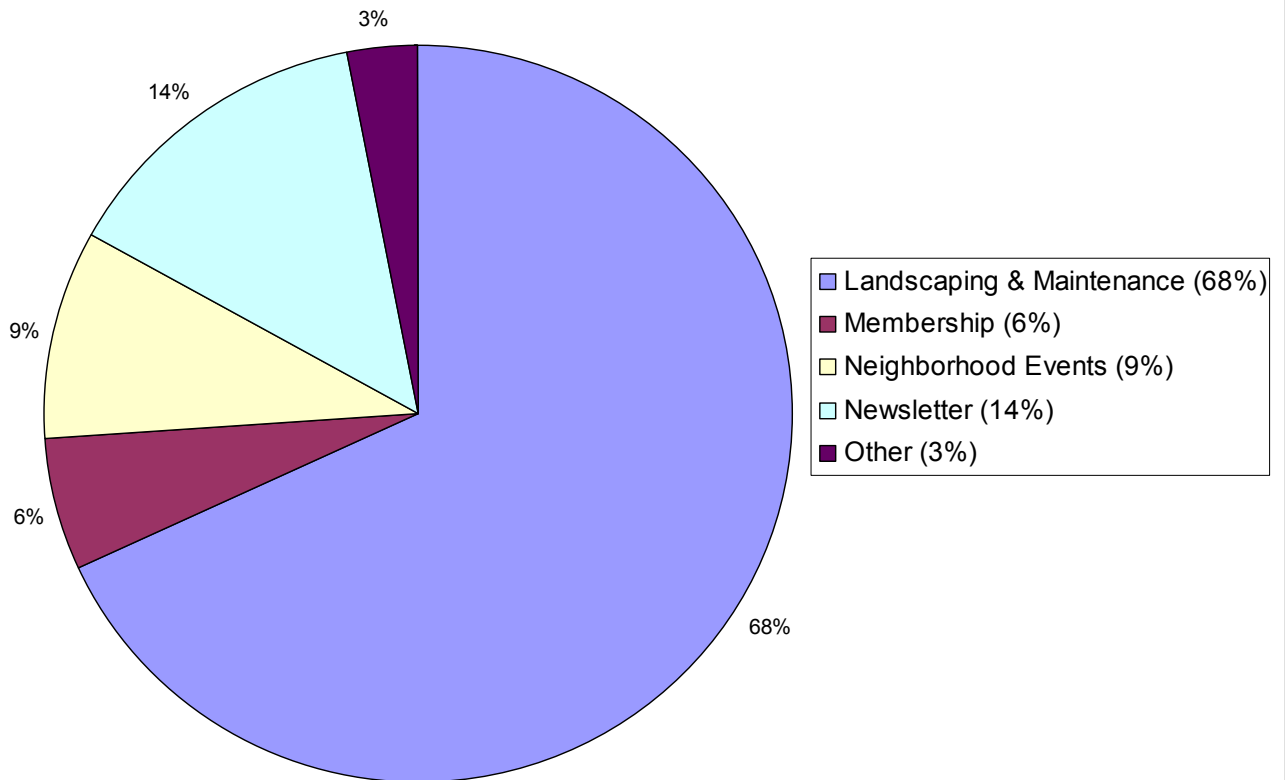
There were a few “myths” encountered in my journey that I’d like to dispel now that I have some experience.

- MYTH 1- The people that are the officers and directors and adjutants of the ONA run it for their benefit and with their own interests and pet projects taking priority over proper ONA needs. FACT – The officers and directors and adjutants devote a lot of personal time, and all for free, to serve the membership and Oakridge at large to make it a better place to live. Although everyone might bring some of their own directional ideas to the table, there is considerable deliberation taken to arrive at our decisions on what to do and not do. We all do not agree with one another at all times, but we seek to do our best.

- MYTH 2– If you are a member of the Oakridge Country Club, you are automatically a member of the ONA and eligible for all its activities. FACT – While the Country Club is certainly a bedrock foundation in Oakridge, the ONA is a separate and distinct entity from the Country Club, and there are privileges of being an ONA member.
- MYTH 3– All my dues go to throw parties that only a select few (and even their friends that are not ONA members) benefit from attending. FACT – The budget for parties (see below) is very small, and the goal of ONA parties is to foster interaction with your neighbors. These events are very difficult to pull off. Remember our National Night Out event got cancelled twice due to flooding last year, and we had all kinds of donations (that means FREE) of products, services, and entertainment.

Annual membership dues are \$60 a year. As a Realtor, jaws drop when I tell others what the ONA does and then tell them of the dirt cheap dues that average \$5 a month – one cup of those designer coffees. Your ONA dollars for the June 1, 2009 through the May 31, 2010 are projected to be spent as follows as a percentage:

2009/2010 ONA Expenditures



Treasurer's Corner

Continued from Page 4

To wrap things, here is a listing of our financially related accomplishments this year.

1. Since we cannot afford insurance as an association, we have been appropriating a \$1,000 a year in reserve in a CD. We changed the CD renewal date to be at the end of June to allow new officers a chance after their June 1 start date to get their feet on the ground before having to get banking changes made to make this renewal happen on a timely basis.
2. The ONA website was upgraded to be current and to provide a neighborhood and Garland specific information source since we have virtually no community newspaper. Our advertisers are also shown with their listing of services on the home page of the website, and this became yet another selling point to advertise in our newsletter.
3. Just like our website, there was a renewed focus on the monthly newsletter to provide a neighborhood and Garland specific information source since we have virtually no community newspaper. Our advertisers increased in numbers, and we also asked that they share their expertise via a contribution of an article or two or more. We also focused on getting the publication done in a consistent window of time each month, and to increase the quality and range of articles. With more quality articles and more advertising space sold, our page size has increased from 8 pages to 10 pages to 12 pages and now to 16 pages. The cost to print is higher but has dropped on a per page basis due to volume; the cost to mail is exactly the same piece rate since our current piece weight has not gone to the next piece rate tier. Our cost savings in items 7 and 8 below, more than pay for the additional pages of useful information in our newsletter.
4. There was focus to direct the ONA to its required not-for-profit direction by expending recent year accumulations on deferred ONA mission projects.
5. We unfortunately were very delinquent on our Federal not-for-profit income tax filings, and were very fortunate that our tax-exempt status had not been revoked. Pursuant to negotiations with the IRS, we were allowed to file the most recent three years to get current. Again, JoAnn's great record keeping helped me to make this process much easier to accomplish.
6. Due to the delinquent filings above, we were duly charged a penalty for late filing of nearly \$2,400. However, my CPA experience helped to get that penalty successfully abated via my correspondence with the IRS.
7. With the Federal tax-exempt status properly in compliance, application was made to the State of Texas to become tax exempt from (a) the Texas franchise tax and (b) Texas sales tax and use tax. For the former, the effective date was back to March 29, 1993; for the latter, the effective date was back to November 5, 2009.
8. Texas Exemption Certificates were issued to all of our monthly recurring vendors, and any relatively recent vendors. From the November 5, 2009 effective date, we no longer effectively paid sales tax. We have either received vendor refunds (or are awaiting them) for all sales tax paid since the effective date, or obtained a Texas Assignment of Right to Refund form that allowed us to file a claim with the State to have the Texas Comptroller refund the money for that same period.
9. In an effort to make things more efficient as well as cost effective, YOUR 2010-2011 MEMBERSHIP DUES INVOICE IS ON PAGE 15. PLEASE DETACH IT, COMPLETE IT, PLACE IT AND YOUR PAYMENT IN A RETURN ENVELOPE, PEEL THE ATTACHED LABEL AND AFFIX IT TO THAT RETURN ENVELOPE, AND MAIL IT BACK AS SOON AS YOU CAN! We hope to save the cost of separately printing, labeling, and mailing these invoices so that we can direct more dollars to better ONA project usage. We need your help to make this successful!
10. We are getting competitive bids for any projects where the expenditures warrant. These may be for recurring projects or one-time projects.



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Citizens on Patrol (COP) Report

By Bill Olive

Since this edition of the Oakridge Newsletter will be received by all Oakridge residents, I felt it was important that we review what our program does for the neighborhood. During the past several years the Citizens on Patrol and Crime Watch group have become one and the same in looking out for crime and safety in Oakridge. Most all crime watch neighborhood groups in Garland have evolved into citizen patrol units under the direct supervision of the Garland Neighborhood Police Unit and the individual NPO officer assigned to their district. Some officers refer to the Citizen Patrol as a "crime watch group on steroids". Oakridge has had a Citizen Patrol for over 12 years. The duty of the patrol is to take an active part in crime prevention in their respective neighborhoods. Patrol members must complete a training class provided by the Garland Police Department, and are instructed on ways to patrol in cars, on foot, and by bike. The objective of the program is to provide more eyes and ears on the streets of Garland observing and reporting crime and/or suspicious activity. In Oakridge, most of our patrol is done by vehicle with clearly visible magnetic signs displaying "Oakridge Citizen's Patrol". Our current group consists of 9 active members who "patrol" for as much time as they are able. Almost half of our members are graduates of both the Garland Citizen's Police Academy and the Garland Fire Dept. Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). Two members recently graduated from the Garland Citizen's Fire Academy. If any resident wishes to take part in the C.O.P. program please contact me (all qualified residents of Oakridge may apply). While C.O.P is an independent group, operating under the supervision of the Garland Police Dept. most of us are also members of the ONA and cooperate in many ways with them. All expenses incurred by the C.O.P. come directly from the individual member's pocket or from occasional generous donations by Oakridge residents. The Garland Police Dept. does not provide equipment such as signs, shirts, decals, etc. What is provided is some very interested police officers who try extremely hard to help the neighborhoods they are assigned to. We are blessed to have one of Garland's finest as our NPO, Officer John Capers.

Each month we provide residents with crime statistics for our neighborhood and also information which may be helpful about

crime prevention along with interesting items from our police and fire departments. In addition to an article in the ONA Newsletter, we send out timely "Siren Alerts" to residents wishing to be notified of anything they need to be aware of to help prevent crime in our neighborhood. These "alerts" are sent out by email and may cover anything from watching out for a specific person, vehicle, or the latest "scam" reported in our city. These emails often are generated by information we get from our NPO, police press release, other area C.O.P. groups, as well as alert and concerned Oakridge residents. Contact me if you wish to receive "The Siren"(972-495-3402).

Recently the ONA donated funds to the C.O.P. to purchase "slow down" signs which we have been placing on streets where "speeding" may occur. A generous Oakridge resident donated funds that have allowed us to purchase a "radar gun" which we have just started to use to collect data on potential speeders. The use of this gun has been approved by the C.O.P. supervising officer and even recently got a thumbs up from the police "traffic" department. In addition, we have been monitoring a couple of 4 way stop sign intersections because of some complaints from homeowners. At the time of writing this, it appears that most of the "stop sign running problem" involves drivers who fail to come to a full stop, instead drivers appear to check for oncoming or cross traffic, seeing none, they just drive right through. The data we are gathering will be evaluated and if necessary, the NPO or traffic unit may intervene to issue citations. This is not a new item on our agenda, we have been doing this "stop sign monitoring" for several years, and in the past it has resulted in an officer being assigned to the immediate location to "Stop" vehicles and issue citations.

In addition to the above items, from time to time Officer Capers will advise us about a person or vehicle to be on the look out for and why. If requested we can take photos and information to retail outlets outside the immediate area notifying people there of wanted or missing people. A Citizen on Patrol member knows our neighborhood, we respond to calls from resident's when they see or hear something unusual, we monitor homes and property when resident's are away. We share crime activity information with neighboring areas and they share with us. This not only helps us

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COP

Continued from Page 6

to be aware of any potential problems, but also helps the police department.

Garland's Traffic Unit: This group of police officers is a very highly trained and specialized unit that is responsible for not only traffic enforcement but investigation of fatalities and major accidents. Officers are always ready to respond to "hit & run incidents 24/7. The unit consists of 10 motorcycles, 4 unmarked cars, and 2 supervising lieutenants. One can easily see the "traffic unit" is spread thin throughout our city. Officers from this group are distinguishable by the "red" epaulet on their shoulders. A traffic officer told me recently that he could write speeding tickets all day on 190 even though the state increased the speed limit. It seems some drivers are never happy just driving the maximum limit--they feel the need to increase it even more--I guess some people just want to always be first in line! Now, I do not want to give the impression that ticket writing is the main function of the unit--far from it. Any of these officers will tell you their main goal is to save lives through enforcement.

Oakridge Incidents for April from 4/1 - 4/17: C.O.P. groups get weekly updates from the Garland PD

22XX Diamond Oaks - Burglary-Habitation on 4/16

23XX Lone Oak - Burglary-Vehicle on 4/16

32XX Bending Oaks - Burglary-Vehicle on 4/16

22XX Overview - Theft on 4/2

On a good note: Many Oakridge residents, especially along Oak Springs may remember a young man named Greg who lived here with his parents several years ago. His name is Greg Huff and recently he was promoted to Captain in the Garland Fire Department. When several of us went through the CERT program a couple of years ago he was our instructor and then held the rank of lieutenant. He received his well earned promotion this past year. Congratulations Captain!!

It appears that most crime in of Oakridge occurs either in the morning or late early morning hours, therefore we are planning on doing more patrols during those hours. Our vehicles will all have the C.O.P. logo on the side, and the police dispatch knows we are

out, what we are driving, for how long, and in what area. They also communicate this information to the patrol officers working in the area. Any questions about the C.O.P. group and what we do please contact me at above email or phone number!! Remember, we can always use extra eyes and ears, and we would love to have new recruits for the next training class--it takes only a brief time to become certified as a C.O.P. member--ask me for an application and I'll get it to you asap. We are also always looking for those residents who want to be involved but can not dedicate time to driving, biking or walking around our neighborhood. We can use anyone who is a "nosy" neighbor--to help watch for crime or possible criminal activity and report it to us. We can also always use people who are at home during the day to help us make phone calls to alert neighbors in their immediate area. Oakridge residents working together to help each other--as Martha Stewart says, "It's a good thing". You may not catch any "bad guys" or solve any crimes, but, you'll get to meet some wonderful Oakridge neighbors.



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SINGLE FAMILY RENTAL INSPECTION PROGRAM

By **Rio Orticio**, *Housing Standards Manager* City of Garland

The City of Garland is a pioneer city in the DFW area when it comes to the municipal rental inspection program. The single-family rental inspection ordinance took effect in April 2005. Many neighboring cities have inquired about the rental inspection program and subsequently passed ordinances similar to the City of Garland's.

Pursuant to City of Garland Code of Ordinances, Section 32.09, "Neighborhood Sanitation and Housing Services", all leased rental houses must be permitted. The annual registration is \$55.00 per property. To ensure compliance, utilities are not released to rental properties that are not registered.

Single-family rental properties are subject to an inspection each time there is a change in tenancy. During the inspection both the exteriors and interiors of the dwelling are inspected. The inspection includes checking the functionality of the smoke detectors, water heater, HVAC system, plumbing system, electrical system, structural system and other critical components of the house.

In 2007, the Landlord Certification Class, an educational component of the single-family rental program, was initiated. This

three hour class introduces the landlords and property managers to the rental inspection process and the minimum housing standards that must be met to lease a property in Garland. Upon completion, the certified properties are no longer subject to change in tenancy inspections and their registration is extended for an additional two years. Tenants can request an inspection any time there are perceived code violations at the property. The certification may be revoked if there has been a conviction on a code violation at the property or a work order has had to be performed by the City to abate code violations present.

Since the inception of the Single Family Rental Inspection Program the Code Inspectors have conducted 21,953 inspections and the number of rental properties with observed violations has been reduced by nearly sixty percent (60%). The rental program is a vital component in improving and maintaining the overall quality of the housing stock within the City of Garland.

Inquiries to the Single Family Rental Inspection Program staff or complaints about rental property may be directed to 972-205-6400 or www.garlandtx.org.

District 7 Council Report

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ONA Newsletter

weekly electronic publication, "Neighborhood Chatter". Neighborhood Chatter is a way to provide timely information and announcements without flooding your inbox with numerous emails. Neighborhoods are encouraged to provide neighborhood stories and ideas to include in the e-newsletter. Information must be submitted no later than the Wednesday prior to publication. Publication dates are provided in the newsletter. If you would like to sign-up for this electronic publication, you may send an email to Tracy Allmendinger at tallmend@ci.garland.tx.us

Have you ever been subject to a minor crime (e.g., vandalism, something taken from your garage when the door was left open, etc.), and you didn't want to call 911 and the administrative line at GPD can be slow, so you just blew it off? I recently found out that GPD has a new way for you to report this on their web site, and it also allows you to get a police report number for insurance pur-

poses. Go to www.garlandpolice.com, then click "Reports/Links" and then click "Citizen On-line Reporting." I was not familiar with this function, and in talking to GPD, it is new and still being tweaked, but it works.

I laughed out loud reading the *Dallas Morning News* story recently where several Dallas Council representatives want their annual salary raised from \$37,500 to something in the \$80,000 to \$100,000 range. This would have to be approved by the voters in Dallas, and I suspect in these economic times, that's not likely. In case you are wondering what I get paid as a Garland City Councilman, it's \$400 per month. This is a not-for-profit job if there ever were one. Groom and Son's is having their grand opening on March 8th Groom.

As always, if you have questions or concerns, feel free to call me (214 535-2648) or E-mail me at rickwilli@gmail.com.

Oakridge Daytimers April Coffee

By Dianne Winters

A beautiful spring day lured a record number of Daytimers to the April 13th meeting at the home of Sally Weiss. Sally and hostesses greeted the members and directed them later to food and beverages prepared by Monica Evans, Sallie Lang, Brenda Olive, Beverly Pierce, and Betty Prickett. We especially thank those who offer to hostess a meeting at her home and to the many who prepare the food.

Since Daytimers was founded on the promotion of community spirit, the program for this meeting promoted the Garland Community. The speaker, Sue Watkins, is a native of Garland and has worked for the Garland newspaper since 1971. Her column now appears in the Dallas Morning News in the Neighbors section. Sue included stories about early newspaper life and the pickle

factory. She suggested some books of Garland history to read and the Landmark Museum in Heritage Park to visit. A few Garland upcoming events were noted and she answered several questions pertaining to Garland's history and activities.

Ruby Nell Ormon, president, asked for group leaders' and officers' reports that included a Book Club change of location announced by Peggy Crenshaw and the announcement of birthdays by Audrey King. Margaret Fowler invited members to an evening bridge group and Ruby Nell asked for players for a new Blackout Game and afternoon bridge groups.

The list of offices for the club was read and the president asked for volunteers. The slate of officers for 2010 - 2011 will be announced at the next meeting.

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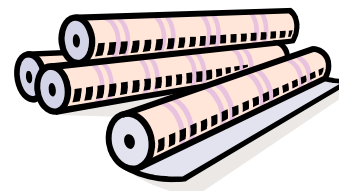
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OAKRIDGE RESIDENT SINCE 1996
ONA MEMBER/FORMER BOARD MEMBER
QUALITY WORK DONE BY THE OWNER
INSURED



Oakridge Daytimers April Coffee

Continued from Page 8

The next meeting will be held at the Oakridge Country Club on May 11th. Please pay \$10. to treasurer, Mary Pattie, by May 6th.

Daytimers is a social organization that requires residence in Oakridge and \$15.00 annual dues. Daytimers promotes the Oakridge community and the Oakridge Neighborhood Association.

Any questions should be directed to president, Ruby Nell Ormon, 972-414-4775.

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Arts flourish in Garland

By Patty Granville

With the completion of the Garland Center for the Performing Arts in June of 1982, the City of Garland began a trend among Texas suburbs to build local facilities where the arts would flourish. The Garland complex includes two luxurious theatres, seating 720 and 200, dressing rooms, kitchens, meeting rooms, a rehearsal hall and a spacious lobby area for receptions. The Theatres at The Arts Center provide the perfect setting for performances ranging from plays to symphony concerts.

The Granville Arts Center became the prototype for other centers in the North Texas area. Surrounding cities including Irving, Plano, Richardson, and Mesquite all studied Garland's Art Center before they created their own cultural centers.

The Garland Cultural Arts Commission was established in 1986 and has played an active role in the development of the arts community. The GCAC has also developed a grant program whereby meritorious cultural groups may apply for funding on an annual basis.

The Plaza Theatre, located on the square in downtown Garland, was donated to the City of Garland in 1991 by Sherri and John Skelton II. It was elegantly renovated in 2001 by the City of Garland. The spacious domed lobby of the Plaza Theatre features a spectacular chandelier and a 350 seat auditorium.

In 2003, the magnificent new Atrium at The Granville Arts Center was dedicated. The exquisite setting for the Atrium has made it an

extremely popular choice for special events such as wedding receptions, fundraisers and conventions. The Atrium's luxurious glass-lined lobby covers over 3100 sq. ft. The 6500 sq. ft banquet hall is encased in glass on two sides and opens onto a spacious courtyard.

Garland has three Major Affiliate Arts Groups. Garland Civic Theatre (972-485-8884), founded in 1968, is located on the downtown square. The Garland Symphony Orchestra (972-926-0611) was founded in 1978 and The Garland Summer Musicals (972-205-2790) were created in 1983. Two-thirds of the ticket holders to these arts groups come from outside Garland, which is a tribute to the professional quality of their productions.

In the past year, the Granville Arts Center Complex and the Plaza Theatre attracted approximately 180,000 patrons for plays, concerts, meetings, and receptions. Today Garland has one of the largest audience bases of all the Dallas suburbs. The Granville Arts Center complex is owned and operated by the City of Garland.

The Arts have been a key ingredient to the development of downtown Garland. The Granville Arts Center and the Plaza Theatre combine to produce a dynamic force, enhancing the quality of life for Garland citizens today and in the future. For more information on the Arts in Garland visit the website at www.garlandarts.com.



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Garland Arts resources

www.GarlandArts.com
www.garlandcivictheatre.org
www.corptheatre.com
www.garlandsymphony.org
www.GarlandTexasOpry.com

More Art Information: 972-205-2782

More GSO Information: 972-926-0611

Garland Arts Snapshot for May

May 1 Garland Chorale Presents Mozart's Coronation Mass
8:00 pm Granville Arts Center – Main Auditorium

May 1-8 "Funny Girl"
Granville Arts Center – Small Theatre

May 2-June 29 Art Exhibit Featuring Works of Deya Harris
Granville Arts Center Gallery

May 4 GISD 8th Annual Patty Granville Theatre Awards
7:00 pm Granville Arts Center – Main Auditorium

May 4 Classical Center at Vial presents "Disney's Mulan"
7:00 pm Plaza Theatre

May 7 Garland Symphony Orchestra Concert
8:00 pm Granville Arts Center – Main Auditorium

May 8 Calico Kids Dance Recital
1:00 pm Granville Arts Center – Main Auditorium

May 8 Tish Rogers & Students Present "Color My World"
2:00 pm Plaza Theatre

May 11 "Godspell Junior"
7:00 pm Plaza Theatre

May 14 "Peter Pan"
11:00 am & 7:00 pm Plaza Theatre

May 15 London School of Dance Spring Performance
6:00 pm Granville Arts Center – Main Auditorium

May 15 Praise In Motion 2nd Annual Celebration
5:00 pm Plaza Theatre

May 21 & 22 Westwood School presents
Shakespeare's Cinema 6:30 pm Plaza Theatre

May 22 Mexico 2000 Ballet Folklorico "Mexican Images" 2010
7:00 pm Granville Arts Center – Main Auditorium

May 26 "Peter Pan"
7:00 pm Plaza Theatre

May 27 Sachse High School Jazz & Percussion Concert
7:00 pm Plaza Theatre

May 29 Melva Smith School of Dance Recital
6:30 pm Granville Arts Center – Main Auditorium



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Pitch in for the Environment

By **Glenna Brown, Environmental Waste Services** City of Garland

In last month's newsletter, we learned about Garland's landfill, with an assurance of tips to conserve landfill space in this edition.

A typical family consumes 182 gallons of soda, 29 gallons of juice, 104 gallons of milk, and 26 gallons of bottled water a year. That's a lot of plastic containers – are you doing your part to make sure they are recycled? Every individual, every family, every business in Garland can make a difference for the environment by recycling. Garland's Environmental Waste Services Department (EWS) makes it easy to "pitch in" for the environment.

Curbside collection of accepted recyclable commodities such as plastic bottles labeled with a #1 or #2 symbol, aluminum cans, steel and tin cans, empty aerosol cans, glass bottles and jars and newspaper and magazines is available to Garland residents. Pitch these items into the red recycle bin, available to every home, and set at the curb for collection every other week on the same day as trash collection. Newspaper and magazines should be bundled separately or placed in a paper bag and set beside the red bin.

Recycling these items ensures that they will be used again to make new products such as fleece jackets or carpeting from the water bottles, more aluminum cans and glass bottles, fans and car parts from vegetable cans, and newsprint to print more newspapers. If bottles, cans, jars and newspaper are thrown into the trash, they end up in the landfill and never can be used again to make new goods. Recycling saves resources, preserves landfill space and saves the City money.

Homes that do not have a red recycle bin can call EWS Customer Service at 972-205-3500 to request a **FREE** bin to get started on the journey to pitching in for the environment.

Residents can also recycle a multitude of products, including cardboard, chipboard (cereal and cracker boxes), telephone books, scrap metal and appliances, auto and truck batteries and used oil and transmission fluid, at the EWS Recycling Center, located at 1426 Commerce St. The Recycling Center is open Monday through Friday, 8 am to 5 pm, and Saturday, 8 am to 3 pm.

Yard trimmings are another valuable product that EWS recycles. When citizens separate trimmings, limbs and tree trunks from other bulky items and place at the front curb for weekly collection, yard trimmings are transported to the C.M. Hinton Wood Waste Recycling Facility, located at 3175 Elm Grove Rd. in Rowlett and then ground into mulch which can be used for landscaping projects. Garland residents who desire to pick up the mulch at no cost at the Recycling Center or at the Wood Waste Recycling Facility should bring shovels and containers to load the mulch.

How can a businesses pitch in? The Commercial Services Division of EWS offers cardboard, office paper and newspaper recycling service to local businesses in specially designed front load containers, roll-off containers or compactors. Recycling is a great way for a business to reduce the cost of waste disposal. Businesses can call Customer Service at 972-205-3500 for more information. Discover that it's never too late to make a difference and pitch in for the environment.

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The ABCs of the GISD

By Chris Moore, Communications Coordinator, Garland ISD

With more than 57,000 students enrolled, the Garland Independent School District is the second-largest district in Dallas County and ranks among the largest in Texas. GISD is comprised of three cities – Garland, Rowlett and Sachse. As suburbs of a national metropolis, the “tri-communities” have always had the best of both worlds – the flavor and feel of small towns coupled with the amenities offered by a large city. This helps maintain a cozy feeling while allowing teachers access to the increased resources offered by larger districts.

Every school in GISD provides the same high level of instruction. However, that doesn't mean you will find clone schools. Campuses, like students, are unique with personalities that reflect the attitudes of their own students, parents and staff. And none have more flair than those situated in the Garland ISD.

Each school has a Campus Improvement Team comprised of teachers, parents, administrators and community representatives. Together, they develop unique plans for the school to continue to build student achievement and to improve the school environment for everyone.

Magnet Programming

GISD has a variety of magnet programs that offer a mix of regular curriculum and specialized courses. Elementary and middle school magnet programs include gifted and talented, math, science and technology, and classical curriculum. High school magnets expand upon these offerings to include television production and broadcasting, law and criminal justice, dual credit, and concurrent college enrollment, just to name a few.

“Freedom of Choice” Enrollment

Only a handful of districts nationwide offer open enrollment options for students. However, none have a “choice” plan as far-reaching as Garland ISD. While other districts use attendance zones to determine who goes where, GISD parents are able to choose the campus they wish to have their child attend. The “Choice of School” period takes place each year in January for the following school year. Each year, 97-98 percent of students receive their first choice school.

School Board

The seven GISD board members are elected at-large to three-year terms. They serve on an entirely volunteer basis, devoting

innumerable hours to overseeing the management of the district. Trustees meet at 6 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month for a work session and the fourth Tuesday of each month for a regular meeting.

Meetings will occasionally be canceled or rescheduled. Special meetings, workshops and public hearings are scheduled as needed. Patrons are encouraged to attend meetings to become more informed on issues affecting the schools or to share their concerns about various issues.

Diversity

The community is both ethnically and economically diverse. We currently have well over 60 different native languages spoken by students in our district. All of our campuses reflect minority/majority ratios of the district as a whole.

Facilities

A point of pride within GISD is the school maintenance program. While always researching the need for new schools, GISD does not ignore the its existing structures. All campuses are on a regular schedule of large-scale maintenance which ensures that inside, even the oldest schools are kept in condition comparable to that of the newest ones. Additionally, older schools regularly undergo major remodeling to accommodate the changing needs of the educational environment. GISD was also the first district in North Texas to construct its own multi-purpose facility, the Special Events Center.

District Facilities:

- Early Childhood
- 2 Prekindergarten Schools
- Elementary
- 47 Elementary Schools
- Secondary
- 13 Middle Schools
- 7 High Schools
- 1 Cooperative Behavior Center
- 1 Evening High School
- 1 Alternative Education Center
- 1 Agriculture Farm
- 2 Athletic Stadiums
- 1 Special Events Center
- 7 Administrative/Support Service Facilities

Observations

Continued from Page 1

to assure the beauty, safety and stability of the area and to promote neighborliness and pride among the residents. There are several articles contained within this issue that support this goal. Please read and then reread this newsletter. If you misplace your copy you can always find most all of the ONA Newsletters (going back many many years) containing these articles and many other interesting and informative items on our web site.

Your ONA Board continues to work towards maintaining and improving the public areas of our Oakridge community, but it can not spend the association's money on private property. Please go back to your September 2009 ONA newsletter and read the article written by Richard Briley, Managing Director of Health & Code Compliance - Steve Killen, Director of Code Compliance. This

article will be found on page six of the September issue. There you will find very specific information relative what is expected of individual homeowners and how they are expected to maintain their own property – some consider one's home as among the largest investments made. You will also find a phone number at the end of the article. Use this number to inform the City of Garland's Code Compliance Department of possible violations found in our Oakridge Community. As one walks throughout our neighborhood it is impossible not to see some homes that are in violation of Garland City Codes. It is essential that all homes in the Oakridge Community are maintained in order to keep all of our major investment at their highest value.

YOUR INVOICE IS IN THE NEWSLETTER



This edition of the newsletter includes the membership application.

We included it with the newsletter this year in an effort to reduce our costs for printing and postage.

We will not be mailing a separate invoice so please make sure you fill out this application.

Instructions:

1. DETACH THE INVOICE
2. COMPLETE THE INVOICE
3. PLACE THE INVOICE ALONG WITH YOUR PAYMENT IN A RETURN ENVELOPE
4. PEEL THE ATTACHED LABEL AND AFFIX IT TO THE RETURN ENVELOPE
5. MAIL IT BACK AS SOON AS YOU CAN

If you have any questions about how to fill out this application then please contact
Cecile Labossiere @ 972-414-8057

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June 1, 2010 through May 31, 2011 Fiscal Year

Please Print Your Name(s), Street Address, City, State, & Zip Code (or Affix Your Mailing Label Here):

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First Name: _____

Spouse or Other: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

The above contact information is exactly the same as the membership information you submitted last year.

YOU MUST FILL THIS OUT TO BE IN THE ONA DIRECTORY:

YES

NO

I WANT **MY NAME ONLY** LISTED AS AN ONA MEMBER AND PUBLISHED IN THE DIRECTORY

I WANT THE INFORMATION LISTED ABOVE PUBLISHED IN THE DIRECTORY.

ANNUAL DUES & BEAUTIFICATION AMOUNT(S) ENCLOSED:

\$60 Annual Dues

\$ _____ Extra for Beautification

Check or Money Order Number (no cash or coin please) # _____

BE INVOLVED WITH YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION:

YES

NO

I am willing to occasionally HELP as a Volunteer.

I would like to be considered in the future for nomination as an officer, district director, or member (or assistant) of a standing committee.

* Your financial support is vital and allows us to continue providing services such as:

* Maintenance for our home value enhancement: Mowing, trimming, plantings, & watering at entrances & perimeter areas

* Social Activities: Block parties, annual picnic, Christmas caroling, welcome baskets, & seasonal decorations

* Monthly neighborhood newsletter * Annual ONA directory * Website * General membership meetings

Thank you for contributing to your neighborhood! Cecile LaBossiere – Membership Director

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Details on page 2

Oakridge News

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ONA General Membership Meetings:

- May 20, 2010

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