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# ◊ Oakridge News ◊

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Vol. 9, No. 4

A Publication of the Oakridge Neighborhood Association

September 2000

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## Scatter Shooting from the desk of Mike Rose

For those who walk their dogs ( have you ever seen a cat being walked ) PLEASE be considerate of your neighbors and your entire Oakridge community. Pick up after your dog. Keep your dog on a leash. When other dogs are approaching be aware of potential problems and react accordingly. Since this newsletter will only be received by members, it would help the whole community if these requests were passed along to your friends and neighbors who are not part of ONA. Thanks

See the information on this page which talks of the topics for our General Meeting on September 28<sup>th</sup>. It should be a very informative meeting. Perhaps you could encourage your neighbors who are not members of ONA to come to this meeting. There will be application forms available. See you at the meeting.

The " benchmarking " questionnaire has been mailed to all who live in the Oakridge community. This is the first step in a long process that the City has established to assist in maintaining strong viable neighborhoods. Again, talk to your friends and neighbors to ensure their input to the City. As the City's letter stated, there will be no way to track the respondents. Honest answers are wanted.

Do you or members of your family belong to the many other organizations within the Oakridge community? Do you know of individuals who belong to some of these groups but do not belong to the Oakridge Neighborhood Association? If so, I wonder why that takes place ?

It still feels like summer but the end of 2000 is fast approaching. The membership of ONA will be faced with the task of electing a nominating committee at the General Meeting on Thursday March 1, 2001. We all need to be thinking of who we would like to direct the Oakridge Neighborhood Association. Although this date is six months away, with all the Holidays in-between the time will fly by. Please give some thoughts and make notes.

## Notes from Mayor Jim Spence

### Re: The Recently Passed City Budget

The Certified Tax base is \$ 7.98 billion dollars. This is an increase of \$ 532 million from 1999. New construction added \$ 182 million to the tax base or about 4% over 1999. The 2000-01 budget totals \$ 363.9 million dollars, representing an increase of \$ 16.5 million or 4.73% over last years budget. We continue to grow.

#### Personnel :

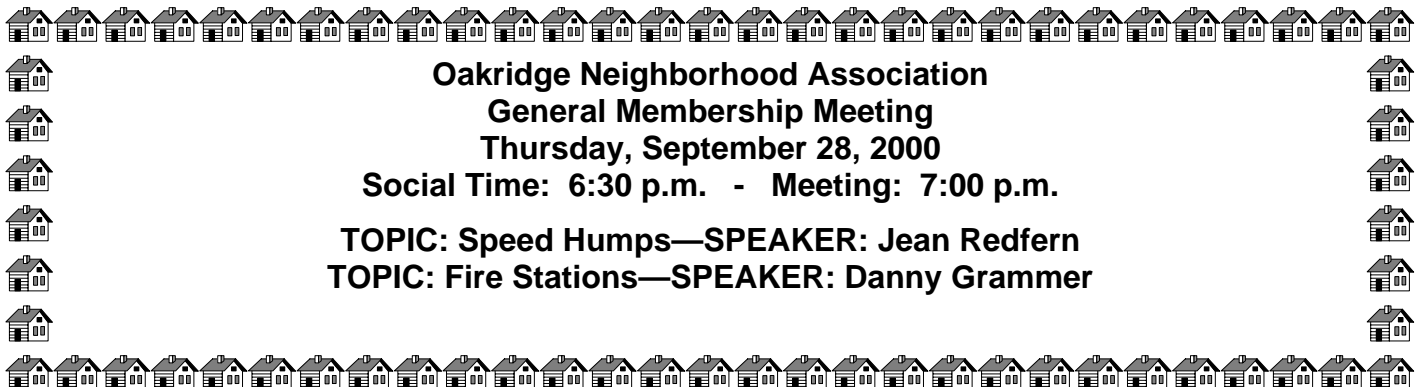
This budget provides for a 5.5% Civil Service pay increase for Police and Fire Department employees, a 1% market adjustment and a 4% merit pay increase for general employees. Employee 7/14 retirement, medical and other employees benefits add almost 30% to the compensation package. A 20 year retirement option has also been added this year. Over 70% of our costs are personnel and personnel-related. Starting with the FY 96/97 through this years budget, general employees will have received a 23% pay increase, Police Department 26.5% and Fire Department 28.4% pay increases over this time period.

#### Property Tax:

This budget has a 2 cent property tax increase, making the new property tax rate 63.3 cents per hundred valuation. 1.50 cents of this is for debt retirement. In 1997 the voters approved a \$ 127 million dollar bond program. The projected impact on the Debt Service Rate is 4.14 cents. Bonds issued to date total about \$ 41.5 million, necessitating this increase. The other ½ cent is to fund additional staff for the new South Garland Branch library, 3 additional Code Inspectors for weekend coverage 5 additional Police officers and some other needed items. If my memory is correct, in 1995 the tax rate was 63.3 cents per hundred valuation. Last year we were able to lower the property tax rate to 61.3 cents, a decrease of 2 cents,

*(Continued on page 5)*

*(Continued on page 3)*



**Oakridge Neighborhood Association**  
**General Membership Meeting**  
**Thursday, September 28, 2000**  
**Social Time: 6:30 p.m. - Meeting: 7:00 p.m.**  
**TOPIC: Speed Humps—SPEAKER: Jean Redfern**  
**TOPIC: Fire Stations—SPEAKER: Danny Grammer**

## OAKRIDGE WOMEN'S CLUB

Libby Morse

### At the Last Meeting:

We met at the Oakridge Country Club and elected new officers:

President.....Libby Morse  
Vice President.....Viki Scott  
Treasurer.....Kay Steelman  
Adult activities.....Sharron Smith  
Membership.....Trisha Klimko  
Sunshine.....Sheila Wange  
Children's activities.....Karryn Torres  
Halloween Party.....Karryn Torres  
Christmas Party.....Kay Steelman  
4<sup>th</sup> of July parade.....Mary Masejewski  
Historian.....MaryAnne Cullum  
Newsletter.....Libby Morse  
Babysitter Packet.....Viki Scott  
Easter Egg Hunt.....Malissa Cheatham



### **Congratulations to our new officers. We are looking forward to a great year!**

We also signed up for the next year's activities. There are great things planned. We paid our \$15 annual dues and updated our information packet.

We had a wonderful time at Tony's Wine Warehouse. We learned a lot about (and sampled) various wines and the food was excellent! The next adult activity is planned for the Richardson Theatre Centre. You won't want to miss Nonsense! It is Saturday Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> at 8 P.M. Call Sharron Smith at 972-530-3873 for more information.

### Next Month:

Our Next meeting is on Tuesday October 3rd at 7:30 p.m. We will meet at MaryAnne Cullum's house. We will discuss the Halloween Party and membership drive. Please call Libby Morse at 972-495-9034 if you would like more information on the OWC. New members always welcome!

We will miss you Suzanne!

### IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

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**Lone Star Gas 1-800-817-8090**  
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**Environmental Code 972-205-3800**  
**Animal Control 972-205-3570**  
**Poison Center 1-800-764-7661**  
**Street Light Repair 972-205-3483**  
**Electricity Emergency 972-205-3000**  
**Water & Sewer 972-205-3210**  
**Councilman, Lowell Hyatt 972-495-9394**  
**Off. Stephanie Funk, NPO 972-205-2740**  
**ONA Hotline 214 -967-5136**

### **LET SUE DO IT**

The refrigerator repairman is coming today  
but you have an important meeting

### **LET SUE DO IT**

You need a week away, but Kitty and Rover  
don't want to go to the Kennel

### **LET SUE DO IT**

The possibilities are endless  
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- Pet/House Sitting
- Errands
- Taking kids to soccer, ortho, Etc.
- Shopping
- Grocery Shopping (Especially for Home Bound Seniors)
- Etc., Etc.

### **LET SUE DO IT**

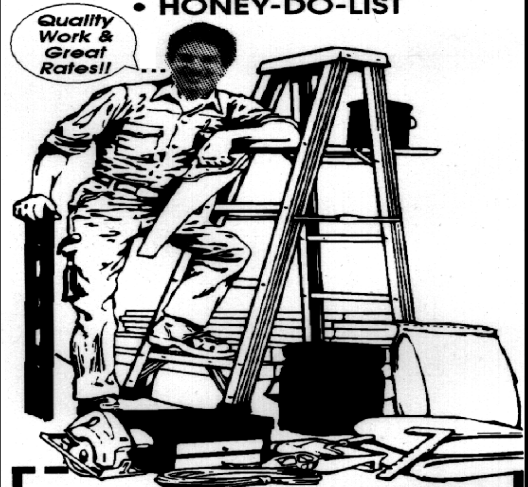
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## **Neighborhood Crime Activity**

Bill Johnson

Our ONA newsletter provides summaries of neighborhood crime activity, a popular and important feature. Crime activity data of interest to us is provided for District 12, Beats 7 and 8. Oakridge is a large part of Beat 7, which is bounded by Jupiter, Shiloh, Apollo, and Buckingham roads. Shiloh, Apollo, North Garland, and Homestead bound Beat 8, to our east. Data for the prior month comes from the Crime Watch meeting, held on the second Thursday of each month at the Police station. Also discussed at this meeting is general information about Garland Crime activity and efforts to contain it.

At the Aug Crime Watch meeting, Police reported the following:

Crime activity for District 12 (covering June 18-July 18) lists 69 items. Fifty-nine of these were in Beat 7, of which two were in Oakridge (habitation burglaries on 7/13 in the 2800 block of Laurel Oaks and on 7/6 in the 2000 block of Diamond Oaks). Forty-two other items all occurred at 3222 N. Shiloh on 7/9 and involved storage shed burglaries. An aggravated robbery was reported in the 3200 block of West Buckingham Road on 7/17. Fourteen items all occurred north of Belt Line and included habitation burglary (3), vehicle burglary (5), criminal mischief (5), and unauthorized use of a motor vehicle (1).

The ten items in Beat 8 (east of Shiloh) included vehicle burglary (1), criminal mischief (7), habitation burglary (1), and unauthorized use of a motor vehicle (1).

A resident has reported that a neighbor who lives on Diamond Oaks was victimized earlier this year when outgoing mail containing personal checks to pay bills was stolen. The thieves copied the checks and wrote additional checks on the account locally and in other states. This resulted in bank overdrafts and much misery for the neighbor. It is not known whether the checks were stolen from the mailbox before being picked up by the post office, but that is a distinct possibility. Apparently, the mailbox's red flag was up, indicating outgoing mail. We might question whether this is good practice or not. Taking mail with included checks directly to the Post Office may be the safest way.

Should anyone need to contact our Neighborhood Police Officer (NPO), Officer Stephanie Funk can be reached at (972) 205-2740, or at skfunk480@hotmail.com.

*(Continued from page 1)*

The new ONA Directory will soon be published. Watch for the new format and information within the cover pages. Thanks to the Membership Committee and the District Directors for taking on this project.

Have you looked up the ONA web site lately? Have you looked up the web site noted in our last newsletter? All comments pertaining to these two sites would be appreciated. Contact your District Director.

The Environmental Committee will be working on designing and coordinating the installation of seasonal color. Any contribution to this effort will greatly be appreciated. The contribution could be financial or labor necessary to install the holiday decorations.

We have had a rough summer because of the relentless heat. We must not forget to tend to our lawn this Fall and Winter. If we do not there will be the largest crop of weeds that has ever grown. If one does not do this it will most certainly affect the value of your home and community. Ask any residential real estate professional to give you their opinion on this. We all would like to have a well maintained community. Thanks for doing your part.



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## **SIGNS**

When placing personal signs at entry-ways, such as garage sales, lost pets, etc., please be considerate of the landscape aesthetics and remove your signs within a reasonable amount of time.

## C.O.P. Training Class

Bill Johnson

Volunteers wishing to assist in our Citizens On Patrol (C.O.P.) activity are required by the sponsoring Garland Police Department to attend a training class before doing active patrol duty. This class is presented by Police Officers.

The next class will be held on Saturday, September 30. It will be held starting at 9:00 am at the GPD office in the Village of Eastgate apartment complex on Plaza Drive.

These classes are held on an 'as needed' basis, so we should take full advantage of this opportunity. Anyone wishing to attend this class and join in this neighborhood safety activity should contact Bill Johnson at (972) 414-1665 as soon as possible. Volunteers can obtain from Bill a form, which must be submitted to the police prior to the class.

We welcome new volunteers to help patrol our neighborhood. The visible presence of someone patrolling the area (either by car or on foot) looking for unusual activity or suspicious situations is a tremendous deterrent to criminals or vandals. Your friends and neighbors have already logged over 1200 hours of patrol duty, checking our streets and alleys. Come give us a hand!



Do you want some fun in your life? The joy of square dancing must be experienced to be believed. Music, friends, food, and great aerobic exercise combine to give you and your mate the time of your life

The Kissin' Kuzzins Square Dance Club is offering square dance lessons beginning September 19 to March 14 at the Senior Center in Garland. Lessons are from 7:30 to 9:30 each Tuesday and the first two lessons are free so you can see if you can stand this much fun.

The cost of the entire program is \$60 per couple. If you bring another couple, you get your lessons free. Call Brady Cox at 972-412-6300 if you have any questions.

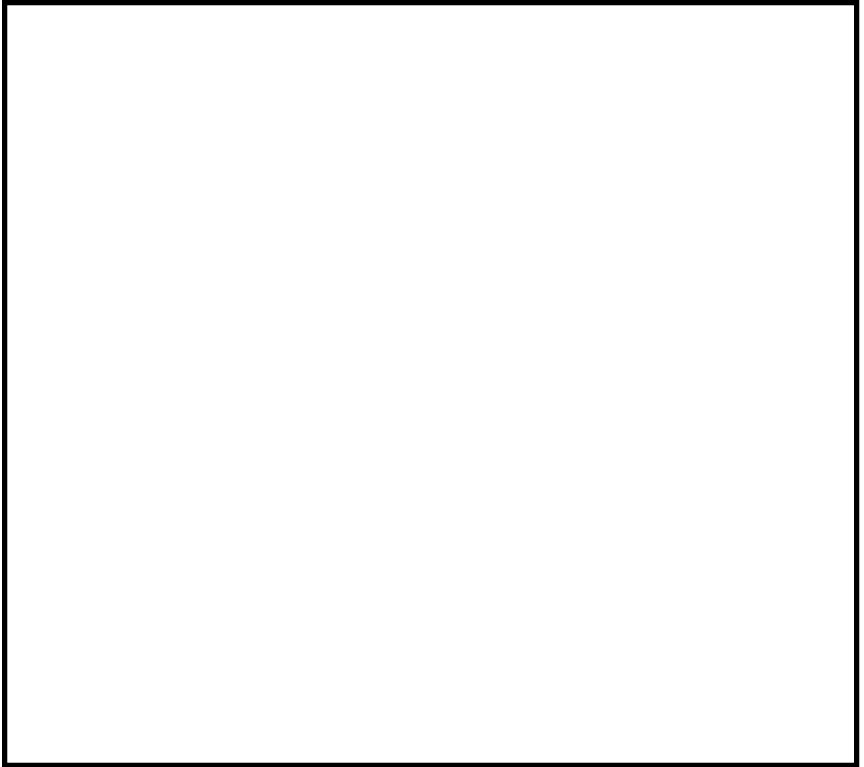
See you at the Senior Activity Center on September 19.

## ONA POET'S CORNER

Bill Johnson

This little rhyme is from a recent Dear Ann Landers column in the DMN. Hopefully it will cause a smile or two – and groans from our English teachers!

Teeth is very nice to have.  
They fills you with content.  
And if you doesn't know it now,  
You will when they have went.



## **SCHOOL SAFETY**

*Peggy Richey*

Remember when your biggest fear in going to school was the teacher selecting YOU to stand up before the class and recite the Pledge of Allegiance? Times have changed. Today the most common fear an elementary student has is being terrorized by the class bully! In fact, according to the National School Safety Center News Service, "one in five students have feared being attacked at school". In the past few years, we have witnessed an escalating problem of youth violence occurring across the country and in our schools. What can YOU do to prevent it and how can we as parents contribute to a safer environment for our children?

Just as there is no ONE cause for school violence, there is no one solution either. However, there is one place where we can start in our homes, with our children. Following are a few suggestions of steps each of us can take in this fight for safer schools.

- A. Talk to and listen to your child
- B. Be available, give time to your child
- C. Set limits and reasonable boundaries to make your child feel secure
- D. Instill values and respect for others
- E. Get to know your children's classmates, friends and families
- F. Stay in touch with your child's teachers, and counselors
- G. Be supportive of teachers and school officials when they find it necessary to discipline your child
- H. Do NOT undermine your child's respect for the teacher; if you disagree with the discipline, talk directly to the teacher
- I. Pay attention to the movies and television shows your children watch, the video games they play and the music they listen to

Safe schools start at home. Since there will always be those children who do NOT get the love and support they need from the home, your help is needed at the school level as well. Contact your local school about their safety program to find out how you can get involved. Let's help make sure that the only fear our kids have of school is when they don't get their homework done!

For more information on School Safety, see Bruised Inside: What our Children Say About Youth Violence, [keepschoolssafe.org](http://keepschoolssafe.org) - A project of the National Association of Attorneys General and The National School Boards Association.

## **TAKE TIME TO TRAVEL**

*(Continued from page 1)*

This 2 cent increase means that the tax rate will be the same as it was in 1995.

### **Sales Tax:**

Some sales comparisons with some of the other Metroplex cities: From the 1999-2000 budget.

Arlington, population 300,000, generates \$ 41 million in retail sales tax; Plano, population 232,000, \$ 40.9 million; Irving, population 180,000, \$ 41.7 million; Mesquite, 119,000 population, \$ 26 million; Grand Prairie, population 115,000, \$ 15 million; Carrollton, 102,000 population, \$ 17 million; Richardson, 89,000 population, \$ 24 million; GARLAND, 204,000 population, \$ 17.5 million. The highest sales tax revenue per capita is Richardson with \$ 268.09. The lowest is Garland with \$ 86.62 per capita.

These numbers show why we must expand our retail sales tax base. This is why the Mall and other retail businesses coming to Garland is of the highest importance.

### **Electric Power Re-Regulation:**

One thing this budget doesn't address is the continued subsidy to the General Fund by the GP&L ratepayers. GP&L has been the "cash cow" for the General Fund for many years. With the soon to be re-regulation of the electricity market, it is imperative that GP&L be able to have comparable or lower rates. TXU has about 15% of Garland's electric power customers and on January 1, 2002 they are mandated by SB 7 to lower their rates 6%. GP&L must be in the position to do the same. Some say "what's the use of having a City power company, if not to subsidize the General Fund". Since 15% of the power customers in Garland do not use GP&L, their rates do not include any money going to the City of Garland general fund. The profit on their rates go to the stockholders of TXU Electric Company. Since the GP&L ratepayer is the stockholder, their power rates should be "costs of service". Property tax rates, water, wastewater and sanitation rates are all based on what it costs to deliver their respective services to the Citizens of Garland. Electric power, in my opinion, should be the same.

This is to be an agenda item on the City Council budget retreat in November and hopefully a solution can be found to prepare GP&L for the upcoming re-regulated market place. If GP&L cannot deliver comparable power rates, our economic development program will grind to a halt. We must start now to prepare for the future.

## Membership Update

*Peggy Richey*

We have seven districts with directors. They are all taking an active role in our membership drive. They will be contacting the homeowners in their district and sharing with them the benefits of belonging to the ONA. Once we have our final membership count, by the end of September, we can begin to create our member directory. It is our goal to have that done in October.

Please encourage your friends and neighbors to join. If they have questions, have them call any of our board members and we can introduce them to the director in their district. Thank you for caring.

## Garland Happenings

There are some very notable things happening in and around District 7 in 2000. As everyone is aware, District 7 is the proud recipient of Garland's newest Tom Thumb Grocery Store. The Garland Economic Development Partnership worked very hard on this project in assisting the Developer, S. C. Companies owned by Craig Evans, son of former Mayor of Dallas and Cullom Companies, Jack Evans. We worked very hard on instilling the need for this shopping center to achieve the same qualities and standards as the Firewheel 190 Corridor Development Standards. The site was outside the boundaries hence the Developer could have built a less desirable project. In addition to the new 62,000 s.f. Tom Thumb, we were fortunate that the site did allow for some additional 12,000 s.f. of strip retail in which again District 7 will be the first district in Garland to receive a Starbuck's Coffee House. You may wonder why did the Tom Thumb put in a Gas Station on the corner. Well as you may have noticed, almost all the grocers today are trying to get into the gas business. Albertson's, Winn Dixie, Minyards, and many others are fighting for the elusive and ever changing Market Share, our dollars. Although in the future some may sell out the gas operations but at least they still have somewhat of control on the customers and the cross marketing techniques.

Other happenings very close to District 7 include the development of the Firewheel 190 Corridor. Recently the GEDP has worked on the company, Sanmina Corporation in building a 91 acre high tech business park on Campbell and 190. Because of our aggressiveness with Sanmina, other High Tech Users are taking a closer look at the Firewheel 190 Corridor and the "can do" community of Garland. Other full service restaurants are considering locations along 190 as well including Outback Steakhouse as they try to get to the Market early before the Mall gets in full gear. Speaking of the mall, the Firewheel Town Center by the largest mall developer in the U. S., hopefully they will begin construction in the first quarter of 2001 anchored by Dillard's, Foleys and AMC Theaters. I spoke with AMC last week and they are very excited about coming to Garland and told me that we are going to be very excited with the end result of our mall. I know it has been talked about for a long time but we have to understand that our Market even today is still in the early stages. The 190 Tollway extension east is a critical link to our mall and other developments in

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*Jessica Acosta*

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the Firewheel 190 Corridor and we are working very hard on assisting the NTTA anyway we can to speed the project along.

Overall the City of Garland is in great Real Estate shape as most of our Shopping Centers are full, the Industrial base which is the backbone of our tax base is going strong and soon we will have a new office market blossom. Garland is very lucky to have it's industrial tax base of \$4 Billion which is half of the residential base of \$4 Billion. Over 200,000 residents have a lot of needs and we are thankful that our industrial base is here to help pull the tax load. Feel good about Garland and our future.

Greg Sims, Vice President  
The Garland Economic Development Partnership  
Representing the City of Garland, the Garland Independent School District and the Garland Chamber of Commerce,  
914 S. Garland Ave  
Garland, Texas 75040



## The OAKRIDGE DAYTIMERS

Dianne Winter



enjoyed their **SEPTEMBER COFFEE** at the home of *Roberta Jones*, president, on Tuesday, September 12. The neighbors enjoyed sharing information, friendship, food, fun and encouragement. New members, previous members and visitors were welcomed with enthusiasm and hospitality. The officers and activity chairmen have been planning suggested events for the upcoming year and everyone was anxious to share their summer activities and prepare their fall calendars. The members honored Roberta as founder of the organization on this second anniversary.

The Oakridge Daytimers have scheduled the following activities for their members and encourage prospective members to attend. We also encourage membership in ONA in order to stay informed of neighborhood concerns and events.

The Daytimers Calendar includes these opportunities of interest:

**OUT TO LUNCH BUNCH:** Go to one of your favorite places on **Wednesday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, 11:30**, at Mama Ruggeri's on the east side of Central across from Collin Creek Mall. Make reservations with *Margaret Fowler* at 972-530-8585.

**Walkers** are still pounding the pavement on MWF, 7am. Call *Mary Pattie* 972-496-6486.

The **Stitch and Chat Craft Group** has completed the tree skirt and members are now able to purchase tickets for this handcrafted piece of art. This group has knowledgeable and experienced leaders, *Noreen Murphy* and *Jackie Tucker*, who can advise you with most hand sewing, crocheting, and quilting questions. Members bring their own projects to share and complete. Meet with them on the third Tuesdays at 10 am. Call 972-530-6999.

Both **Canasta Groups** are attracting more interest. For **Daytime**, call *Barbara Brunette*, (I hear they play almost every day). **Nighttime** meets every other Tuesday night.

For **Bridge**, call *Jane Buchanan* at 972-530-4762. The Beginners meet on Mondays and the Intermediates meet on the first and third Wednesdays.

The **Water Aerobics Group** meets weekdays at 4 p.m. at *Jackie Griffin's*, 972-530-4777.

The **Book Club** will meet **Friday, September 15<sup>th</sup>** at the home of *JoAnn Williams*, 2725 Hickory Bend, 972-530-2938, to discuss the summer reading and to select the next books.

Future Events:

A new **Arts and Crafts Group** with a different project every meeting is in the planning stages.

A **Fun on the Run Group** has planned an **October 12<sup>th</sup> (Thursday)** outing to the **Grapevine Mills**. Meet at 9am at the Pool entrance on the Country Club parking lot to carpool there for shopping, lunch and afternoon return. Call *Martha Boyette* for info at 972-414-9875.

Plan also for the **Friday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>** day-long trip to **Canton**. Remember to bring cash as not all dealers will take charge cards or accept checks! Meet at the pool entrance of the Country Club parking lot. Call *Becky Parks* 972-495-8776 for info.



Mark this date –**Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, 4-7pm, Member-Guest Social!** Members –come alone or bring your husband, friend or guest and your favorite appetizer to enjoy an afternoon of fun and fellowship at the home of *Roberta Jones*, 2601 Oak Point. Call 972-414-7277 for info.

Do you know how to make a perfect cup of tea?

Watch for the **February Tea!**

**DON'T FORGET YOUR SECRET PAL !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

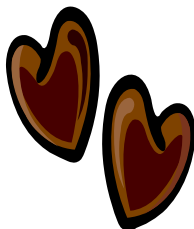


Don't miss the **OCTOBER COFFEE** to be enjoyed at the home of *Mary Pattie*, **2101 Windy Ridge Lane**. Meet with us on the second Tuesday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, at 10am to meet your neighbor. Call 972-496-6486.

## **ANOTHER BLIND DATE STORY**

By Dianne Winter

ddwinter@home.com or 972-530-6210 with other blind date stories



Jackie and Jim Griffin met on a blind date December 3<sup>rd</sup> and got married the following January 20<sup>th</sup> (barely 6wk.) They have been married 22 years! The couple that introduced them were Ed and Vicky. Jim and Jackie were engaged on Vicky's birthday, married on Ed's birthday and they had met on Jackie's birthday.

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