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# ◊ Oakridge News ◊

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Vol. 9, No. 11

A Publication of the Oakridge Neighborhood Association

May 2001

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## President's Corner - Mike Rose

It is finally here—the tenure of the current Oakridge Neighborhood Association Board of Directors will come to an end with the election of new officers/directors at the May 23<sup>rd</sup> general membership meeting. Some will say that is ok, while others would like the direction this Board took the ONA to continue. We must extend the same courtesy to the new ONA Board that was granted to the outgoing Board two years ago. The entire “old” ONA Board would like to thank the members of the Oakridge Neighborhood Association for its continued support with the direction that was taken these past two years. We are confident that it was a positive move for the entire Oakridge area. A personal note; I would like to thank the Board for their continued guidance the past two years.

Do you keep past issues of the ONA newsletter? If you did you could reread articles written by many of Garland's leaders. These people took their time to author an article especially for Oakridge. We should be honored that these City people did that for our community. Many other neighborhood groups utilize the ONA newsletter as a source for information for their respective newsletters. The membership of Oakridge should be proud of our monthly newsletter. The publishing of our newsletter does not just happen. Many hours go into creating it. Contact with each person who will write an article, fitting these into the newsletter, assembling the finished product prior to printing, getting it to the printer and finally the distribution of the finished ONA newsletter. This process goes on each month like clockwork. Do you as a member of ONA know who does all this? Look it up and jot her a note of thanks. Thanks, Jackie.

*(Continued on page 6)*

## Automated Red Light Enforcement Progress Continues

by First Assistant City Attorney Brad Neighbor

The City of Garland continues to move forward on making “red means stop” a reality by implementing an automated red light enforcement program and by seeing that other cities adopt the same sort of program through the enactment of state-wide automated red light enforcement legislation.

Red light violations are a leading cause of intersection collisions and traffic fatalities. Dallas ranks seventh in the nation for the number of red light fatalities per capita. Texas overall ranks fourth. The Dallas area contains the number one, two, and five most dangerous intersections in the entire United States.


Running a red light has been a violation since the installation of the first red light some seventy years ago. The reason so many red lights are run is the simple fact that the likelihood of being caught is low. A test program currently underway in Richardson recorded nearly 300 red light violations at one intersection alone *in one day* - and that involves only one of the four approaches to the intersection. An earlier test program in Richardson recorded up to six violations for each red light cycle on just one intersection approach, with violators entering the intersection as late as nine seconds into the red light and at speeds up to 56 miles per hour.



















The automated red light enforcement program does not create a new crime - it merely makes getting away with a red light violation more difficult. Traditional personal-


*(Continued on page 4)*

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 **Oakridge Neighborhood Association**   
 **General Membership Meeting**   
 **Wednesday, May 23, 2001**   
 **Social Time: 6:30 p.m. - Meeting: 7:00 p.m.**   
 **TOPIC: Traffic & Our Neighborhood!**   
 **SPEAKERS: Mitch Bates** **Commander - North Side Patrol Division**   
 **Tom Payne** **Lieutenant - Traffic Unit**   
 **Sam Castorani** **Neighborhood Police Officer (NPO)**   
 **Vote for new ONA board!** 



## **Oakridge Women's Club**

*Libby Morse*

### **Help! We need Oakridge Residents to volunteer to help with the Fourth of July Parade!**

Call Libby Morse at 972-495-9034 if you can help with set-up, clean up or donate money or items for a raffle! This is a fun tradition for the kids in the neighborhood!

**At the Last Meeting:** We met at Libby's. We talked about the upcoming Parade, and relaxed in the hot tub.

**Next Month:** The next meeting will be held on Tuesday June 5th at Viki's house. The meeting begins at 7:00 P.M. We will finalize plans for the Parade. Please call Libby for further information: 972-495-9034.

#### **About the OWC:**

**New members welcome!** Come and join us at the Oakridge Women's Club. We meet the first Tuesday of each month! It is a great way to get to know your neighbors, their families and have fun! Outings are scheduled with a variety of interests in mind. We have holiday parties for the kids, nights out for the girls, and couples only activities! Please join us! Our dues are only \$15 per year! E-mail Libby at [tomlib@home.com](mailto:tomlib@home.com).

#### **Membership**

*Peggy Richey*

We will soon be voting in a new group of officers and directors for the association. It is always fun to blend the old with the new creating new ideas and solutions for the neighborhood. I am very excited about the number of renewals we have had. We have had a steady stream of renewals with many of them being new owners in our neighborhood. I would sure like to expand our number of district directors to include more than one person per area because I think it would allow us to work together and share the work load with many rather than just a few.

Please take a moment to contact your district director and let them know how you would like to help. I have a list of those of you who have volunteered for certain committees and as soon as the new board is installed and we know who the new directors will be... I will give them your names so that they may contact you. A big thank you to all of you who have joined.

Remember... we are here to serve the neighborhood and appreciate your comments.

#### **An easy disaster kit- camping gear—**

We don't like to think about it, but a disaster --- earthquake, flood, fire, hurricane, tornado, severe storm --- can hit any part of the country at any time. To prepare for such an event, gather emergency supplies into an easy-to-remember, safe and accessible location.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency ( FEMA ) suggest having your camping equipment double as emergency supplies. Keep a backpack filled with such items as extra clothing, food, knife, matches or fire starter, first aid kit, flashlight and water. This could be grabbed quickly in the event of an evacuation.

Call your local Red Cross chapter to request a brochure listing emergency kit suggestions or visit its web site at [www.redcross.org/diaster](http://www.redcross.org/diaster) or FEMA for information on protecting your home from disasters at [www.fema.gov/mit/how2htm](http://www.fema.gov/mit/how2htm).

*taken from the Safeco Customer News, Spring/Summer 2001 issue*

#### **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

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- Etc., Etc.

#### **LET SUE DO IT**

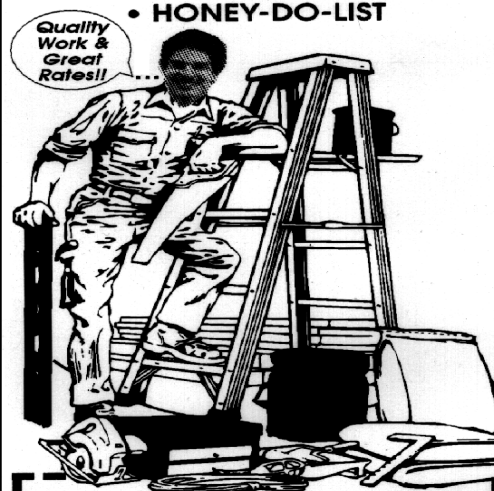
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## Seniors in Garland

by *Ruben Avelar Former City Councilman from District 4*

Through the early years activities for Garland senior citizens received little attention from our local city officials. Most of the churches with larger congregations had a seniors program, In the early 1970's the American Association of Retired Americans was chartered in Garland as Chapter 949 of the AARP. The group met in one of our local churches until the mid 70's. The group lobbied the city council for a facility of their own. When the U.S. Post Office Building on State Street became available, the city acquired the building. The major space in the building was dedicated as a Senior activity center and an activities director appointed.

Activities flourished and attendance overgrew the space. Again AARP Chapter 949 and a core group of its membership lobbied the council for improved upkeep of the Center, which had not had a coat of paint applied to it since its acquisition thirteen years before. In the citizens bond study committees for the 1990 Bond Election this core group, with the help of Mayor Bill Tomlison and Councilman Ruben Avelar managed to get the creation of a new senior center onto the Bond Ballot. The citizens of Garland approved it and the new Senior Activities Center was built and dedicated in 1994. The Council, at the behest of the AARP required the Parks and Recreation Department to establish senior programs at all their park facilities.

The Senior Activity Center offers numerous programs for seniors including travel, music and dance, evening dances with live music, dance lessons, monthly birthday parties, picnics, health fairs, transportation, noon meal, education programs, including computers, writing, foreign languages, book club, game rooms for playing cards dominoes, pool, and of course, bingo. There is something for everyone at the Center, call 972-205-2769 or 972-295-3306 for further information. The AARP meets the third Wednesday of every month, at 1: 00 PM at the Women's Activity Building at the corner of Austin and Glenbrook ok. Everyone is welcomed. Call Sterling Schfhauser at 972-272-8224.

The Garland Retired School Personnel, (formerly the National Association of Retired Teachers) meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month at the 9:30 AM at Schrieber Hall of the First United Methodist Church. Contact Terry Dillard at 972-272-8184. Richland College on Walnut and Abrams offers the "EMERITUS" program for seniors. There are all kinds of fine educational programs, lecture series and exercise activities at nominal fees and regular classes for seniors over 65 at no cost for fees. Call Richland College. The National Association of Retired Federal Employees meets the second Wednesday of the month at Raymond's Barbecue in the 10,000 block of Garland Rd. in Dallas. Close in to Garland. Call Ruben Avelar, 972-271-5966

Most churches have a senior group that meets regularly, call any church of your choice. For information on activities at city parks call Parks and Recreation 972-205-2000 and ask for the Parks Dept The "City Press" a quarterly city published newspaper carries a calendar of all city events. It is delivered free of charge via the U.S. Postal Service,

There are available activities to meet every seniors needs all one has to do is get off the rocking chair and join in the fun and games. It's all up to you.

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(Continued from page 1)

contact law enforcement methods are inherently risky because of the dangers of entering either the intersection or traffic flow in order to catch the violator. Automated red light enforcement provides proof of violations in living color while doing so without risking the lives of law enforcement personnel and innocent drivers.

Violators are not charged with crimes. Instead, the program cites the violator with a civil violation punishable only through a civil penalty that does not count as a conviction for insurance or driver's license purposes. The "fine" involved - \$75 - is approximately half what a traffic ticket issued by a police officer for the same offense would cost. The program allows persons who do not believe they violated a red light to contest liability for the civil penalty. Experience in other jurisdictions using automated red light enforcement programs has demonstrated that most drivers know that they ran the light and thus do not choose to contest the violation. For those who do contest the violation, the full color, full-size photographs of the violation provided in court usually convince the driver that they actually did run the light.

What the program is all about, though, is not punishing red light violators but instead getting them to change their ways. Most jurisdictions with automated red light enforcement programs in place have experienced red light violation decreases of at least 40%. Some, such as those in Arizona and North Carolina, have seen red light violation reductions of up to 75%. The programs work, and they work well. We hope that Garland's program will show the same results or better - for the benefit of all.

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## **Neighborhood Crime Activity**

*Report by Bill Johnson*

Our new Neighborhood Police Officer (NPO) is Sam Castorani. Sam has eight years of law enforcement experience including four years in Garland, and holds a B.S. degree from TCU. Residents wishing to meet him are encouraged to attend the Association's General meeting on May 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Oakridge Country Club. Sam will take part in the meeting agenda, along with Mitch Bates (GPD Commander for the North Side Patrol Division) and Lieutenant Tom Payne (GPD Traffic Unit). This is a good opportunity to meet these officers and ask questions about law enforcement in this area. Phone and email contact information for Officer Castorani will be passed along when available. Residents wishing to report suspicious behavior or unusual activity should call (972) 205-2251 to speak to the dispatcher.

Recently released neighborhood profile statistical data shows that during year 2000 the Oakridge area logged 134 offenses, down significantly from the prior 3-year average of 164 offenses. Comparatively, 34,303 city-wide offenses for year 2000 were close to the 3-year average of 34,210. BUT, there were 49 burglary offenses in Oakridge during 2000, as compared to the 3-year average of 43. Burglary is the most frequent crime committed in the Oakridge area, and many of these occur as a result of garage doors left open and unattended.

Residents with Internet access are encouraged to visit the City of Garland Police Department web page. Contained here are links to several interesting topics, including crime analysis statistics, current crime incidents by district (Oakridge data is contained in District 12, Beat 7), and lists (and photos) of sex offenders in our area. The web page address is [www.ci.garland.tx.us/police/gpd1000.htm](http://www.ci.garland.tx.us/police/gpd1000.htm)

This website reports 10 crime incidents for Oakridge during March:

3/02/01	07:00pm	2800-block	Hickory Bend
Criminal mischief			
3/02/01	10:00pm	2700-block	Hickory Bend
Criminal mischief			
3/02/01	11:30pm	2800-block	Stoneridge
Criminal Mischief			
3/03/01	03:23am	2800-block	Diamond Oaks
Burglary, building			
3/03/01	09:34am	2800-block	Big Oaks
Criminal Mischief			
3/03/01	09:38am	2500-block	Big Oaks
Criminal Mischief			
3/03/01	09:55am	2800-block	Big Oaks
Criminal mischief			
3/06/01	02:43pm	2800-block	Hickory Bend
Criminal mischief			
3/11/01	01:00pm	2800-block	Grand Oak
Habitation Burglary			
3/29/01	04:00pm	3300-block	Ridge Oak
Criminal mischief			

## **Oakridge Daytimers**

By Roberta Jones

What a wonderful time we all had at the 3rd Annual Hats and Salad Luncheon. This event was held in Barbara Brunette's backyard which was transformed into a garden fairyland of pastels. Everything was decorated in soft spring colors, complete with paper streamers flying overhead in the trees. A special thanks goes to Barb and to Betty Prickett for their creative efforts to make this a day worth remembering!

Calendars for the months of May and September were given out by Mary Musseman; there will be no organized monthly Coffees over the summer months. Some of the activity groups will be meeting over the summer, so if you have any questions about what is going on, call the Group Leader as listed below.

### REMINDER OF UPCOMING EVENTS:

**OUT TO LUNCH BUNCH:** Thursday, May 24th at 11:30am at Unlimited Antique Mall (Midway & Beltline). Contact person is Brenda Britton.

**FUN ON THE RUN:** Tuesday, May 22nd for the Dillard's Home Design Seminar at Collin Creek Mall at 1pm. Everyone who would like to go to lunch beforehand, meet at the Oakridge Country Club parking lot by the pool at 11:30am. Contact person is Diane Owens.

A new slate of officers, chairmen and group leaders were appointed and will serve from June, 2001 to May, 2002. Many thanks for their willingness to serve as well as thanks to the nominating committee headed up by Jo Anne Williams.

### OFFICERS

President: Dianne Winter

Vice President/Pres. Elect: Becky Parks

Treasurer: Mary Pattie

### CHAIRMAN

Hospitality: Jo Dietz

Sunshine: Gail Durbin & Assistant Mary Jensen

Secret Pal: Sarah Traylor

Calendar: Mary Musseman

### GROUP LEADERS

Arts & Crafts: Jo Dietz & Roberta Jones

Book Club: Nell Burt

Bridge: Jane Buchanan

Canasta: Barbara Brunette

Fun on the Run--selected individually

Out to Lunch Bunch--selected individually

Stitch & Chat: Norene Murphy

Walkers: Mary Pattie

Water Aerobics: Jackie Griffin & Becky Parks

Name Tags: Jo Ann Williams

Our president, Dianne will be back with all the scoop in the next newsletter. Hope that the Winters, as well as those other members that we heard were on exciting trips in the states and abroad, have had lots of wonderful R & R. Have a great summer everyone and let's all stay in touch. We've got a good thing going in this neighborhood of ours and we need to keep it that way.



(Continued from page 1)

A long standing family has moved from our community. These folks have been involved in many positions in the ONA since 1992. Wally and Jo Ann will certainly be missed. If anything needed to be done, a quick call and the problem would be handled. If a position on the ONA Board needed to be filled, again a call would fill that spot. Not many members could occupy those shoes. Oakridge thanks Wally for supporting Jo Ann and Jo Ann for all of her efforts since 1992. Enjoy the lake.

There is another yeomen who is moving. He has been instrumental in moving the ONA towards a comprehensive plan for "common area" maintenance and development. Cy will be moving to the "farm" and begin to worry how he will develop his own land. The ONA has taken the initiative in the improvement of the "looks" of the entire Oakridge community. We all hope this improved look continues to expand. Talk about improving our property values. Who would not want to live in an area that continues to be concerned about and improve the way it looks? Once more, the ONA extends a great big thank you to Cy for his efforts over these past many years.

I am sure I am leaving out many individuals who have contributed (voluntarily) many long hours to the growth of the ONA. There are those of you who will continue to do so on the new Board. Continuity is a good thing. Continuity is necessary. I thank you for your efforts on behalf of our community.

Contained within this issue you will find the agenda for the May 23<sup>rd</sup> General Membership meeting. The ONA Board hopes you attend this meeting. We believe it will be an informative one. To get to meet the police officers who handle our community is important. To be able to put a face with the voice on the other end of the phone is important, when you have an occasion to make a call to the police department. You'll note that the business of Oakridge will take place after the program.

One item of interest might be the suggested changes to the ONA By-Laws (see page 7). These suggestions are being made to conform the By-Laws to what is actually happening. The present By-Laws may be found in the front of the most current ONA Directory. They also may be found at the ONA web site.

Have you driven around our Oakridge community recently? Have you driven over the traffic/speed sensors? A traffic study was conducted by the city as a result of a request made by the Board. The instruments used to conduct the study are new to the city of Garland. We may be one of the first to test them. We are trying to determine the traffic count and speed on our major arteries. The city will advise the new Board and individuals of the results. Watch for information about this study in future newsletters.

Finally, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Oakridge for its championing the growth of our organization. Although I will not be on the Board my help is offered so to ensure the continuation of that growth.

Thank You.

**Tired of looking at the same old things?  
Does your home need an update?  
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## **Neighborhood Vitality**

*by Lowell Hyatt, Councilman District 7*

When I was asked to write an article about neighborhood vitality for your newsletter, I immediately agreed to do so. As many of you know, neighborhood vitality is a subject on which I have strong feelings and I always welcome the opportunity to comment on it. More important, though, it provides me an opportunity to say "thank you" and to share with you some of my opinions and facts concerning neighborhood vitality,

The "thank you" is for the participation of your Association and many of you in a recent survey done by city of Garland staff. The participants in the survey were asked to rank various factors relating to your neighborhood. The results of that survey and additional information developed by city of Garland staff will be used as benchmarks. In a few years the process will be repeated and benchmarks will be developed again. A comparison of the two sets of benchmarks will help to determine what is happening in your neighborhood with respect to its vitality.

The development of benchmarks for your neighborhood is a part of a pilot project. Similar benchmarks are being developed for four other neighborhoods. The goal is to use the experience and knowledge gained in the pilot project to eventually develop benchmarks for each neighborhood in the city,

A question often asked is, "Why should benchmarks be developed for individual residential neighborhoods in Garland?" The answer is a two-part one. First, the collective vitality ( health ) of the residential portion of Garland will ultimately determine the collective vitality of the city. The vitality of the city will ultimately determine its tax base which determines the amount of revenues available to the city, which determine the quantity and quality of the services Garland can provide to its citizens.

Maintaining / improving the city's current tax base is extremely important. The city of Garland is surrounded by incorporated municipalities and thus can not expand its city limits. Within the next 15 to 20 years, the city will reach build out ; that is, the only undeveloped tracts of land within the city limits will be few in number and small in size. At build out and ever thereafter the city's ad valorem tax base can grow only by increasing the tax value of property which existed at build out .

The second part of the answer to the question is that breaking the city into neighborhoods can the matter of vitality be reduced to manageable sizes. Programs can be tailored to fit individual neighborhoods.

The partnering by city staff and citizens to develop benchmarks for residential neighborhoods commenced within the last two years. That partnering is a recognition that by combining the resources of the city and citizens programs can be developed and implemented which will have a positive impact on the vitality of neighborhoods. That impact will have a positive impact on the quality of life experienced by the citizens of Garland.

Thank you for efforts in helping to insure Oakridge continues to be a fine place to live.

The following changes are being made to clarify the operations of the ONA. For the past several years we have operated as though these changes were in place. Therefore, it would be prudent to have our By-Laws reflect how we operate. Changes are in Italics.

### **Suggested Changes to the By-Laws of the Oakridge Neighborhood Association**

#### **2.5 Meetings of General Membership :**

*There shall be a minimum of four ( 4 ) meetings per year of the general membership. These meetings shall be scheduled by the Board . Each of these meetings should consist of the business brought to the membership by the ONA Board of Directors and an informative and timely ( as determined by the ONA Board ) presentations. The members of the Association shall meet during the last quarter of the operating year at a time and place selected by the Board of Directors and at such additional times and places as the Board of Directors may prescribe. Notice of any such meeting, shall be delivered to each member at least seven days prior to the meeting. Attendance of at least one-twentieth (5%) of the households either in person or by written proxy filed with the Secretary at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the meeting, shall be required for a quorum. Any action which may be taken at a meeting of the members may be taken without a meeting if a consent, in writing, setting forth the action so taken shall be signed by a majority of the members of the association entitled to vote.*

**3.2 Election Procedure:** At a meeting in the *Winter Quarter* of each year, the general membership shall elect a nominating committee consisting of a minimum of five (5) members. Their purpose will be the selection of nominees for officers and directors for the next operating year. The names of the *Officer/Director* nominees shall be provided to the membership *through publication in the ONA Newsletter* prior to the Annual Meeting. Additional candidates may be nominated by any member of the Association at the *Annual* meeting . The election of officers and directors shall be held during the last quarter of the calendar year at the Annual Meeting of the general membership. Newly elected officers and directors shall assume office on June 1 of the year in which they are elected.

**3.3 Vacancies:** If any officer or director resigns or is otherwise unable to serve a full term of office ( except in the case of removal ), a successor shall be nominated by the President within *thirty ( 30 )* days of the vacancy and the nomination to be ratified by a two thirds majority of the Board of Directors. The ratified *Officer/Director* is to serve the remainder of the term.

**(f) The Technical Committee:** Review of the Property as specified in deed restrictions, city codes and applicable laws.



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Vice President	Jim Griffin
Secretary	Fern Cook
Treasurer	Mary Musseman

### DIRECTORS

District 1	Gene & Diana Bauske
District 2	Jim Cook
District 3	June Phipps
District 4	Bill Johnson
District 5	Brenda Olive
District 6	Kelly Prater
District 7	Chris Beyers

### COMMITTEES

Membership	Peggy Richey Nelson Prater
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Environmental	Cy Farver
Technical	Peggy Richey
Crime Prevention	Bill Johnson
Citizens on Patrol	Bill Johnson
Civic Interests	Mike Rose
Welcome Wagon	District Directors
NPO	Sam Castorani