
◊ Oakridge News ◊

Vol. 11 No. 03

A Publication of the Oakridge Neighborhood Association

August - 2002

General Membership Meeting AUGUST 22, 2002 6:30 pm SOCIAL 7:00 pm MEETING

Garland Fire Department's Public Education Officer, Christopher Balanciere will speak to us about "exit strategy" and home fire prevention.

Garland Police Department's, Detective Sgt. Ambrosia, from the "sex offenders unit" will speak to us regarding Garland's sex offender program. Come out and learn how the city deals with sex offenders in Garland and the Oakridge area.

Things are going well at Garland PD, and we hope you and your families are enjoying a safe and happy summer. July 8, thirty new recruit officers entered the Garland Police Academy. We have been working fifteen officers short of authorized strength this year, and went fifteen officers above authorized strength with this academy. Of course, their impact will not be felt until next spring. These recruits will graduate from the academy on December 20, and then begin their 16 week field training phases.

The Garland Police Department has completed an application for CALEA accreditation that is an important step in the history of our department. CALEA (Commission for the Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies) was created in 1979 by the International Association of Chiefs of Police; the National Sheriff's Association, the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, and the Police Executive Research Forum. Since that time, CALEA has provided nationally recognized standards to be met by law enforcement agencies throughout the United States. We will now begin the task of meeting the 433 established CALEA standards. After a period of self-examination, which will take 18-24 months, CALEA will send a team of independent auditors to verify that we have in fact met all their standards. At that time, we can seek CALEA accreditation for the Garland PD. This is an important step for the department and the community. This will assure our citizens that Garland PD is operating at the highest possible level in the law enforcement profession. The process will also provide our citizens with an opportunity to participate in the development and operations of our department. An important part of the accreditation process is community involvement and participation. The CALEA auditors will be visiting with involved citizens across the community for your input and opinions. The standards we will meet run the gamut of our operations from recruiting to use of force. For those of you who might be more interested in CALEA and the accreditation process, we have officers prepared to make informative presentations at your meetings. We welcome your involvement and input. To arrange for a CALEA presentation at one of your monthly meetings, contact Asst. Chief Bill Cor tez at 972-205-2054 or myself at 972-205-2011. Hopefully, thousands of Garland citizens will be informed and involved

in this process.

Garland PD recently completed a new staffing model that will call for a shift in our management philosophy. Traditionally, we have spoken about manpower in terms of officers per thousand citizens. While this has validity, such a model does not take into account the numerous differences in communities around us. The new model, which will be presented to Council during this year's budget process, is based upon the IACP 60% availability model. Currently, our officers are on call, and unavailable, about 75% of the time during their respective shifts. This leaves us with an availability factor of 25%. Garland Officers are currently available about 7 minutes between calls for service. As you can see, this leaves little time for crime prevention, community interaction, problem solving or anything else our citizens might desire or be in need of. Our goal, over the next five years or so, will be to reach the 60% availability factor, thus giving our officers much more time to serve you between assigned calls for service. Time to work on crime problems in specific neighborhoods, traffic complaints, directed patrol projects, and other such activities would be a valuable commodity in our city. We can make Garland a much better and safer city given the resources. Running from call to call to call during our patrol shifts is a revolving door that solves few problems, and creates frustration for our officers and our citizens.

Construction on the new police facility is well under way. Foundations are on the ground, and steel is being erected. I hope each of you will take the time to occasionally drive by and view this project as it progresses. For those of you with access to the Internet, you can view the construction real time, any time by visiting the City's website at www.ci.garland.tx.us. Choose "garland web cams" then select "construction cam". We are certainly looking forward to the completion of this building next year. Lee Lewis Construction is doing an excellent job, and is already ahead of schedule. We have planned a facility that this community can be proud of for many years to come, and has space for the community to utilize as needed.

Again, we hope you all enjoy a safe and happy summer.

~ Larry R. Wilson, Chief of Police

Oakridge Women's Club

Libby Morse

The Fourth of July Parade was a great Success! The children and adults had a lot of fun! The Oakridge Women's club would like to acknowledge all of those who helped make it happen. Thanks to all of those that participated in the parade. The decorations were cute! We really appreciated the spectators along the parade route showing their support! We really want to express our gratitude to Tracy Murphy and her family for coordinating the event and the Oakridge Country Club for the facility!

Mark your calendar now for the August Meeting -- Tuesday, August 20th at 7pm at Oakridge Country Club. We will be having officer elections and Planning the upcoming year.

If you are interested in joining the OWC please call Libby Morse at 972-495-9034 or e-mail tom-lib@attbi.com.

We would love to have you!



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Be Your Family's
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*Introducing Our New
2002 Summer Swim Membership
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Now is the time to make plans for your family's summer fun! With our new Summer Swim Membership, you will enjoy unlimited Swimming and Snack Bar privileges from Saturday, May 25th through Monday, September 2nd.

Our Summer Swim Members are also invited to join our Annual Holiday Celebrations and Children's Summer Camps, Swim Lessons and/or Swim Team.



For information call our Membership Office at (972) 530-8008.

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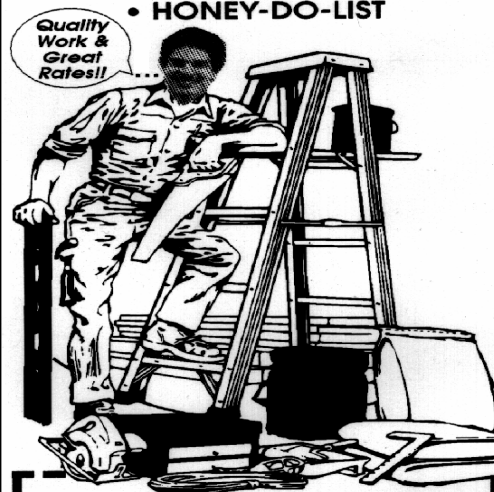
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Dear Friends and Neighbors of District 7:

I wanted to share with you about a recent trip that I took to Bowie, Maryland. Mayor Day, Councilman Hickey, Councilman Dunning, and myself flew on a Saturday morning to tour the Bowie Town Center. For those of you who do not know, this is the same mall concept that Simon Properties is planning to build for the Firewheel Town Center, along 190 and Hwy 78. Unlike a traditional enclosed mall, it is an open-design concept, and offers a new, fresh style of shopping, unlike any other in the Metroplex. The Bowie Town Center has approximately 550,000 square feet of retail space, and has been in business for about 8 months. We toured the shopping center, visited with several retail occupants, and discussed their thoughts on the open design concept. Many said that their sales were greater than expected—some even 20% higher than anticipated!

The cleanliness of the facility was one of the first things that I noticed. Everything was clean, neat, and very welcoming. I was also impressed with how the flow of traffic, both foot and vehicle, moved cohesively. As I stood in the middle of the complex, I mentally tried to visualize a shopping center such as this in Garland; only twice as big, due to the fact that the Firewheel Town Center will encompass over a million square feet of retail space. The vision of this is truly exciting; and this

town center will offer Garland a unique and profound opportunity for a first class facility.

The Simon Properties has requested several variances regarding the town center. Variances are being requested due to the fact that the original corridor standards were not set with a town center of this magnitude in mind. Modifications were related to building materials, screening and landscaping, and signage. The Plan Commission approved several of them Monday, July 22 at their regular meeting. All of the requested modifications were approved with the exception of paving material. This particular variance will now move forward to the Council for consideration. The Council will also review the incentive plan offered to Simon Properties at the next work session.

The Firewheel Town Center will play a vital role in the future of Garland's growth and stability. We all will benefit from it both directly and indirectly. I welcome your thoughts and comments about it so that my vote is representative of your voice. Please feel free to call me 972-495-8028 or email council7@ci.garland.tx.us with your ideas.

Until next time,

Mark Monroe



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The Achievement Center of Texas

1310 West Avenue F
Garland, Texas 75040
Phone: 972-272-8343
Fax: 972-272-4634

The Achievement Center will celebrate
25 years of serving special needs children this fall
by moving into a
“Home of Our Own!”

The Achievement Center of Texas is currently located at the corner of Garland Road and Avenue F in the Granger Recreation Center in Garland. We will soon be moving to a new facility which is being built on land donated by Dr. Grace E. Smart at 2950 North Shiloh Road. Our new facility will allow us to meet the needs of twice as many children as we are able to serve today. For our families, this is a dream come true. You can see our under-construction facility at the southeast corner of Belt Line Road and Shiloh Road in North Garland.

The Achievement Center of Texas is the only licensed, nonprofit day care and learning center in the Dallas metroplex specializing in providing services for children and young adults with special needs. The Achievement Center provides full-day care, before and after-school care and summer camp. The client population served includes, but is not limited to, individuals with: Spina Bifada, Cerebral Palsy, Autism, Down Syndrome, Lesch Nyhan Disorder, speech, vision and hearing impaired students and individuals who are physically disabled, mentally retarded or emotionally disturbed.

The Achievement Center has been meeting the needs of these special students since 1977. Our motto is “Giving Ability a Chance” and the Center’s programs focus on giving the children the chance to achieve to their highest possible levels and to involve them in community inclusion activities while learning functional living skills. Our mission is to help these special children develop greater self-esteem and enjoy a higher quality of life.

If you need additional information, or would like to visit us, please do not hesitate to contact us at the above address and phone number. You may also visit our website at www.achievementcenteroftexas.com.

Thank you for helping us “Give Ability a Chance!”



First United Methodist Church of Garland
801 W. Ave. B at Glenbrook
(972) 272-3471
www.firstmethodistgarland.org

SUPPLY DRIVE BENEFITS SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN

The Achievement Center of Texas needs the support of the community with our “AT LAST – A HOME OF OUR OWN SUPPLY DRIVE” to help meet the children’s needs at the new center. The following items are needed: baby wipes, paper towels, art supplies, children’s videos, children’s books, copy paper, office supplies, cleaning supplies, non-perishable snack food, laundry soap, dishwasher soap, toilet paper, bean bag seats, VCR/DVD player, small refrigerator, educational toys, small cribs, puppets, puzzles with knob handles, microwaves, vacuum cleaners, toaster, dishes, games, computers and printers, vinyl or leather sofas, and lockable storage cabinets.

If you wish to make a donation or would like a complete list of the Achievement Center’s supply drive needs, please call us at 972-272-8343. Donations can be mailed or dropped off at the Achievement Center’s current location: 1310 West Avenue F, Garland, Texas 75040. A tax receipt will be provided for all donations, as all contributions to this nonprofit, 501(c) (3) organization are tax deductible to the extent of the law.

Thank you for supporting special needs children and “Giving Ability a Chance!”

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Police & Fire Emergencies	911
Police Non-Emergencies	972-205-2150
Lone Star Gas	1-800-817-8090
Solid Waste & Recycling	972-205-3500
Code Compliance	972-485-6400
Tommy Cobb	972-485-6418
Animal Services	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, Mark Monroe	972-495-8028
Off. Jeff Gooch NPO	972-205-2740

OAKRIDGE DAYTIMERS

By Becky Parks

Friends are the part of our family we get to choose.

What a wonderful summer we're having! We were very lucky through July, temperature wise, those hundred degree plus days have waited until August to greet us. For that we are all very thankful.

As September approaches we are getting anxious to see friends we've missed since May. Out next coffee, Tuesday September 10th, will be held at the home of GAIL DURBIN, 3322 Greenview, 972-495-6045. Starting time is 10:00 am with the September Refreshment Hostesses, JO DIETZ, LUCY BROCK, MONICA EVANS, DIANNE WINTER and IRENE ARBUCKLE arriving earlier to make sure we don't miss any opportunity to eat! What wonderful refreshments are always served at our coffees.

Bridge groups meet the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 9:30am and the 2nd and 4th Wednesday at Oakridge Country Club for lunch and bridge. Beginners Bridge and brush up will start Monday, September 16th at MARY PATTIE's from 1:00 till 4:00. Those interested please call MARY, 972-496-6486 for the name of the bridge book helpful to both the beginner and experienced player.

Daytime canasta meets every Tuesday at 1:00 pm, call BARBE BRUNETTE, 972-530-4288, for the ever-changing schedule. Nighttime canasta is headed by MARGRET FOWLER at 972-530-8585 for schedule.

The August 19th **craft meeting** will be held at the home of SHARON CARLTON, 972-530-4317, 2517 Big Oaks at 1 pm. At this time they will complete their special project that will be given to our members at the September Coffee. The Craft Group is always busy looking for new project ideas, while everyone else just calls it shopping!

Stitch and Chat will continue to meet at NORENE MURPHEY's, 972-530-6669, on the 3rd Tuesday. They are continuing to work on their Christmas project. For information call NORENE or MARY MUSSEMAN 972-414-1098.

Book Club will meet at the home of BETTY THOMAS, 972-414-1547, on Friday, September 20TH. The group will discuss reading selections for the year.

This will enable those who use audio books to locate the selection in plenty of time.

The **water workout group** is going strong and really enjoying JACKIE GRIFFIN's pool. Classes meet Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:00 to 11:15 and will continue until the water temperature dips below our 84 degree minimum. There will NOT be a class on Labor Day. Call JACKIT, 972-530-4777 or BECKY PARKS, 972-495-8776 for information.

We are working on a new membership directory. So, if you have any changes or corrections please call BECKY PARKS or CHRIS BEYERS with new information.

Recipe cards go to CHRIS for our new "I love to eat but hate to cook" book, they may be e-mailed to her at "cbeyery2000@yahoo.com".

Networking flyers, handed out at the May coffee, were due back to BECKY by July 4th. Please get these in ASAP. If you do not have a copy please call for another.

Friends are the part of our family we get to choose.

Any questions concerning the Daytimers Group contact BECKY PARKS, 972-495-8776 or CHRIS BEYERS 972-530-8292.

Remember your secret pal! New pals contact SARA TRAYLOR, 972-414-5383.

Daytimers is a Social Organization. Residence in Oakridge and \$12.00 annual dues constitutes membership.

Daytimers promotes our Oakridge community and the Oakridge Neighborhood Association.

JOIN NOW!

General Membership Meetings

August 22, 2002 - see front page

November __, 2002 - topic to be determined

February 27, 2003 - Nominating Committee

May 22, 2003 - Election of Officers

Status Report : Environmental / Commons
By Chuck Teske

Seasonal Color

Some of you who donated money for seasonal planting might be wondering why sping flowers were not planted this year on some of the entryways. The simple answer is that while these flowers might look nice for a few weeks, the irrigation systems on most of the entrances are no longer functioning. Your generous donations would be wasted putting in new plants under such conditions. Proper stewardship of these funds mandates they be spent **when** they can do the most good....

The Plan

Since assuming ONA environmental duties this spring, we have made it our top priority to revitalize 5 entry points into OakRidge. They are as follows:

1. Beltline / Laurel Oaks
2. Shiloh / Big Oaks
3. Buckingham / Diamond Oaks
4. Buckingham / Overview
5. Jupiter / Ridge Oak

In revitalizing these entrances, the ONA will be repairing and bringing up to City code irrigation and back-flow devices. Once proper irrigation is restored, landscaping at each entrance will be evaluated and reworked. Some of the plants in these beds date to the inception of OakRidge. They are simply at the end of their useful lives. Where possible, we will attempt to preserve original landscaping to reduce planting costs. Greening-Up and properly maintaining our entryways will communicate to homeowners and visitors alike a sense of pride and communitythe very reasons most of us live here.

Progress


We have made significant gains in reviving our irrigation systems and landscaping.

- Electronic controller boxes have been replaced at 3 entrances with 1 more box to be replaced by the end of Aug. Electronic controller boxes regulate when the irrigation system runs and for how long. The four functioning controllers have all been tested and watering times set.
- Control Valve replaced on Buckingham / Diamond Oaks making that system operational.
- Buckingham / Overview system tested and operational.
- Shiloh / Big Oaks system ok'd for metering by the City of Garland.
- Contractor hired for installation of new valves at Jupiter / Ridge Oak.
- Contractor hired for installation of new valves and backflow device at Laurel Oaks / Beltline.
- Landscaping completed for Summer/Fall on both Buckingham entrances. Beds were prepared with fresh soil, tilled, and fertilized. New Shrubs installed (15 plants mostly Indian Hawthorn). Summer/Fall color installed. Upon completion of planting, beds were topped with hardwood mulch.

What Can I Do

As a member of the ONA, the best gift that you can give is that of your time. Currently we have need for volunteers for mid-week litter removal for the common areas that border Shiloh, Beltline, Jupiter, and Buckingham. Most litter deposited in these areas is from passing cars or from Dart bus riders who wait at the stops that surround OakRidge. Litter is removed every Monday as part of regular grounds maintenance, but by Thursday some areas are beginning to look trashed-up. If you would like to help out, I can be reached day or evening at 214-325-3286. Your donations are also welcome if you would like to ear-mark funds for a specific part of our renovation.

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