
◊ Oakridge News ◊

Vol. 11 No. 05

A Publication of the Oakridge Neighborhood Association

October - 2002

Dear Friends and Neighbors of District 7:

With the latest news coverage about the City of Dallas and their budget shortfalls, many are wondering, how is the City of Garland doing? I am proud to say that Garland is doing fine. Despite declining sales tax revenues and drops in franchise fees, we have managed to stay afloat due to good city planning and a diverse tax base. After extensive deliberations and research, the 2002-2003 operating budget was approved by City Council.

The new budget includes an increase in civil service positions (11 police officers and 8 firefighters), 3% raise for non-civil service employees and 4% for civil service, as well as an increase in funds for street maintenance and repair. The Council strives to have top-notch civil service employees as well as continued improvements on streets in need of repair. Due to cost increases in wholesale water and disposal and fleet costs, utility rates for water, sewer and solid waste collection have increased. The combined increase is about \$2.75 a month for the average residential user.

On another note, the City sponsored its first "We the People" conference in September. City Council, business leaders and people of the community shared their ideas about how to bring the member of Garland's diverse culture together. Demographics, racial challenges and future trends were a few of the many topics covered. Small groups brainstormed ideas on how to improve public safety, economic development, education, housing and workforce issues and transportation issues. As a result, a permanent commission or board will be formed to address the projected changes for the future of Garland, and how to address these issues.

All in all, September was an exciting and busy month for City officials. Be sure to mark your calendars for November 16 for the opening of our wonderful Dart Rail Station. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,
Mark Monroe
972-495-8028
214-202-5697
mmonroe@ci.garland.tx.us

General Membership Meetings

The location will be at the Oakridge Country Club.

November 14, 2002

February 27, 2003 Election of a nominating committee

May 22, 2003 Election of the New Officers for 2003-2004

Hazardous Chemical Collection Center Opens

The Home Chemical Collection Center (HC3) is now open for hazardous household wastes. This is a free service to Garland residents but you must show a driver's license and a recent utility bill to verify your residence.

Among the items accepted: home chemical products, paint and home repair products, lawn and garden chemicals, aerosol sprays, pool chemicals, craft and hobby supplies, cleaners and polishes, all batteries, automotive fluids and filters, and fluorescent light tubes.

Don't bring these: business or commercial wastes, containers over 5 gallons, explosives or ammunition, shock-sensitive materials, smoke detectors or other radioactive materials, medical wastes, common trash or recyclables, construction debris, or electronics or appliances.

**11234 Plano Rd.
214-553-1765**

Tuesday	9 a.m.-7:30 p.m.
Wed-Thursday	8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
2nd / 4th Sat	9 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

While the HC3 accepts all batteries, recycling rechargeable batteries can be done at locations even closer: Cingular Wireless, Radio Shack, Home Depot, Wal-Mart, Target, C&S Hardware, and many others. For exact locations call 1-800-8-BATTERY or visit www.rbrc.org/consumer/.

~Reprinted from The Greenskeeper, newsletter of Greens Estate Homeowners Association.

OAKRIDGE WOMEN'S CLUB

Oakridge Women's Club is open to all women in the Oakridge neighborhood who share a strong common bond in the love of our children and families. We welcome prospective new members at all meetings!

At our last meeting, we planned a super Halloween party. Thanks to Sheila for being such a lovely hostess and to Hollie for the outstanding food!

Our next family event is our Halloween Party! The party will be at Karryn's house on Sunday, October 27th, from 2pm – 4pm. We will have crafts, games and lots of goodies for all the children. There will be booths for face painting, picture frame making, cup cake walk, decorate a mini pumpkin, "hay rides", etc... Please RSVP to Tricia at tklimko@attbi.com or 972-414-9141.

Our next meeting will be November 5, 2002 at Sherida's house. We will be planning our holiday parties! Hope to see you then!

If you would like more details about our club, or would like to join, please call our President, Tricia at tklimko@attbi.com or 972-414-9141.

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C.O.P./CRIME WATCH REPORT

By: Bill Olive

2600 block of Richland approx. 2 pm
on 9/27 Criminal Mischief-\$50-\$500

The following is a list of Crime Statistics for the month of September as provided by the Garland Police Department.

- 2700 block of Hickory Bend
approx. 4 pm on 9/1 Burglary-Vehicle
- 2200 block of Diamond Oaks
approx. 10 pm on 9/5 Burglary-Vehicle
- 2600 block of Crestridge
approx. 9 pm on 9/13 Burglary-Vehicle
- 3400 block of Ridge Oak approx.
10 am on 9/13 Burglary Habitation
- 2800 block of Hickory Bend
approx. 9 pm on 9/16 Burglary-Vehicle
- 2500 block of Pebblestone
approx. 9 pm on 9/16 Burglary-Vehicle
- 2800 block of Stoneridge
approx. 10 pm on 9/16 Burglary-Vehicle
- 2200 block of Diamond Oaks approx.
10 am on 9/18 Burglary-Habitation
- 2600 block of Suncrest approx. 4 pm
on 9/27 Unauthorized Use of Car

The Crime Watch Coordinators will be meeting with Officer McCully (GPD's NPO Coordinator) on Oct. 10 to discuss the unusually large increase in crime numbers last month throughout Garland. An example of this is that in June of this year the report showed a total of 405 incidents while for this past month the total came to almost 800. I will keep you informed.

No Soliciting Signs

If you purchased one of these signs and are still having a problem with solicitors and ads on your front door, give me a call at 972-495-3402. The C.O.P will contact these offenders and ask them to please honor your request and stop soliciting. We've done this a few times already and the results have been positive. If this doesn't work, we may have to enlist the help of the City of Garland's Municipal Court. The profit from these signs will be going toward "reflective signs" for our evening patrollers, as well as reflective vests, hats, shirts, and other needed items such as postage.

If you would like to purchase one of our NO SOLICITING signs, just give me a call at 972-495-3402.

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Cell: 214-724-1912

Keeping Oakridge beautiful one house at a time

A Property Tax Comparison

City	Tax Rate	Homestead Exemption	Over 65 Discount	Disabled Person
City of Addison	.38	20%	\$50,000	\$60,000
City of Dallas	.67	20%	64,000	64,000
City of Richardson	.44	none	30,000	30,000
City of Plano	.45	20%	40,000	40,000
City of Arlington	.63	20%	60,000	60,000
City of Mesquite	.54	none	65,000	15,000
City of Irving	.488	20%	30,000	30,000
City of Carrollton	.59	20%	60,000	60,000
City Farmer's Branch	.44	20%	60,000	60,000
City of Garland	.64	none	51,000	51,000

*for a complete listing click on www.dallascad.org

Sound Outside 50-ft. Zone is Illegal

Ever had the unpleasant experience of being awakened by the booming acoustics of a passing automobile? Or you are in the house with closed windows, air conditioner blowing and television or radio is on - when you start to hear ... what is it? ... boom, Boom. KABOOM - BOOM, BOOM, KABOOM.

Playing music so loud as to disturb others is illegal. The minimum fine is expensive and gets more so with each offense. Avoid the fine, be considerate of others - ask family members and friends to respect the peace and quiet of the neighborhood. After all, that is why many of us moved here.

Garland Code of Ordinances restricts excessively loud music in automobiles. The Codes are online at <http://www.ci.garland.tx.us/>. Click "Government", "Municipal Documents", "City of Garland Code of Ordinances"

Sec. 26.09. Sound Amplification on Vehicles (Ord. No. 4689, 1, 7-6-93)

(A) Except for authorized emergency vehicles, no driver of a vehicle shall operate or permit the operation of any sound amplification system which can be heard from 50 feet or more from the vehicle.

(B) It is an affirmative defense to prosecution under this section if the sound amplification system was being operated:

- (1) to request assistance:
- (2) to warn of a hazardous situation:
- (3) on a vehicle as part of a special event for which a permit has been obtained:
- (4) on a vehicle operated by an ice cream vendor under a current and valid permit issued under Chapter 22 of the Code of Ordinances: or
- (5) on a vehicle located on private property and the sound cannot be heard from any adjoining public or private property.

(C) The minimum fine for the first conviction under this section shall be \$100.00, the minimum fine for the second conviction under this section shall be \$200, and the minimum fine for a third conviction under this section shall be \$500.

~Reprinted from The Greenskeeper, newsletter of Greens Estate Homeowners Association.



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Garland Has Extensive List of Programs for Seniors

For those that are over 55, Garland offers classes, trips, activities and even hot meals. Kenny McCord, Senior Services Manager, says about 300 meals are served daily at the Garland Senior Activity Center. Although you must schedule a day in advance, someone can pick you up and give you a ride to the Center.

Classes include golf, writing, T'ai Chi, bowling, bridge and much more. The trip are very popular - lunch at the Mansion and Cajun Catfish, Big Bend National Park and an Amish Quilt Auction. For more information, check the online version of the Silver Scoop at <http://www.garlandparks.com/>.

The Senior Activity Center is at 600 West Avenue A, downtown Garland, 972-205-2969.

The Office of Senior Affairs offers other services for seniors, sometimes called the "Advocate for Seniors". David McDaniel says they deal with problems of transportation, code enforcement, and yards. For information, call 972-205-3333. Additionally, they can assist with benefits counseling, information on community services, case management, community outreach and volunteer coordination.

~Reprinted from The Greenskeeper, newsletter of Greens Estate Homeowners Association.

Submitting Articles for the Newsletter

If you ever wish to submit an article for Oakridge Newsletter or make any constructive comments about the newsletter, you can do so by one of the following methods.

- 1) emailing the editor at dana.hopkins@attbi.com
- 2) going to the web site oakridgena.com
- 3) writing the editor at

Dana Hopkins
2914 Oak Point Dr.
Garland, TX 75044

Your input is welcome.

"Plant a Garden for Daily Living" author unknown

Plant Three Row of Peas

Peace of mind
Peace of heart
Peace of soul

Plant Four Rows of Squash

Squash gossip
Squash indifference
Squash grumbling
Squash selfishness

No Garden without Turnips

Turnip for meetings
Turnip for service
Turnip to help one another

Plant Four Rows of Lettuce

Lettuce be faithful
Lettuce be kind
Lettuce be patient
Lettuce really love on another

Water freely with patience and cultivate with love. There is much fruit in you garden because you reap what you sow.



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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

Our September Coffee was a huge success with over 40 members attending. Our thanks go to **Gail Durbin**, as well as to the Refreshment Hostesses: **Jo Dietz, Lucy Brock, Irene Arbuckle, Audrey Castleman and Chris Beyers**. We welcomed several new members and we were able to get acquainted due to the new nametags that were made by **JoAnn Williams**. Thanks, JoAnn! **Sharon Carlton** won the much-anticipated door prize drawing.

Roberta Jones was also recognized as the founder of Daytimers. Thanks to her vision we were able to be together for food, fun and fellowship.

The September "**Fun on the Run**" group had a little more excitement than expected after touring the Southern Living Idea Home. Jo Ann Williams had car trouble; it just wouldn't start! Fortunately everything worked out and the group arrived home without too much delay.

The **October 8th Coffee** will be at 10:00 A.M. at the home of **Jo Dietz**, 2906 Oak Point, 972-530-8308. Refreshment Hostesses for the meeting are **Barbe Brunette, Pat Cathcart, Mary Pattie and Betty Prickett**.

The **Out to Lunch Bunch** will be enjoying lunch at the Garden Tea Room in the Forestwood Antique Mall on Friday, October 25th. Meet at 10:30 at the club swimming pool parking area. Shopping, of course, will follow lunch! Be sure to sign up by the October meeting, as reservations are needed. Call **Becky Parks**, 972-495-8776, for information or reservations.

The **November 12th Coffee** will be held at the home of **Dianne Winter**, 2805 Oak Springs. Food Hostesses will be: **Mary Jo Herring, Audrey Golden, Audrey King, and Gloria Shanhouse**.

The **Bridge Groups** meet the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 9:30am. The 2nd Thursday meet at 12:00 at Oakridge Country Club for lunch and bridge. The 4th Thursday meet at 1:00 at member's home. Beginners Bridge and brush up will

be Mondays 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 1:00pm, call **Barbe Brunette**, 972-530-4288, for the ever-changing schedule. **Nighttime Canasta** is headed by **Margaret Fowler** at 972-530-8585 for schedule.

The October 21st **Craft** meeting will be held at the home of **Chris Beyers** at 1 PM.

Stitch and Chat will continue to meet at **Norene Murphy**, 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. They will display the articles they have made and tickets will be sold for a donation to ONA – this benefits our entire Oakridge community.

Book Club will meet at the home of **Suzanne Snow**, 2722 Big Oaks Dr. on October 18th. Author of "Secrets Under the Bridge", **Overton Shalmire**, will speak at this month's meeting. As 20 attended the last meeting at the home of **Betty Thomas**, we are looking for a large turnout. Betty and group are assembling the reading list for the year with great enthusiasm.

Recipe cards for the **Oakridge Daytimers New Cookbook** go to **Chris Beyers** for our new "I love to eat but hate to cook" book.

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 **Sarah Traylor**, 972-414-5383.

Daytimers is a Social Organization. Residence in Oakridge and \$12.00 annual dues constitutes membership. Daytimers promote our Oakridge community and the Oakridge Neighborhood Association. **JOIN NOW!**

Dear Friends and Neighbors of District 7:

Typically this message addresses City issues, but since the birth of my son on August 19, my wife and I have spent time reflecting on the many events of the past year and I have chosen to share these thoughts with you. So many things seemed to have passed by very quickly; others very slow. The pregnancy and birth itself were one of the events that seemed to pass by fast. The diaper changes that I have the honors of doing, seem to crawl by like a snail in a race.

My campaign and the election time seemed very slow. Perhaps it was due to the days and days of hard work that myself, family and friends put into this endeavor. It was truly a learning and rewarding experience. People who we met had a lot to share and there was always an opportunity to learn something new. It is important to maintain good relations with our friends and neighbors to keep positive things happening in our community. Not that I am a cheerleader or expert, but I hope everyone strives to keep the communication lines open within their communities.

One event of the past year that seems so long ago, was September 11. The day itself, however, remains very vivid in my memory. This is one of the first events in my life that people stop and ask "where were you on September 11, 2001." Until this time, the Kennedy assassination was what provoked this question. Since this was before I was born, I never had experienced what it felt like to reflect on such a devastating event. As the anniversary approaches, it feels to me like it was much longer than a year. Perhaps it is due to the many positive things that have happened in such a short time as a result of this tragedy. People have not let a negative event prevent positive things from happening.


I hope you do not mind me sharing my thoughts with you. I will continue to update City issues in future. Please contact me if there is anything I can do for you.

Sincerely,

Mark Monroe
972-495-8028
council7@ci.garland.tx.us

(The editor's apologies for not having this article in last months newsletter. It takes time to write an article and I really appreciate people that do.)

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