



Oakridge News

Vol. 13 No. 1

ONA web site www.oakridgena.com

June 2004

Hello ONA members. There's a lot going on in Oakridge these days.

Thank you for supporting the ONA with your dues payment. You can be proud (as you drive through Oakridge) that your support enables our neighborhood to be the best place to live in Garland.

Please encourage your neighbors to support the ONA. The more members we have, the more new projects we can start to further beautify Oakridge -- not just paying the costs of maintenance.

Check out **Chuck Teske's** environmental article. Chuck and his crews have been doing a tremendous amount of work at our entrances. The next time you see Chuck and/or his crew out working, do them and yourself a favor and zip up to Tigermart, buy a round of PowerAde, zip back, and hand them out. Chuck and his crew will truly appreciate it, and it will make your day.

Congratulations to our own City Councilman and now **Mayor Pro Tem Mark Monroe!** Mark was elected Mayor Pro Tem by the City Council on June 15. Mark does a great job of giving Oakridge a voice on the City Council, for looking out for his neighborhood's best interests, and for being there when we need him. We're lucky to live in District 7.

The deadline for submitting applications for the **Neighborhood Vitality (Matching) Grant Program** has been pushed back to September 1. This gives us a little extra time, but be sure we've already started preparing the paperwork. The final process and application won't be approved by the City Council until July 6, so we may have to do a little tweaking after that. But, we'll be ready.

Currently, we plan on submitting the following **projects**: adding irrigation along the Buckingham Road exterior to Oakridge, lighting the main entrances to Oakridge, painting the Diamond Oaks bridge, repairing sidewalks, and (perhaps) replacing the cement caps on our brick wall exterior.

Currently, if **your sidewalk needs repair**, the City splits the cost with you (50/50). If you want to repair your sidewalk as part of this program, the City would most-likely split the cost with you (85/15) -- you only pay 15%. It's a great deal. If you want to add your sidewalk to this list, *continued on page 4*

Dear Friends and Neighbors of Oakridge:

In the recent May election, bonds for a Neighborhood Vitality Program were passed. Oakridge Board of Directors is working on a list of projects that could benefit our neighborhood from this program. Some of these include lighting for entrances, repairs to the bridge and sidewalk repairs. Each homeowner can assist the board by reporting any sidewalks that are in need of repair. Your district director's name and contact information is listed in this newsletter.

Typically, when sidewalk repair is needed, a homeowner is responsible for the sidewalk on their property. The city sets aside money to assist a homeowner with 50% of the cost. With the recent bonds of the Neighborhood Vitality Program, a homeowner has the opportunity to be responsible for only 15% of the repairs.

The Neighborhood Vitality Program has a deadline of September 1 for applications. Individuals cannot apply for this bond money; only an organized group, therefore the Oakridge association will be the entity to apply for the funds in this neighborhood. It is important to get your information to the board as soon as possible. The association will need some time to gather the information and fill out the application. Items such as estimates for repair will be included on the final application.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns about this program or anything else, please do not hesitate to call or email me.

Mark Monroe
Mayor Pro-Tem
City of Garland
972-495-8028



God Bless America

Table of Contents

page 1	messages Nelson Prater & Councilman Monroe
page 2	meeting dates & fun stuff
page 3	Two Little Words
page 4	Lexiophiles lovers

page 5	C.O.P. & Safety Information
page 6	Oakridge Women's Club & Important phone numbers
page 7	National Night Out
page 8	+ ONA Board members

The new ONA Board had its first meeting and established that the Third Thursday of each month would become the standing Board meeting day.

The ONA Board also set the dates (Thursdays) for the General Membership meetings.

Mark your calendars:

September 23, 2004

March 24, 2005

May 26, 2005

Check the ONA web site for current information



“LET SUE DO IT”

SO THE REFRIGERATOR REPAIRMAN IS COMING TODAY BUT YOU HAVE AN IMPORTANT MEETING?

“LET SUE DO IT”

OKAY—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 (AND THE PRICES ARE REASONABLE)

PET SITTING OR HOUSE SITTING

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GROCERY SHOPPING (ESPECIALLY FOR HOME BOUND)

RIDES (I.E. SOCCER, ORTHO, DOCTOR, ETC., ETC.)

New Item
Gift Certificates

“LET SUE DO IT”

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1904..

Maybe this will boggle your mind!

The year is 1904...one hundred years ago. What a difference a century makes!

Here are some U.S. statistics for 1904:

The average life expectancy in the U.S. was 47 years.

Only 14 percent of the homes in the U.S. had a bathtub.

Only 8 percent of the homes had a telephone.

A three-minute call from Denver to New York City cost eleven dollars.

There were only 8,000 cars in the U.S., and only 144 miles of paved roads.

The maximum speed limit in most cities was 10 mph.

The average wage in the U.S. was 22 cents an hour.

The average U.S. worker made between \$200 and \$400 per year.

More than 95 percent of all births in the U.S. took place at home.

Sugar cost four cents a pound, Eggs were fourteen cents a dozen, Coffee was fifteen cents a pound.

Most women only washed their hair once a month, and used borax or egg yolks for shampoo.

The American flag had 45 stars. Arizona, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Hawaii, and Alaska hadn't been admitted to the Union yet.

The population of Las Vegas, Nevada, was 30.

Crossword puzzles, canned beer, and iced tea hadn't been invented.

There was no Mother's Day or Father's Day.

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Two Little Words Can Speak Volumes by Nelson Prater

It's Friday morning. Dawn is breaking over Oakridge, and the unshowered and unshaven are out with large mallets, driving wooden stakes deep into the heart of the beautifully-landscaped flowerbeds at our entrances, driving through and into the aging and brittle veins of our irrigation system.

Two little words can speak volumes -- Garage Sale.

We have permanent signs installed by the City at our entrances that say we have a neighborhood watch program, that we keep an eye out for suspicious people. But, on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, all bets are off. We have signs in the flower beds at each entrance that say otherwise. With only two little words, they say, "Hey, strangers. Come on into Oakridge. You're welcome here. Nobody's a stranger in Oakridge on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. No, those golf clubs aren't for sale, but they're nice ones, aren't they?" Garage Sale.

On Fridays during the school year, our children go out to wait for the school bus, and there are strange vehicles parked at our curbs with their engines idling -- garage salers waiting for the sale to start. We assume.

We, the ONA members, even support those who have garage sales with our dues. We replace plants, or worse yet, repair our irrigation systems when these folks trample in and drive their signs deep into our flower beds. Who knows, that money might have been better spent on a new beautification project.

Code Compliance comes and picks up the signs; garage sale signs can only legally be posted on private property -- which our entrances are not (they're owned by the City -- we just take really good care of them). Sometimes Code Compliance trashes the signs, and sometimes they return them to the sale site and provide an explanation. But, inevitably, the signs are back the next morning or even the same afternoon.

What's the solution? I really don't know, except maybe to discourage our neighbors from having garage sales. Do you have any solutions? Please e-mail me at nelsonprater@comcast.net with them.

If you're thinking about having a garage sale, please reconsider. We have enough concerns without giving total strangers free reign of our neighborhood three days a week.

Gather up all of your garage sale items. Get a legal pad and describe each item. Next to each description, write how much you would have priced it at the garage sale. Take a picture of any items that have a higher value. Then, donate the items to your favorite charity, and write off the donation on your income taxes. (You'll need form 8283 if your donations are more than \$500 for the year. And, make sure to get a receipt for your donation.) With this method, you "sell" and get full garage sale prices for everything.

Let's don't let two little words detract from the safety and beauty of our neighborhood.

Philip Hanas

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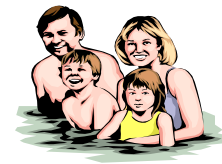
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information: 972-

continued from page 1

We'll need a picture or pictures of your sidewalk for the application.

Are there **other projects** you would like for us to undertake for our neighborhood? If you have any suggestions, please e-mail me at nelsonprater@comcast.net or call me at 972-495-7769, and I'll make sure to present your suggestion at the next ONA Board meeting.

A little administrative work... **Calling all ONA signs.** We're missing a few. If you're storing one and you're no longer a district director, please give me a call, and I'll come pick it up and make sure it gets to the right person. These signs are expensive, and we don't want to order any new signs unnecessarily.

Please check out the ONA website at www.oakridgena.com. Our website is full of timely information, and it gets updated several times each week. We'd like to make better use of the site as a communication tool, but we've got to get more folks going to the site first. Please check out the site, and refer others to it.

Finally, thank you to **Mike Rose** for helping me transition into the role of ONA President. Mike not only put together a huge packet of information for me, but he has offered the ONA Board encouragement and wisdom every step of the way. Mike is taking over the *Oakridge News* (a big, big job), so we will continue to benefit from Mike's expertise during this ONA term.

Thanks again for your support. I look forward to serving you this term.

Nelson.

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For all you lexiophiles (lovers of words)

A bicycle can't stand alone because it is two-tired.
What's the definition of a will? It's a dead giveaway.
Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.
A backward poet writes inverse.
She had a boyfriend with a wooden leg, but broke it off.
A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.
If you don't pay your exorcist you get repossessed.

Show me a piano falling down a mineshaft and I'll show you A-flat minor.
When a clock is hungry it goes back four seconds.
The man who fell into an upholstery machine is fully recovered.
A grenade thrown into a kitchen in France would result in Linoleum Blown apart.
You feel stuck with your debt if you can't budge it.
Local Area Network in Australia: the LAN down under.
He often broke into song because he couldn't find the key.
Every calendar's days are numbered.
A lot of money is tainted. 'Taint yours and 'taint mine.
A boiled egg in the morning is hard to beat.
He had a photographic memory which was never developed.
A plateau is a high form of flattery.
The short fortune-teller who escaped from prison was a small medium at large.
Those who get too big for their britches will be exposed in the end.
When you've seen one shopping center you've seen a mall.
Those who jump off a Paris bridge are in Seine.
When an actress saw her first strands of gray hair, she thought she'd dye.
Bakers trade bread recipes on a knead to know basis.
Santa's helpers are subordinate clauses.
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C.O.P./Crime Watch *by Bill and Brenda Olive*

Oakridge had 4 incidents reported during the month of May 2004. Two were vehicle burglaries and two others, habitation burglaries: May 2, -- habitation burglary—2100 block of Overview. May 6, -- vehicle burglary—3300 block of Greenview. May 8, -- vehicle burglary—2100 block of Windy Ridge. May 16, -- burglary habitation—2500 block of Creighton. Please note, if something is taken from a resident's garage, it is considered a habitation burglary (even if the garage door has been left open).

Residents may have noticed that Garland Police Officers have been busy issuing tickets to drivers who violate the STOP signs at Laurel Oaks and Big Oaks. Remember, last month we warned everyone about the new stop sign at that corner and in the past, we have warned drivers about failure to come to a complete stop at STOP signs within Oakridge. Obviously, this is not something that is a problem just within Oakridge, and apparently, the GPD has been cracking down around the city. The "new" stop sign at Laurel Oaks and Big Oaks is of particular interest by the police because of the accidents that have occurred at that corner as well as numerous resident complaints regarding speeding along Big Oaks and failure to stop at that stop sign. We've been lucky so far; no one has been killed or seriously injured. Please, drive carefully! If you do get a citation for failure to stop at a stop sign the fine can be hefty- over \$100.00! *If you have \$100.00 that you're ready to part with, the C.O.P. will gladly accept it as a donation for new signs for our vehicles or you can donate it to the O.N.A. for landscaping. Let's keep the money in Oakridge!*

Continued

In mid-May, a 1- year-old puppy followed his owner outside. Seeing a vehicle he apparently thought belonged to someone he knew, he joyfully dashed into the street (on Creighton). A white Cadillac Escalade struck him and then left the scene. The little dog underwent surgery for removal of his hip joint and repair of his paw. This incident occurred in Oakridge, on one of our "quiet" streets—it could just have easily have been a small child who was struck and injured.

During our recent meeting with Lt. Rene, the N.P.O. Supervisor for G.P.D., we discussed problems arising from open garage doors. He advised us that a huge dent could be made in Garland's crime incidents if citizens would simply keep their garage doors closed. Now that summer heat is upon us, this is a growing problem here in Oakridge. Every time we're on patrol, either day or night, we see open doors with no one in sight. Bear in mind, this is a criminal's "invitation" to come in and help themselves to whatever you have in your garage or home.

Oakridge has several residents waiting to take part in the upcoming C.O.P training class. has enough applications to hold the class. Officer Tannock, who is in charge of the class, says almost has enough applications to hold the class. If you are interested, call us at 972-495-3402 and we will get an application to you so that you can attend the upcoming class. If you're not sure just what we do and would like to ride along during one of our patrols, call us. We'll be glad to take you along for the ride. You'll be surprised at what you'll learn.

continued on page 7

Oakridge Women's Club (OWC)

The Oakridge Women's Club normally meets the first Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m.

We are having our meeting a week early. Please Join us June 29th at 7pm. We are meeting at Rita's house for enchiladas and rice! Please bring your drink of choice or a dessert.

We will not be sponsoring the 4th of July parade this year. It falls on a Sunday and many members will be out of town. We will see you all next year!

If you would like more details about the upcoming events or joining the OWC, please contact our President, Tracy Murphy at 972-496-3165. Or you may e-mail Libby Morse at TOMLIB@comcast.net

The Oakridge Women's Club is open to all women in the Oakridge neighborhood who share a strong and common bond in the love of our children and families. We welcome prospective new members at all meetings! Annual dues are \$20.00.

[Join the ONA!](#)

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Street Light Repair	972-205-3483
Electricity Emergency	972-205-3000
Water & Sewer	972-205-3210

Continued from page 5

There appears to have been a reduction in the number of solicitors within Oakridge but we're still encountering a few who persist in placing flyers and other materials on doors where no soliciting signs are clearly displayed. If you experience this and see the culprit, call the police at 972-205-2150- press 0 and you'll get right through to dispatch. Be sure to have a clear description of the individual and the direction in which he/she is headed. Provide this information to dispatch and they will send an officer out. You can tell dispatch that you do not want to be contacted by the responding officer, however, you will need to provide your name and address for their records. This enables them to verify the call. Bear in mind that this is a low priority call and it may take a while for the officer to come out, so giving dispatch the direction in which the individual was headed and a good description will enable the officer to locate that person once he/she arrives in Oakridge.

We thought we'd give you a brief BIO of our N.P.O. this month since he has been unable to attend one of our recent general meetings due to other commitments. Officer Tony Blassingame is a Dallas native, born at Parkland Hospital some....(we won't tell his age) years ago. He has three children ages 5, 7 and 11 and a lovely wife that he adores. He also owns a brand new Harley motorcycle—his pride and joy—and he says he loves to read (probably about motorcycles). His only fault seems to be that he went to school at Arizona, and then spent 2 ½ years on death row in Arizona before coming to his senses and returning to Texas and Garland Police Department 10 years ago. Oh, yes, we forgot to tell you, that the 2 ½ years on death row in Arizona was as a *corrections officer*—other N.P. O's have warned us never to ask him about that period of his career because he won't stop talking for hours! Yes, Tony has a gift for gab—and a great sense of humor; we're very lucky to have him as Oakridge's N.P. O. .

If you're driving during the upcoming holiday period, please keep an eye out for the "other guy" and avoid drinking and driving and/or drinking and boating or swimming. Have a wonderful, and **safe, 4th of July**. If you're staying home—be sure to take a daytime drive over the bridge—the C.O.P. is planning a surprise!

Mark your calendar – **Tuesday August 3**, as it is
National Night Out.

ONA Board member Scott Youzva is making plans for ONA.

Watch for announcement of plans in the newsletter and on the Oakridge web site – www.oakridgena.com

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