



# Oakridge News



Vol. 13 No. 3

ONA web site [www.oakridgena.com](http://www.oakridgena.com)

August 2004

From the ONA President

Hello, ONA members. As always, **thank you** for your support of the ONA. Here's an update on what your ONA Board is up to:

Don't miss the **September 23 ONA General Meeting**.

I hope you'll come and bring lots of friends and neighbors to the **September 23 ONA General Meeting** at Oakridge Country Club 6:30 Social; 7:00 Meeting.

**Garland Baylor Medical Center** is sending a physician to kick off our meeting with a presentation on hypertension. Throughout the meeting, volunteers will be giving **free blood pressure checks** and **free blood glucose tests** - hypertension and diabetes seem to go hand-in-hand. Those who receive these tests will receive free give a ways. ( Note: Please get your blood glucose test done **before** you hit the goodies -- no need to fast all day.) Please bring your friends, family and neighbors -- they **DO NOT have to be ONA members** to participate in the free tests. Garland Baylor Medical Center welcomes as many as possible.

We owe Garland Baylor Medical Center a **huge thank you** for being such good neighbors and for being so concerned with the health and wellness of Oakridge residents. Let's give them our support by having as many folks show up as possible. **Please help us spread the word!**

**U-Stor is Our Newest Good Neighbor**

The ONA Board has always struggled with where to store all of our signs and decorations, etc. **U-Stor** at 2809 Beltline Road (just east of Oakridge) 972-495-9505 has offered the ONA Board at least one free year of storage. In return, we are going to offer them some free advertising in the *Oakridge News*. Please go see our good neighbors at U-Stor when you have storage needs.

**Let's Make a Big Showing at the Trash Bash.** Mark your calendars for the City of Garland's fall **Trash Bash** on **September 18**. It starts at 8 a.m. and probably runs through about noon.  
*continued on page 2, see Audubon Park*

Dear Oakridge residents:

Tami and I just got back in town from a needed vacation and I am ready to tackle this year's challenging budget. Many of you may have heard that there is significant budget shortfall. Over the next several years the tax rate will increase due to the passage of the bond package as well as council will have to purchase the right of way for the 190 expansions, estimated at 30 million dollars.

There are a few options that the council may choose. Increase the tax rate evenly over the next 4 years ( 2 cents per year ) or we could see a sharp increase over a 3 year period ( 3or 4 cents per year ). Again these taxes will be used for capital improvement projects and not for operations and management of the city. I do have some information that I can send to you, if you wish and I would appreciate your thoughts and input on this matter.

I received a call from Greg Simms of the Chamber of Commerce and he has advised me that the old Target at the corner of Beltline and Jupiter is under contract. I had been in contact with Lowe's about the purchase of this building and they had made an offer to Target. Mr. Simms said that a group of investors had offered more money and Target has accepted their offer. When I get more information, I will pass it along. I am excited to see this facility being utilized and hope that they will bring in a good neighbor.

Lastly, we will be approaching the deadline for the September filing for the Neighborhood Vitality Funds and I know that Oakridge Neighborhood Association is working overtime to be prepared. If you have any questions or you would like to be involved do not hesitate to contact me.

*Mark Monroe  
Mayor Pro-tem  
972-495-8028  
mmonroe@ci.garland.tx.us*



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We can either clean up Audubon Park, or the Spring Creek Greenbelt Park ( down Shiloh towards 190 ) -- I figured Spring Creek. Please check out our website at [www.oakridgena.com](http://www.oakridgena.com) or give me a call ( 972-495-7769 ) for all the details. Everything you'll need ( gloves, trash bags, etc.) is provided by the City, and there's going to be food and prizes for the volunteers. Each family has to complete a registration form -- you can get it on our website, or come by and pick one up. **Let's make a big ONA showing at the Trash Bash.**

**Neighborhood Vitality Application Process Winding Down** By the time you get this, I'm hoping we are winding down all of our paperwork for the Neighborhood Vitality ( Matching ) Grant Program. If our total dollar amount for all projects exceeds \$25K, we'll be bumped up to paying 20% of the costs -- still a huge bargain. We could never afford such improvements to our neighborhood without this grant money. Our projects are lighting the main entrances, adding irrigation and landscaping along Buckingham, cleaning and repainting the bridge, and sidewalk repairs. Our **deadline** for submitting our application packet is **September 1** -- so depending on when you get this, it may not be too late to contact me to add your name to the sidewalk repair list. It appears that because of the bond money circumstances, the work will not begin until Spring 2005.

I think that's about it for now. Have a good August. *Nelson.*

Editor's note:

If your group would like to have information published in the ONA newsletter please e-mail a copy to the ONA webmaster. If an individual has a poem or short bits of information they would like published they should, also, e-mail it to the webmaster.

A friend is someone who knows the song in your heart and can sing it back to you when you have forgotten the words. *author unknown*

Smiling is Infectious *author unknown*

You catch it like the flu. When someone smiled at me today, I started smiling too. I passed around the corner, and someone saw my grin. When they smiled I realized, I'd passed it to them. I thought about that smile, and then I realized its worth. A single smile just like mine could travel the earth So, if you feel a smile begin, don't leave it undetected. Let's start an epidemic quick, and get the world infected!

Being Friendly *by Mike Rose*

Do you love to walk or jog throughout the Oakridge Community? Early in the morning or early in the evening one will see scores of folks out making use of our beautifully landscaped neighborhood. Many take along their pets. Do you know that Garland has a leash law? All pets must be on a leash when being walked. And it is a common courtesy to take along a plastic bag in order to pick up after your dog. Let's all help to continue to improve the appearance and friendliness of our community.



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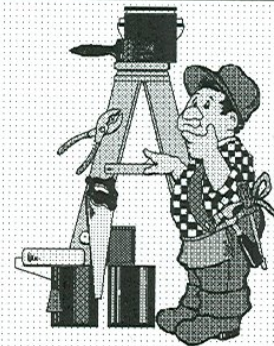
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**WANT a Good Neighbor? BE a Good Neighbor** by Nelson Prater

The Praters have only recently moved into the electronic age - cell phones for all. They're really a necessity anymore when you have teenagers who are all over the place most of the time. We now have the capability of communicating from anywhere with anyone around the globe.

It seems to me the communication problem in our country today isn't with someone clear across the globe, though, but with someone across the dinner table, or across the street. Cell phones aren't going to solve our real communication problems. How's your communication lately with your neighbors? Do you have good neighbors? We have some great neighbors; I have to tell you about our neighbors.

One of our neighbors just took the "first lady" and I to see *Anything Goes* at the Granville Arts Center. Patty Granville, herself, was the star of the show. What a treat! Among all the things this neighbor does for us, she feeds our dog Molly, watches our house, waters our flowers (no sprinkler system) when we're away; she makes us a lasagna dinner from time to time; she lets us use her garage when there's the potential for hail; she drops in for a cup of coffee or glass of iced tea. In return, we feed her bird Buddy, watch her house while she's away; serve as handyman-on-call, take her to the doctor, bake her a buttermilk pie at Thanksgiving and Christmas and a pan of homemade cinnamon rolls on Christmas Eve. We take care of each other like family.

Another of our neighbors, among many things, allow us to use their pool as our own, invite us over for a cookout most weekends, call us at the last minute to go out to dinner with them, call us to meet for lunch, invite us to go down to the river to ski, drop in anytime for a chat. We baby-sit from time to time, watch their dogs Lucy and Slim, and they get a pan of homemade cinnamon rolls on Christmas Eve; and I've been known to do their lawn when they have company coming and they're in between lawn services.

You'll find another neighbor hanging by his legs up in our trees cutting out the mistletoe. He also helped us cut down the two dead pine trees in our front yard. He loves all of the venison smoked sausage we share with him, and they enjoy their homemade cinnamon rolls on Christmas Eve.

Another neighbor brought us a couple of bottles of really nice wine last year -- she appreciates my raking her leaves and putting her newspaper on her front porch many mornings. Another neighbor always offers to watch our house while we're away, though of course the job's already taken.

*continued on page 4 , see Zig Ziglar*

"True friendship is like sound health; the value of it is seldom known until it be lost." ---Charles Caleb Colton

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*continued from page 3*

How does one come to have such good neighbors? Zig Ziglar says, "If you go out looking for a good neighbor, you'll discover they're hard to find. If you go out to BE a good neighbor, you'll find good neighbors everywhere."

When you go out to get your paper with the umbrella on a rainy morning, since you're already out, why not put your neighbors' papers up on their front porch?

When you bake a batch of cookies, why not take a paper plate of them next door? If you're like me, you don't need them anyway.

When you're sweeping near the curb in front of your house, why not sweep the curbs of the two neighbors on either side? You're already out and sweaty with a broom and dustpan; it won't take more than five extra minutes to get it all.

Headed to the farmer's market? Why not pick up another bag of those homegrown tomatoes? Your neighbors will line up for those.

You may have what you consider to be nightmare neighbors. They may mow their grass every two or three weeks, whether it needs it or not. They may already have their lights up for Christmas 2004. They may have a fleet of cars parked out front. Your fussing at them is never going to change their behavior. Only after you've shown them how to BE a good neighbor, and they feel you genuinely care about them, are you going to open up the communication channel for change.

And, most likely, once you get to know them, they're actually really good people. And, they didn't realize you were so bothered by some of the things they do. And, now they're wanting to BE a good neighbor, too, so they're all of the sudden willing to make some changes.

And, before you know it, you'll be telling everyone about what great neighbors you have. And, they'll be dropping in for a chat from time to time, or sweeping out in front of your curb, or bringing over a plate of cookies.

WANT a good neighbor? BE a good neighbor.

I've got a neat little cell phone now, and I can reach you wherever you are, but I think I'll just pull myself up and talk to you over the fence.

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### **MEMBERSHIP** *by Jackie Griffin*

Here it is August and we are still getting members! We are 440 strong and growing each day. We have recently mailed off the final invoice for 2004-05 and will be starting to put the directory together in September.

If your neighbor hasn't signed up yet, why not give them a nudge? The more members we have the better our development looks. The better we look, the high value on our homes. So not only does Oakridge look good, but we can also profit from keeping up the perimeters.

If you have a new neighbor, you can contact Fern Cook to visit them! Lets try and reach 550 this year!

Everyone hears what you say. Friends listen to what you say.  
Best friends listen to what you don't say. *author unknown*

"We all take different paths in life, but no matter where we go,  
we take a little of each other everywhere" *Tim McGraw*

### **The Safety Factor** *by Jean Redfeam*


As summer winds down, vacations are a memory and we all get ready for the school bells to ring. Many things are taken for granted. One of those is a safe journey to and from school. The City of Garland and the Garland Independent School District team up to provide Garland's children with a safe trip to school.

All adults can be a part of this team by following the traffic laws. Vehicles must travel at the speed of 20 MPH when the school zone lights are flashing, and stop behind the stop bars to allow the crossing guard and children to get safely across the street. Never enter a crosswalk when any pedestrian is in it. The crossing guard will drop his flag when it is safe to proceed. Also, be sure to wait when a school bus is stopped with the red lights flashing until the lights stop flashing.

Last school year, the City of Garland Adult School Crossing Guards safely crossed over 5,000 children each day, and over 15,000 children rode Garland Independent School District buses daily.

Garland Police will be strictly enforcing the traffic laws to ensure that the children and parents obtain the expected – a safe trip to and from school.

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September 23

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**ONA General Meeting**  
where - Oakridge Country Club  
time - 6:30 Social  
7:00 Meeting

**Garland Baylor Medical Center**  
is a good neighbor for being so concerned with the health and wellness of Oakridge residents. There will be a physician from Garland Baylor Medical Center to kick off our meeting.

 **OAKRIDGE DAYTIMERS** by Dianne Winter

Summer has scattered the Daytimers, but they will soon gather for the September 14<sup>th</sup> at the home of Jo Dietz, 2906 Oak Point at 10:00 am. 

The program will be extremely interesting, with a guest speaker, Barbara Benson, presenting, "It's Written All Over You". Learn what your face, body language, handwriting and clothing reveal about you. Many will attend this meeting to fellowship with friends. The smiling face of our president, Mary Musseman, will be absent as she is enjoying a wonderful summer in Alaska. Suzanne Snow will present the program and many others will be involved.

**Daytimers** have had many interesting summer experiences. Nell Burt took many steps in New York to keep up with her daughter and two teen-age granddaughters. Suzanne Snow and husband, Paul, toured the Northwest and Alaska. Ruby Nell Ormon and husband, Harry, have put miles on their personal pedometers and Trudy Schmidt spent time in Colorado while Mary Jo Herring and Jimmy enjoyed family in Ruidoso, New Mexico. Mary Pattie adopted a new cat, Daphne, to total three live-ins plus husband, Don. Monica Evans traveled to England to visit with family and Gail Durbin traveled to Florida. Jackie Griffin's sisters visited her and there were some beach trips: Mary Jensen and friends to South Padre and Jo Ann Williams and email family to Galveston.

Speaking of traveling – Gail Durbin's daughter, Laura, has received her learner's permit and will be on the go. Watch Out! We do want to send our condolences to Gail, due to the death of her father-in-law. Gail and Fern Cook are responsible for the Welcome Wagon duties in ONA and are great assets to our community.

Our past president, Chris Beyers, has been traveling and traveling and traveling. Yes, Chris has been driving to the home of her son to help out with the new triplets, and their big brother.

Best wishes to those who have celebrated birthdays this summer and don't forget your secret pal.

Some interest groups have been meeting this summer. Others will start in September. I will outline the groups and officers in the September Newsletter.

The **Garden Group** has been organizing and they will have a different day and time for the August meeting. They will meet at the home of Suzanne Snow on Tuesday, August 24<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. The program will include a speaker from Classic Gardens in Murphy, Texas, who will discuss subjects including "Fall planting, especially of spring blooming bulbs, and how to get your Christmas Cactus to Bloom". Visitors are welcome.

Many of us are enjoying grandchildren and hobbies and new ideas.

Some are caring for parents. Come join us at Daytimers and learn how we cope with all our situations.

**Daytimers** is a social organization that requires residence in Oakridge and \$12.00 dues. Daytimers promotes the Oakridge community and the Oakridge Neighborhood Association.

Dues of \$12.00 will be collected at the September meeting by treasurer, Sharon Carlton. Any questions should be directed to Mary Musseman, 972-414-1098, or Suzanne Snow, 972-414-3747.

If you have some info for this column, please [mdkwinter@comcast.net](mailto:mdkwinter@comcast.net) or call 972-530-6210.

GARDEN CORNER *by: Garden Lover*

This month we are going to concentrate on a serious subject—**mosquitoes**. Did you know that mosquitoes are found everywhere, even in the Artic and Antarctic regions, and there are about 200 different species in the United States alone? Everyone has heard of the West Nile Virus, but few pay much attention to the warnings. Fortunately, Garland has not had any reported cases of West Nile this year. *However, we have had mosquitoes that tested positive* for the disease. West Nile is transmitted by a bite from an infected mosquito. It can infect people, horses and birds as well as other kinds of animals. Most people who become infected will have either no symptoms or only mild ones. The good news is that less than 1% of people who are bitten and become infected will get severely ill, however in some cases the virus can result in death. It is important therefore to protect yourself from being bitten, because we have no way of knowing who is going to be the 1%!

Start by *sparingly* applying insect repellent containing DEET to any exposed skin and to your clothing. The **more DEET** the product contains **the longer time it can protect** you from mosquito bites-- it does not mean that it will protect you any better-- it just lasts longer. But, don't waste money buying products with DEET concentrations over 50%; it won't increase your exposure time. Insect repellents can irritate the eyes and mouth, so avoid applying repellent to your hands or the hands of children.

Now, go outside and take the following actions:

Empty standing water in any container, including plastic chair covers and grill covers, or anything that can retain a small amount of water such as potted plant trays, wading pools, bird baths, and fountains or even toys. Of course, you will want to clean and refill the wading pools, birdbaths and fountains and this should be done at least once per week.

Drain or fill temporary "pools" (those little divots in the lawn that we all have) with dirt.

Keep swimming pools treated and circulating and rain gutters unclogged.

Make sure window and door screens are "bug tight".

Place mosquito netting over infant carriers when you are outdoors with infants. Never use insect repellent on infants.

Replace outdoor lights with yellow "bug" lights.

Mosquitoes that carry the West Nile virus are more active around dusk and dawn; however, in this area they are also likely to bite at any time of the day.

The Garland Health Department can set up a mosquito trap in your area if you see a large number of mosquitoes. Call 972-205-2000. The trap remains in place overnight and depending upon the number of insects trapped, spraying can be done to help. The trapped insects are sent to the state lab for testing to determine if any of them contain the West Nile Virus.

Remember, mosquitoes feed on blood, if they're hungry, they're going to bite you. Protect yourself and stay safe.

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<b>Poison Center</b>	1-800-764-7661
<b>Street Light Repair</b>	972-205-3483
<b>Electricity Emergency</b>	972-205-3000
<b>Water &amp; Sewer</b>	972-205-3210
<b>Councilman, Mark Monroe</b>	972-495-8028
<b>NPO Officer Tony Blassingame</b>	972-205-2740

## Crime Watch / C.O.P Report by Bill Olive

A review of police reports from mid-May through June 30 reveals over \$8,000 worth of items were stolen from **unlocked** cars, garages and homes in Oakridge! The value of items stolen from locked cars and homes totaled just over \$5,000. There were eight incidents reported during this period, **5** were from **unlocked** vehicles, open garages and unlocked homes. It appears that Oakridge residents are "putting out the welcome mat" for thieves. The items taken from the locked vehicles included laptop computers, cash and cell phones, all items that should never be left in a vehicle, whether it is locked or not. Please, do not leave "attractive" items in your vehicle where they can easily be seen. Take everything of value from your vehicle when you get home unless you're parking your vehicle in a locked garage.

During a recent Crime Watch meeting, it was pointed out by the Police Department that many people have a garage loaded with "stuff" valued at \$500 or less while they park their expensive car, loaded with goodies, in the drive or on the street. The Salvation Army and other charities are always looking for donors; perhaps it's time to clean out the garage and move your valuables inside.

On Saturday, August 7, the Garland Police Department will be graduating another group of citizens from its Citizens on Patrol class. I will be attending to discuss patrol procedures from a citizen's perspective. There will be another class as soon as sufficient volunteer applications are received. If you would like to join us just give me a call. One or more hours a week can make a big difference, and, the more patrollers we have, the better for Oakridge. Here is my take on how the C.O.P., helps the Garland PD. If what we do frees up one police officer to "back up" another, then an officer's life may be saved, or a thief or murderer may be apprehended.

Don't forget, Officer Blassingame is scheduled to be at the ONA general membership meeting on September 23. Donations: If you would like to contribute to the C.O.P., please mail a check, made out to the ONA to this address: Oakridge Citizens on Patrol, P.O. Box 452393, Garland, TX., 75044. Our "wish list" includes new reflective signs, new **quiet** revolving lights, better communication devices, scanners, incident note pads, stamps, surveillance cameras, etc. The C.O.P. is under the direct control of the Garland Police Department via Lt. Rene, and Officer Blassingame. We are a voluntary part of the ONA, however, the C.O.P provides services to **all** residents of Oakridge whether or not they are ONA members. We do encourage everyone to join the ONA to help keep Oakridge the place to be!

Please remember that school (yeah!) reopens this month---be vigilant, there will be some "very excited" youngsters out there. **School zone speed limits are strictly enforced.**

Thanks to all the residents who have taken the time to call us regarding various "suspicious" activities. We are hoping to present some Attaboy/Attagirl Awards at the September ONA meeting.

Hours patrolled during July: 82 Number of patrollers 8

Thanks Everyone!

### Oakridge Women's Club (OWC)

WANTED! The Oakridge Women's club is seeking new members! Please join us! We would love to meet you and your family!

The **Oakridge Women's Club** meets the **first** Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. The next meeting is at Rita's house. It is Tuesday September 7<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. We will begin planning the new calendar.

We had a party for our August Meeting and selected new officers. Thank you Tracy for hosting!

Coming up is our **family** swim and cookout. This will also be at Tracy's house. It is on Sunday August 29<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm. Please come and join us. We would love to meet you and your family.

If you would like more details and directions 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](mailto:TOMLIB@comcast.net)

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



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Welcome Wagon Tony Blessingame  
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City Councilman

The ONA Board meets the Third Thursday of each month to conduct the business of the ONA.

The ONA Board set the dates 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

Change Service Requested

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