



Oakridge News



From the ONA President

Hello, ONA members. As always, thank you for your support and encouragement.

Mark your calendar for the **ONA General Membership meeting** on Thursday, September 23 at Oakridge Country Club - 6:30 social; 7:00 meeting. Baylor Medical Center at Garland will be offering a physician presentation and free blood pressure and blood glucose screenings, plus give-a-ways. Our dedicated Neighborhood Police Officer Tony Blassingame will be speaking also.

On August 31, the ONA filed our Oakridge **neighborhood vitality** project paperwork with the City. If all of our projects are approved, we'll be adding irrigation along the Buckingham border of Oakridge, lighting both Oakridge signs at the four main entrances, cleaning and painting the Diamond Oaks bridge, and "up lighting" the trees on the medians at the Ridge Oak entrance. We also filed sidewalk repair project paperwork on behalf of 20 Oakridge residents.

It appears that the work may begin as soon as Spring 2005. Completion of these projects will have a significant impact on the beauty of our neighborhood and of Garland. These projects will beautify major Garland thoroughfares and main entrance points for those coming from Richardson into Garland. We are terribly grateful to both **Billy Jack Sprinkler Company** and **Oakridge Paint and Paper** for their good will in preparing written estimates for our projects -- all the while knowing that to get the jobs, they'll have to bid all over again with the City next Spring. These beautification projects would not be possible without their efforts. I hope you'll check out their ads in the *Oakridge News* and return their good will by giving them your business, and referring your friends and family to them.

Christmas already?
continued on page 5 see Annual Christmas Dinner for the Fireman

Dear Oakridge residents


As many of you know, the City of Garland has been through one of the toughest years regarding the budget.

Many factors contributed to the sluggish growth to the bottom line. Property values have not increased as they had in the past, health insurance once again has increased over 10%, fuel prices have had an impact on the on the operations of our facilities and retail sales still remain stagnant. With all this being said, city staff prepared an excellent budget that does not include a tax increase on the debt service side nor the operational side.

The Police Dept has added 7 new positions that are dedicated to the 911 call center and should help in decreasing the average response time to an emergency call. The Council has authorized the Police Dept. to over hire for their next academy to fill the some 22 vacancies. Through retirements and cadets that do not make it through the rigorous training, the over hires should fill some of these open positions. The City Council also approved bilingual pay for Police and Fire and hopes to provide this to the rest of the employees next year.

The City Manager was intent on not reducing other city services and the Council approved the budget on September 7th. The City Council will be challenged during the budget retreat in November. We will be faced with many of the same negative factors as above. We will also be discussing public safety as our needs in the Fire Dept and Police Dept will grow as the city grows. The Council will also deliberate what type of compensation to provide employees as we are losing ground on market averages.

If you have any questions or suggestions regarding the budget retreat, please do not hesitate to contact me.



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



September 23

ONA General Membership Meeting

where - Oakridge Country Club

time - 6:30 Social 7:00 Meeting

Meet our Garland NPO Tony Blassingame and take advantage of the free tests administered by the Garland Baylor Medical Center team.

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Philosophy on Life! *author unknown*

A professor stood before his Philosophy class and had some items in front of him. When the class began, wordlessly, he picked up the very large and empty mayonnaise jar and proceeded to fill it with golf balls.

He then asked the students if the jar was full? They agreed it was.

So the professor then picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar. He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles, of course, rolled into the open areas between the golf balls.

He then asked the students again if the jar was full. They agreed it was.

The professor picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up everything else.

He then once more asked if the jar was full.

The students responded with a unanimous --- yes.

The professor then produced two cans of beer from under the table and proceeded to pour the entire contents into the jar effectively filling the empty space between the sand. The students laughed.

"Now," said the professor, as the laughter subsided, "I want you to recognize that this jar represents your life".

"The golf balls are the important things ---- your family, your wife/husband, your health, your children, your friends, your favorite passions --- things that if everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full".

"The pebbles are the other things that matter, like your job, your house, your car. The sand is everything else -- t he small stuff."

"If you put the sand into the jar first", he continued, "there is no room for the pebbles or the golf balls. The same goes for your life. If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff, you will never have room for the things that are important to you".

Pay attention to the things that are important to your happiness. Play with your children. Take time to get medical checkups. Take your wife/husband out dancing. Play another 18. There will always be time to go to work, clean the house, give a dinner party and fix the disposal. "Take care of the golf balls first. --- The things that really matter. Set your priorities. The rest is just sand"

One of the students raised her hand and inquired what the beer represented. The professor smiled, "I'm glad you asked. It just goes to show you that no matter how full your life may seem, there is always room for a couple of beers.

THINGS MY MOTHER TAUGHT ME!! *by es.*

My mother taught me LOGIC.

"Because I said so, that's why."

My mother taught me about HYPOCRISY.

"If I told you once, I've told you a million times. Don't exaggerate!"

My mother taught me about ANTICIPATION.

"Just wait until we get home."

My mother taught me about my ROOTS.

"Shut that door behind you. Do you think you were born in a barn?"

My mother taught me WISDOM.

"When you get to be my age, you'll understand"

"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"

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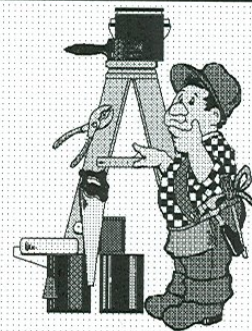
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News from the Welcome Wagon *by Fern Cook*

Gail Durbin and I started doing the Welcome Wagon in April of this year, and we have contacted an average of eight to ten families each month. When there is no one home, we leave a card asking the family to call us for a convenient time to deliver their basket. Due to the fact that so many homes are for sale, this doesn't seem like very many contacts. However, we have to rely on each of you to keep us informed. It is a joy to have the opportunity to meet our new neighbors, welcome them to the neighborhood and encourage them to join our neighborhood association. We are so appreciative of those of you who have called or e-mailed us when you have a new neighbor move in. Keep up the good work!

Wanda Hailey has expressed an interest in the Welcome Wagon and will be joining us soon. This is very timely since Gail has her home up for sale and will be moving when it sells. In the meantime, if you know of a new move-in, please call me - Fern Cook @972-495-3097 or e-mail lcCook58222@aol.com.

You Can't Help but Laugh *author unknown*

A young preacher was asked by the local funeral director to hold a grave-side burial service at a small local cemetery for someone with no family or friends. The preacher started early but quickly got himself lost, making several wrong turns. Eventually, a half-hour late, he saw a backhoe and its crew, but the hearse was nowhere in sight, and the workmen were. The diligent young pastor went to the open grave and found the vault lid already in place. Taking out his book, he read the service. Feeling guilty because of his tardiness, he preached an impassioned and lengthy service, sending the deceased to the great beyond in style..

As he was returning to his car, he overheard one of the workmen say: "I've been putting in septic tanks for twenty years and I ain't ever seen anything like that."

Chocolate Mathematics *author unknown*

It takes less than a minute.....

Work this out as you read.

Be sure you don't read the bottom until you've worked it out! This is not one of those wastes of time things, its fun.

1. First of all, pick the number of times a week that you would like to have chocolate. (try for more than once but less than 10)
2. Multiply this number by 2 (Just to be bold)
3. Add 5 (for Sunday)
4. Multiply it by 50 I'll wait while you get the calculator.....
5. If you have already had your birthday this year add 1754.... If you haven't, add 1753
6. Now subtract the four digit year that you were born.

You should have a three digit number....

The first digit of this was your original number (i.e., how many times you want to have chocolate each week).

The next two numbers are..... YOUR AGE! Oh YES, it IS!!!!

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Philip Hanas

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DAYTIMERS by Dianne Winter

After this superb summer the Daytimers are all pleased to join in the September events that are occurring and the October events that are planned.

The Daytimers will mark the beginning of the fall season with the coffee at the home of Jo Ann Dietz at 2906 Oak Point on September 14, at 10 am.

Please be prepared to pay dues of \$12.00 for 2004-2005 year to treasurer, Sharon Carlton.

Daytimers are hopeful that members Trudy Schmidt, Clara Mae Muerer, and Elois Lovejoy will be recuperated enough to join us. Audrey King is doing a beautiful job of communicating with our "under the weather" friends.

Hopefully our newest member, Fern Cook, will join us as will our mentors, Audrey Golden, Gladys McGhee, Norene Murphy and many others.

Daytimers are also proud of our resident artists, Becky Parks and Beverly Pierce, who have both had their artwork exhibited locally.

The Garden Club met at the home of Suzanne Snow on August 24th for an evening meeting. Shelly, from Classic Gardens in Murphy, Texas, distributed handouts regarding Texas bluebonnets, Christmas cactus, pansies, and bulbs. The attendees were instructed on the best way to have a good show of flowers: one color, one type of flower and plenty of them! She explained how easily one could grow pansies from seed beginning this month. There were some doubters, but perhaps some may venture out and attempt her method rather than depend upon buying more expensive flats at the nursery. She answered questions regarding yards and flower bed problems and was eager to consult on an individual basis regarding shrubs, trees and ponds at a later time. There were two donated door prizes and there were hydrangea blooms to use in home decorating for the taking, as well. We are doing our best to get this new group off to a good start.

In September the Garden Club and ETC groups will combine their efforts for an exciting trip to the Farmers' Market on Wednesday, September 22nd. Then they will go to Austin's Grill for lunch where Becky Parks will give an informal talk on Colors for Fall Garden Planting. Meet at the pool parking lot at Oakridge at 10:15 to carpool. Other Daytimers are welcome so please sign up at the September meeting or call Becky Parks a 972-495-8776.

The Book Club will meet on Friday, September 17th, at the home of JoAnn Williams to discuss the book, "Eat Cake" by author, Jeanne Ray. The Book Club will be meeting at the home of Suzanne Snow on Oct. 15 with author, Susan Oliver, speaking about her book, "Once Upon a Gulf Coast Summer".

The October coffee will be held on October 12, at the home of Chris Beyers, 2205 Fulton Dr.

Other group meetings and activities will be announced at the meeting and will be on your calendar. Don't forget your Secret Pal.

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

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 email mdkwinter@comcast.net or call 972-530-6210.

30 Years Difference

1973: Long hair

2003: Longing for hair

1973: Acid rock

2003: Acid reflux

1973: Trying to look like Marlon Brando or Liz Taylor

2003: Trying NOT to look like Marlon Brando or Liz Taylor

1973: Whatever

2003: Depends

1973: Passing the drivers' test

2003: Passing the vision test

Just in case you weren't feeling too old today, this will certainly change things. Each year the staff at Beloit College in Wisconsin puts together a list to try to give the faculty a sense of the mindset of this year's incoming freshmen. Here's this year's list:

The people who are starting college this fall across the nation were born in 1985. They are too young to remember the space shuttle blowing up. Their lifetime has always included AIDS. Bottle caps have always been screw off and plastic. The CD was introduced the year they were born. They have always had an answering machine. They have always had cable. They cannot fathom not having a remote control. Jay Leno has always been on the Tonight Show.

Popcorn has always been cooked in the microwave. They never took a swim and thought about Jaws. They can't imagine what hard contact lenses are. They don't know who Mork was or where he was from. They never heard: "Where's the Beef?", "I'd walk a mile for a Camel", or "de plane Boss, de plane". They do not care who shot J. R. and have no idea who J. R. even is. McDonald's never came in Styrofoam containers. They don't have a clue how to use a typewriter.

Do you feel old yet?

Save the earth. It's the only planet with chocolate.

1973: KEG

2003: EKG

1973: Moving to California because it's cool

2003: Moving to California because it's warm

1973: Seeds and stems

2003: Roughage

1973: Going to a new, hip joint

2003: Receiving a new hip joint

1973: Rolling Stones

2003: Kidney Stones

continued from page 1

No, but it's never too early to start thinking about how you might want to support the **Annual Christmas Dinner for the Firemen** effort (coordinated by Luann Payne) this year. Oakridge may be feeding a third crew this year if the new fire station is open by Christmas. So, please be thinking about how you might want to participate, and keep an eye out here and on the ONA website (www.oakridgena.com) for more information as we get closer to Christmas. You'll not only make the firemen's day, but you'll make your own extra special.

Decals! Support the ONA and Citizens on Patrol (COP) efforts by buying **ONA decals** for your cars, your homes, your mailboxes -- whatever. They're only \$1 each, but they'll immediately identify you as an Oakridge resident and someone who's supposed to be in the neighborhood. ONA decals will be available at the September 23 meeting, and from Karen Engler at 972-414-3272 after that. We only have a limited number, so make sure to get yours as soon as possible.

I look forward to seeing you at the General Membership meeting on September 23.

Nelson Prater, 972-495-7769

Things to Ponder *author unknown*

Some people come into our lives and quickly go...
Some people become friends and stay awhile...leaving beautiful footprints on our hearts... and we are never quite the same because we have made a good friend!!

We reached the Moon and came back, but we find it troublesome to cross our own street and meet our neighbors. Today we have higher buildings and wider highways, but shorter temperaments and narrower points of view. We talk much, we love only a little, and we hate too much.

Yesterday is history. Tomorrow is a mystery. Today is a gift. That's why it's called the present!

You do not keep anything for a special occasion, because every day that you live is a special occasion.

This life is special...live and savour every moment...
This is not a dress rehearsal!

Every day, every hour, and every minute is special.



Laugh Awhile *by e.s.*

A few puns for fun:

Two vultures board a plane, each carrying two dead raccoons. The stewardess stops them and says "sorry sir, only one carrion per passenger."

NASA recently sent a number of Holsteins into orbit for experimental purposes. They called it the herd shot round the world!

Two boll weevils grew up in S.C. One took off to Hollywood and became a rich star. The other stayed in Carolina and never amounted to much—and naturally became known as the lesser of two weevils.

Two Eskimos in a kayak were chilly, so they started a fire, which promptly sank the craft, proving the old adage you can't have your kayak and heat it too!

A 3-legged dog walks into an old west saloon, slides up to the bar and announces, "I'm looking for the man who shot my paw!"

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Code Compliance	972-485-6400	Animal Services	972-205-3570
Tim George	972-485-6418	Electricity Emergency	972-205-3000
Poison Center	1-800-764-7661		
Water & Sewer	972-205-3210		
Councilman, Mark Monroe	972-495-8028	NPO Tony Blassingame	972 -205-2740

Crime incidents for Oakridge during the month of August:

2600 block of Ridge Oak Pl., vehicle burglary, 8/21-- 11 a.m.
3200 block of Ridge Oak Dr, criminal mischief \$50-\$500, 8/21-- 7 a.m.
3300 block of Ridge Oak Dr., vehicle burglary, 8/20-- early a.m.
2900 block of Oak Springs, unauthorized use of vehicle, 8/9-- early a.m.
2800 block of Stoneridge, criminal mischief, 8/9--early a.m.

Stop sign enforcement:

Garland Police Officers have recently been in Oakridge issuing citations to people for running stop signs. The two locations where these violations are flagrant are Moss & Diamond Oaks and Laurel Oaks and Big Oaks. One officer indicated that he could have issued far more citations "if I had been more than one body". *Be aware they will be back!* A stop costs only a second or two, while a ticket costs over \$100 plus points. Patrollers Kathleen Gannon and Brenda Olive were on the corner of Big Oaks Dr. and Laurel Oaks two mornings with hand held signs about the Stop Signs, in an attempt to warn everyone. Thanks to them for getting up early.

Our N.P.O. at Sept. 23rd meeting:

Officer T.C. Blessingame, our neighborhood police officer will be at the O.N.A. meeting. He will talk about the N.P.O. unit and answer questions.

C.O.P. exceeds 500 hours so far in 2004

Thanks to all patrollers, we now are over 500 patrol hours for the year. We would like to have additional patrollers. If you are interested, call me and I'll get an application to you a.s.a.p. The next C.O.P. class will be held when enough applications are submitted. During the recent August 7 class, over 45 Garland residents participated. Officer Tannock, who is in charge of the C.O.P. training classes, was kind enough to invite representatives of the Oakridge C.O.P. to discuss "patrol procedures".

License Plates:

The state of Texas requires that vehicles have a tag on the front as well as the rear. I am shocked when I see so many of our resident's vehicles with only the rear tag. This is a citation waiting to happen.

Oakridge Women's Club

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. Our next Meeting is October the 5th. Please call Tracy or e-mail Libby for the location. (numbers below) We will be planning our calendar and holiday events. These you won't want to miss.

We had a Great family swim and cookout in August. Thank you Tracy and Pat for all of your hard work!

I can't believe it is already back to school time! We have our little ones on the bus. Watch for flashing reds!

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 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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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
www.oakridgena.com

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