



Oakridge News



A Note from the ONA President
 Hello, ONA members! I hope you had a happy holiday season.
 Just a quick update on our neighborhood vitality submission. The City called me and asked if the ONA would be willing to coordinate and manage the projects we submitted for Oakridge -- using the contractors who provided us bids. I, of course, said absolutely we would be willing to do that. (Actually, I was agreeing that our own environmental volunteer, Chuck Teske, would coordinate and manage that. Chuck does inspired work for us -- we could never afford to pay Chuck for the time, heart and personal expense he puts into our neighborhood. I know our projects will be in good hands with Chuck leading them.) This is especially good news for our contractors, Billy Jack Sprinkler Company and Oakridge Paint and Paper. They both prepared good faith bids for us so that we could complete our required paperwork, and all the while thinking they would probably not get the jobs -- that they would most-likely go to out-of-state low-bidders. Their good will has paid off -- the City says they'll be getting the jobs. I hope you'll check out their ads in the *Oakridge News* and give them your business, and refer your friends and family to them. Garland needs more businesses like this.
 So, hopefully sooner than later, our signs will be lit up at our main entrances, we'll have beautiful uplights in the trees at the Jupiter/Ridge Oak entrance, our bridge will look clean and new, and your ONA dollars can help us start doing some landscaping along Buckingham with our new irrigation in place. Oakridge is going to look amazing!
 Thanks to all who helped out with the Christmas Dinner for the Firemen -- three fire stations this year! We called Luann Payne close to Christmas, and she had everything she needed, and more. You really came through. What a great Christmas it was for the firemen, and for you!
 As always, thank you for your support and encouragement. I wish you great success in 2005. *Nelson.*

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You *by Luanne Payne*

What a great neighborhood we live in! This year as many of you know we delivered Christmas dinners to three fire stations. Our new Station No. 11, located on Beltline and Sam Houston, was open and operating on December 19th just in time for them to see what a great neighborhood Oakridge is. Even though some of the guys from Station No. 3 (Jupiter @ Bobbie Lane) were transferred to the new station, they felt special that there was so much food made and money contributed to be able to include them in this special day. As always, Station No. 3 and No. 6 were very grateful for all the food delivered. Station No. 6 will not be servicing Oakridge since the new Station No. 11 will be taking over their territory. This makes me a little sad thinking ahead to next Christmas. I am not sure I will be able to drop them from this special gift. I guess I will deal with this problem in November. I believe we have been doing this for 8 years now.
 This year there were some new neighbors that got involved and more money contributed so I did not have to depend on Albertson's to donate any food. In the past, Albertsons donations for just 2 stations was about \$80 to \$100 and then the Country Club donates and cooks the meat dish with a couple of side dishes. This year with all the money contributed I was able to buy extra food for all three stations to have food for the remainder of the week and for the other shifts to enjoy also. I even have some money left over to start with next year. Hams, cakes, pretzels, popcorn, bags of apples, supplies of paper plates, napkins, cups and plastic ware were provided to all 3 stations and also 3 Passbooks for each station to share. So I would like to personally express thanks to the following families:

Joe Don Davis, Mgr. of OCC	Mr. & Mrs. Harry Green
Mr. & Mrs. Darrell Baker	Mr. & Mrs. Jim Griffin
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Bennett	Ms. Susan Hageland & Family
Mr. & Mrs. Clifton Boyd	Mr. & Mrs. Gary Hubbard
Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Carlton	Mr. & Mrs. Dan Jones
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Edwards	Mr. & Mrs. Lee Litton
Mr. & Mrs. Keith Engler	Mr. & Mrs. Leroy Lott
Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Gingerich	Mr. & Mrs. Lowell McNally
	Mrs. Clara Mae Muerer

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The Driving Permit *author unknown*

A young boy had just gotten his driving permit, he asked his father, who was a Minister, if they could discuss his use of the family car. His father took him into his study and said, "I'll make a deal with you. You bring your grades up, study the Bible a little, get your hair cut and then we'll talk about it". After about a month, the boy came back and again asked his father if they could discuss his use of the car. They again went into the father's study where the father said, "Son, I've been very proud of you. You have brought your grades up, you've studied the Bible diligently, but you didn't get your hair cut." The young man waited a moment and then replied, "You know, Dad, I've been thinking about that. You know Samson had long hair, Moses had long hair, Noah had long hair, and even Jesus had long hair." The Minister said, "Yes, and everywhere they went, they walked."

continued Thank You! Thank You! Thank You

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Mr. & Mrs. Robert Musseman | Mr. & Mrs. Dave Thomas |
| Mr. & Mrs. Vance Payne | Mr. & Mrs. Lynn Tripp |
| Mr. & Mrs. Howard Pelton | Mr. & Mrs. Charles Trout |
| Mr. & Mrs. Nelson Prater | Mr. & Mrs. Chip Van Pelt |
| Mr. & Mrs. Troy Prater | Mr. & Mrs. Orville Weiss |
| Mr. & Mrs. Rob Rummel | Mr. & Mrs. Lloyd Whitson |
| Mr. & Mrs. Harvey Schrah | |

I would also like to say a special thank you to Rob & Mary Jane Rummel, Alex Van Pelt and my family who help load the car and went to deliver the dinners.

It is a very warm experience to be able to share this special day with the men and women who work for our city and are always there when we need them. Station No. 11 would love to have you come by and see their new "state of the art" firehouse. It is truly a home away from home and they so deserve it. I wish all the stations were this fortunate. I have attached their thank you notes that were sent to me to share with the neighborhood.

Oakridge Women's Club *by Libby Morse*

ATTENTION! We changed our meeting night! If you couldn't meet with us on Tuesdays- Join us for our new night- the first **THURSDAY** of the month!

We had a spa day in January. Thank you Amber for hosting at your lovely spa: "Body & Soul For Her" located in the Albertsons shopping center.

Please join us in February. We are having our meeting Thursday the 4th at Sheila's house. We will plan the progressive dinner. The progressive dinner is scheduled for Saturday Feb. 12th. You don't want to miss all this great food!

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.

If you would like more details and directions about the upcoming events or joining the OWC, please contact our President, Rita Morrison at 972-495-2961. Or you may e-mail Libby Morse at TOMLIB@comcast.net

"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"

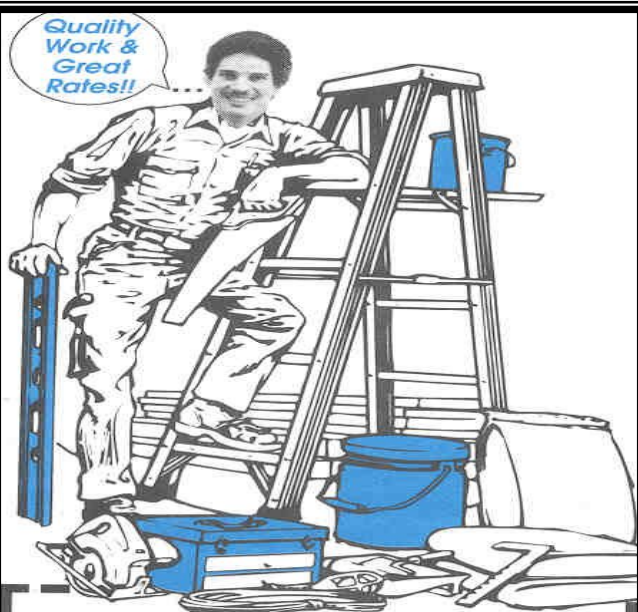
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Luanne Payne
2813 Willow Ridge
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Garland Fire Station #6
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75044

Dear friends from the Oakridge Neighborhood Association,

A simple "thank you" does not seem adequate to express our heartfelt gratitude for the kindness you have shown us these past Christmases. Though it is by choice we serve careers that take us away from our families and loved ones on the holidays, Christmas seems to be the most poignant. It warms our hearts to know that kind folks such as yourselves are thinking of us on a day that is filled with your own busy schedules and loved ones.

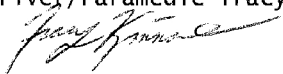
Your thoughtfulness is evident by the homemade treats, dinner "fixins" donations and time that went into preparing our sumptuous Christmas meal. Most important to us, however, is your concern and prayers for our safety. Please accept our thanks and wishes for a safe and joyous holiday season and New Year.

Your A shift friends,

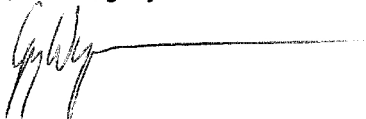
Lt J. S. Kovach



Driver/Paramedic Tracy Kinnard



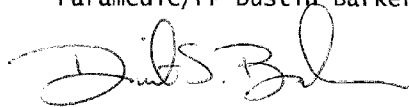
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Driver/Paramedic Greg Goff



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OAKRIDGE DAYTIMERS *by Dianne Winter*

Oakridge Daytimers wish you a happy, healthy and prosperous new year. These Daytimers closed 2004 with a Christmas Cookie Exchange at the Oakridge Country Club. Over 50 members attended and the hostess table was soon laden with a wonderful array of sweet temptations. After much chatting and sampling, the president, Mary Musseman, made a few announcements, introduced guests and then introduced Pat Cathcart who accompanied the caroling with the keyboard. Suzanne Snow led the group in several carols before the grand finale of the "Twelve Days of Christmas". Membership in this group is worthy for this activity alone. Ruby Nell Ormon steals the show with her portrayal of a golden hen. Daytimers thank Pat Cathcart for returning to the neighborhood to accompany the singing. These members will begin celebrating 2005 with a coffee at the home of Sally Weiss at 2733 Big Oaks at 10 am on January 11th. Please join Sally and the other members to begin the New Year with friends. At this meeting the members will exchange their Christmas stories, celebrations and visits and then plan for 2005 with the following groups. The president and vice president have great plans for 2005 with a few surprises that you will enjoy.

The **bridge and canasta groups** are meeting at their regular times and the **ETC group** will meet at the home of Jo Deitz on Jan 17th.

Norene Murphy will look forward to seeing you at **Stitch and Chat** on Jan 18th.

Book Club celebrated a joyful Christmas at the home of Audrey King, sharing Christmas books, recipes and memories as well as tasty refreshments. Audrey was an outstanding, creative hostess using the theme, Garlands for Garland, to decorate for the enjoyment of the group. January Book Club will meet at the home of Mary Pattie on January 21 to discuss a Harlan Coben book, Tell No One.

Garden Club will meet January 26th at the home of Eleanor Nelson.

Call Gail Durbin if you have new neighbors so that the ONA Welcome Wagon can visit them.

Daytimers is a social organization that requires present or former 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.

Hello to all in Oakridge,

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and is ready to take on the New Year.

I spent the week before New Years out of town, to come home to the heart wrenching news that there had been a fatal accident at Overview and Buckingham. As with all accidents of this nature, Buckingham had to be closed down for the investigation and traffic had to be rerouted. Unfortunately, the traffic was re-routed down Diamond Oaks and as most would agree, Oakridge is not the easiest to navigate. This in itself created another safety concern because the traffic not familiar with Oakridge was circling. I have asked the City Manger to look into a more effective way for the future if we should ever have a tragedy like this again. Thank you to all of those that tried to help guide the traffic out of Oakridge and know that our thoughts and prayers are with the family who lost their loved one.

Has anyone noticed the new florescent crosswalk signs throughout Garland? This is a direct result in civil penalties paid by those who have encountered the Red Light Cameras. You will also notice that all of our traffic signals will be changed to the L.E.D. lights, which are brighter and more visible. There will also be new crosswalk timers placed throughout the city at busy intersections. The City Council has directed the staff to use the money collected from red light runners to fund traffic safety programs.

The City Council is currently in review of the Capital Improvements Program (CIP) and should have something finalized by February. Highlights are new roadways around Firewheel Town Center and infrastructure needs for the Harbor Point project. Also included in the CIP are playground equipment improvements throughout the city as well as money for the Library. If you have any questions about the CIP or anything other concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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



To All the fine residents
at the Oakridge Neighborhood
Association and Vets @ the
Oakridge County Club all
of us at Fire Station #3
would like to extend
our heartfelt gratitude for
all the trouble & effort
you went through to make
sure we had a nice
Christmas meal here at
Station 3.

This comes with sincere gratitude.



Captain Keith Webb
&
the entire "A"
shift crew at
Station 3



Oakridge Neighborhood
Association
oakridgenz.com

Now Available **ONA Decals**

Support the ONA and identify yourself as an Oakridge resident. Decals may be placed on your car so that you live in the neighborhood. We are suggesting that you place it on the lower left side of the back window (driver's side). The decals are black and white with a logo exactly like the one above. They are \$1.00 each.

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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

Deck of Cards *author unknown*

It was quiet that day, the guns and the mortars, and land mines for some reason hadn't been heard. The young soldier knew it was Sunday, the holiest day of the week. As he was sitting there, he got out an old deck of cards and laid them out across his bunk. Just then an army sergeant came in and said, "Why aren't you with the rest of the platoon?" The soldier replied, "I thought I would stay behind and spend some time with the Lord." The sergeant said, "Looks to me like you're going to play cards." The soldier said, "No sir, you see, since we are not allowed to have Bibles or other spiritual books in this country, I've decided to talk to the Lord by studying this deck of cards." The sergeant asked in disbelief, "How will you do that?"

"You see the **Ace**, Sergeant? It reminds me that there is only **one** God. The **Two** represents the two parts of the Bible, Old and New Testaments. The **Three** represents the Father, Son, and the Holy Ghost. The **Four** stands for the Four Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. The **Five** is for the five virgins that were ten but only five of them were glorified. The **Six** is for the six days it took God to create the Heavens and Earth. The **Seven** is for the day God rested after making His Creation. The **Eight** is for the family of Noah and his wife, their three sons and their wives - the eight people God spared from the flood that destroyed the Earth. The **Nine** is for the lepers that Jesus cleansed of leprosy. He cleansed ten, but nine never thanked Him. The **Ten** represents the Ten Commandments that God handed down to Moses on tablets made of stone. The **Jack** is a reminder of Satan, one of God's first angels, but he got kicked out of heaven for his sly and wicked ways and is now the joker of eternal hell. The **Queen** stands for the Virgin Mary. The **King** stands for Jesus, for he is the King of all kings.

When I **count the dots** on all the cards, I come up with 365 total, one for every day of the year. There are a total of **52 cards in a deck**; each is a week - 52 weeks in a year. The **four suits** represent the four seasons: Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter. Each **suit has thirteen cards** - there are exactly thirteen weeks in a quarter. So when I want to talk to God and thank Him, I just pull out this old deck of cards and they remind me of all that I have to be thankful for."

The sergeant just stood there. After a minute, with tears in his eyes and pain in his heart, he said, "Soldier, can I borrow that deck of cards?"

NO SOLICITING

ORD # 2651
CITY OF GARLAND

ONA No Soliciting Signs

As you drive around the Oakridge community you might notice many homes with a "No Soliciting" sign placed near their front door. Our COP group started this effort and the ONA Board would like to see this effort continue to grow. These signs are available from the ONA Board. Contact Mike Rose at 972.414.8598 to receive your sign. Each sign costs \$10.00. Why not do your part and order a sign today.

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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.oakridgema.com

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