

Oakridge News

Vol. 14, No. 2

Published by the Oakridge Neighborhood Association

July 2005

TO OUR READERS:

Future newsletters will be sent to only currently-paid members of the ONA. Don't miss an issue of *Oakridge News*; send in your 2005-06 ONA dues today!

Not a member? Wondering how to become one? Go to the membership application on page 7.

I·N·S·I·D·E

Couldn't make it to the July 4th parade? See what you missed as the ONA thanks all those who contributed. **Page 3**

If you're looking for a dessert that's tough to beat, try Martha Boyette's recipe for Better-Than-Almost-Anything Cake. **Page 4**

In the mood for Italian food, but not sure where to go? Mary Jane and Rob Rummel would like to suggest Venezia Italian Café. **Page 6**

Be sure to save our list of all the important phone numbers you'll never be able to remember. **Page 4**

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Sense of community remains strong

By Keith Engler
ONA President

Since becoming president of our neighborhood association, I have spoken with many of you about our neighborhood. I get various responses, but each contains the same underlying theme: "What is being done to promote a sense of community in the neighborhood?"

Thanks to the hard work of many dedicated people, our neighborhood is on track to have a great future with regard to the many day-to-day projects that keep our neighborhood beautiful. I love the look of the Oakridge entrances: the roses are beautiful and the shrubs are healthy, and we just installed irrigation along Buckingham. Our environmental director has developed a good relationship with the landscape crew we hire to maintain our perimeter. Rest assured: the entrances will be maintained.

Our finances are meticulously tracked by our treasurer and were within \$7 of the budgeted income last year. Both the newsletter and Web site are wonderful.

Even though we have not yet filled the Citizens on Patrol (COP) position, the board is addressing the vacancy and has identified several candidates.

Yet even while accomplishing these things, the idea of building a sense of community remains strong in Oakridge.

I believe the true nature of people is a relational one. We have many clubs within Oakridge where neighbor-to-neighbor relationships are forming, such as The Daytimers, the Women's Club (OWC), the Men's Golf Association, the Women's Golf Association, and the Seniors' Golf Association.

We even have groups formed that extend beyond the Oakridge walls, such as the Bunko group. I know there are some lone rangers who are not that interested in meeting their neighbors, but I encourage all of you to meet your neighbors and start developing relationships. Remember, even the Lone Ranger had Tonto!

See Ideas on page 2

White grubs could mean brown turfgrass in some unprepared lawns

By Kimberly Engler
Program Specialist, Urban IPM
Texas A&M University

There are two important white grub species that infest turfgrass in Texas: the June beetle, *Phyllophaga crinita*, and the southern masked chafer, *Cyclocephala lurida*. Both species feed on roots of turfgrass, causing it to become brown and loose. White grubs pose the most damage to lawns during the summer and fall, when the larger grubs begin to feed.

Both species of grub worms require one year for development from egg stage to adult stage. After mating, the females will lay their eggs in the soil. The eggs will hatch into small white grub larvae. These developing white grubs will feed on roots of turfgrass and continue to cause more damage in the mid-summer

to late fall.

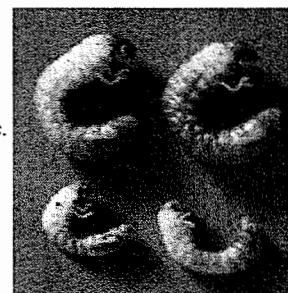
White grub damage can be determined by the presence of irregularly shaped areas of weakened or dying turfgrass. By detecting white grubs early, treatments can be applied before serious root damage occurs. Also, treatments are more effective when applied to smaller grubs.

Before treating with insecticides, lawns must be inspected in several areas. Insecticides should only be applied if a grub worm infestation exists in your lawn, since unnecessary use can cause insect resistance. Also, applied insecticides do not discriminate between beneficial insects and pests, so many beneficial insects could be killed due to unnecessary application.

In order to inspect an area, soil sections should be taken randomly in areas that are at least 3 to 4 inches deep, and the sampled sections should equal one square foot for

White Grubs
(Coleoptera:
Scarabaeidae),
June beetle larvae.

Photo by
Dr. Bart Drees.



every 1,000 square feet that is infested. One square foot can be sampled by removing four 6-inch square pieces of turf or ten 4-inch cup-cutter core samples. If more than 5 white grubs are found within this square foot, then treatment should be applied.

The optimal time for inspection and for treatment application should be 5 to 6 weeks after the heaviest June beetle

See Get on page 2

Ideas for special events aim to increase neighborliness in Oakridge

continued from page 1

The ONA is already a well run organization. We have minutes, bylaws, and the respect of the Garland City Council.

But I hope to make it more relational.

We addressed this goal in the last board meeting, and it really created some excitement and enthusiasm. We are just a volunteer counsel and we know it will take the help of others to address this goal and be successful.

The board, therefore, decided to create a new position called the Special Events Coordinator. The vision for this person is to create event committees, which will then create the vision for an event and set the budget.

Examples of events we have had in the past are a spring picnic and Fourth of July parade. Ideas for future events include a fall picnic, neighborhood block parties, professional fireworks displays, Christmas caroling, an Oakridge tour of homes, neighborhood golf tournaments, ski trips, and gambling trips.

Other ideas are to create an ONA team for, say, a Susan B. Komen walk or a bicycle rally where we show our pride

with ONA T-shirts. Of course, the ONA could not completely sponsor all these events, but it can be a central focus for the organization of the event. The sky is the limit in what will bring us closer as a community, but the budget and the commitment of individuals is the reality within which we work.

We are just short of 50 per cent membership in the ONA, and our expenses versus budget are tightly controlled. The board budgeted \$1,100 for special events this year and I can see spending \$5,000 on events in the near future. With this reality as a backdrop, three things must happen in order to create special neighborhood events.

1) The special events coordinator position will require a change in the ONA Bylaws, which then must be approved by the neighborhood at the next general meeting in September.

2) The ONA membership has to increase in order to have the extra funds for events.

3) We have to find somebody with the time and willingness to act as the special events coordinator.

It will take all of us to increase our income enough to have a \$5,000 Special Events Budget. I don't mean that people should give more. What I mean is for you all to meet your neighbors and kindly encourage them to join the ONA. There are many of you who have graciously given above the membership dues, and we greatly appreciate your generosity.

I am sure a few of you would give even more if needed, but I would rather increase funding by increasing membership. Increasing membership means an increase in neighborhood relationships. At \$48 per member, a \$5,000 increase equates to approximately 100 new members.

I have cast a vision to see membership increase to 75 per cent, and the ONA board is on board with that vision. Increasing membership by 100 new members will only bring us to approximately 60 per cent, but it is a good start toward our vision. It will really take the whole neighborhood to inspire this kind of participation — which brings us back to building relationships.

Keith Engler

Get the low-down on keeping your lawn free of underground worms

continued from page 1

flights are seen. Timing of application is due to both non-chemical and chemical options being more effective at controlling small grub worms, less than ½ inches. For the DFW metroplex, treatment in late July to early August is optimal. However, flight periods may vary due to rainfall variations.

Treatment Options

Non-Chemical: Some beneficial nematodes within the genera *Steinernema* and *Heterorhabditis* attack white grubs and

other soil-inhabiting insects.

Nematodes can be purchased in stores or through garden supply catalogs. One-quarter inch of water should be applied before and after nematodes have been sprayed onto the law, which will allow the nematodes to contact white grubs in the soil.

Chemical: There are several chemicals on the market including systemic insecticides such as imidacloprid and clothianidin. These products should be applied before extensive grub worm damage is seen. Irrigating the soil prior to application can

improve effectiveness of the insecticides.

For dry soils, ¼ to ½ inches of water should be applied to promote the grubs to move closer to the soil surface and allow the insecticide to reach the root zone. If using a liquid insecticide, ½ to 1 inch of water should be applied. If using a granular insecticide, water should be applied within 24 hours. Application of water should occur slowly in order to avoid runoff.

Thoroughly confused? Interested to learn more? Have a question? If so, contact Kimberly at k-engler@tamu.edu.

Women's Club wraps up holiday activities, welcomes new member

By Libby Morse
Oakridge Women's Club (OWC)

Thanks to all who helped on the Fourth of July parade! It was a great success!

Our July meeting was at Libby's. We discussed our upcoming elections (among many other topics!).

Welcome to our new member Joy

Weiner! We look forward to getting to know you and your family!

The next meeting is a pool party at Tracy's. We will elect new officers and plan our agenda for the year. It will be at 7 p.m. on Thursday, August 4. Join us!

If you would like more details about the upcoming events or joining the OWC, please contact our president, Rita Morri-

son, at 972-495-2961. 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.

About *Oakridge News* and the ONA

Oakridge News is a publication of the Oakridge Neighborhood Association.

ONA OFFICERS

President Keith Engler
 Vice President Jim Norris
 Secretary Karen Engler
 Treasurer Sherri Rutherford-Franks

DISTRICT DIRECTORS

District 1 Sue Cole
 District 2 Joe and Beth Fagan
 District 3 Mary Reed
 District 4 Art and Jo Ann Dietz
 District 5 Tony and Tillie Battaglia
 District 6 Phil Hanas
 District 7 Scott Youzva

COMMITTEES

Membership Martha Dollar
 Communications John Prater
 Environmental Chuck Teske
 Crime Prevention and Safety vacant
 Welcome Wagon Wanda Hailey

The ONA board meets the third Thurs-day of each month to conduct the business of the ONA.

It also sets the dates for the general membership meetings, which take place at least three times each term. (One term runs from June of one year until May of the following year.)

The date of the next general meeting is still being scheduled.

ONA wishes to thank July 4 parade patrons

By Keith Engler
 ONA President

Dear Local Business Manager,

Thank you for your kind and gracious contribution to the Oakridge Fourth of July Parade 2005. We could not have done it without your help!

The parade was well attended and considered a success by all involved. This fun annual event brings unity to the neighborhood along with showing patriotism to our country.

The parade originated at the Oakridge Country Club at 9 a.m. on the Fourth of July. The Elks Lodge Honor Guard led the parade. They were followed by a Garland Firetruck and an ambulance playing marching music through their PA system.

A U.S. Coast Guard boat pulled by a classic sports car led the rest of the parade, consisting of decorated bicycles, wagons, golf carts, and even the Chick-Fil-A cow. The kids were given red, white, and blue toys and bandanas. Peggy Richie donated flags, which were distributed along the parade route. Some people even held

early-morning yard parties with mimosas and bloody maries while waiting for the parade.

After the parade we met back at the club, where we ate muffins and sipped water, juice, and coffee donated by Albertson's, Tom Thumb, and the Oakridge Country Club. The cinnamon rolls and gourmet coffee donated by Chick-Fil-A were enjoyed by all.

We held a drawing for various raffle prizes donated by local businesses, consisting of:

- an oil change and tire rotation by Frank Marino's Automotive Center
- a "super works" car wash at the Royal Car Wash
- a deluxe detail by Royal Car Wash
- a gift certificate at Expert Nails
- two rounds of golf for two at Oakridge Country Club

We offer our sincere thanks, on behalf of the Women's Club, the neighborhood association, the Daytimers and the entire Oakridge neighborhood. It was truly a community event.

The Purpose of the ONA

The purposes of the Association are to assure the beauty, safety and stability of the area and the surrounding community, and to promote neighborliness and pride among the residents.

—Article 1.2, Bylaws of the ONA

Philip Hanas

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Daytimers deem parade efforts successful

By Dianne Winters
Oakridge Daytimers

From sea to shining sea, God blesses America.

The Fourth of July parade certainly demonstrated these lyrics as Oakridge residents gathered to honor this nation.

From the Daytimers, Suzanne Snow had encouraged participation in this event, and Cecile LaBossiere had collected donations, which were included in the drawing.

Daytimers are very interested in cooperating with the Women's Club in their efforts to continue the celebration that particularly concentrates on children. ONA President Keith Engler is very proactive and inclusive, aiding and encouraging neighborhood projects.

Also that day, the Canasta Group and spouses celebrated with a grand salute to the Fourth at the home of Barbara Brunette. The Canasta Group certainly leads the Daytimers in their party skills, and Barbe and her husband, Craig, led the group with this get-together.

Other Daytimers have been vacationing, but Audrey King stays busy using her skills to encourage and thank other members on various occasions. Thanks, Audrey.

Book Club met in June at the home of Mary Jensen to discuss the last book of the year. Betty Thomas, group leader, had devised a voting plan that everyone had participated in, and the group received the summary of their votes, which became the book list for the coming year. This is a new plan to choose books for the group and should work very well.

We are heading into the hottest part of the summer, so be sure to check on your neighbor and your animals, and keep hydrated and safe from the powerful rays of the sun.

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

Any questions should be directed to Suzanne Snow at 972-414-3747.

A Recipe from the Daytimers

Contributed by Martha Boyette

Better-Than-Almost-Anything Cake

- 1 package Betty Crocker® Supermoist German chocolate cake mix (and water, vegetable oil, and eggs, as called for in the cake mix package directions)
- 1 can (14 oz.) sweetened condensed milk
- 1 jar (16 to 17 oz.) caramel topping
- 1 container (8 oz.) frozen whipped topping, thawed (3 cups)
- 1 bag (8 oz.) toffee chips or bits

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Make and bake cake as directed on package for 13-by-9-inch pan. Let cool for 15 minutes.

Poke top of warm cake every 1/2 inch with handle of wooden spoon. Drizzle milk evenly over the top of the cake, and let stand until milk has been completely absorbed into the cake

Drizzle with caramel topping. Run knife around sides of pan to loosen the cake. Cover and refrigerate about 2 hours or until chilled. (I usually just leave it in there overnight.)

Spread whipped topping over top of cake. Sprinkle with toffee chips. Store covered in refrigerator. Enjoy!

Important Phone Numbers

- | | |
|--|--|
| Police, Non-Emergencies . . . 972-485-4840 | Water & Sewer 972-205-3210 |
| Lone Star Gas 1-800-817-8090 | Mark Monroe, Councilman 972-495-8028 |
| Solid Waste & Recycling. . . 972-205-3500 | Street Light Repair 972-205-3483 |
| 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 | NPO Tony Blassingame . . . 972-205-2740 |



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Summer greetings from the OCC

By Amanda Fine
 Membership Director
 Oakridge Country Club

Many of you may not know just how close you live to what could be your family's entertainment center year round. Oakridge Country Club has a wonderful membership family, and they, along with our staff, welcome you to take a look at what we have to offer our neighbors.

In addition to our fine and casual dining, golf, tennis, and swimming, we have several structured organizations that you can participate in as well. They consist of the Oakridge Women's Golf Association (OWGA), the Oakridge Men's Golf Association (OMGA), and the Oakridge Senior Golf Association (OSGA).

We also have tennis leagues, golf clinics, and several bridge groups. Members of the club are encouraged to participate in the organizations, and we always welcome our neighborhood guests to the club to see what we have to offer for you.

If you would like to visit Oakridge Country Club as a guest, please contact the Membership Office — Amanda Fine, 972-530-8008, ext. 241. All our staff members here at Oakridge look forward to seeing new Oakridge neighborhood faces. Please stop by and let us introduce ourselves!

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FOOD FAVORITES

A MONTHLY RESTAURANT REVIEW

By Mary Jane and Rob Rummel

Venezia Italian Café

- 908 Audelia Road, Suite 500, SW corner of Buckingham and Audelia
- 972-889-8559 or 972-889-8560

Theme: As their menu states, nothing fancy. Just good Italian food.

On the Menu:

Lunch specials include: home-baked pastas with homemade sauces, appetizers, salads, and seafood.

House specials include: lobster ravioli, chicken and shrimp, veal and shrimp, seafood pescatore, veal, chicken, and shrimp.

Entrées include: fettucini alfredo, rigatonia arribiata, totellini pomodoro, farfallo modo mio, tortellini modo mio,

linguini primavera, and fettucini alfredo with chicken.

They also serve hand-tossed New York style pizza:

- small (12 inches) for \$6.95 to extra large (18 inches) for \$9.95
- pizza by the slice: \$1.95 to \$2.95
- create your own pizza, with each ingredient at \$1.25
- deep dish (16-by-16 inches)
- cheese for \$10.95
- special for \$14.95
- Venezia's white pizza: thin crust with roasted garlic, ricotta, and mozzarella

Check, please:

- Lunch specials: \$5.95
- Appetizers: \$1.75 to \$5.95
- Salads: \$1.75 to \$5.95
- Seafood: \$7.95 to \$13.95
- House specials: \$9.95 to \$15.95

- Entrees: \$7.95 to \$8.95
- Chicken and veal: \$8.95 to \$10.95
- Desserts: \$2.50 to \$3.95

Rob and I have been enjoying this restaurant for over two years. It is a family business and very family-oriented. The atmosphere is casual and welcoming for people with children. There are many booths and individual tables that can be put together for larger parties.

The service is prompt with their fabulous warm bread being served almost immediately. The wait staff is very friendly, and food is presented in a timely manner — about the time you finish your bread. Of course, you will want more bread!

The restaurant does not have a liquor license, so it is B.Y.O.B. — just one more reason to enjoy the dining.

Help your plants beat the heat with timely summer gardening tips

By Bruce Miller

www.bruce millernursery.com

One of the most frequently asked questions of this nurseryman is: "Why do my hollies not have berries?"

There is more than one answer to the "no-berry" problem, and sometimes more

than one can apply. If you prune hollies during or after blooming, you will cut off this year's berries. Hollies should be pruned in mid-winter. If you do not prune and still do not have berries, you may have plants of all the same sex.

Most hollies are dioecious, meaning there are male and female plants. Both

plants flower, but only females produce berries. There must be a male present nearby to pollinate.

Interested to read more? You can read Bruce's full, monthly column, as well as previous ones, at his nursery Web site: www.bruce millernursery.com.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

July 21 ONA Board Meeting
July 21 City Manager's Quarterly
Neighborhood Association Meeting
August 2 National Night Out
August 4 Oakridge Women's
Club Meeting
August 5 Deadline for *Oakridge*
News Articles
August 6 Downtown Garland
First Saturday Trade Days
August 18 ONA Board Meeting

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