



Giving of time, effort, trust rewards even doubtful givers

By Keith Engler
ONA President

The experience of being the ONA president has given me the privilege of meeting some good people. Our city council representatives are all very passionate about Garland, and I think we all reap the benefits from their hard work. They are giving us a great opportunity to improve Oakridge through the Vitality Program, and we have a plan to take advantage of this.

I remember being very hesitant to take on the presidency, mainly because I thought it would cut into my personal time. But I have encountered a recurring theme this week, which is that I must give something up in order to make room for new, more important

things. I was not sure what to write to you all about this month, so please bear with me as I elaborate on this subject.

This idea of gaining through giving first became apparent to me thirteen years ago. My life was going along really nice; I had a great wife and plenty of time and money to do what I wanted. I had never been to church in my life and I argued against the existence of God.

One day I met a man and he mentioned that I may not really doubt the existence of God; I may just be afraid to give up my life as I knew it. So I decided to give up sleeping late on Sunday morning and started attending church. One Sunday led to another and I read everything I could — more things that confirmed God did *not* exist rather than things that confirmed He did. I

failed miserably in my studies, because a year later I was baptized. I finally realized that by giving up my life, a whole new life opened up.

Now I am not going to preach to everybody so don't panic. If any of you are afraid to give up something, then I can testify that you can gain so much more if you just release something.

The two main things that people have trouble releasing are time and money. Many people make the mistake of holding onto broken relationships and other past hurts. These are things that I personally have to release everyday because a good relationship crutch is hard to give up. I have met people that are mad at the ONA because

See All aboard on page 2

ONA plans annual Christmas dinner for local firefighters

By Luanne Payne
Dinner Coordinator

Soon Thanksgiving will be over and we can start planning for the Christmas holidays. Last year, we added the new Station No. 11 on Beltline at Sam Houston and were able to deliver dinners to all three stations. I really hate to drop Station No. 6 this year, but it is assigned to another section of Northeast Garland. So this year we will go back to only two stations: No. 3 at Jupiter and Bobbie Lane and the new Station No. 11.

As always, I need salads, veggies, side dishes, breads, and, of course, desserts. Usually there are ten to 12 people to feed at each station. If you do not bake and would like to help, a cash donation is helpful, as I have to purchase paper products and other items. You can make a check out to me, Luanne Payne, and mail it to 2813 Willow Ridge Dr., Garland, Texas, 75044.

The dishes have to be delivered to my house on Christmas Eve or early Christmas morning. My family and I leave the house at 10:30 a.m. for Station No. 3 and 10:40 a.m. for Station No. 11.

If anyone would like to deliver with us, you are more than welcome. The more the merrier. If you have little ones with you, the firemen love to show off their trucks and enjoy seeing the kids.

When you decide what you are planning to bake, please call me so I will know what we need and what we have too much of. You may call me, Luanne Payne, at 972-530-9323 with any questions you have.

Thanks for taking time out of your busy holiday schedules to give back to the people who are there for us 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

I·N·S·I·D·E *this issue*

Jack Frost can't be all that far from Oakridge. What does that mean for the plants? Learn how to get your garden ready for Mr. Frost's arrival. **Page 2**

Managing all the cooking needed for Thanksgiving can be stressful, to say the least. Do yourself a favor: follow this day-by-day schedule of what to do

the week before the big day. **Page 3**

They're tiny, they're common, and they want to eat your plants. Find out how to get a handle on the aphid population in your garden. **Page 4**

You know what they say about restaurants: If the police eat there, it must be good. Well, the Richardson police like The House Café, which means you probably will, too. See what the diner has to offer. **Page 6**

This time of year, you can never have too many recipes. See a couple of Thanksgiving favorites from the ONA's Recipe Box. **Page 7**

The City of Garland is fed up with the sea of illegal signs and ads staked out at almost every intersection in town. See what they plan to do. **Page 7**

The judging for the ONA's annual Christmas Decorating Contest is only a few weeks away. **Page 7**

Gardeners wonder: when will Jack Frost appear?

By Bruce Miller
www.brucemillernursery.com

Jack Frost! We never know when he is going to show up. Almost always before or during the first week of November. This signals the dormant season for most plants and doom for tropicals and summer annuals.

For those of you who really like to get into the spirit of fall, think about gourds, hay bales, corn stalks, Indian corn, and scarecrows.

If you have fruit trees, it's time to spray with a dormant oil to smother over-wintering eggs of potentially harmful insects. Also spray a fungicide bordeaux mixture or Captan to control peach leaf cure and bacterial cankers.

It is time to get your indoor bulbs started to force bloom by Christmas. Paperwhite narcissi and amaryllis can be started without pre-chilling. For tulips and hyacinths, chill until about three weeks prior to desired bloom time, and then plant in pots and put in a warm environment — hopefully in a good, strong light. The fragrance of paperwhites and hyacinths are outstanding.

If you have not planted pansies yet, get busy. You may also plant daffodils, crocus, and grape hyacinth now. Wait



Autumn enthusiasts like their corn stalks.
Courtesy of www.brucemillernursery.com

until after Thanksgiving or when chilling has been completed (i.e., 45 degrees for 45 days) to plant tulips and hyacinth bulbs.

November is a good time to plant trees and shrubs, or, after the first freeze, to transplant any tree or shrub that was planted in the wrong place and needs to be moved.

Don't forget to water! Just because it is winter and things are dormant doesn't mean plants don't need watering. You can cut back on watering to about once a week, depending on the weather. When the TV weatherman says the temperature is going to drop below freezing and the ground is dry, turn on the water and get everything wet prior to the cold.

news | BRIEF

Repairs Scheduled for Damaged Wall Along Jupiter Road

The reason why Garland had no report is that Richardson took care of the accident. It happened on October 16. A young girl fell asleep while driving along Jupiter around 3 a.m.

Mr. Montemayor has all the information, and the girl is paying for the wall repairs. He said he will make sure the wall is done right; however, this is the third time this wall has been hit. He seems to think that people go too fast along Jupiter.

He said the wall should be repaired within a week or two.

Bill Olive

All aboard: ONA seeks to fill leadership positions

continued from page 1

of things that happened 20 years ago, before the ONA existed. I just have to say, "Get over it! Release it! Let something new into your life."

Oakridge could use your help in fulfilling our three year goals. We only have a few more months before we will start trying to find new board members. Currently we have one person performing the duties of treasurer and special

events coordinator. Unfortunately, we have to stop all special events, because the work is too much for one person. (And we can not stop the treasury.)

If any of you wish to take on either of those roles, let me know. I can not promise it will be as rewarding as finding God, but you will certainly grow from the experience.

And to think my first idea was an article asking people to not park on the street.



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About *Oakridge News* and the ONA

Oakridge News is a publication of the Oakridge Neighborhood Association.

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The ONA board meets the third Thursday 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, which runs from June until the following May.

The next general meeting is scheduled for March 2006.

More food, less stress: Try this Thanksgiving schedule to get all your cooking done on time

Compiled by Nelson Prater
 Oakridge Webmaster

One Week Before:

- Confirm the number of guests and plan your menu.
- Carefully read through all the recipes to determine the food and equipment you'll need. (Don't forget what you're going to serve to drink.) Make a shopping list.
- Review your shopping list and buy non-perishable items. Watch for sales, as most stores put Thanksgiving staples on sale at this time.
- Plan your table settings.
- You may need to buy your turkey, depending on which thawing method you plan to use.
- If you're making your own pie crust, prepare the crust. Roll out the dough, transfer to pie dish, and store in the freezer. If you have never made your own pie crust, don't try it for the first time now. Frozen ones or fresh ones from the bakery will work fine.
- If you're making homemade bread or rolls, consider baking them now and storing them in the freezer for reheating on Thanksgiving. Or consider preparing the dough up to the final rise stage and freezing the dough in ready-to-bake prepared pans. Early on Thanksgiving morning, you can lay them out to thaw and rise.

Three Days Before:

- Make cranberry sauce and refrigerate.
- Clean and press table linens. Clean up and polish silverware.

Two Days Ahead:

- Shop for perishables.

Day Before:

- Set the table.
- Prep the turkey (but do not stuff) and store in refrigerator.
- Clean and dry salad greens and store in a resealable plastic bag.
- If using fresh bread to make the stuffing or dressing, put it out to dry overnight.
- If baking homemade pies, bake them tonight if you won't have time to bake them tomorrow morning.

Thanksgiving Day:

- Get up early. Eat breakfast. Start to organize your day.
- If baking homemade pies today, bake them first thing in the morning and place them on racks to cool.
- Make iced tea, if serving tea to drink.
- Put stuffed bird in to roast.
- Complete vegetable dishes.
- Make mashed potatoes.
- Thaw and reheat or bake bread, rolls.
- Garnish desserts.
- Don't forget to stop throughout the day and be thankful for all you have!

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Rapid reproduction, vulnerable yards make tiny aphids big nuisances

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

It is almost inevitable to discover some aphids when looking at plants. They are found almost on every plant from the greenhouse to the landscape. Aphids are 1/16 to 1/8 inches in length and vary in color, depending on the species and the plants on which they develop.

Aphids also have a variety of body shapes, from oval, pear, spindle, to elongate, but they always have two cornicles on the end of their abdomens. Some species even look woolly due to white- or gray-colored wax secretions over their bodies.

Aphids develop through gradual metamorphosis, having an egg, nymph, and adult stage. During hot and dry weather, some aphid species can complete their lifecycle from egg to adult in only seven to eight days, allowing populations to grow rapidly.

Aphids feed on plant phloem of twigs, branches, fruits, flowers, and roots. As a result of their feeding, the plant may be stunted in growth and may have deformed leaves or fruit. Aphids also secrete honeydew as they feed, and this honeydew is a perfect substrate for growth of black sooty mold.

Sooty mold may completely cover leaves, reducing their capacity to photosynthesize. Honeydew is also a food source for ants. Some ant species protect aphids from their natural enemies and may carry aphids to uninfested plants, allowing aphid populations to expand into new areas.

To detect if aphids are present, close inspection of the undersides of leaves, around stems, buds and flowers to detect their presence. Also check for the presence of cast skins, honeydew, sooty mold, and stunted growth since these are indicators of aphid presence. Sticky traps may be used in areas to monitor population levels. Always inspect new planting material or before moving plants into another area as to avoid an aphid infestation.

Control Options

Cultural Control:

Keeping weeds at a minimum level will help decrease the aphid population, since aphid populations will build up on weeds and then landscape plants.

Avoid using slow-release nitrogen fertilizer to avoid rapid new growth that aphids prefer to feed upon. If honeydew ants come with aphid infestations, baits or other ant control products may be used to control the ant population.



Picture by Dr. Michael Merchant

Biological Control:

Some natural enemies of aphids include lady beetles, syrphid flies, lacewings, and parasitic wasps. These natural enemies should be conserved and augmented in and around greenhouse and landscapes.

Chemical Control:

Some chemicals that can be used for control are insecticidal soaps, horticultural oils, and neem oil. These products will only kill aphids currently living on the plant, so these treatments must be repeated at regular intervals in order to gain control of the aphid population. Other products for aphid control include systemic insecticides such as those containing imidacloprid. Try to avoid using insecticides with the same mode of action, in order to reduce the risk of insecticide resistance.

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NO JOB IS TOO SMALL

Daytimers near eventful holiday season, plan December luncheon

By Dianne Winter
Oakridge Daytimers

The Daytimers filled the balcony at the October meeting in the lovely home of hostess Dana Hopkins. The Daytimers expressed great interest in the home; many items reflect the travel of Dana and her husband. Cecile La Bossier and her sister, Terez, who was visiting, greeted members.

Besides the special surroundings and warm greetings, the Daytimers were treated to a variety of foods prepared and served by the hostesses: Chris Beyers, Lucy Brock, Gail Durbin, Margaret Fowler, and Pat Tharp. We also thank Mary Pattie, who collects and delivers chairs to the hostesses for the meetings.

There was much conversation and visiting among the members. Our fashion maven, Beth Fagan, brightened the room with her colors and smile. Also, I overheard June Parks explain what a great gardener Jerry is. Ask June about Jerry's method for stabilizing plants.

When the meeting started, Chris Beyers distributed calendars and Jo Ann Williams asked for any revisions to the membership list, which now includes 58 people. Suzanne Snow, president, requested reports from group leaders and the following information was shared:

ETC and the garden group, Late Bloomers, visited the Arboretum in wonderful weather and picturesque surroundings. Sally Weiss and Trudy Schmidt made arrangements for the trip.

Book Club will be meeting at the home of Sharon Carlton on November 18 to review the book *Night Time is My Time* by Mary Higgins Clark with the discussion leader, Jo Ann Williams.

At the October meeting of Book Club, at the home of Suzanne Snow, there was great interest shown in the book *The Sugar Camp Quilt* by Jennifer Chiaverini. Carolyn Wallen led the discussion. Suzanne displayed an antique album quilt to illustrate one of the subjects in the book. Melvia Coppedge related a story concerning her rendition of "bringing in the sheets."

Leader Betty Thomas was absent due to illness. Members were happy to hear that she is recuperating.

Norene Murphy invited everyone to Stitch and Chat, where the chatting is greater than the stitching. The group cheerfully denied requests to "mend" for members.

Bridge and Canasta groups continue with the usual routine. The only interruption is that one of our bridge members, Kay Abrams, is relocating to San Antonio to be near other family members. We will miss Kay and wish her all the good playing cards in the future!

Dianne Winter reported that photos of the May luncheon group are now available for purchase.

Suzanne then introduced the special guest, Denise Janes, a decorator, from Great Hang Ups (214-213-9718). Denise presented current decorating information concerning the colors and textures of fabrics that can be used. She shared tips and showed fabric samples and explained the various uses of each one.

Audrey King reported the birthdays and illnesses with her usual flair. Then the nametags for the door prize drawing were collected in an unusual manner — especially from the seats in the balcony. The winner was Clara Mae Meurer.

Suzanne ended the meeting with a quote from Mark Twain, who said that October is a dangerous month in which to speculate in the stock market. The others are January, July, September . . .

The November meeting is at the home of Sally Weiss.

We will look forward to the December meeting. Suzanne Snow has made arrangements for the Daytimers to lunch at the Oakridge Country Club on Tuesday, December 13. Save the date. You will receive more information at the November meeting. This lunch will be a great time to exchange holiday wishes.

Daytimers is a social group promoting the Oakridge community. Have questions? Want to join? Please contact Suzanne Snow at 972-414-3747.

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FOOD FAVORITES



A Monthly Restaurant Review

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(two blocks south of Arapaho)

Phone: 972-238-7065

Hours: M-F, 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Saturday, 6 a.m. to 2 p.m.

No carry-out

Theme: Breakfast and lunch entrees. Breakfast is served all day.

On the Menu: The breakfast specials include traditional eggs, bacon, and sausage dishes served with biscuits and gravy, hash browns, and country-style potatoes. If you like your eggs with Mexican flair, you'll enjoy the migas, breakfast burritos, and breakfast tacos.

For those of you with a large breakfast appetite for more traditional items, you will want to indulge in the T- Bone steak, New York steak, chicken-fried

steaks, or pork chops served with eggs. French toast, pancakes, oatmeal, grits, or banana, strawberry, and pecan waffles are also available. Eggs Benedict are always a favorite, as well as the eleven choices of omelets.

For lunch, there is a wide selection of steak, chicken, seafood, plus garden-fresh salads, burg-ers from the grill served in triple sour-dough toast, and sandwiches served with your choice of fries or potato chips. There is always a **special of the day**, which includes three vegetables, roll, and cornbread.

The desserts menu includes chocolate, banana cream, and coconut cream pie, as well as fresh strawberry pie.

Check, please:

Breakfast special (6–11 a.m.): \$3.95

Traditional breakfast: \$2.95 – \$11.25

Burgers, sandwiches: \$3.95 – \$6.95

Salads: \$5.50 – \$6.75

Home-style lunch: \$6.50 – \$11.25

Whole pies: \$7.50

Slice of pie: \$1.95

Comments: The café house has been in business for approximately five years. It is known for its fine “down-home” cooking. It has a *very* casual atmosphere with very attentive and personable waitresses. The service is expedient. Some of our favorite dishes include: waffles, pancakes, breakfast burritos, chicken fajita omelet, chicken fajita salad, and fresh fried catfish.

Their portions are quite generous. I am always amazed how much chicken is in the fajita omelet and fajita salad.

Most any time you are there, you will see at least two or three Richardson policemen dining. They usually know the best places to eat.

Hope you enjoy!

Shopping, parties, and a limousine: Women's Club fills holiday calendar

By Libby Morse
Oakridge Women's Club

We met at Amy's house in November. Thanks for hosting, Amy!

We had a shop-till-you-drop day at Firewheel Town Center. We enjoyed

the new addition to Garland!

Mark your calendar for these events:

Sunday, December 5, 5 p.m.: Benihana Couples Night Out. Bring your white elephant gift (one per person.)

Sunday, December 11: Family holiday party, 2:30 to 4:30 p.m., at Sheila's.

Tuesday, December 13: Ladies-only limousine Christmas light tour in McKinney. Meet for potluck dinner at Sharron's at 6 p.m.

Reminder: No December meeting!

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From the ONA Recipe Box

Available at www.oakridgena.com

Compiled by Nelson Prater
ONA Webmaster

Note: Don't forget to check out the Thanksgiving section of the ONA Web site for all kinds of good Thanksgiving recipes and cooking tips.

Mexican Creamed Corn

This is an easy Thanksgiving side dish that everyone loves.

3 cans whole kernel corn, drained
1 can cream-style corn
1 can diced green chiles

8 oz. cream cheese
½ stick of butter

Dump all of this into the crock pot and turn on high. As it starts to heat up, stir everything together. Turn down to low and forget about it until time for dinner. Delicious!

Water Chesnut Rice Dressing

This is a rice side dish treat from an old friend in Louisiana. It's a family favorite that we try to save for Thanksgiving, but I gave the recipe to my mother-in-law, and now we have it all

year long.

1 stick butter
1 can sliced mushrooms, with juice
1 can sliced water chestnuts, with juice
1 can Campbell's French onion condensed soup

Place butter in glass baking dish and place in oven. Turn on oven and preheat to 350 degrees. Once butter is melted, take dish out of oven and combine rest of ingredients with butter. Cover and return to oven. Stir after about 20 minutes and bake until rice is done — about 45 minutes or so.

City of Garland elects to put bounty on illegal advertising signs

City of Garland News Release
courtesy of www.ci.garland.tx.us

Last year, the City of Garland removed more than 16,000 unauthorized advertising signs posted on utility poles and along streets and intersections. The City of Garland officials have launched the I-SIGN program, placing a bounty on illegally placed signs on City right-of-ways.

The City of Garland wants to encourage the community to help keep Garland beautiful and safe by preventing the use of such illegal signs. Improperly posted signs can block the view of oncoming traffic, creating a potential safety haz-

ard. In addition, the signs create litter and clutter along Garland roadways.

The City of Garland Health Department's Code Compliance Division is responsible for regulating signage on the rights-of-way. Code Compliance officers pick up and dispose of illegal and outdated signs, and issue citations to violators who continue to illegally place their signs.

Starting November 1, 2005, the City of Garland will begin teaming up with civic clubs, non-profits, and church and community groups to rid Garland of these unsightly, illegal signs. Groups may register for the opportunity to collect signs and be paid 50 cents for

each of the signs removed and brought to the I-SIGN disposal location.

Garland is not the only city with the problem of illegally placed signs. Every city in the United States is plagued with these signs on roadways, telephone and utility poles, and even private property.

Garland I-SIGN participants must register with the City through a recognized group, wear safety vests, and attend a short presentation. Participants must be at least 12 years old and have adult supervision. Groups interested in registering to participate in I-SIGN should contact the Citizens Relations Representative, Vickie Jenkins, at 972-485-6414 or vjenkins@ci.garland.tx.us.

Let there be lights: Annual ONA Christmas Decorating Contest just around the corner

By Nelson Prater
ONA Webmaster

Deck the neighborhood with boughs of holly! Don't miss out on the Annual ONA Christmas Decorating Contest!

First Prize = \$50 gift certificate
Second Prize = \$30 gift certificate
Third Prize = \$20 gift certificate

Winners will also be recognized with a special ONA Christmas Decorating Contest sign in their yard.

You must be an ONA member to win. Also, last year's winners are not eligible to win again this year, but we

know they will continue to inspire with their beautiful decorations.

Judging will occur the first and/or second weekend in December, with winners announced on the ONA Web site (www.oakridgena.com) soon after. Judging will be done by our own City Councilman, Mark Monroe, his family, and other city employees.

Also, keep an eye out on the ONA Web site for pictures of the winning houses and other festive decorations, of which there will be plenty.

We look forward to driving through the neighborhood this December to look at all of your hard work and beautiful decorations.

Are you looking for . . .

- past *Oakridge News* articles?
- recipes?
- important local dates?
- health tips?
- Oakridge bylaws?
- other useful information?



Please visit
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Upcoming Events

- December 2 Deadline for *Oakridge News* Articles
- December 13 Daytimers Coffee
- December 15 ONA Board Meeting
- November 16 Daytimers Book Club
- December 20 Daytimers Stitch and Chat

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