

## ONA focuses on landscaping, nominates 2006-07 board members

By Keith Engler  
ONA President

When I realized I had entered a school zone, I immediately checked my speed and looked around for police cars. Luckily I did not get a ticket, but it made me wonder how many people actually have the safety of children as their first thought while in a school zone.

Who invented school zones: caring parents hoping to protect the children or law enforcement agencies intending to collect revenue? Seriously, though, studies have shown that 20 mph is a safe speed for drivers to react while multitasking between eyeliner, makeup, drinking coffee, and talking on the cell

phone.

I suppose it works, but children are just not the main focus when entering into the zone. It's funny how things can get skewed when it becomes the law. Alleys have a 20 mph speed limit also for good reason — and it's not to get a ticket. Hitting a child or pet would be much worse than a ticket. The main purpose just got lost somewhere along the way.

I have spoken to a number of people who started the ONA. A group of people got together and started mowing the entrances and parkways. It seems that their mission at the time was clear: to keep Oakridge looking respectable.

There were other groups that spun off from this one, such as Crime Prevention

and Safety, the Welcome Wagon, the newsletter, and the Web site. But our main goal is still to keep Oakridge looking respectable, and it's working.

Some people would like for the ONA to be mandatory, but I think we are better off voluntary. The people who give to the ONA do so because they wish to make this neighborhood better. It allows us to stay focused on our main goal without being skewed by mandated rules and regulations.

I like to think of the ONA as an organization of Dos, not an organization of Don'ts. For that reason, the board has decided to not be involved in code enforcement as an organization. Of

See ONA keeps on page 2

### I·N·S·I·D·E this issue

Elections are just a few weeks away for the ONA Board. Find out whom the nominating committee has picked to be on the ballot. **Page 2**

The Daytimers threw a party when some of their kids went on vacation. Shouldn't it be the other way around? Maybe not, they say. **Page 3**

There might be termites in that mulch you put in your lawn. Where are they coming from? How can you prevent this problem? **Page 5**

It's almost here! The **2nd Annual Oakridge Family Picnic** will be May 6 from 3 to 6 p.m. For more details, look at the bottom of **Page 5**.

There are several golf associations at the Country Club, and they'd love to have you! Find out what they've been up and what they have to offer. **Page 6**

As the weather warms up, it'll be easier for solicitors to resume their door-to-door sales. Oakridge Citizens on Patrol tell you why to be cautious of whom you open the door for. **Page 7**

Cake mixes are for making cakes, right? Not necessarily. Find out all the different types of cookies you can make with this easy recipe. **Page 7**

## Court orders Garland to hold 2006 election

By Mark Monroe  
District 7 City Councilman

Most of you know by now that the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals has issued a writ of mandamus to call an election for 2006. The city council finally approved a June 17 date for the election, and districts 1, 2, 4, and 5 will be up for election.

I hope we can now move forward with the business of the city; therefore, I have asked that several agenda items be placed on the work session for discussion. I would really appreciate your input on these issues.

I am interested in what a limit on garage conversions would do to our congested neighborhoods, and I would be curious to see, if some type of limit is created, how it would work.

Also, I have been threatening to look at our current sign ordinance and look for changes and updates in this area. I believe they are drastically needed to keep up with our competitors in other communities.

The council will also have a discussion with *The Dallas Morning News* about the type of service delivery

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we are receiving in our neighborhoods. The *Neighbors* edition has often tended to end up in our streets and in the yards of homeowners who are not subscribers and have no interest in the DMN. I have indicated to them I believe they have created a nuisance in our neighborhoods — and could be violating our no solicitation policy.

Just a reminder to you: Our water restrictions are still in place, so please be sure to follow those guidelines set out by the Stage 2 restrictions. Detailed information can be found on the city's Web site, [www.ci.garland.tx.us](http://www.ci.garland.tx.us).

Again, if you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me.

Thanks,  
Mark Monroe

# ONA keeps high hopes for new board

*continued from page 1*

course, every citizen can report violations; it is just not part of our charter.

I was told you can tell what somebody is interested in by looking at their checkbook, because the place where they spend the most money is their priority. We spend the majority of our budget on the landscaping, so, based on this theory, our main priority must be landscaping. I personally would like to spend more on special events and have great neighborhood parties, but our main priority still has to be landscape maintenance because that was our original goal.

We had a landscape architect speak at the March 23 General Meeting. We are taking bids and formulating plans to improve the landscaping of the entrances and the perimeter walls. We would also like to landscape the area along Diamond Oaks between Big Oaks and Ridge Oak. This area is always busy with walkers, joggers, and golfers, so making it more like a park would be nice.

We are not sure yet how this is going to look exactly or how it will get done, so your opinions and suggestions are very important during this decision-

making time. This is all about Oakridge as a community, not the ONA Board.

In closing, I want to reiterate that we understand our purpose. We want more people to join the ONA, but we mainly want joyful members. The Nominations Committee has done a great job choosing the upcoming board, and I hope you will be pleased with it.

Pending the election results in May at the General Meeting, I will stay on the board as vice president and Mike Dollar will be president. Mike and I have worked together closely over the last year and I look forward to following his leadership.

Don Pattie has taken over as the landscape director and is doing a great job. He has formulated a Request for Proposal (RFP) and will be taking bids from landscape contractors. This is a big undertaking, so make sure you thank him for the effort he puts into it.

The Praters will continue the excellent job with the newsletter and Web site. Sherri will assume the role of special events coordinator, as Joann Williams will become treasurer.

This, building community, was the missing, most significant piece of our three goals. I am really excited about seeing Oakridge moving forward.

## About 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 . . . . . Mike and Martha Dollar  
Communications . . . . . John Prater  
Environ. . . . . Don Pattie  
Crime Prevention and Safety . . . . . vacant  
Welcome Wagon . . . . . Cecil LaBossiere

The Board meets the third Thursday each month. The next general meeting will be on May 18, 2006.



## news | BRIEF

Here is a list of the proposed members of the 2006-07 ONA Board.

### OFFICERS

President . . . . . Mike Dollar  
Vice President . . . . . Keith Engler  
Secretary . . . . . Karen Engler  
Treasurer . . . . . Joann Williams

### DISTRICT DIRECTORS

District 1 . . . . . Joe and Beth Fagan\*  
District 2 . . . . . Jim Norris\*  
District 3 . . . . . Robbie Lang  
District 4 . . . . . Joan and Dan Nichols  
District 5 . . . . . Tony and Tillie Battaglia  
District 6 . . . . . Phil Hanas  
District 7 . . . . . Joan Canby

### COMMITTEES

*Membership* . . . . . Martha Dollar  
*Crime Prevention & Safety* . . . . .  
. . . . . Eric Morris and Carol Garrison

*Communications* . . . . .  
. . . . . Nelson and John Prater  
*Environmental* . . . . . Don Pattie  
*Welcome Wagon* . . . . .  
. . . . . Cecile LaBossiere  
*Special Events* . . . . . Sherri Franks

\* Joe Fagan is District 2 director, but he's switching to District 1. Jim Norris will now represent District 2. I have them both down for a one-year term. Joe Fagan will not have to serve two more years since he has already served one year in District 2, unless he wants to!

### Nominating Committee

Diane and David Winter  
Ron and Pam Harbach  
Rob and Mary Jane Rummel

For more information on how ONA elections work, and to read the full text of the ONA Bylaws, please visit [www.oakridgena.com](http://www.oakridgena.com).

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## When the kids went on vacation, the Daytimers threw a party

By Dianne Winter  
Oakridge Daytimers

The scenario is normally like this: Parents go on vacation and the children have a big party. Movies have been created with this theme.

Not in Oakridge. The children go on vacation, and the parents have a big party.

And so this plot was carried out at the Daytimers March meeting. Beverly Pierce invited us to her daughter's home to meet while the family was enjoying spring break. Beverly and her daughter provided special hospitality, and we thank them as well as all the hostesses who welcome to their homes.

Suzanne Snow, president, welcomed all members and guests and thanked the food hostesses: Cecile La Bossiere, Nell Burt, Frances Morgen, Eleanore Nelson, and Dianne Winter. To acknowledge St. Patrick's Day, Suzanne shared some facts concerning the saint whom some people called "the Apostle of Ireland."

From the green of Ireland, the program moved to the circus tent to enjoy the guest speaker, Jackie Ingram. Jackie was disguised as Annie Oakley in a colorful costume, but that was only part of the program. She answered questions about her volunteer job as she transformed her face to a clown face. Using paints and mirror she added eyes, mouth, and facial expressions that she and the other members of her unit

use as they entertain children in hospitals, especially those in the burn units.

Jackie shared many tricks, intricacies, and insights that she learned through experience. There are not many female clowns, and since this unit works with children, they dress as characters rather than clowns because some children fear clowns. There were many interesting facts and questions. Gladys McGhee related a story about taking her children to a circus, but they were fascinated by the activities and preparations being tended to outside the big tent.

Eleanore Nelson returned the group to the agenda with her special whistle and the business continued.

Committee reports consisted of Bridge and Canasta to continue as routine. Norene Murphy announced the continuation of Stitch and Chat on the third Tuesday. Many are enjoying Ladies Night Out on the fourth Thursday. ETC will meet at the home of Suzanne Snow to make favors for the May luncheon.

The Secret Pals Group will meet at the home of Ruby Nell Ormon on Thursday, April 20 at 10:30 a.m. to reveal the identity of their secret friends. Anyone who is interested in next year's program may join in the May drawing for a secret pal for next year.

The Garden Club had to rearrange the scheduled trip to the Arboretum because of weather conditions. They opted for lunch at the Antique Mall.

Audrey King announced birthdays and well wishes for our members in poor

health. Norene Murphy will celebrate her 95th birthday on Friday, April 7. Audrey Golden won the door prize.

Jo Ann Williams, treasurer, gave each member an envelope to use for her luncheon cost for the May meeting if they are attending.

The luncheon will be held at the Chocolate Angel on Tuesday, May 9 at 10 a.m. After special speaker Rosemary Rumbley presents the program, lunch will be served. Make your reservation with Jo Ann by April 27.

The April Coffee will be held at the home of June Parks, 2921 Oak Point, on Tuesday, April 11 at 10 a.m.

The Book Club met at the home of Mary Jensen to discuss *Cold Sassy Tree* by Olive Burns. The delightful book, set near Atlanta, gave the members a look at a small town in the early 1900s as it faced progress and the problems that surfaced during that time. Many of the members reminisced about their families in past generations.

The next Book Club meeting will be April 21 at the home of Melvia Coppedge. The members will discuss the book *Balance of Power* by Richard North Patterson.

*Oakridge Daytimers is a social group that requires residence in Oakridge and \$12 dues. Daytimers promote Oakridge and the Oakridge Neighborhood Association.*

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

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- Oakridge bylaws?
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# Mulch from Louisiana could contain pesky Formosan termites

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

There has been much controversy with the possibility of Formosan termites being found within mulch from Louisiana. Formosan termites are an introduced subterranean termite from Asia. They are considered more economically important since they consume more cellulose and have larger colony sizes compared to Eastern subterranean termites.

Formosan termites are most readily identified by their soldier caste with its tear-dropped shaped head and aggressive behavior. If the soldiers are encountered by humans, they will insert their mandibles into human skin.

Formosan termites can be found in trees, so they have the potential for being transported in wood mulch. There is a quarantine within Formosan termite-infested areas in Louisiana to prevent infested wood products from being shipped to new areas.

The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) supports the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry's quarantines, and TDA has a quarantine to prevent moving Formosan termites from certain states and areas until items have been fumigated by a TDA-approved method.

Consumers should be aware that ter-

mites could be found in mulch, so be cautious when buying mulch. If these termites are introduced into areas, the cost of treatment will be more than the value of the mulch. Therefore, it is advised to purchase mulch from reliable sources. If a bag of mulch is infested with termites, reseal the bag and return the mulch to the retailer.

A more common way of introducing Formosan termites into areas is using recycled infested railroad ties as landscape timbers. Even though the railroad ties are treated by creosote, the inner portion is not treated. This allows Formosan termites to inhabit the center areas of railroad ties.

For more about termites, please visit <http://termites.tamu.edu/formosan.html>.

## Termite Swarming Season

There are two subterranean termite genera that cause most of the structural damage in Texas. One, *genera Reticulitermes*, will become noticeable as the reproductives begin swarming during the day.

Termites are social insects and have a caste system consisting of workers, soldiers, and winged reproductives. Each caste member within a termite colony has distinct physical and behavioral characteristics.

Termites feed on any cellulose material, such as roots, paper, and card-

board. They are important to our ecosystem since they decompose cellulose. However, subterranean termites become economic pests when they invade human dwellings and structures.

Subterranean termites live in colonies underground to avoid sunshine and outside air. The workers build the shelter tubes from tiny pieces of soil, wood, and debris that are glued together using secretions and fecal material. Termites tend to have an extensive tunneling system underground, allowing them to carry resources back into the colony.

Termite damage may be detected by the presence of mud tubes, damaged wood, and the swarming of winged termites.

Termite damage may also be apparent on door frames or window sills, or dead termites might be visible along window sills or baseboards.

## Some Preventative Practices

Eliminate contact between the wooden parts of the house foundation and maintain at least six inches between the soil and porch steps, lattice work, door or window frames.

Stumps, scrap wood, grade stakes, foam boards, cardboard boxes, and newspapers found around structures should be removed.

To read the rest of the article, please visit [www.oakridgena.com](http://www.oakridgena.com).

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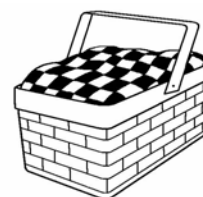
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### Second Annual Oakridge Family Picnic

May 6, 2006

3 to 6 p.m.

Oakridge Country Club parking lot

Featuring: Ha Ha the Clown, a bounce house, booths by various city departments, and a fire truck and police cars. It's a great opportunity to meet some of your neighbors!

# Oakridge golf associations always looking for new members

## Oakridge Men's Golf Assn. By Secretary George Moore

Men, come and join the Oakridge Men's Golf Association (MGA). Our association is for men of all ages and all levels of golf. All you need is to be a member of Oakridge County Club. We have tournaments throughout the year, and it is a great way to build relationships. For info., contact George Moore or Lloyd Whitson.

The Oakridge Men's Golf Association March tournament was held on Saturday, April 1 due to a rainout. The tournament format was an 18-hole, two-man, pick-your-own-partner, net-best-ball format using 80 percent of each player's handicap. A total of 40 two-man teams were divided into four flights for the competition. (*Editor's note: The full table of results is posted at [www.oakridgena.com](http://www.oakridgena.com).)*

Oakridge Country Club is sponsoring a Mini Member-Guest Tournament on Friday, April 14. The format will be a two-man, best ball, handicapped-back-to-par tournament. Lunch will be provided starting at 11:30 a.m., with a 1:00 p.m. shotgun start. The cost is \$120 per team.

The next Oakridge MGA tournament is The President's Cup, scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, April 22 and 23. The President's Cup is a two-day, individual-total, net-score tournament based on 100 percent of the individual's current handicap. The top 2 winners qualify for the season-ending Oakridge Cup, which pits the Oakridge MGA versus the Oakridge Women's Golf Association in a Ryder Cup-type format.

## Oakridge Women's Golf Assn. By President Jacquie Bilton

Ladies, come and join the Oakridge Women's Golf Association (OWGA). Our association is for ladies of all ages and all levels of golf. All you need is to be a member of Oakridge County Club. We have weekly play days on Wednesday, and there is also a weekly play day on Saturday for those ladies who work.

We have monthly tournaments as well as interclub play against other

clubs in the Metroplex. Our kickoff tournament was held on March 31 and was an ABCD Shamble.

The winners were:

1st: Della Miller, Janette McFarlin,  
Judy Pickrel, Linda Kelley

2nd: Tanya Magnus, Gloria Ferguson,  
Pat Highland, Joan McDole

Our next tournament, TGIF, is scheduled for April 21 and is individual stroke play with both gross and net winners.

The exciting thing about our tournaments is that, if you win or place, you might qualify to play in the Oakridge Cup, held every year in November. This tournament pits the OWGA against the Men's Golf Association and is great fun to play in and to watch!

We also host a tournament every year for those men at Oakridge Country Club who join Friends of Oakridge Women's Golf Association (FOOWGA). The cost to join FOOWGA is \$20 per year.

The yearly dues for OWGA are \$60, so please join us for great fun and make some new friends. Our association is a friendly and inviting group that loves to play golf. You will enjoy meeting and playing golf with all of the ladies of OWGA.

Should you have any questions, please give me a call.

**Jacquie Bilton**  
2006 OWGA President  
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## Oakridge Citizens on Patrol warn people of dangers of solicitors

By Bill Olive  
Citizens on Patrol

During the last several weeks, we've received numerous calls from Oakridge residents asking for the status of the Oakridge prowler who was taken into custody last month. From information we've received, the suspect was already on parole from another county at the time he was arrested by Garland police. Because of this, he will probably stay in jail until his trial. We will keep you informed of the final disposition.

Everyone should continue to be vigilant regarding their property and person. There have been several reports of criminal activity in the surrounding neighborhoods. It is a known fact that these people tend to work one neighborhood then move on to another. Unfortunately, if the pickins are good in one neighborhood, they remember and come back again. January and February were Oakridge's turn, and now they're hitting the surrounding areas. Let's don't issue an invitation to come back to Oakridge.

Being alert and watching out for your neighbors, as well as yourselves, is a good way to prevent them from returning here. First and foremost, keep your garage door closed! If you see your neighbor's door open, call them or knock on their door. If you get no answer, call the police and/or us. Remember, it only takes a minute or so for someone to enter, snatch whatever is available, and run. Having to go out and buy new golf clubs, new bikes, or a new car isn't necessarily what you want to do with your time. And filling

out all the paperwork for your insurance company is a major pain and a big time consuming job.

We've had some reports of magazine salesmen going from door to door again. This is the same old story: they're young people who are being used by some less-than-savory characters to play on the compassion of others. While they're scamming you with their sob story, they're scouting the neighborhood for likely targets so they can come back later and rob and steal.

Garland has some pretty good laws on the books regarding door to door solicitors, and the ONA still has some "No Soliciting" signs available. These can be displayed on the front area of your home to prevent solicitors.

The signs can help keep people from walking up to your home, so they have no reason to look in through your windows. If someone comes to your door whom you don't know, don't open the door. It isn't rude to yell "Who is it?" first. Then, if it isn't someone you know, ask, "What do you want" and finally say, "I'm not interested," without ever opening the door. Friendly is nice, but safety is better! If they don't leave, or insist upon talking to you face to face, advise them, "I'm calling the police," and do it.

Now is a good time to check your home. Look at it the way a burglar or thief would. Are your windows covered partially or totally by shrubs or trees? Cut or trim them back and don't provide a hiding place. Do all of your windows and doors have working locks? If not, please get some installed, either by yourself or with the help of someone else. There are some advertisers in our

newsletter who do odd jobs. Call one of them and let them assist you.

There is some good news; according to the weekly reports we receive regarding recorded incidents, Oakridge had no reported crimes since mid-February. However, in the last couple of days, we've been told about some golf clubs being stolen at Oakridge Country Club. If you see any strange activity at the club, call the club at 972-530-8008.

The Citizens Patrol is planning to be at the Oakridge picnic in May to pass out some items that might be of interest to residents. Please stop and talk to us about programs we are looking into that may help our neighborhood become less attractive to bad guys. One thing we're considering is sponsoring an evening self-defense class taught by one of Garland's police training officers. We will let you know how this progresses.

Finally, Citizen's Patrol gets no funding from the City of Garland, ONA, or any other group. The hats, vests, shirts, scanner radios, bikes, *fuel*, and other items are all provided for by the individual members at their own expense. The signs for the cars are very important and need to be upgraded and replaced.

If you would like to help out financially, please stop by our display at the May picnic. If you would like to participate as a patroller, give us a call at 972-495-3402. All of our patrollers have had C.O.P. training by the Garland Police Department, and 80 percent of active C.O.P members are also graduates of the Garland Citizen's Police Academy.



### From the ONA Recipe Box

#### Cake Mix Cookies

Cake mix cookies are the easiest and best cookies — 45 minutes from start to 3 dozen warm, delicious cookies.

#### Ingredients:

1 cake mix  
1/2 cup canola oil  
2 eggs  
1/2 teaspoon vanilla

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Stir ingredients together. Drop by spoonfuls onto ungreased cookie sheet and bake until done.

Variations: We love lemon cake mix cookies. Also, try devil's food cake mix cookies with half a bag of chocolate chips stirred in. Spice cake mix cookies are very good.

Yellow cake mix cookies rolled in cinnamon sugar before baking are pretty good snickerdoodles. I've even made orange-cranberry biscotti using an orange cake mix and Craisins dried cranberries.

Tips: I use a Silpat liner on my half-bun-pan baking sheet. Makes perfect cookies.

You can get these at AceMart, across the street from Oakridge. I also bought a small scoop there that I use to scoop out the cookies. Sometimes I roll the cookie dough balls in sugar, and sometimes I press them down a little also before I bake them.

Never be without homemade cookies with cake mix cookies!

*courtesy of Nelson Prater*

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## Upcoming Events

- |       |  |
|-------|--|
| May 2 | Daytimers Afternoon<br>Bridge Club                   |
| May 3 | Daytimers Morning<br>Bridge Club                     |
| May 4 | Oakridge Women's Club                                |
| May 5 | Deadline for <i>Oakridge</i><br><i>News</i> Articles |
| May 6 | <b>Second Annual<br/>Oakridge Family Picnic</b>      |

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