



ONA elects new board, stresses long-term goals and membership

**By Mike Dollar
ONA President**

Many of you attended the ONA General Meeting on May 18 and elected our new ONA Board of Directors for 2006-07. You probably noticed what a great group of people we have sitting on the new board.

As I get to know each board member, I realize how active they are in so many facets of our neighborhood's society. They are a dedicated group, and I must point out, they are serving us voluntarily. We are very fortunate to have these individuals representing our neighborhood. I have great confidence they will work hard to keep Oakridge safe, fun, and beautiful.

I was in Chicago on business and missed the general meeting, so I was el-

ected president in absentia. I consider the appointment an honor. My term follows one of our outstanding ONA presidents, Keith Engler, my friend and now highly-valued vice president.

Keith helped us define important long-term goals, which will keep our neighborhood fresh and viable in the areas of beautification and renovation, building community, and neighborhood involvement.

I support a long-term strategy in these areas and goals which surpass the one-year term of a single ONA Board. Long-term goals allow us to accomplish more significant tasks and keep us on a steady course of improvement. New boards will have a blueprint available when their terms of office begin. The end product is a smooth transition of responsibility and greater productivity.

We have achieved much progress already in many of our long-term goals. Just this past month, the ONA made progress toward building community and neighborhood involvement through the 2nd Annual Oakridge Neighborhood Picnic. Sherri Rutherford directs the Special Events Committee and organized this year's picnic along with many volunteers. It was a very special day of fun, food, and entertainment, as everyone who attended will attest. A special booth with ONA information was on site and busy.

An information booth can also be found at the ONA District Block Parties, which are now underway. It has been fun getting to know Oakridge residents as we address our building comm-

See Block parties on page 2

Up and down: Retail sales and gas prices tell story of local commerce

**By Mark Monroe
District 7 City Councilman**

Here is some quick information on what is going on in the city and what your council is doing. First, I received an update from Brian Bradford, the city's budget director, indicating the revenue trends for the first six months of the year. The good news is the strong retail sales numbers have stayed steady. The bad news is the cost of gas, which is a concern and major expenditure.

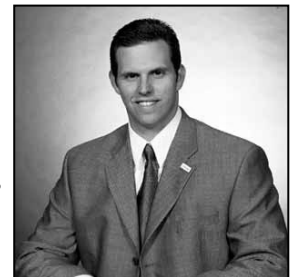
Mr. Bradford's overall message was upbeat, and he hopes we finish the year a little ahead of the projected budget. For me, his prognosis is a relief as this is the first time since I have been on council that we received such an upbeat outlook. I also know things can happen in the last six months of the year.

Did you notice the change in the lineup for the SS4th this year? The city will be holding multiple events across the city to celebrate the Fourth. The finale on the 4th will be at Firewheel Town Center with country star Blake Shelton and a great fireworks show. If you need any information on all the events, the city Web site has the details: ci.garland.tx.us.

I thought I might sound a little redundant, but it is now summer time and we need to keep a few items in mind.

First, please watch out for the kids in the neighborhoods. I know they are excited to be on break and sometimes forget we can't see them always. On the other hand, as for those kids who think we never see them, please watch out for your neighbors' houses and cars by reporting any suspicious activity. This

Mark Monroe
District 7
972-495-8028
mmonroe@
ci.garland.tx.us



can really help the neighborhood over the summer months.

Finally, I think the neighborhood block parties have been a tremendous success, and I am looking for to the rest of them this month. These small, informal parties have brought the neighbors out of their houses and onto the lawns for some great food and conversation. Big thanks to the Oakridge Board of Directors for their work in this process.

I·N·S·I·D·E

Find out why it's a good idea to be an Oakridge member, and why you should spread the word, in the annual Membership Report. **Page 3**

The Daytimers had their Spring Luncheon, where they announced their new leaders for the next year. Find out who's in charge of what. **Page 5**

The annual ONA Picnic was great fun. Couldn't make it? Read here to see

what you missed. **Page 6**

Meet your neighbors at an ONA block party. There are two opportunities left: June 17 and 24. **Pages 3 and 7**

Try Barbara Curtis's contest-winning recipe for Texas Caviar. **Page 7**

Block parties offer fun, food, interaction

continued from page 1

unity and neighborhood involvement goals through these parties.

Please attend one or more of our block parties. These are drop-in, casual events which give you an opportunity to meet those who live a few houses down the street or around the corner. Block parties are often the only occasion we have during the year to talk with some of our neighbors. You may even get lucky at a free raffle drawing and win a prize donated by area businesses. Party times and locations are on the ONA Web site and are posted on yard signs a few days before each event. While you're there, take a minute and join the ONA.

Don't forget that it's Membership Month! Come join us! At this time

every year, all residents of Oakridge receive an invoice to join or rejoin the ONA. Please check your mail for this envelope. Fill out the directory information inside and return it with your \$48 annual dues as soon as possible.

Your participation is vital for maintaining and improving our Oakridge lifestyle. When talking with a neighbor, let them know that you have joined and why.

Over the years we have heard some very creative reasons for not becoming a part of the ONA. If you hear a good reason, please pass it along to me. I am always interested in knowing how we can help the entire neighborhood, and how we may be falling short of that goal.

You can e-mail your comments to me at ONAPresident@aol.com.

New Crime Prevention and Safety (CPS) Committee looking for suggestions, input

By Carol Garrison and Eric Morris
CPS Committee

As the newly appointed co-directors for the ONA Crime Prevention and Safety Committee, we look forward to working with the COP and the Garland Police to create an even safer environment for our families to enjoy.

Being victims of a vehicle burglary three years ago brought the need for greater neighborhood awareness for the both of us. Oakridge is a wonderful place to live, and both of us welcome any input from our neighbors concerning crime prevention and safety.

The Citizens on Patrol have done a great job of keeping us informed of local police matters and we hope to not only maintain but also improve the working relationship between the ONA and the COP. Eric and I invite anyone with suggestions or concerns relating to the safety of our neighborhood to e-mail us at cps@aithost.com. We hope we will receive ideas for informative articles that everyone can benefit from.

Now for some serious statistics every neighbor should know: Three incidents were reported to the Garland police for the month of April, and all three were burglary of a vehicle.

Good news! This type of crime is easy and simple to prevent: Be sure to empty your car of CDs, briefcases, bags, etc. All belongings should be cleared out or put in the trunk.

Just because *you* know the contents of your briefcase are not valuable does not mean a thief won't take his chances! On the other hand, no one will want to break into a vehicle when there is obviously nothing to gain.

According to the Garland police, most vehicle burglary is committed by people under 17 and is considered an "entry-level crime." If we can get rid of this type of nuisance, we can avoid more serious crimes that will affect us both as neighbors and as citizens of Garland.

As some of you have already noticed, three of our brass Oakridge entry signs were stolen near the end of May. No suspects have been identified at this point.

The signs were located at the Greenview and Overview entrances. If anyone has information about this theft, please contact us, the COP, or the Garland Police.

We would love to have our signs back rather than having to replace them at considerable cost to the ONA.

About the ONA

Oakridge News is a publication of the Oakridge Neighborhood Association.

ONA 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
Commun. John, Nelson Prater
Environmental Don Pattie
Crime Prevention and Safety
. Eric Morris and Carol Garrison
Special Events S. Rutherford-Franks
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ONA hopes district block parties will boost membership figures

**By Martha Dollar
ONA Membership Director**

It's that time of year again. It's time for our annual ONA membership drive, and it's time to encourage our neighbors to join us in working to improve our neighborhood.

What can we say or do to encourage others to join? ONA works hard to:

- Maintain the entrances and common areas of Oakridge
- Put out a newsletter every month to inform residents of news
- Maintain a Web site to provide additional information
- Decorate the entrances at Christmas
- Provide social activities such as the 4th of July Parade and the picnic
- Maintain a relationship with our Neighborhood Patrol Officer (NPO) and COP and provide safety info.
- Maintain a relationship with the City
- Greet new neighbors as they move into the neighborhood and try to make them feel welcome
- Provide an annual neighborhood

phone directory for every member

But we need to go beyond pointing out what the ONA does for the residents of Oakridge.

One of the most effective ways to reach people is through relationships. However, building new relationships takes time and effort that most of us feel we aren't able to give. In an effort to make this easy for everyone

As part of our membership drive this year, we are having a block party for each neighborhood district. We have been working with our special events coordinator, the district directors, and some very enthusiastic volunteers. Many thanks to all who are helping!

One party is being held each Saturday during the months of May and June. At the writing of this article, we have had block parties for Districts 1, 7, and 2.

They have been a wonderful success, enjoyable for the many neighbors who have attended. A special thank you goes to all of the residents who brought along delicious home-cooked dishes and

desserts.

This is a great opportunity to invite all of your neighbors to a cookout and party planned just for them. Invite them to come and enjoy the music, the food, meeting new friends, and visiting with old friends. It's great fun!

We still have 4 more block parties to go. The schedule for these block parties is on www.oakridgena.com (along with special information on the current one) and is also included on page 8 this newsletter.

Please come. Encourage your neighbors to come. You will no doubt have a great time.

We will be sending out the annual membership invoices to the whole neighborhood the first week in June. It is my hope that we will far surpass the 42% participation mark this year.

Please visit with your neighbors. Tell them about the ONA. Encourage them to join us in making our neighborhood a fun, safe, and beautiful place to live. The more people who are willing to help us, the more we are able to do for the neighborhood.

Oakridge Women's Club Update By Libby Morse, OWC

In June, we met at Sali's to finish planning the parade.

We are looking forward to the Fourth of July Parade! Join us at the

Country Club at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, July 4. Bring your bikes, wagons, tikes, or just walk! You can find out more information about the Women's Club, too. After the parade, we will meet at Libby's for a swim.

We will not have a formal meeting in

July. Join us the first Thursday in August to plan the next year.

If you are interested in any of the above events, or would like more information on the OWC, e-mail Libby Morse at tomlib@comcast.net or call 972-495-9034.

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**Be sure to attend one of these
ONA District Block Parties:**

June 17, 4-6 p.m.
Winding Oak Trail (District 4)

June 24, 4-6 p.m.
Hearthside/Overview (District 3)

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NO JOB IS TOO SMALL

Daytimers hold Spring Luncheon, announce new group leadership

**By Christine Beyers
Oakridge Daytimers**

“Open, open, open” could have been the mantra as the Oakridge Daytimers gathered outside the Chocolate Angel the morning of May 9 for our much anticipated Spring Luncheon to hear a guest speaker, Rose-Mary Rumbley.

Upon entering the Chocolate Angel, everyone had a chance to visit before President Suzanne Snow conducted a brief business meeting. She presented a Lifetime Membership Certificate to our Founder, Roberta Jones.

New officers, group leaders, and chairpersons for the 2006-07 term were announced, along with the notice that at our September meeting we will be collecting our \$15 annual dues for the next club year.

In appreciation of Suzanne’s wonderful job as president this past year-plus, she was given a lovely crystal rose bowl.

Suzanne then introduced our guest speaker, Rose-Mary Rumbley, Ph.D. In doing so, Suzanne used the word “raconteur,” which she assured us is a good thing, meaning somebody who tells stories or anecdotes in an interesting or entertaining way.

Dr. Rumbley is a published author, actress, historian, humorist, and very busy, gifted speaker who can make any subject fascinating. She certainly had

everyone laughing, and all of us will be working toward a good “cackle,” as we follow her advice to “go gray” and “abandon self doubt.”

Following Dr. Rumbley’s presentation, everyone enjoyed a delicious tri-salad luncheon plate and, of course, conversation and laughter. Friends, food and laughter: Who could ask for a better way to spend a spring morning?

The summer months will see some groups taking a break, but Canasta and Bridge will continue, and Book Club and Stitch and Chat will follow a modified summer schedule.

The Officers will be:

- President: Sally Weiss
- Vice President: Cecile LaBossiere
- Treasurer/Membership: Jo Ann Williams

The Committee Chairmen will be:

- Calendar: Chris Beyers
- E-mail messaging: Gail Durbin
- Folding Chairs: Mary and Don Pattie
- Historian/Scrapbook: vacant
- Hospitality: Jo Dietz
- Nametags: Jo Ann Williams
- News.: Dianne Winter, Chris Beyers
- Secret Pals: Announced in the fall
- Sunshine: Audrey King
- Telephone Messaging: Charlotte Vaughter, Frances Morgen, Bev Pierce, Jo Bristol, and Clara Mae Meurer

The Group Leaders will be:

- Book Club: Betty Thomas
- Bridge: Dot Mohrle
- Canasta: Chris Beyers
- E.T.C.: as volunteered
- Late Bloomers: Suzanne Snow
- Special Events Coordinators: Sharon Carlton and Shirley Mohler
- Stitch and Chat: Norene Murphy, Mary Musseman, Gail Durbin

Ladies, please don’t be shy. If you are interested in the Daytimers, please join us at the September meeting at the home of Frances Morgen, 2721 Oak Springs, on Tuesday, September 12. We will begin collecting \$15 for our yearly dues at that time. Food hostesses will be Martha Boyette, Audrey Golden, Cecile LaBossiere, Suzanne Snow, and Dianne Winter.

Daytimers is a social organization that requires residence in Oakridge and \$15 dues. Daytimers promote the Oakridge community and Oakridge Neighborhood Association.

Any questions should be directed to **Sally Weiss** at **972-202-1140**.

For archived newsletter articles from the Oakridge Daytimers and other groups, please visit the ONA Web site at . . .

www.oakridgena.com

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**Official Web site of the
Oakridge Neighborhood Association**

ONA picnic provides food, fun, big splash

By Sherri Rutherford-Franks
ONA Special Events Coordinator

Actually, the picnic was a double splash. Over 200 Oakridge residents turned out for the 2nd Annual ONA-sponsored Spring Picnic and festivities.

Again this year, the City of Garland was represented by Code Enforcement, the Environmental Department, and Parks and Recreation.

Of course, the Fire Department brought their big shiny fire truck for everyone to see along with several firemen who spent the afternoon with us. Mike Bergin, our neighborhood police officer, made the rounds, meeting many residents and learning what the concerns are in our community.

Several of our Oakridge community groups had booths at this year's picnic. The Oakridge Women's club brought a touch of Hawaii to our picnic with their grass-trimmed booth and wind surfer mast. (Actually, due to strong winds, it had to be taken down. A mast skimming across a parking lot is not a pretty sight.)

The Oakridge Daytimers' booth provided thirst-quenching lemonade for visitors. You certainly couldn't miss our neighborhood COP group in their bright orange T-shirts. The COP provided information on the COP program as well as security devices and security tips for your home.

The Oakridge membership tent was manned by our next ONA President, Mike Dollar, along with the Membership Director Martha Dollar, who had renderings of proposed improvements

to entrances for the next few years.

The Welcome Wagon Coordinator Cecile LaBossiere displayed the Welcome Wagon baskets, which are given to each new Oakridge resident.

Hey, this was a picnic — so where's the food? Nelson Prater kept the free hot dogs grilling for nearly 3 hours. A variety of chips, soft drinks, and water were also available at no cost to our residents.

Now, the second big splash occurred about 45 minutes before the end of the picnic, when threatening clouds finally gave way to a downpour. It sent us packing up and splashing as we did so.

There are so many volunteers who deserve thanks for putting this nice event together.

Foremost are Nelson and Kelly Prater and Martha Dollar. There is much planning and preparation work for an event this large and they are irreplaceable in my book.

Also, thanks to Jack Rash and Joe Fagan for volunteering at the food tables, Jim Norris for taking care of "anything that needed to be done," and Phil Hanas for getting a bounce house.

Thank you to Oakridge Country Club for allowing us to use their parking lot and pool furniture for the afternoon.

And last but not least, thanks to Roger Franks for running a delivery service and serving as a photographer.

All in all, it was a great time, and we look forward to next year.

If you have picnic ideas or want to be part of the ONA volunteers, please call me at 972-496-5454 or contact me via an e-mail at srutherford72@comcast.net.

ONA GOLF UPDATE

Men's Golf Association

The Men's Golf Association Individual Match Play Championship was held May 27-29, 2006, at the Oakridge Country Club.

Sixty-two players separated into eight flights participated in the tournament. The winners of Saturday matches advanced in their flights while Saturday losers participated in separate consolation flights.

Congratulations to flight winners and runners up listed on oakridgena.com, and thanks to all the participants

Congratulations also to Norman Boss, Danny Liming, Sonny Parks and Rob Rummel, who each won a \$25 gift certificate to Casa Milagro Resturante, a 2006 MGA sponsor, in the closest-to-the-pin events on Saturday and Sunday.

The next tournament is scheduled for June 17, 2006. The format is a four-man team event with one gross score and two net scores counting per hole using each person's full handicap. Teams will be computer-paired and flighted. Details and sign-up will be in the Pro Shop.

To read the rest of this article, and one from the OSGA, please visit www.oakridgena.com.

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District block parties prove successful so far, with more to come

By Sherri Rutherford-Franks
ONA Special Events Coordinator

You have probably seen the signs around the neighborhood announcing district block parties each Saturday. The ONA is sponsoring block parties over 7 weeks in May and June.

So far, each district block party has taken on a different persona.

Joe and Beth Fagan, the new District 1 directors, with the help of Cecile La Bossiere and her crew, organized a recipe contest. Neighbors sampled various dishes brought by neighbors and voted on their favorite.

Barbara Curtis won a Central Market Gift Certificate for her Texas Caviar recipe, which is featured below this article. Starbucks, Expert Nail Salon, and Frank Mario's Texaco treated District 1 with the highlight of the evening: door prizes won by Art Cooley, Lee Litton, and Brad Werner.

Outgoing District 7 Director Scott Youzva organized an old-fashioned watermelon feast for his district. No seed-spitting contest necessary, as the melons were tasty and seedless. Guest were from as far as Arkansas.

This was an everyone-and-their-dog event. We met some very nice neighbors and their dogs. We also met one very cute baby.

District 2 neighbors were treated to meeting their new district director, Jim Norris, and newly-sworn-in president, Mike Dollar, and new vice president, Keith Engler. Yes, you're correct: these guys just played musical board positions for the upcoming year.

It was a very relaxing afternoon with a gentle breeze under big-shade trees. The afternoon paid dividends for some lucky neighbors: John Lee, Rose Arzaga, Dwight Davis, Cecile LaBossiere, and Angie Luu won door prizes from Starbucks, Black-Eyed Pea, and

Margaret Fowler.

The event ended with guitar serenades by Mike Dollar and Jim Norris.

We still have four block parties to go. Please plan to attend the block party for your district or any other district.

You never know: We might give a prize for most block parties attended.

Seriously, it is the perfect way to meet your neighbors in a relaxing environment. You can stay as long as you want. (We've even turned the lights out on a few neighbors who weren't ready to leave.)

In this day and age, we need to know our neighbors. You will notice high-crime areas will lower criminal activity when neighbors band together by meeting each other.

Let's keep one of Garland's premier neighborhoods a place where prospective buyers want to live.

Come to a block party and meet someone.



From the ONA Recipe Box

Texas Caviar
By Barbara Curtis

This recipe won the District 1 Block Party Recipe Contest.

2 14-oz. cans black-eyed peas, drained
1 16-oz. can yellow hominy, drained
2 medium tomatoes, chopped
5 green onions, chopped
1 medium green bell pepper, chopped, seeds and membrane removed
1 small onion, chopped

1 bunch, *fresh* parsley, chopped (1 cup)
2 teaspoons garlic salt
1 cup sliced, pickled jalapeno peppers, chopped
1 16-oz. bottle of Italian salad dressing
1 bag, commercial Tortilla chips

Combine all ingredients except salad dressing, and mix well by folding. Pour $\frac{3}{4}$ of bottled dressing over mixture; mix again gently, then cover and marinate at least 4 hours in the refrigerator. Serve with tortilla chips.

Note: I always make this the night before the event. If the time of the party

is in the evening, I do not add the tomatoes until the morning of the party. If the dish is for a noontime gathering, then I do add the tomatoes the night before. There is a lot of chopping with this dish, but don't use a hand chopper. I have tried before, and it just wasn't the same texture or taste.

The original recipe I used to make this said to drain it before serving. I must have missed that little detail, because I have never drained it and wouldn't want to. The juice gives it its *kick*.

Enjoy!

Attack of the Crazy Ant: Highly mobile colonies may make you antsy

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

Emergence and sightings of the crazy ant has heightened awareness of this potentially irritating pest in North Texas. The crazy ant is an introduced ant species from Africa or Asia that has now established itself in many cities from Florida to Texas.

Crazy ants are distinctive due to random and rapid movement. Worker ants are 1/16 to 1/8 inches in length, dark brown to black in color, and have very long legs. Also, their antennae are very

long legs. Also, their antennae are very long, with the first of the 12 segments being twice the length of their heads.

The crazy ant does not have a stinger, but it does bite and it has coarse grayish-white hairs that contain formic acid. The ant will curve its abdomen forward to release the formic acid into predators and prey.

Colonies contain around 2,000 workers, with 8 to 40 queens. These colonies are very mobile, so they will move if disturbed. The ants will nest in a variety of locations, from dry to moist environments. A crazy ant colony can be located by watching workers carry food back

to their nest. The nests can be found in trash, refuse, plants and trees, and rotten wood. Sometimes these ants nest indoors and feed on many household foods.

Crazy ants feed on such items as seeds, honeydew, fruits, household food, and insects. Crazy ants are predators, so they can attack large insects and some other small animals. If they are found indoors, workers can feed on such items as meats, grease, sweets, fruits, and vegetables.

To read the rest of the article, including control options, please visit the ONA Web Site, www.oakridgena.com.

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Upcoming Events

- | | |
|---------|--|
| June 17 | District 4 Block Party,
Winding Oak Trail, 4-6 p.m. |
| June 22 | Daytimers Ladies Night Out |
| June 24 | District 3 Block Party,
Hearthside/Overview, 4-6 p.m. |
| July 1 | Downtown Garland
First Saturday Trade Days |
| July 4 | Oakridge Parade, 9 a.m. at
Oakridge Country Club |

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