



Revitalization Strategy to be discussed at October general meeting

**By Mike Dollar
ONA President**

I am very excited about our upcoming ONA General Membership meeting on October 5 at the Oakridge Country Club, for two reasons:

First, we are implementing an agenda which allows for time to meet and greet non-ONA residents and socialize over refreshments. Oh, and did I mention the contest? Please bring your non-member neighbors to this meeting. We need more members, and the more neighbors you invite, the better chance you'll have of winning.

Second, we will be hearing a special guest presentation on the much talked about City of Garland Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy. As you know, Oakridge was selected to participate as an Outreach Neighborhood. The city will soon be announcing details of a town hall-style kickoff meeting to get this program underway.

Please don't miss this occasion. You will have a great time and get a chance to hear this strategy firsthand, from the city planners themselves. Your neighbors will also enjoy this special event planned for their enjoyment. Please mark October 5 on your calendar. Social starts at 6:30 p.m.

We had many members volunteer to help this year. We are appreciative! Margaret Fowler opened her home to entertain these volunteers, and an outstanding party was organized. The volunteers learned about the ongoing ONA activities of various committees and district directors. Oakridge covers a sizable area, and we try to help everyone. Please volunteer. No helping hand is too small.

I want to thank you for calling and e-mailing Don Pattie, our environmental director, and I when you see a malfunctioning sprinkler or landscape light. Reacting quickly to these problems can reduce the ONA's monthly utility bills.

We strive to be good stewards of our resources while maintaining public areas which are ultimately the homeowner's responsibility. Paper and trash trapped outside our perimeter wall on Belt Line Road has become an eyesore lately. Don is asking for impromptu trash pickup strolls in this area.

We have been interviewing landscape architects for help in creating a master neighborhood plan. This blueprint will allow us to work in phases and maintain a congruent look and feel.

We hope the final outcome will bring value and delight to our neighborhood for many years. This is a long-term neighborhood restoration project which we expect to begin when weather conditions become a little more favorable.

Please introduce yourself at the October General Membership meeting. I look forward to seeing you. You may address your comments to onapresident@aol.com.

I·N·S·I·D·E *this issue*

August wasn't a good month for crime prevention in Oakridge. But if you follow these tips, then maybe next month will be better. **Page 2**

There's something for everyone in the Oakridge Women's Club. Rebecca Chanez wants to tell you all about the group and why you should join. **Page 3**

Are you good about exercising? Or do you find it hard to stay motivated? Maybe you should think about starting a walking group. **Page 4**

Are you new to the neighborhood, or do you know somebody who is? You should read about all the great things the Welcome Committee does to greet our new neighbors. **Page 5**

If you're looking for a good snack, try this newsletter's recipe for Oatmeal Fruit Bars. **Page 6**

Insects can launch an aerial attack on outdoor event. Learn how you can avoid the summer nuisances. **Page 7**

ONA holding contest for meeting attendance

**By Sherri Rutherford-Franks
ONA Special Events Coordinator**

Invite a non-member

Do-si-do

Win a nice prize

For the most who show

Show up at the October 5 ONA General Meeting at Oakridge Country Club. The ONA will be awarding a prize to the member who invites the most non-members. An "official scorekeeper" will be at the door, so be sure to tell your guest to mention your name.

The meeting will have a little different format than usual. Join us at 6:30 for a meet-and-greet time. At 7:15, the ONA President will introduce our guest speaker from the City of Garland.

As you have gathered from President Dollar's article, this will be one of the most important meetings in Oakridge history. Oakridge has been picked for a City of Garland pilot program about the

future of Garland neighborhoods. You can be very proud that your neighborhood was chosen for this program. Since this affects all Oakridge residents, plan to attend this meeting, and please invite non-members to this meeting. You will want to know how this program is going to affect you.

After the City of Garland presentation, the ONA will recognize the prize-winning member. For those you who like to keep up with what's going on in Oakridge, you will be able to pick up handouts of the ONA financial status, district reports, and committee reports. The ONA officers and district directors will be available after the meeting if you have or need any specific information.

Volunteer Update

Switch gears, please: By the time you read this newsletter, the ONA vol-

See Invite on Page 2

Invite enough non-members and win a prize

continued from page 1

unteers to help the ONA board with the various things that go on in Oakridge. Now, 40 volunteers is a pretty impressive number — but just think what we could do with 100 volunteers.

It's not too late to volunteer for the many things that have to be done to

keep this one of Garland's premier neighborhoods. And a big thank you to Margaret Fowler for volunteering her home for the volunteer party.

Now for the Christmas season we are planning to Oh no! The publisher is telling me it's time to go to press. Tune in next month for Christmas activity details.

CPS Committee hopes for better days ahead

**By Carol Garrison and Eric Morris
ONA Crime Prevention and Safety**

August was a bad month for weather and a worse month for crime prevention and safety for Oakridge. Perhaps we were overconfident from a crime-free previous month, or perhaps we were not ready for the beginning of the school season. Either way, crime was up in the month of August, and we will have to work as a community to improve our grades for next month.

Here is some very valuable information everyone should take to heart. Our statistics are compliments of the Oakridge Siren.

Eight incidents were reported this month, most of them day-time crimes. Four were home burglaries (2 on Golden Oaks, 1 on Moss Point, and 1 on Greenview Circle), 1 was a vehicular burglary on Lone Oak Trail, and 1 was listed as theft on Rolling Oak.

Additionally, there was one incident of criminal mischief on Richland and one larger theft on Hickory Bend. According to our NPO, some of the incidents are related, and everyone will be provided leads as they are available to the CPS.

Why is crime up? It is not a coincidence that our NPO counted a dozen homes with their garage doors open in the middle of the day on a Tuesday last month.

An open garage door is an invitation for theft. Opening the garage door just enough to allow pets to enter or improve air flow in the garage is enough for a determined criminal to enter the garage.

Our best defense against this type of criminal activity is to keep the garage lowered if you are outside, and locked if you are not in sight of the garage.

If the door is closed, no one can see



Leaving your garage door cracked open, which many people do for ventilation, can leave you at risk for theft. (Photo courtesy of www.apigroupinc.com.)

what you own or whether your belongings are worth breaking into the house at a later date.

And speaking of smart ways to reduce criminal activity: Keep the fence locked, empty your mailbox as soon as you get home, be a lookout for the neighbor on each side of your house, and **keep all belongings out of cars**. Now that school has started, more kids are walking through the neighborhood. Report any suspicious activity immediately; don't rely on someone else to call in an incident, as you may be the only witness.

A quick reminder on key phone numbers:

- NPO (Off. Bergin): 972-485-4896
- Citizens on Patrol: 972-495-3402
- Non-emrgncy. police: 972-485-4840

Feel free to contact the Crime Prevention and Safety Committee at cps@aithost.com with any questions, comments, or concerns you have about Oakridge. Let's work together, be diligent, and look forward to a better report from CPS next month.

About the ONA

Oakridge News is a publication of the Oakridge Neighborhood Association.

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Oakridge Women's Club provides something for women of all sorts

By Rebecca Chanez
Oakridge Women's Club

It's been a little over two years since my husband and I moved to the Oakridge subdivision. At the time we moved in, I was four months pregnant with our first child. Fearing the whole experience, especially since both my husband and I have no family in Dallas, all I could think was, "Who am I going to turn to when I need help or have questions. How am I going to do this all by myself?"

Questions like these flooded my mind quite frequently. Whenever we received the subdivision's newsletter, my husband would always mention the women's group and suggested I join. He thought it would be a great way for me to make some new friends and to find out about the area and the schools as well as to just have a night out.

Well, I had some misconceptions about women's groups. I assumed the women in these groups sat around, drank tea, and had absolutely nothing in common with me. I pictured them having children that were much older than mine, and I figured that, basically, all they did was play cards and plan dainty social events — not that there is anything wrong with that. It just wasn't for me.

Then, one day I met Libby Morse, this year's club president. She convinced me to go to a meeting. She picked me up and we went to Nedley's.

I was feeling somewhat uncomfortable on the way, just thinking I was going to have absolutely nothing to talk to these women about. However, when we got there, the women were not the women I had imagined they would be. They were fun, funny, and having a great time just talking about life, children, and everyday issues, some of which I had experienced before myself. They made me feel right at home.

The reason I am sharing my story is because I want the women of Oakridge to know that this is not the stuffy, conservative group they might think it is. We have fun but not just for ourselves. We plan events for our children, our families as a whole, and with our spouses. We help each other out in times of crisis, even if that crisis is just to watch our little ones for a bit while we run to get our hair or nails done!

The women in this group are all strong, outspoken individuals. Our professions range from stay-at-home mothers (the most difficult job there is, in my opinion) to teachers to firefighters. I can tell you that they have helped me out a lot just by telling me about past experiences they have had with their little ones.

Without them, I would still be struggling to raise my son, who will be 2 years old this month. If you are concerned your child might be too young or too old to share in some of the events we have, don't be. Our children's ages range from 2 to 15.

At this month's meeting, which was held at the former club president Sheila Wange's house, we made our own pizza and scheduled some great events for this coming year.

We will probably plan more as the year goes on. Some of the reoccurring events are a Halloween party for our little ones, a Christmas dinner for us and our spouses, and a limo ride to see the Christmas lights just for us. These are just to name a few.

One possible new event we talked about for this year is Christmas caroling through the neighborhood with our little ones and taking an overnight trip to Canton. We also named our new officers for this year and welcomed our newest members, Marcia Chesak and Sharon Fischer.

So please, don't be afraid to come to one of our meetings to see what we are all about. They are held the first Thursday of each month, either at one of our homes or at a particular restaurant at 7 p.m. We would love to have you.

To find out where our next meeting is, or to inquire about joining the OWC, please contact Libby Morse by calling 972-495-9034 or by e-mail at tomlib@comcast.net, or you can contact me, Rebecca Chanez, at rypdallas@yahoo.com, or by calling 214-227-4181.

Don't you want to go where everybody knows your name?

The Oakridge Women's Club welcomes prospective new members at all meetings! Annual dues are \$20.

Philip Hanas

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Garland Water Use Restrictions

The City of Garland continues to enforce Stage 2 of its Drought Control Program. The city will turn off water service to repeat offenders, and there will be a \$50 reconnection fee in addition to other expenses.

Designated Watering Times:

- Even-numbered addresses: Sundays and Thursdays, from midnight to 10 a.m. and from 8 p.m. to midnight
- Odd-numbered addresses: Saturdays and Wednesdays, at the same times

Prohibited Except on Watering Days:

- landscape irrigation except with hose-end sprinklers or automatic systems
- washing of any vehicles
- filling, refilling, or adding to any pool or hot tub

For more information, visit www.ci.garland.tx.us.

Forming a walking group can help keep you motivated and in shape

From the Mayo Clinic
www.mayoclinic.com

Walking alone gives you an opportunity to carve some time out of a hectic day for yourself. You can achieve fitness while listening to favorite tunes or taking time to reflect on your surroundings. But sometimes you may find greater success in numbers.

If it's difficult for you to maintain your motivation by yourself, consider joining a walking group. If there's no group to join, start your own.

Walking with a group gives you an opportunity to socialize. And having new friends who enjoy walking can inspire you and hold you accountable to your own walking goals.

Starting a group doesn't require much. Spread the word, get organized — before you know it, you and your group are taking steps toward better health.

1. Recruit interested walkers.

Hold a meeting to kick off the start of your group. Decide when and where you want to have your meeting. Consider holding the meeting at a public location such as the local library or Oakridge Country Club (or perhaps get on the agenda at the next ONA general

membership meeting). That way you don't have to worry about inviting strangers into your home.

Next, create a flier to announce your meeting. Include time, location and a telephone number if you don't mind taking calls.

You might post your flier at Oakridge Country Club, and you can bring copies to the next ONA general membership meeting, and we can put it on the ONA website (oakridgena.com).

Besides posting a flier, consider sending an article to the *Neighbors* edition of the newspaper, for here in the *Oakridge News*, and to post on the ONA website.

2. Get organized at your first meeting.

Warmly greet all potential members of the group and request that everyone wear a name tag. Ask guests to provide their name, address, phone number and e-mail address so that you can contact them about upcoming events.

Then get down to business. Discuss:

- How often to walk
- What time and where to meet
- The route to take
- The distance you plan to cover

You may want to get more organized

as the momentum of your group builds. Examples include:

- Deciding on a name for your group and designing a team logo
- Developing a newsletter
- Entering charity walking events
- Competing with other walking groups for distance walked or money raised for charity

3. Maintain your group's momentum.

As the group leader, encourage the group to have a motivational meeting at least once a month.

Motivational activities may possibly include:

- Inviting a guest speaker to discuss health and fitness
- Sharing stories about how walking affects your physical and mental health
- Welcoming new members
- Celebrating the success of the group

The best bet is to ask the group what sort of activities would inspire and motivate them and get them involved in making the activities happen.

To read the rest of the article, please visit the Oakridge Web site at www.oakridgena.com.

Daytimers planning October meeting

By Dianne Winter
Oakridge Daytimers

With fun filled fall looming on the horizon, the Daytimers have several activities planned. The details from the September meeting will be in the next issue, but for now, everyone needs to plan for the October meeting.

Whether you are reading for the Book Club with Betty, Sewing at Stitch and Chat with Norene, nurturing plants with Suzanne, participating in the other numerous groups, or just like to meet people, come to the October Coffee and bring a neighbor. Daytimers is a great way to get acquainted.

You will not want to miss the October Coffee because with the plans that are made, you will look at your friend in a whole new way after this meeting. Come to the home of Chris Beyers at 2205 Fulton at 10 a.m. in special attire! For details, please call Sally Weiss (972-202-1140) or Cecile La Bossiere (972-896-9413).

You can also check the schedule of activities on the ONA calendar at the website, www.oakridgena.com.

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

Handi Gals

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that never get done?*

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NO JOB IS TOO SMALL

ONA Welcome Committee works to meet and greet new neighbors

**By Cecile LaBossiere
ONA Welcome Committee**

This month, I'd like to introduce our Welcome Committee. We are a dedicated group of ten volunteers (Jim Norris, Barbara Harvison, Margaret Fowler, Diane Poole, Brad and Christy Werner, Nancy Murray, Jan Schrah, Diana Edwards, and Cecile LaBossiere) who enjoy meeting and greeting our new neighbors.

Last year, we formed our team and had a kickoff meeting to discuss what we could do to assist new neighbors and make them feel welcomed into

Oakridge.

We wanted to be able to provide information about the Oakridge Community and the ONA, City of Garland and our surrounding areas. Our delivery of welcome baskets includes a combination of sweet treats and tea along with packets from:

- Oakridge Neighborhood Association
- Oakridge Country Club
- Local businesses in our area, along with business cards and various discount coupons
- City of Garland profile as well as phone numbers for city services

To find our new neighbors, we do a drive-through of the neighborhood once a month and identify houses that have sold or are for sale, then deliver a basket to our new neighbors.

It's been hard work, but we've managed to have some social hours along the way. We have delivered 81 baskets over the last 9 months, and we will continue to make sure everyone feels welcome in Oakridge.

Thanks again to the dedicated team of volunteers. And if you know of a new neighbor, e-mail that information to the ONA so we can be sure to bring them a basket of goodies!

Gardening success depends on level of care given to soil preparation

**By Bruce Miller
www.bruce millernursery.com**

The cooling of temperatures can start fungus in lawns. Watch for dollar spot, brown patch, etc, and apply fungicide either in granules or liquid. Follow the directions on the bag or the container. Use cornmeal for organic control: 20 lbs. per 100 sq. ft.

If you plan to add a new garden in your landscape or just increase the size of existing beds, use Finale or Roundup to kill existing vegetation.

If you wait until the grasses are dormant, Finale or Roundup will not be

effective. These products are designed to kill the roots of vigorous growing roots so they can't reemerge. You may in about one week excavate dead vegetation and start bed preparation. The success of any garden, whether vegetable, shrub or flower, depends on the care given to your soil preparation. Preparing a successful garden in our soil is not rocket science, just plain common sense.

This clay soil is not all that bad once it is broken up and mixed with composted organic material. Clay retains moisture and nutrients so root systems can benefit. Sandy soils, although easy

to work, do not retain anything. Water or nutrients evaporate or leach away. Compost here, too.

Be sure to not confuse mulch with compost. Bark mulch, cedar mulch, and cypress mulch are all okay for discouraging weeds and retaining moisture. But they will not work as soil conditioners. When organic materials are allowed to decompose, or "rot," if you prefer, they give off the much needed nitrogen for plant growth.

For the rest of the article, please visit www.oakridgena.com.

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OWGA holds its Member-Guest tournament

Oakridge Women's Golf Association
By President Mary Ann Knipe

Please join the Oakridge Women's Golf Association 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. Although this year is quickly running down, we still have our Member-Member Tournament, Ace of Aces Tournament, and our Halloween Tournament. We also have our annual Christmas luncheon, which is always great fun!

Most recently, we had our annual Member-Guest Tournament, which was a great success with 82 players. The overall winners were Darlene MacDonald and Debra Thompson.

On another note, the Oakridge Country Club Ladies Club Championship was held on August 26 and 27, and the winners were as follows:

Ladies Club Champ: Toni Watkins

Championship Flight
2nd Place - Jacquie Bilton

Second Flight
1st Place - Della Miller
2nd Place - Gloria Ferguson

Third Flight
1st Place - Mary Anne Knipe

2nd Place - Kay Hall

Fourth Flight
1st Place - Judy Pickrel
2nd Place - Judy Brady

As you can see, we still have a lot of activities scheduled for the remainder of 2006, so come by the club and join us!

Oakridge Senior Golf Association
By Jim Vineyard

August was another great but hot month for the senior golfers. Our interclub day was at Los Rios on August 22, with 11 of us trying to master our sister course. We did well — but not well enough to take home the team trophy. But the food was great.

Our first tournament was a mixim held on August 8. The winning team consisted of Jay Houston, Art Dietz, Art Abbey and Jim Firth. John Hannon was closest to the hole on No. 11.

The next tournament was also a mixim held on August 17. The winning team consisted of Henry Stover, Felix Rotello, and Chuck Brown. John Tucker had the long putt on No. 13.

Our final tournament of the month was a pro shop held on August 29. This was a two-man team event. Winners on A Flight were Henry Stover and Walt Capps, winners on B Flight were Art Dietz and David Winter, and winners on C Flight were John Tucker and Chuck Brown. Henry Stover and Richard Doc Smith were closest to the hole on No. 7.

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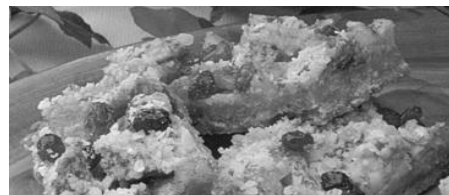
 **From the ONA Recipe Box**
Oatmeal Fruit Bars
By Nelson Prater

1½ cup flour
1½ cup quick-cook oats
½ teaspoon baking powder
½ cup sugar
½ cup brown sugar
¾ cup butter, melted
1 jar raspberry preserves (whisk until spreadable)

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Line a 9-by-13-inch pan with non-stick foil.

Stir dry ingredients together.

Add melted butter to oats mixture and stir until crumbly.



Press ⅔ of crumbly oats mixture into prepared pan. Press down. Spread preserves over the bottom layer. Sprinkle rest of mixture over the preserves and gently press down.

Bake about 30 minutes till brown and bubbly. Allow to cool completely. Cut into bars with pizza cutter.

Variation: Substitute apple jelly and 1 teaspoon of cinnamon, or cranberry sauce, or your favorite fruit preserve.

Insects often carry out aerial assault on outdoor, summertime events

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

Common Flies

As we continue to enjoy the outdoors for entertaining, we are plagued by flies wanting to join our parties. Flies seem to be a particular annoyance when they enter human structures. These flies are not only annoying, but they can be a health hazard.

Adult flies have sponging-sucking mouthparts, which they ingest mainly liquid food or food dissolved with regurgitated saliva. This type of mouthpart enables them to contaminate foods, so they can carry diseases such as dysentery, diarrhea, and food poisoning and then spread them to other surfaces.

Houseflies are the most common fly species found in and around homes. The adult flies are between 1/5 to 1/3 inches long and gray in color, with four darker, blackish stripes behind the head.

These flies typically breed in garbage cans, commercial trash bins, compost piles, animal excrement, and in other unsanitary conditions. They require 2 to 3 weeks for complete development, from egg to adult. The adults prefer to feed on sugar and protein-rich foods and usually rest in corners or edges of structures.

The blow fly is most commonly seen outdoors, but can be an indoor pest as well. The blow fly female prefers to lay eggs in the flesh of decaying animals. This causes these flies to be found near slaughter houses, meat-processing plants, garbage cans, and dumps.

They can become an indoor pest when a bird or rodent dies within the structure. Blow flies are larger than house flies and have a shiny, metallic, black, blue, or green body.

Non-Chemical Control Options

1. Eliminate breeding sources, by cleaning garbage bins and eliminating standing water. This should reduce the fly population found in and around the home

2. Caulk around doors and windows; install screens on doors and

windows to prevent flies from entering structures.

3. Install electric flying insect traps containing ultraviolet light to attract and electrocute insects. These should not be placed near doors or eating areas.

Chemical Control Options

Fly baits, aerosol sprays and residual sprays can be used. These products may contain pyrethrins, resmethrin, and tetramethrin.

Paper Wasps

Summertime is not complete without the invasion of paper wasps around eaves. Adult paper wasps are $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 inches in length and have a long, slender, narrow waist.

There are two species of paper wasps, *Polistes exclamans*, which is brown with yellow markings on the head, thorax and bands on the abdomen, and *Polistes carolina*, which is a uniform reddish-brown, both having smoky colored wings. They are most commonly noticed flying during the day in search of food.

Paper wasp nests are open and composed of wood fiber from posts and live plant stems. These fibers are chewed and formed of hexagonal cells in a comb-like shape. These nests can be found underneath eaves, in structures, or around plants.

The nests are oriented downward and are suspended by a single filament, with mature nests containing up to 200 cells. Adult paper wasps prey on insects such as caterpillars, flies, and beetle larvae, which they feed to developing larvae.

In the spring, the fertile queens find a nesting site and begin to build a nest. They will lay a single egg inside each nest cell.

Non-Chemical Control Options

For prevention of grub worm infestation, keep turfgrass healthy. This will not guarantee a lawn to be grub-free, but healthy turf will suffer less damage than poorly maintained turf.

Several non-chemical treatments are available for controlling white grubs, such as beneficial nematodes. Some examples are in the genera *Steinernema* and *Heterorhabditis*, which can be purchased in stores or through garden supply catalogs. One-quarter inch of water



Paper wasp. *Polistes metricus*. Photo by Bart Drees, Texas A&M University.



House flies. *Musca domestica*. Photo by Bart Drees, Texas A&M University.

should be applied before and after nematodes have been sprayed onto the lawn to allow contact with grub worms.

Chemical Control Options

Imidacloprid, halofenozide, and clothianidin are some chemical options that should be applied before extensive grub worm damage is seen, since they are effective on smaller grub worms.

Lambda-cyhalothrin and trichlorfon are some examples of chemicals used after larger grub worms are detected. Before treating with an insecticide, water should be applied to encourage the grub worms to the soil surface and allow the insecticides to penetrate through the soil.

Also, water should be applied after treating to allow the insecticide to reach the root zone. If using a liquid insecticide, $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 inch of water should be applied.

If using a granular insecticide, water should be applied within 24 hours. Application of water should be slow, in order to avoid runoff.

Mention of commercial products is for educational purposes only and does not represent endorsement by Texas Cooperative Extension or The Texas A&M University System.

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Upcoming Events

Sept. 28	Daytimers Ladies Night Out
Oct. 5	Oakridge Women's Club
Oct. 5	ONA General Membership Meeting
Oct. 6	Deadline for <i>Oakridge News</i> Articles
Oct. 7	Downtown Garland First Saturday Trade Days

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